



By Marvin Kamholz

The band has done it again! Last Saturday's Columbia county band festival at St. Helens placed all county bands in competition during the day before three judges who rated the various groups and also commented on their different attributes.

Each of the three rate Bill Johnson's group number 1 and with that rating the band has again brought favorable publicity to this community. Because of his efforts and the interest of people who have helped in furthering the interests of the band, Vernonia is represented by an organization that brings us much favorable comment from other areas.

"The Topper," Washington grade school publication, devoted the entire contents of its last issue to a subject which is getting much attention of late: clean-up, paint-up, fix-up. Many grade students wrote their impressions of the need for this undertaking, pointing out its value in their articles.

A recent grade school assembly program presented by Mrs. Evelyn Heath's fifth grade also followed this theme.

Both are evidence of the co-operation between school and community to achieve a unity of spirit which leads to advancement. Isn't it too bad there is always a small minority to object to these efforts, as was indicated by a letter appearing April 11 in the Oregonian.

The letter mentioned above was written by a lady traveling through the valley who stopped here for a short time and was given erroneous information about the community. Quite a few letters have been written in answer, pointing out that she was misinformed by the storekeeper with whom she talked.

She was told, among other things, that Vernonia will soon be a ghost town because the mill will be shut down and that there is nothing else up here for people to work at; that a new high school was built by a bond issue for which people were taxed heavily and that there will be no children to use it; and that the tax rate is over 200 mills which is exorbitant, and they didn't need a new high school in the first place.

If and when the mill closes there will not be employment here for all those so employed now, but there are other employing organizations in the valley. A recent school survey indicates 73 per cent of this year's students plan to return next fall, an indication there will be quite a few people left.

A 200-mill and over tax rate would be exorbitant we'll agree, but that isn't the rate here. The tax rate on property in Vernonia for the 1956-57 fiscal year is 123.2 mills of which 14.3 mills is for county use, 81 mills for grade and high schools and 27.9 for city use. This rate is lower than that of some of the other incorporated county towns and higher than others and it is also a reduction from 157.3 mills, the rate for the 1955-56 fiscal year.

As for not needing a new high school, we remind the storekeeper of an order issued several years ago by state authorities condemning the old high school as unsafe for use and requiring a new structure in order to continue receiving basic school support money. Had the new building not been built, this support fund would have been lost by now and operation of the school would have been difficult, if not impossible, without exceedingly heavy tax load on property owners.

When visitors are misinformed, as was done in this instance, the entire area receives a set-back hard to overcome by the combined effort of those who have an optimistic approach to the future. We cannot afford any more of these set-backs!

—Office Supplies at the Eagle—

THE PEOPLE SPEAK . . .

Vernonia, Oregon
April 5, 1957
Oregon State Game Commission
1634 S. W. Alder Street
Portland 8, Oregon

Dear Sirs:
On Sunday, March 24th I, along with two companions, hiked from Cochran down through the wild country bordering the upper Salmonberry to that streams' junction with Wolf Creek. Our purpose, to examine the log jam there, about which we have had many complaints.

We found this jam solidly entrenched at a point about a quarter of a mile up Wolf Creek from its confluence with the south fork of the Salmonberry. We consider this jam as an impassable blockade to steelhead or any migratory fish in this stream. On this day at least 25 steelhead were stymied below the jam. No fish were observed above.

A natural movement of gravel and sand down this swift mountain stream has caused a deposit behind the jam to a depth of six or seven feet. This makes it not only impassable for fish but also causes the lower reaches of Wolf creek to be virtually barren of spawning areas.

The Southern Pacific R.R. has done some cutting of certain logs in the jam. Evidently they feel the jam will eventually endanger their tracks, which border the area. High water failed to move the jam in spite of the preliminary cutting and so it is our hope that the commission will see fit to lend a helping hand in removing this jam before next fall.

The Salmonberry has been an excellent steelhead and salmon producer, and surely must play a very important part in the Nehalem river system. Our group believes this part can be greatly improved by a re-opening of areas now inaccessible. This area of the big burn remains a virtual wilderness and reforestation is in evidence everywhere, which should help the watershed. Large areas of spawning ground, undisturbed by logging or man could be opened up by these steps: 1st, clearing of Wolf creek jam, as previously mentioned; 2nd, possible removal of several bad jams in upper South Fork; 3rd, blasting out of the falls in the North Fork. This falls is not over one half mile from the mouth and its removal would enable fish to pass this barrier in low or medium water, which is not possible at present.

This would be an ambitious program to be sure, but we hope you may be able in the near future to give it some serious study. Your for Better Fishing
Bob King, President
Vernonia Rod and Gun Club

April 9, 1957
Re: Wolf Creek Log Jam
Mr. Bob King, President
Vernonia Rod and Gun Club
Vernonia, Oregon

Dear Mr. King:
On September 5, 1956, two of our field men sawed up some of the logs in this jam on Wolf Creek hoping it would go out in high water. Location of the jam is in a very difficult area to move in any heavy equipment for removal. We will still try to remove this jam sometime this summer or fall by some method, even if we have to burn it. When we do move into that area we will also investigate the South and North Forks for future work. Thank you very much for reporting this existing situation.

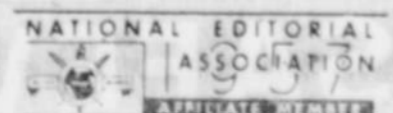
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DIRECTOR
By G. E. Howell, Construction Superintendent

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Vernonia Eagle

Marvin Kamholz
Editor and Publisher
Official Newspaper of
Vernonia, Oregon

Entered as second class mail matter, August 4, 1922 at the post office in Vernonia, Oregon under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription price \$3.00 yearly in the Nehalem Valley. Elsewhere \$3.50.



REGISTRATION BLANK

Clean-up, Paint-up, Fix-up Contest

Name _____
Address _____
Home Improvement
Yard of the Month
Commercial
(Check one or more of above)

Rules Outlined For Contest

- HOME IMPROVEMENT**
1. Work must be completed by October 31, 1957.
 2. Work can include remodeling and/or repairs to existing structure.
 3. Judging will be on the basis of improvement of appearance and usefulness of structure.
 4. Contest entry may be made by applying at the chamber of commerce office in the city hall.
 5. Before and after pictures should be taken to assist in judging.
 6. Decisions of the judges will be final.
 7. First, second and third prizes will be awarded.

- COMMERCIAL**
1. Rules numbered 1 through 6 for home improvement apply.
 2. Winner will receive plaque.

- YARD OF THE MONTH**
1. Yards will be judged each month, one yard in each of the four Vernonia precincts.
 2. Monthly winners will be eligible for first, second and third prizes to be awarded at the end of the contest October 31, 1957.
 3. Judging will be on the basis of overall yard appearance. Decisions of the judges will be final.
 4. Entry may be made by applying at the chamber of commerce office in the city hall.

Homemaker Day Speaker Named

extension from Oregon State college will be the main speaker at the Homemakers Festival which will be held at the Rainier high school on May 1. This is the climax of the year's work for the members of, extension units throughout the county. All members and others interested in homemaking are invited to the festival. Plans were made for the festival at the regular meeting of the county committee at the home of Mrs. Doris Baker of Timber route on March 29. All members were present and Mrs. Keasey, past committee member was also present.

Three committee members will retire at the end of this year, Mrs. Margit Peterson, Mrs. Louise Gahr, and Mrs. Doris Baker. Those elected to take their places are Mrs. Nelda McClung of Delena, Mrs. Edith Mikesh of Scappoose and Mrs. Irene Meyers of Timber route. They will be installed at the festival.

The next meeting of the county committee will be on April 26 at the home of Mrs. J. C. Skeans in Rainier with Mrs. Edith Rough as co-hostess.

The fellow who sponges his way through life merely soaks up the fruits of other's labors.

—Office Supplies at the Eagle—

Historical Data Wanted by Board

The Vernonia public library board members met at the home of Mrs. Lyman Hawken Sr., Thursday evening for their regular monthly meeting.

Mrs. O. T. Bateman, who has been appointed by the city council to replace Mrs. George Remnant, who recently moved to Southern California, was welcomed by the board.

Plans were made to attend the all state trustee institute to be held at the Portland public library on May 2. Mrs. Ben Brickel will be official delegate for Columbia County.

The project started several years ago, that of securing information on the early history of Vernonia and the upper Nehalem valley, will be worked on again. Anyone having old letters, pictures or information pertaining to early Vernonia is invited to bring it to the library so that it can be recorded for future use.

New children's books received this week include: Zippy, the Chimp, Lee Eucyer; The Golden Picture Book of Poems, Govoni and Smith; Dinosaurs, Herbert S. Zim; Miss Frances' Story Book of Pets for the very Young, Horwich; Animals of the Bible, Winner of the first Caldwell Medal, Dorothy P. Lathrop; and for older children: Wonders of the World, Bernhard; My Hobby Is Bird Watching, Pettit; My Hobby Is Photography, Langer; Skylark Farm, Beckman and Phantom Mustang, Richard.

Appearances are sometimes deceiving—a man can look run down and still be well-healed.

To prevent child accidents, keep things like sharp knives, scissors, etc. out of reach.

When people ask you to listen to reason they expect you to listen to their version of it.

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Eighth Grades Prepare Plays

The eighth grade classes will present two one-act plays at the Washington school Friday evening of next week. "Father's Bargain Day" is the one chosen by Mrs. Sandon's class and "Comin' Round The Mountain" will be given by Mr. Johns' class. The grade school band will play, also.

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AUTOMOTIVE FLASHES

The United States produces 70 per cent of the world's passenger cars.

There are over 90,000,000 motor vehicles registered in the world. Two-thirds of these vehicles are in the United States.

Urban traffic accidents outnumbered their rural counterparts more than two to one last year. Accidents within city limits numbered 47,773, while those on the open road totaled 20,526. Defensive driving, especially in congested city traffic, would sharply reduce the number of accidents, injuries and deaths.

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