

# LETTER TO THE EDITOR . . .

To the Editor:

I read with great interest the statement, by one of the candidates, in the Voters Pamphlet, that there are a large number of Special Deputy Sheriffs in this County that are costing the taxpayers hundreds of dollars and whose services are unnecessary. This statement was made by Roy S. Wilburn, Candidate for Sheriff, who went on to state, that if elected as Sheriff of Columbia county, he would eliminate this needless expense.

Let's inspect that statement. The Reserve deputies were established three years ago, by Sheriff Spencer L. Younce, so that the Sheriff's department would have trained personnel in times of emergency. At the present time the county has nine active reserve deputies.

What do these deputies do? They meet, on their own time, two hours a week, 52 weeks a year, without pay, so that they can receive the necessary training to be a Reserve. It has only been in the past two years that they have been paid for their services—and then they are paid only while on call. How much are they paid? While on call they receive \$1.50 an hour. It can hardly be said that this is an exorbitant amount. They work during the County Fair, at dances and for various organizations, such as the Port Commission, during emergencies, however, they are paid by the individual organization for whom they work. They perform public services such as working the football and basketball games and other school functions, without pay. The mere presence of the reserves at school functions makes the parents feel more secure in their concern for the welfare of their children. The reserves also worked during the recent storm disaster, without pay.

What of these hundreds of dollars of which Mr. Wilburn speaks? The reserve deputies were paid a total of \$900.00 during the past year and the major portion of that sum was paid to the reserves in the Vernonia area. Last year the whole of the Nehalem Valley petitioned the Columbia County Court and requested that they budget enough money so that the Sheriff could hire another regular Deputy Sheriff and have him reside in the Vernonia area. The County Court decided that the County could not afford another full time Deputy but that the Ne-

halem Valley was entitled to increased Deputy Reserve service. As a result of that decision the Sheriff appointed three Reserve Deputies in the Nehalem Valley area. These Deputies handle all emergency calls, complaints, reports of accidents, etc., and if, for any reason, they need help or advice they radio the Sheriff's office and they immediately dispatch a regular Deputy to this area.

All of these are services that candidate Roy S. Wilburn feels are unnecessary.

Mr. Wilburn further states, in the Voters Pamphlet, that, if he were elected Sheriff, he would place his regular deputies in such a manner as to provide all necessary law enforcement. That statement, I feel, points up to Mr. Wilburn's basic misunderstanding of the Sheriff's duties and the Deputy Reserve program. He is concerned only with one phase of the Sheriff's department—Law Enforcement. Law enforcement is important but it is only one of the Sheriff's duties and is only one of the reserves duties.

The \$900.00 which Mr. Wilburn would save the county, by eliminating the reserves, would result in rather an expensive savings, Mr. Wilburn must feel that it is not necessary to have trained personnel in times of emergency—I think the recent storm disaster and the present Cuban situation points up the importance of having a trained Reserve program. Not only the Vernonia area, but the whole county would be losers if the Reserve program were unceremoniously cast aside as worthless.

Since Mr. Wilburn considers my Reserve services this past year as unnecessary and a needless expense, I'm quite sure he would also consider my vote as unnecessary and a needless expense, I'm quite sure he would also consider my vote unnecessary and, therefore, won't miss the vote that I cast for our present County Sheriff—a man who prepares for emergencies—Spencer L. Younce.

Thank you  
Sam Cagle  
Reserve Deputy Sheriff  
Vernonia, Oregon

To the Editor:

I feel we as citizens of Vernonia, owe a vote of thanks to our city employees.

They are always ready to help in any way possible, cheerfully, courteous and always do a workmanship job, in any weather or condition.

I am sure we are very fortunate in having them.

They did a fine job in this time of disaster, as we just experienced.

H. R. Junken

To the Editor:

It has come to my attention that because of my recent article in the Voters Pamphlet some people in the Vernonia area have formed the opinion that if I am elected Sheriff I will abolish all law enforcement in the area. This is far from true.

It is my opinion that since the people in Vernonia and the Nehalem Valley are paying taxes they are entitled to the services of the Sheriff and the regular deputies to the same degree as any other part of the county and I believe that with the proper distribution of these regular deputies this can be obtained at less expense to the taxpayer.

Roy S. Wilburn  
Candidate for Sheriff

## 1962 Edition Out

The 1962 edition of Columbia County Historical booklet is now available and copies may be obtained from Pearl Becker, St. Helens; Wm. Wood of Clatskanie; R. S. Lindsay of Vernonia; Mrs. J. A. Jensen of Rainier; Mary Covlin of Deer Island and others who will be listed later.

No train of thought could be better than it's enigneur.

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VS.

# HOOD RIVER

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