

# Vernonia Eagle

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## Chamber Sponsors Yule Lighting Contest Again

The Vernonia chamber of commerce is again sponsoring a Christmas lighting contest to encourage increased decorations during the holiday season, but have made a few changes from last year, according to Horace Hertel and Ralph Bergerson who are in charge.

This year, the only judging will be on residential displays and prizes of \$15 for first place, \$10 for second place and \$5 for third place will be awarded.

The elimination of judging on commercial and non-commercial other than residential was discontinued because of the difficulty in judging due to different sizes of organizations and other factors. The chamber committee feels that the businesses decorate as a part of their Christmas sales program and encourage them to do even more under this set-up.

A plan is being considered for having students or various school groups decorate windows in vacant buildings and if this is done,

## State Board to Test Hearing

The odd numbered grades of all the county schools will have their hearing tested by the state board of health. This is an annual program offered to our county. If a hearing loss is found the nurse will contact the family and arrange for their attendance at a free clinic to be held at St. Helens. This clinic is held by the state board of health. The examination by a MD specialist in ear, nose, and throat is made. He then makes recommendations for treatment if necessary.

Impaired hearing is caused not by a single factor but a combination or frequent repetition of these factors. The greatest cause is repeated infections such as colds, sore throats, measles and scarlet fever. The result of these infections often times involves the middle ear resulting in hearing loss.

Because the sense of hearing plays such an important part in every day life and is so necessary for children to progress more effectively at school, this annual program is offered.

In district 27 joint, the tests will be given December 5 and 6, Wednesday and Thursday of next week. Wednesday, Miss Sandra Biggs, audiometrist for the state board of health, will be at the Lincoln school at 9:00 a.m. to test first and third grade students from that school and the first, third and fifth grade students from the Mist school who will be brought to the Lincoln school. Thursday, she will start testing at the Washington school at 8:45 a.m. for the kindergarten, first, third, fifth and seventh graders.

## Grade Teams Slate Jamboree

Six Columbia county grade school basketball teams will meet at the Vernonia high school gym on Friday, December 7, at 7:00 p.m. to participate in their annual jamboree. The program will start with the pep clubs of the five schools presenting drills and demonstrations. The teams will then draw for opponents and order of play.

The East teams are: Scappoose and two St. Helens junior high teams, the Lancers and the Buccaneers. West teams are: Clatskanie, Rainier and Vernonia.

The Vernonia team this year is coached by James Johns and about 60 boys in the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades are turning out for practice. The Toppers, Vernonia's pep club is directed by Mrs. Ginger Johns. The student body has selected Shelly Lonquist, Carol Floeter, Judy Weller, and Jannette Aultman as cheer leaders for the year.

prizes will be sponsored for that.

The immediate residential lighting contest will extend from Pittsburg to the Timber route junction with Sunset highway. However, all those outside the city limits who wish to be considered must notify Horace Hertel at the Vernonia Drug company and if others wish to enter from as far as Timber or Birkenfeld, they can do so by notifying the committee, also. The desire is to make the entire residential area of Vernonia and all routes leading into the

city beautiful with Christmas lights.

There will be three judges who will do the judging over the period from December 15 to Christmas. Places may be viewed at intervals to check the over-all enjoyment afforded during the Christmas season.

In addition to this Christmas program, the chamber of commerce is supporting the Lions club program of street decorations by providing financing for additional lighting.

## Building Code Points Discussed At Hearing Tuesday Evening

Twenty-nine persons gathered at the Vernonia fire hall Tuesday evening for a public hearing on the proposed building code ordinance for the city. Included were the mayor, two councilmen and all seven members of the city planning commission.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor George Johnson at 8:15 p.m. who explained that the purpose of the proposed ordinance is not to formulate a code but to adopt a uniform building code approved by the International Conference of Building Officials. This code, with modifications, is now in use by Columbia county outside incorporated cities.

Robert C. Lindsay, chairman of the planning commission, stated the purpose of establishing building regulations is to promote improvement of property values by insuring that such construction or alteration as may be done will be according to standards which will not tend to lower the value of adjacent property and be acceptable as a basis for obtaining building loans and financing.

Doubt was expressed from the floor that, under present conditions, regulation is desirable. Belief was expressed that such building as has been done without regulation is all a benefit to the town and would have been greatly reduced had a system of permits, fees, necessary inspections and high standards been in effect.

However, the majority seemed to approve standards for entirely new construction. The principal objection centered on standards applying to additions, alteration and repair to existing structures.

The uniform code sets up minimum standards for all building. Principal requirements for compliance were illustrated by a chart introduced by the planning commission containing the following points:

1. All new construction should comply with code and permits would be required.
2. For additions, alterations and repairs of 50% or over of valuation of existing building, permit

would be required, with the new work to comply and the existing structure shall be brought up to code.

3. Additions, alterations and repairs 25 to 50% of valuation, permit required, new work to comply but no change necessary in existing structure.

4. Less than 25% change, permit required, (a) for structural change, new work, to comply, old need not be changed; (b) Non-structural, permit required, new work may be comparable in materials and construction used in the old building, no change in original construction.

5. Roof repair, permit required, if more than 25% replaced within 12 months, new covering shall comply with code.

After discussion, it was agreed to eliminate item 2 and change item 3 to cover 25% and over of valuation as regards dwellings. No exceptions were made in relation to business district within Vernonia fire zone 1.

Approved were permit fee proposals whereby permits to \$100 construction cost would be issued without charge. For permits of over \$100, fees would be assessed on a scale comparable with those of the county code. (Proposed fees for city purposes not available as the proposed ordinance was in possession of the city attorney who was not present.)

Some sentiment was voiced in favor of including licensing and/or bonding provisions for construction contractors.

Also, it was asked that the ordinance be publicized before passage.

A question was put to county building inspector, Joe Walker, as to whether the county experience has shown that the existence of a building code would assure good work in construction. He answered that the code cannot assure good work but inspection will show non-compliance with standards.

The ordinance will be written incorporating agreed on points and it will be considered further in Council meetings.

## Historical Group Hears Reports On Museum, Booklets Saturday

The Columbia County Historical Society met Saturday, November 17, in the Vernonia Grange hall with a good attendance considering the weather. The ladies of the Vernonia Grange served a noon potluck luncheon which was enjoyed by all, after which the meeting was called to order by President Wm. C. Wood.

It was reported that plans are progressing toward getting the building ready for the museum and it is hoped it may be open soon. All that remains to be done is remodeling the rooms for the living quarters for the curator.

The historical booklets were reported to be moving satisfactorily with members selling them in all parts of the county. Favorable comments have been heard regarding the contents of the booklets, and it is felt that they are a valuable addition to the history of the county. All areas of the county are covered in stories of pio-

neers, and further stories will be published as they are collected.

Since the Vernonia Grange hall is an old school house, several present told of early experiences in their childhood when they attended school here. This was before there were good roads and modern improvements. Some reporting were LeRoy Smith, Harve Christensen and Walter Parker. Lunch was carried in a five pound lard bucket and school was held for only a three month term in good weather. Old time teachers were recalled and incidents remembered from long ago.

It was decided to meet next in January, probably on the fairgrounds. It was also planned that printed notices in the county papers should be sufficient except for those living out of the county, since postage rates will be higher after the first of the year and it is extra work for the secretary to write notices.

## RAINFALL NEAR 10-INCH MARK FOR NOVEMBER

Almost 10 inches of rainfall during November has been measured by Mrs. Helen Spofford, cooperative weather observer on Corey hill. Actual figures up to noon Wednesday of this week was 9.77 inches.

Of the above amount, 5.65 inches fell last week from Monday morning, November 19 through Sunday, November 25. The heaviest day was last Sunday when 2 inches fell, to bring the week end total for Saturday and Sunday to 3.24 inches, an amount which sent rivers and creeks out of their banks, took out bridges, caused slides and along with the wind Saturday, uprooted some of the trees weakened in the October storm.

The warmest day in November was November 1 when the temperature reached 70 degrees. The coldest temperature recorded on the official thermometers was Wednesday morning of this week when mercury stood at 29 degrees. November 7, mercury dipped to 30 degrees for the first killing frost of the season.

## Chorus Grows To 31 Singers

The all-community chorus has grown to thirty-one singers, according to John Jensen, director. The men's section has grown to eleven and it looks like it will get even larger.

The chorus is now putting the finishing touches on the cantata before the performance December 16 at 4:00 p.m. at the high school. The next rehearsal will be Tuesday, December 4 at 7:00 p.m. at the EUB church. Two rehearsals will be scheduled for the final week.

## Library Gets Data on Japan

Vernonia high school library has received a copy of a brochure entitled "The Japan of Today" and a packet of pictures, "Japan in Pictures", according to J. W. Acaturri, superintendent.

Two-hundred sets of these materials were made available by the Japanese consulate in Portland for distribution to selected school libraries and Vernonia was fortunate to be one of the schools chosen by the state department of education to receive a set.

The 109 page brochure is illustrated in color, contains maps and is apparently an authentic and up-to-date account of modern Japan. B. L. Simmons, director of curriculum and instructional services for the state department of education, stated that it is appeared to be very useful in connection with instruction in ninth-grade World Geography and seventh-grade social studies.

The picture packet contains 40 excellent pictures, some in color, of Japanese subjects, showing features of the country and the culture and life of the people.

## Lions Schedule Day for Work

Work day for Lions club members will be Saturday, December 1 at 8:00 a.m. At this time the Christmas decorations will be going on display. The four new Christmas projects are in the finishing stages and Dr. J. W. Buell, chairman decoration projects, reports that they will be ready and it will take a large work party to get all the decorations up in one day.

On Monday, December 3, the Vernonia Lions club will have its regular meeting one-half hour later because of the visitation of Earl Hurlbert, guest speaker, and some members of the Southwest Lions club from Portland. This should be a very interesting meeting because of the many years of service and leadership that Hurlbert has given to Lions members in District 36-0.

Honor guests for the evening will be charter members of the Vernonia Lions club which is celebrating its 16th year in Vernonia. John Jensen, president, emphasized the time for this meeting, Monday, December 3, 7:00 p.m., at the fire hall.

## Younce Wins Post In Vote Recount

The hotly contested battle between Spencer Younce and Roy Wilburn for the post of Columbia county sheriff came to a head last week when Younce filed a petition with the secretary of state in Salem for a recount of the 8,446 ballots that had been cast in the county at the November 6 election. His petition was accompanied by \$340, representing \$10 for each of the county's 34 precincts.

Monday of this week, the recount got under way in St. Helens with two separate boards doing the counting, one in the county clerk's office in the court house and the other at 295 South First street in St. Helens.

According to Robert A. Welwood, county clerk, the recount revealed that Younce was the victor by a margin of 40 votes. The total was 4214 votes for Younce and 4174 for Wilburn. The original count had given Wilburn a 100 vote margin.

The counting boards were appointed by the county clerk and those who served on them were

## 2 To Speak on Tourism Topic

Two guest speakers will be heard next Thursday evening, December 6, at the county-wide tourism dinner to be held at the Vernonia Legion hall at 7:00 p.m. They are William Miller from the Oregon Department of Planning and Development who will speak on tourist promotion and Ron Shay from the Oregon State Game Commission who will speak on recreation in Columbia county.

Louis Towne, local chairman for arrangements, stated this week that he hopes local people will turn out to welcome those attending from other areas of the county and to participate in the meeting which vitally concerns this area. Dinner tickets are \$1.50 each and are on sale here by Ralph Bergerson, Leys McCarter and Louis Towne.

## Service Clubs To Provide Aid

In cooperation with the Columbia county school health committee, the St. Helens service clubs have established a joint committee with school health. This service is an aid to the school health program in that services not budgeted for are provided through the service clubs.

The various activities with which the group is associated can include such projects as clerical assistance at health clinics, transportation to acquire special medical or psychological evaluations, specific assistance in providing certain aids for handicapped youngsters, and other programs of this nature.

The various programs with which the committee deals is coordinated through the school nurse and the county school superintendent's office.

## ASCS Balloting on Delegates to End December 7; Names Released

The election of the ASCS community committeemen will be held by mail. Ballots were mailed November 13 and must be returned to the county office by December 7, or postmarked no later than that date.

Any person of legal voting age and having an interest in a farm as owner, tenant, or sharecropper, and any person not of legal age who supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm, is eligible to vote if he has participated in, or is eligible to participate in, any of the programs administered by the ASCS committee. Eligible voters not receiving ballots may call at the county ASCS office, 20 Plaza Square, St. Helens, and get a ballot.

W. A. Kessi, chairman, County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service committee, has released the following slate of nominees for the ASCS community committeemen for the Ne-

Grace Sonneland, Martha Richardson, Ethel Waters, Janice Ackerson, Margaret Myers, Elizabeth Magone, Marjorie Stroud and Audrey Tooley.

Both Wilburn and Younce had a representative at each board and there was another watcher at each board to ascertain that the counting was correct. Names of these were not available.

Since the recount found the election in favor of Younce, the \$340 will be refunded and the expense will be stood by the state. If the decision had remained as it was originally, the \$340 would have been forfeited.

In 1928, a recount was also called on the sheriff's race. Candidates were William Pringle Sr., Democrat and Oscar Weed, Republican. The vote was very close in favor of Weed. Pringle called for the recount and it resulted in an eight vote bonus for Weed, leaving him elected as in the original count but with a slightly wider margin.

Also, there once was a recount on the judgeship, believed to have been about 1916. This was on a recall election after which a man named W. J. Fullerton for whom the vote was favorable took office at once. The recount reversed the decision and put the other candidate (name not recalled) in office.

## Firemen Called Monday Night

The Vernonia fire department was called about 11:30 p.m. Monday to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hays on Stoney Point road where fire had broken out around their chimney from the fireplace in the living room.

The fire was discovered by the Hays' son, Jerry, who awoke to find his upstairs bedroom filled with smoke. He went into the room through which the flu passed and found the wall too hot to touch and he also could hear the snapping of the fire. He alerted his parents who called in the alarm.

Fire damage was extensive in the flu area, going from the fireplace clear through to the roof, but it was contained in that area. Smoke and water damage resulted to the interior of the house, although the Hays expressed great appreciation to the firemen who kept damage at a minimum.

The loss was partially covered by insurance.

Another fire that was more disastrous was reported here last Friday morning. The house in which the Clyde Pitts family was living at Tillamook while their new home is being built, was burned to the ground Thursday night while the family was at Estacada for the Thanksgiving holiday. Almost everything was lost, according to information received here. Glen Hawkins called Robert C. Lindsay about 1:00 a.m. Friday to see if he could recall the name of the people the Pitts might be visiting in Estacada. They were finally contacted through Crown Zellerbach employees in Estacada.