

Vernonia Eagle

"Vernonia, Gateway to Nehalem Valley Lumbering, Farming, Recreation."

VOLUME 27, NUMBER 51

VERNONIA, COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

THURSDAY, DEC. 22, 1949

Santa Claus Appears



HERE is Santa Claus on one of the visits he has been making to Vernonia to give balloons to youngsters and take their orders for Christmas gifts. Arrangements for his appearances here were made by the Vernonia Lions club. (VE photo and engraving)

Record Player Provided



TEENAGE recreation members will have the use of a new record player and two albums of records because of a presentation made to the club Saturday night by the American Legion Auxiliary. The Auxiliary purchased the player and records from funds which came from the recent "Laff It Off" program. The presentation was made for the Auxiliary by Mrs. Paul Weidman, right. Accepting for the teenagers were Nancy Fletcher and Bill Chalmers. At the left is Floyd Otis, leader of the recreation group.

Unemployment Office Offers Job Placement Service to Employers

Opening of the permanent full-time office of the Oregon state unemployment service at Hillsboro has been more than justified according to Alvin Elkins, man-

ager, who indicates that job placement has been considerable because of the use employers in this area have made of it.

Mr. Elkins indicated that his

office is ready to help on any problems involving personnel and employers are urged to make use of the facilities.

A White Christmas

(Note: The following article, which first appeared in The Eagle last year during the Christmas season, is being reprinted again this year by the request of several people who remembered it. Author of the article is Charlie Castner who regularly writes the articles by the Old Man on the Hill.)

It is a white Christmas in Vernonia this year. The snow is not too deep, but it has covered the ground for some inches. The boughs of the fir trees are weighted with its silvery whiteness and bend downward as if in submission to Old Man Winter; but now and then a rebellious bough shakes off its load and springs up, cascading a silvery shower to the ground below.

As the Old Man, who lives up on the hill, goes out to the barnyard to feed his chickens the snow is crunchy under his feet, his breath makes a white cloud before him and he allows to himself that this cold snap will be bad for his "rumatiz," and he paces his feet with care for a fall on the icy walk would be hard on old and brittle bones. As he scatters the corn and wheat his fingers tingle with the unaccustomed cold. The old red rooster dutifully clucks the hens to their breakfast then stands around on one foot, the other tightly tucked up in his feathers.

The snowbirds and sparrows are chirping to him from the bare limbs of the willow tree and he scatters oatmeal and crumbs on a cleared place beneath the tree. Even before he finishes they are fluttering greedily down. In some mysterious way the word seems to have gone far and wide for before he is back to the kitchen door dozens more are coming, chirping and hopping about with many flirts of wing and tail; and there is always a few pugnacious little rascals that seem to be more intent on chasing their fellows away than in themselves feeding. As the Old Man warms his numb fingers at the stove he observes their antics from the window with disapproval and ruminates "birds are just like folks, always feudin."

The sun comes up reluctantly far to the south of its usual path;

it is nine o'clock before it peers over the tips of the fir trees and illuminates the Christmas tree in the window with its silver tinsels, the gaily colored decorations, a tinfoil star at the top and a candy cane hanging among its branches. Ma always insists on a Christmas tree. There won't be any younguns to enjoy it, but she says it is more like Christmas. Tonight will be Christmas Eve and they will draw up their chairs and open the Christmas packages that lie beneath the tree. The old man has a pretty good idea of what will be in his package for he noticed Ma busily knitting on something that she hastily concealed whenever he came near; a pair of mittens, or more likely, a pair of bed socks as his feet have been getting rather cold of late. He wonders if she knows about the warm house slippers, lined with rabbit fur, that he has for her. He more than suspects that she does, not that she would peek — she would never do that — but experience has taught him that it is next to impossible to keep a secret from her. He used to marvel at the uncanny way in which she seemed to know whatever he was up to, even to divining his very thoughts, but he has ceased to wonder and to accept it as just something beyond his understanding.

As they sat before the Christmas tree that evening the Old Man's thoughts went back through the years; some were good and some marked by sorrow and trouble, but he allowed, if he had it all to do over again he would not change it — at least — not much; and he knew that Ma went with him down memory lane for her work roughened hand, somehow, found its way into his, and he knew her thoughts were not unpleasant for there was a smile on her lips as her head rested gently against his shoulder. Then from up the road there came the sound of happy young voices and a horse went by drawing a homemade sled through the snow. There was a lone sleigh bell tinkling from his neck and someone was singing "Silent Night."

Yes, it is a white Christmas up on the hill.

Association of Merchants Formed; Directors Named

A group of about 25 Vernonia business men and women assembled last Thursday evening at the Legion hall to talk over a proposal that an association be formed. Before the session ended a seven-man board of directors had been formed and given the responsibility of carrying out

preliminary plans to start the organization.

The belief that an association is needed here had been gaining momentum for over a week among business men because several business problems affecting most merchants had arisen. General discussion of problems also occupied part of Thursday's meeting in addition to the election of directors.

Board members chosen were Lew Choate, Kent Bauersfeld, Harry King, Pete Brunsmann, Gordon Larson and Marvin Kamholz. The board met following the general meeting and will meet again after Christmas.

The adoption of a set of by-laws, determining the amount of dues to be charged and the naming of a permanent secretary to handle records of the organization are some of the decisions that the board will make before a general meeting is called again, probably in January.

The merchant group is the first of its kind to be organized here and deal directly with local business problems.

Stores Plan Mon. Closing

Most Vernonia business houses will close their doors Saturday night of this week and remain that way for two days instead of the usual one-day closure for Sunday.

Procedure in the past when a holiday falls on Sunday has been to close Monday also and that is the reason for the two-day holiday to come this week end.

Baskets Sent To Needy Here

Between 15 and 20 Christmas baskets will be distributed to needy people here just before Christmas because of action taken by the Vernonia Emergency Relief committee, formerly the Vernonia Community Chest.

The committee met last Friday night at the home of Mrs. A. J. Hughes, member of the group, to decide upon the baskets to be given.

The change of name was made recently when the county chest organization was formed so that conflict would be avoided in the names.

Little Theater Names Officers

Little Theater group members met early last week at the Washington school for an election of officers the adoption of by-laws under which the organization plans to work in the presentation of future plays.

Heading the group as chairman is Mrs. James Vike and the other officers are Mickey Robertson, vice-chairman; Elaine Bristlin, secretary; Bill Wilson, treasurer and Maxine Sallquist, historian.

Included in the theater by-laws was a decision that any surplus money be used for some civic enterprise. A committee will be selected soon and charged with the responsibility of selecting the cost for the next play which will consist of three acts.

Tree Lighted



THIS illuminated Christmas tree for the Vernonia business district was erected early last week by Lions club members to add to the holiday season of decorations. It stands at the corner of First and Bridge streets. (VE photo and engraving)