

THE PEOPLE SPEAK . . .

Editor
The Eagle
Vernonia, Oregon

Dear Sir:

There is a problem which we would like to call to your attention which should be of interest to the community of Vernonia from the standpoint of civic pride.

The Oregon Highway Department does everything possible to keep the highways of our state clean and beautiful. In this respect, 630 litter barrels are now in use in strategic points on main highways throughout the state. It costs about \$32,000 a year just to empty these litter barrels.

The State Highway Department maintenance crew in servicing litter barrels on the Sunset Highway has found that one barrel at the Davies Overcrossing is being used for regular domestic garbage disposal, apparently from a citizen or citizens in Vernonia. The garbage has been wrapped in magazines which bear the specific address of a Vernonia citizen.

The litter barrels are operated for the specific purpose of keeping the highways free from litter that distracts from the natural scenery and appearance of the roadside. This litter barrel sys-

tem has been requested by various civic and motoring organizations and has their wholehearted backing. In addition, it has reduced maintenance cost for the reason that less time is needed to clean up the right of way.

Our purpose in calling this to your attention is that we ask everyone's cooperation in giving full use of the barrels to their intended purpose. Barrels containing garbage other than highway litter can readily create an unsatisfactory sanitary condition as well as burden the State with garbage disposal costs that are rightfully the obligation of the householder. In a few locations we have found it necessary to remove barrels as they were being used extensively for depositing household garbage and waste. We do not want to do this as it is defeating the purpose of the barrel, but sometimes are forced to do so and find a new location.

We have brought this to your attention for the reason that we thought that if the citizens of Vernonia understood the reasons and purposes for this program, that they would cooperate along with all the other communities of the state in helping keep the highways clean and beautiful.

Gene Huntley, Director
Personnel and Public Relations

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I would like to clarify some of the facts of this garbage disposal franchise that Councilman Sturdevant has so conveniently (for him) left unsaid.

First as to asking him to resign:

I did not at that time stated in his article in the Vernonia Eagle, nor have I ever asked any city official to resign.

Second, does Mr. Sturdevant explain how he proposes to make the changes that he refers to in his "report to the people?" He does not tell you how he would go about changing the section in the franchise that states that the collector may close the dump except on Saturday morning, nor the section that states that the collector may charge a nominal fee for people who choose to haul their own garbage.

He does not explain because he knows that to summarily make any change in the franchise that was duly signed by elected representatives of this city, would very likely involve the city in litigation. Litigation would make that \$2,000.00 that he mentioned in his article look like a drop in the bucket compared to the judgements, attorney fees and court costs that the city would very likely have to pay.

Let us take his arguments point by point. In his article he says that the former dump was closed because of the deplorable condition it was allowed to get in. He does not tell you that that dump was illegal for two reasons, first because it was too close to a county road; second, that there was a stream through it which is strictly forbidden by the health authority. That dump was at the mercy of anyone who happened not to like it for the reason that anyone could close it merely by making a complaint to the district attorney.

Let me ask you if you think this council would have looked pretty silly to spend \$700 or \$800 in the development of that dump only to have someone come along and close it.

Another thing before I leave that subject. The main reason it got into such deplorable condition was because it was so close to the road and very handy for people to dump their garbage just inside the fence, and some did not even bother to put it inside.

Now let us take the subject of selling the present dump to the collector for \$10.00. Mr. Sturdevant very carefully leaves out the fact that it will be specified right in the deed that it will be turned back to the city at the termination of this franchise for the very same amount of money. Neither does he give you the reasons for this transaction. We do this to remove the city from any liability that might occur. Liability that could cost the city hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Now let me suggest to you folks that you ask Mr. Sturdevant to explain how (not what he would do), but how he proposes to make the changes without running the risk of involving the city in litigation.

I for one will be very interested to learn just how he would accomplish these changes.

I would also like to suggest to the citizens of Vernonia, that right now is the time for them to express their desires concerning their city government.

Do you want your city government that is administered in a safe and sane manner or do you want your city government run on a personal grudge basis?

Speaking for myself, if it is indicated to me by the majority of the people that you do not think I am doing the job for which I was elected, I will immediately resign my position. Personally I would rather enjoy having Monday night to sit in my easy chair and watch television instead of sitting at the city hall and having to discuss garbage. Let me also add that there are many hours besides Monday nights that are put in by your councilmen and myself.

I am going to take this opportunity to issue a challenge to Mr. Sturdevant to a full scale debate on this issue at any time and place that he wishes.

In the event that he accepts this challenge, the people of Vernonia would learn the full facts of this case.

Donald E. Bayley, Mayor

TO THE EDITOR

This is the first in a series of letters to be written in regards to our highways located in Columbia county.

In the letters to be written will be discussed: what has been done, what has promised to be done, and what is proposed to be done.

It seems our highway department in this state takes very

much interest in all the highways of this state with the exception of highway 30 in Columbia county.

Of course we do appreciate all the work that has been done in the piece meal fashion.

When will we ever get this stretch of Highway 30 completed between St. Helens, Oregon and Astoria, Oregon?

It is understood that the political pull now exists in Astoria and that the Youngs Bay bridge now has priority over any further work to be done on Highway 30 in this area.

There have been considerable amounts of money spent on highways between Portland and Astoria with little regard to Highway 30, even though the highway was and still is on the map.

We have Art Steele of Clatskanie, Oregon, and his organization to thank for the greatest part of the work that has been done under the organization known as the Lower Columbia Highway association.

President Art Steele has received numerous promises in the past which will follow in the series of letters to the editor.

Signed, Rainier Lions Club,
Highway chairman, L. E. Odle

It may be labeled a heart-to-heart talk, but it doesn't make the bawling out any easier to take.

DR. ABRAMS

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MERRY CHRISTMAS

THE EAGLE, VERNONIA, ORE. THURSDAY, DEC. 19, 1957 9

Portland Family Dinner Guests

(Held over from last week)

MIST — Sunday dinner guest at the Sam Devine home were Mr. and Mrs. Jim Hirtbel and children of Portland and Mr. and Mrs. Clair Devine of Clatskanie.

Mr. and Mrs. L. P. Wikstrom were Portland business motorists last Friday.

Ernest Lane of Portland was in the village on business one day last week.

Recent callers at the Sam Devine home were Mr. and Mrs.

Bill Devine and baby from Klammath Falls.

Lincoln Peterson was a caller one day last week in the village.

Lawrence Jepson was a visitor of his father, Henry Jepson one day recently.

Fire cause of deaths averaged five persons every month during 1956. Most of these deaths occurred in residences, and 16 children under 5 years of age. Is your home safe from fire?



HAPPINESS AND GOOD CHEER

BE YOURS TO ENJOY
ALL THROUGH THE COMING YEAR



We thank you for your consideration last year, and look forward to your continued good will next year and for many years to come.

Vernonia Milk Farms

HENRY AND ISABEL ANDEREGG

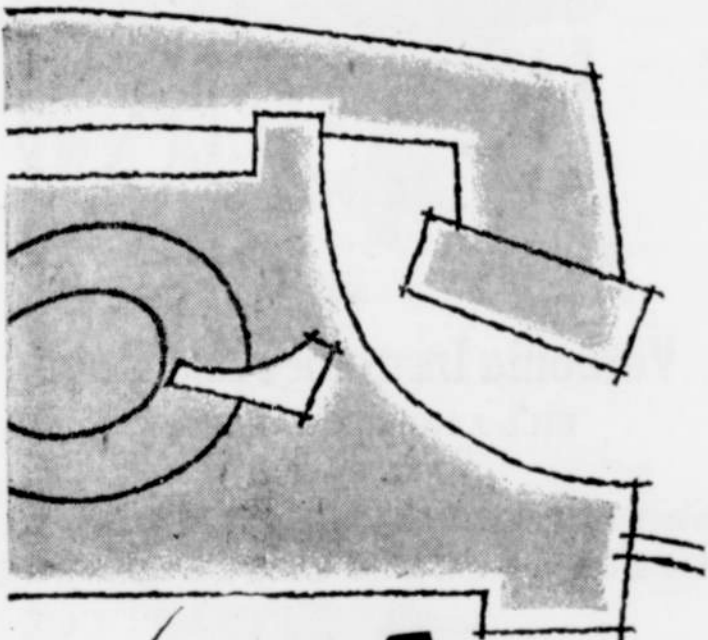
THE SEASON'S GREETINGS

AND ALL GOOD WISHES
FOR THE NEW YEAR



Sunnyside Service

GENE AND MARY AND ALL THE CREW



A helpful holiday hint...

"Use party lines sharingly...
the call that comes through
may be for you!"

Keep calls brief...space calls fairly
...replace receiver carefully...
release line for emergencies

West Coast

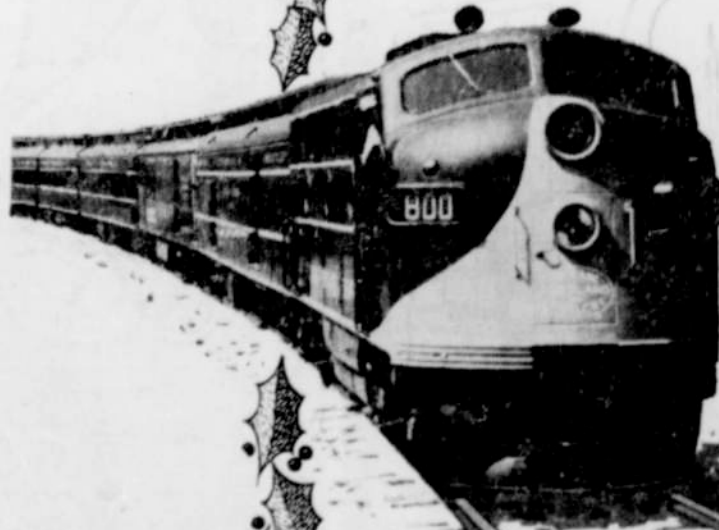


TELEPHONE COMPANY

Season's Greetings

Greetings to the many folks we have
had the pleasure of serving during
the past year and to those we hope
to serve in the future.

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in offering the finest, most modern travel
accommodations and shipping service
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