

Vernonia Eagle

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VERNONIA, COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

PHONE 191

THURSDAY, DEC. 31, 1953

TOP NEWS STORIES LISTED FOR 1953

Note—As has been customary during past years, a summary of the news events of the year just completed has been prepared for 1953 from files of The Eagle to provide readers a condensed picture of the past 12 months as they relate to this area. The dates as they appear before excerpts of the news stories are those of the issues in which the items appeared.

January 8 — The Commercial Bank of Vernonia reported deposits of \$1,439,349.69 and loans of \$366,959.56 at the end of the year. Both deposits and loans are increases over the amounts for December 31, 1951 when these figures were \$1,248,534.19 and \$328,415.32.

Bus Sale Approved

January 15 — The boards of directors for both school district 47 and the union high school granted approval for the sale of two school buses, those owned by Bruce McDonald and C. A. Mills. Bob Curl will take over the Mills' bus and W. A. Davis the McDonald bus, effective February 1.

January 22 — Calvary Tabernacle is moving to its new location at the corner of First and Maple this week and will conduct services there beginning Sunday, January 25. Rev. Don Darling announced that the name would be changed at that time to the Vernonia Bible church.

January 29 — Tom Bateman and Emil Messing completed 29 years Tuesday that they have worked together in the Vernonia post office.

Board Picks Man

February 5 — Darold Proehl was named superintendent of the grade schools as the result of a decision made by the district 47 board of directors Wednesday evening of last week. He had been an instructor on the grade school staff for the past seven years.

First definite action that will lead eventually to the purchase of an ambulance for the use of this vicinity will be taken Thursday evening at the regular IWA meeting when a petition will be started to obtain signatures of people who wish to help financially to provide the unit.

February 12 — A rating of 100 per cent was earned by the staff of the post office for the manner in which business is handled there when department inspectors made a periodic inspection last Friday. Postmaster Emil Messing announced early this week.

Contract Granted

Eugene Dove, high school superintendent was granted a contract for another year by the district board Tuesday evening.

February 26 — Wednesday saw the completion of the 1953 spring planting work on the Columbia Tree Farm. This season marks the completion of the planting of the first million trees in this area.

The bid of Harry Culbertson for purchase of the old high school property was accepted by the board Tuesday evening.

April 2 — Word was released in Portland late last week of a sales agreement by which The Long-Bell Lumber company is prepared to acquire 79 per cent of the stock of the Oregon-American Lumber corporation through purchases that may amount to \$5,500,000. Word of the deal came from Sigmund Stern, president of the Central Coal and Coke corporation of Kansas City, Missouri.

April 9 — Patti Ann Bass was chosen queen to officiate over this year's annual May day festival when the boys of the high school student body voted last Friday.

Ambulance Ready

April 16 — At the Monday evening meeting of the executive committee charged with working out details of handling this community's ambulance, the group was informed that the equip-

ment would be ready for use, probably by the end of this week.

April 23 — Mrs. Lulah Fullerton and Mrs. Ruby Reese Powell, grade school teachers, announce plans to retire at the end of the present school term. The former will have completed 40 years in the profession, 22 of which have been spent in Vernonia. Mrs. Powell will have completed seven years in this system.

May 7 — Vernonia's candidate to compete for the title of Diss Columbia county will be Miss Barbara Howard, who was elected Miss Vernonia last Thursday evening at a talent show at the high school.

Member 50 Years

May 21 — Frank E. Taylor was honored May 14 for his 50 years of membership in the Masonic lodge by the presentation at his home of a 50-year jewel.

June 18 — Glen F. Hawkins will serve another term on the board of directors of school district 47 as the result of the election Monday at the district's annual meeting. His term will be for a period of three years.

Re-elected as officers for the Nehalem Valley Pioneer association Sunday were Robert Berg, president; G. P. Wanstrom, vice-president and James Cahill, secretary-treasurer.

June 25 — Antone Smejkal, incumbent, was returned to the high school board of directors Monday evening as the result of the election which took place at the district's annual meeting.

People residing within the city limits were asked to attend a public meeting Monday, June 29, to hear an explanation of details concerning the proposed sewer system for Corey hill.

Sewer Approved

July 16 — Last Friday's special election on the proposed sewer system project for Corey hill resulted in balloting that tallied 115 votes in favor and 27 against the new installation.

West Oregon Electric's board of directors chose the bid of the Estep Line Construction company, Yakima, in the amount of \$54,872 to build 16.3 miles of transmission line and substation work between Sunset Junction and the Jewell-Elsie area.

August 6 — More than 50 per cent of the adult population of this area visited the mobile chest x-ray unit during the four-day period it was in operation.

August 20 — Miss Helen Sellie was appointed county home agent, effective September 1, to take the position vacated by the resignation of Miss Frances Gallatin.

Bids Lacking

August 27 — A delay in the start of the sewer project for Corey hill arose Monday evening, the date set for opening bids for the proposed \$85,000 bond issue which would be used to finance the work. No bids were received.

Figures showing the number of people x-rayed by the mobile unit during its visit in the valley were released by the Columbia County Tuberculosis and Health association. For Vernonia, 1117 people were x-rayed and for Mist and Birkenfeld, 100.

September 3 — First day enrollment figures for the grades and the high school showed decreases from last year. For the high school, enrollment was 176 on opening day as compared to 190 the year before. Listed for the grades was a total of 479, down from the 509 the year before.

Loan Notes Signed

September 10 — Directors of the board of West Oregon Electric, at their Tuesday meeting, signed notes for a loan of \$185,000. Of the total, \$86,500 is earmarked for the construction of 30 miles of new line to serve 45 consumers in the Wilark and Trenholm areas.

October 1 — This community welcomed home Sergeant Orville Daniel, prisoner of war son of

Mr. and Mrs. Turner Daniel. Tre, harnie, Friday evening when he was introduced at the half-time interval of the Vernonia-Seaside game.

October 15 — Notification was received here Tuesday morning by Postmaster Emil Messing of the signing of a proposed lease that will provide new quarters for the post office, probably at the time when the lease expires in February of next year.

Record Best Yet

October 22 — Forest fires reported for the 1953 fire season hit an all-time low for the county. Only nine fires were reported to date for the year and they had burned only 2.4 acres. Last year's record was 20 fires and 47.32 acres.

November 19 — Damage to the new high school building, estimated at close to \$100,000 resulted Saturday night from a fire that broke out in the gymnasium.

West Oregon Cooperative's annual meeting drew the largest attendance of any since the Co-operative started business in 1945.

December 3 — Death claimed Andrew M. Parker November 26 at the age of 88. He was a well known pioneer of the valley, having lived here since the age of nine years.

Loggers Resume Play January 5

Coach Jack Reynolds' Loggers will go into action again shortly after the first of the year and after school resumes again after the holidays to meet the Pacific University frosh in a return game which will be played on the Washington school floor.

The Loggers met the frosh earlier this month at Forest Grove in their early pre-league schedule and this game will be a return match. Only this game remains before the Loggers will officially open their Lower Columbia league season on January 8. At that time Vernonia will host the St. Helens Lions here.

So far attendance at games has been small even though the record of wins so far has been impressive. School officials hope fans will make a better turnout when the official league season begins so costs will not exceed income and result in a deficit for the athletic program.

Former Resident Taken by Death

Funeral services for Joseph A. Wirtz were held Tuesday, December 29, at 9:30 a.m. at St. Francis church at Roy with interment following at St. Francis cemetery.

Mr. Wirtz, age 73 years, 11 months, 16 days, died December 24.

Mr. and Mrs. Wirtz lived in Riverview for a number of years and left their home here almost a year ago because of his failing health. Since that time they have made their home at a Catholic home for the aged in Portland.

Survivors are the widow, Julia, one son, George, of Sunnyside, Washington and one daughter, Mrs. Rudy Kemper, of Forest Grove and eleven grandchildren.

Mist Resident Taken by Death

Death came Monday night of this week about 11:30 for Mrs. John E. Crawford, 53, of Mist because of a heart attack. The remains were brought here to the Bush Funeral Home and then taken to Clatskanie.

Services are to be held by the Anderson Funeral home there and details were not available Wednesday afternoon of survivors and the date of the funeral.



FOUR FISH for two fishermen was the day's catch for Andy Brimmer and Sam Ceballes Sunday while they were fishing for steelhead between four and five miles up Rock Creek. The fish varied in weight from six to 12 pounds. Other fishermen reporting luck during the past week end were John Chambers, C. N. Rundell, Albert Blount and Rube Archibald, the latter's catch weighing over 20 pounds. Fishing is expected to be good again this week end.

THOSE WHO ARE IN IT

Pvt. E2 Wesley Hunt spent a week's leave at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hunt, coming from Fort Lewis, Washington.

A/3c David Dutton is spending an 18-day leave at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Dutton, coming from Francis E. Warren air base, Cheyenne, Wyoming. He is to report at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey January 6 and will go from there to Germany.

A/3c Billy Wells of Paine Air Base in Washington spent Christmas and the week end at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Wells.

Golf Course Lease Changed

A change in the management of the Vernonia golf course became effective a few days ago when Mr. and Mrs. Bill Johnson assumed the remainder of the lease on the course from John Young. The property is owned by Dr. C. P. Howarth of St. Helens.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are repainting the interior of the club house and plan to move there by the end of this week. Other plans for changes at the course will be announced later.

Cancellations Go Up Slightly

The Christmas mail rush at the Vernonia post office was almost even with that of last year, a check with the cancellation figures for letters at the office early this week indicated.

Cancellations this year totaled 55,816 as recorded by the letter cancelling machine. This figure was only 244 above last year. The machine is used to cancel letters dropped through the letter slot and does not include metered mail, but does give a good indication of Christmas mailing activity.

The record was kept starting December 7 through December 24 and the peak day was Monday, January 21 with 7091.

Commissioner Resigns Post

Donald Parcher, for several years a county commissioner of Columbia county, submitted his resignation to the county court December 30. Mr. Parcher gave no explanation for his resignation, but it is understood to have been for personal reasons.

Parcher first started working for Columbia county as a laborer in its road department in 1922 and in 1938 was advanced to the position of road supervisor in the Rainier district. This position he held until he was appointed county commissioner on July 13, 1945, to fill the unexpired term of J. N. Miller of Clatskanie, who had died but a few days before.

He was elected in his own right as county commissioner in November of 1946, serving four years and was then re-elected to the same position in November, 1950.

During the eight years and five months that he was commissioner the record shows that he missed only one regular court meeting and that was due to his absence from the state.

Vet Law Info Told in Manual

The department of veterans' affairs has just published a revised booklet entitled "Veterans' Benefits of the State of Oregon." The 31-page manual is an up-to-date digest of state laws affecting war veterans as well as personnel on active duty and tells where and how to apply for benefits.

The booklet is indexed and contains service officers, field veterans' service officers, field personnel of the department and state service officers of the veterans' organizations.

Director H. C. Saalfeld says free copies may be obtained by contacting the Department of Veterans' Affairs, State Library building, Salem, or State Office building, Portland, or through veterans' organizations or county service officers.

Representative Named

Business details concerning the Quirin Lumber company can be referred here to Albert Childs, according to an announcement made recently by Roger Quirin before he left for Canada. He has located a sawmill at Lac La Hache, B.C. and the family moved there earlier this month.

Assessor to Mail Property Report Forms

Late Filing of Returns to Draw 5 Per Cent Penalty

Approximately 2500 personal property report forms will be in the mail this week as reported by County Assessor O. A. Ridenour. Cooperation by owners in listing all information and filing early will be greatly appreciated as the office now has much work on hand due to the re-appraisal program launched last month by the county and the state.

LATE FILING COSTLY

The deadline for filing is March 2. A penalty of five per cent on the consolidated levy will be used on all late returns plus \$10 per day if the case warrants. Each year the percentage of late returns increases. This problem involves extra work for the office and more expenses to the county for more help to investigate these returns.

Penalties will also be used in cases of owners neglecting to file a complete list of property and to persons not filing. Failing to receive a form from this office will be no excuse as it is the responsibility of all persons to file if they own personal property.

In elaborating on the penalty detail, the assessor said, "I sincerely hope the use of penalties will not be necessary, but the filing of late returns and omitted personal property must also be dealt with if we are to relieve our tax problem in the county. I know this problem is of great interest to all concerned."

EQUALITY SOUGHT

This year an effort will be made to equalize between the real and personal property tax and on various personal a 10 per cent drop in the ratio will be made. A complete equalization is in sight for next year.

Attention is also called to the new law which provides for taxation of trailer coaches used primarily for business and residential purposes. This applies regardless of whether or not the trailers have been licensed by the state. Trailers not in actual use will be taxed only if not licensed by April 30.

Included with the report form each personal property owner will receive will be a letter of explanation which will explain to the owner the information which he or she should list on the report to provide data needed by the assessor.

FORMS INCLUDED

Two other forms will also be mailed with the reports, but only to those to whom they will apply. For instance, one of these forms will provide for listing furniture and fixtures, the age and book value on today's market. The other will be a form which will be used by businesses with inventories of merchandise.

Bond Sales Up 40% Over 1952

Oregon residents continued their "savings spree" last month by setting aside over \$2 million 333 thousand in series E and H savings bonds.

"This represents a 40 per cent increase over the corresponding period in 1952," according to Philip L. Hickey, county chairman, "and reflects one of the highest monthly increases since the end of World War II."

County sales during November in E and H series bonds amounted to \$15,678.

Large Parsnip Grown

Brought to The Eagle office late last week was a parsnip grown by Mr. and Mrs. Estie Rota at their home on Capitol hill. The vegetable is unusual in that it weighs three and one-fourth pounds.