

Vernonia Eagle

VOLUME 42, NUMBER 36

VERNONIA, OREGON

THURSDAY, SEPT. 3, 1964



EAGLE SCOUT GORDON BLACKBURN

Scout Achieves Rank of Eagle

Gordon Blackburn received the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest award in scouting, at special ceremonies Sunday, August 23, at the 11 a.m. service at the Evangelical United Brethren church. Conferring the rank, Neighborhood Commissioner Don Cameron, past Scout Master of the local troop, reviewed Gordon's past and praised the fine leadership Gordon is showing among his fellow scouts. District Executive Arnold Haak cited a lengthy period since any Vernonia boy received such an award.

All boys eleven years of age and older, are invited to join scouting with Troop 201 of Vernonia. New Scoutmaster Ray Lamping announced this week that plans for the coming year include an extensive outdoor program with skills being taught in camping, cooking, axmanship, knots and lashings, tower building, mapping, rescue, and many other phases of scout outdoor life. Lamping has had scout experience as a boy and has enjoyed outdoor activities.

The program this year will be assisted by Assistant Scoutmaster Don Jackson and Gordon Blackburn as instructor. Meetings are Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in the Scout cabin in the city park.

October 3 Last Date for Voters

Registration books will close next month on October 3 at 8 p.m., an announcement from County Clerk Roy A. Nelson earlier this week indicates. This deadline allows a month for those who must register to do so in order to vote November 3 at the general election.

Qualifications for voters include the following:

Must be a citizen of the U. S. If the elector is a naturalized citizen not previously registered in the county, he must show his naturalization papers;

Must be 21 years of age or older. If age 21 is reached when registration is closed, he may register within 30 days preceding the closing of registration;

Must have resided in the state six months immediately preceding the election. Any elector who will complete the residence requirement during the close of registration, may register within 30 days preceding the closing of registration.

Other requirements pointed out by Nelson state that an elector must reregister because of the following conditions:

Change of residence to another precinct within the county or to another county within the state;

Change of political party;

Change of name by court order or marriage;

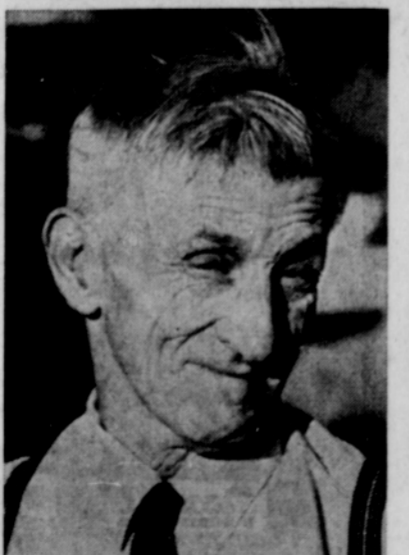
Voters living in the Nehalem valley may register here at the city hall where Walter Linn is acting as registrar, and at Mist where Katherine Grimsbo is registrar.

Summertime is always picnic time and when picnic-perfect days come rarely, as they have the past two summers, people are even more eager to take advantage of them when they do come.

Near Vernonia is one of the most attractive picnic spots which could be found and its charm has become known to people from a distance as well as to local people. It is Rogers park, which belongs to the Crown Zellerbach Corporation which has developed it and maintains it for the pleasure of the public, as they do a number of other parks.

Rogers Park is about six miles from Vernonia on Pebble Creek. The road from the highway into the park turns left at the foot of the hill on the Pebble Creek loop road. It is about two miles from the highway to the park.

Crown Zellerbach acquired the property on which the park is located in 1945 and the spot was a natural for the development of a park. Work of developing it was started about 1947. The park and play area includes about two acres. The level, tree shaded park area lies between the creek and the hill and the field for games and ball is more open and at one end of the camp area.



Above: Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Rogers. Photo was taken in 1887 or 1888 during the first winter after leaving their home in Tennessee. Below: Lee Rogers, Timber route mail carrier.

District 47J Schools List 679 Students

Registration figures at the schools in District 47J on the opening day of classes Monday total 40 students more than was true on the opening day of a year ago, District Superintendent Joey W. Acaiturri said late that day.

It is expected, as has been the case in other years, that enrollment will rise above Monday's figures within a week or so because of late registration of some students.

Vernonia high school totaled 200 for an increase from opening day last year of 17. Washington school gained 19 with 373 youngsters and Lincoln gained 1 with 70. At Mist 36 students enrolled for a gain of 3. Total increase in all district schools is 40.

Enrollment by classes at the high school is: freshmen 52, sophomores 54, juniors 38 and seniors 56.

Democrats to Meet

A meeting of the Democratic central committee is scheduled for September 8 at 8 p.m. at the West Oregon Electric building.

Art Class To Begin

A new beginners' art class for adults and teenagers will start Wednesday evening, September 9, from 7 to 9 p.m., at the art center in the Clinic building. Elva Goss, who has been instructing the adult art class here this summer, will be the instructor.

Anyone interested may attend the session or may call Mrs. W. E. Wilson at HA 9-5231 for information.

The class is sponsored by the Vernonia Society of Arts and Crafts.

Instruments Available

Those grade school students who are interested in beginning band but who have not already procured their instruments, may do so tonight, Thursday, at the grade school between 4 and 9 p.m., according to James Fiske, band instructor.

Businesses Close

Business firms here will be closed Monday of the coming week, September 7, in observance of the Labor Day holiday.

Hearing on Pollution of River To Take Place as Scheduled

Following word last week that the public hearing called for September 10 by the state sanitary authority might be called off, is information that the hearing will be held as scheduled relative to pollution of Castor creek and the Nehalem.

Word that the session would take place was received by Bob King, president of the Vernonia Rod and Gun club, from Glen D. Carter, aquatic biologist for the sanitary authority, in a letter dated August 28.

The hearing, as called by the authority, concerns alleged water pollution of the streams by the deposit, discharge and seepage of industrial waste from Empire Lite-Rock plant located near the Sunset highway about three miles east of the Timber junction on the Sunset highway.

An engineering report dated July 22, 1964 indicates that mud is the industrial waste which causes the resulting water pollution problem and that it originates from wash water at the crusher, from slop and slurry of yard drainage, from the quarry where machinery moves and

from the overburden cut from the hillside above the usable shale.

The report also states that "Lower Castor creek, which was once an excellent spawning and brood ground for silver salmon, steelhead trout, and cutthroat trout, has been layered with sediment up to several feet thick in places. Thus, it has been ruined for fish production."

In the report is listed a chronology of events relating to the problem as far back as February 4, 1961 when a report of siltation in the Nehalem and Castor creek was received from the Oregon game commission up to July 3 of this year when 18 residents of the Timber-Vernonia area requested a public hearing and legal action to overcome the mud problem.

Name Omitted

The listing of the names of teachers for District 47J schools last week omitted the name of Mrs. Lucille Green who will instruct fourth grade students.

Pioneer History Tells Origin of Rogers Park



THIS HOUSE was the one to which the Rogers family moved in 1907 when they left the old homestead on Pebble Creek. It stood where the Vernonia Golf Club now stands. It burned to the ground on July 30, 1917.

In front of the house are, from left, Mrs. Rogers, sons Franklin and Lee and daughter Pearl and Mr. Rogers. The picture was probably taken about 1910.

Kirkwoods, Hotchkiss, Henry Glahn and a George Johnson, no relation to the present George Johnson living here.

In those days, people really neighbored. They exchanged work to till their places and harvest crops. When one family butchered, they divided with other who "paid back" when they butchered. Provisions had to be brought from Buxton and roads were not good. When a family ran low, other families shared with them. Of course, wild game and fish were abundant and much used by the early settlers and menus were long on meat, potatoes and gravy and lacked the wide variety and luxury items of today.

Lee recalls that Christmas was a community affair when the families got together. While presents as we know them today were few, fellowship was of the type that made Christmas a true observance of the occasion.

In 1904-5, Mr. Rogers had a knife-shingle mill. He, Mrs. Rogers and Nelson worked together to make shingles to sell in order to get needed supplies.

In 1906, Mr. Rogers was working for the Columbia Timber Company, later known as Clark and Wilson, in the Deer Island area. He had been bucking wood for the donkey and was going back to work on the mulligan after the lunch hour when the brakes failed and the mulligan ran out of control down the grade. It collided with a log train and he was

thrown off and among injuries received, he lost his right arm. Elode McDonald, a young man at the time, was there when it happened. Also on the mulligan was Harley Redmond, father of Harvey Redmond, and he was the only one who managed to stay with it until it stopped. The regular engineer was ill and an unaccustomed one was at the controls when the accident occurred.

In 1907, the Rogers family moved from their homestead to the old Alfred Shannahan homestead on the Nehalem River, the place that is now the golf course. In 1917, the old farm house there burned, and Mr. and Mrs. Rogers moved into Vernonia. In 1925 they sold the farm to Ellis McGraw.

In 1926, Mr. Rogers passed away here, and she passed away in May of 1954 at the age of 89. For many years she had worked as a practical nurse especially in maternity cases, with doctors at Buxton and Vernonia and for a time, she maintained a maternity home here at her residence, now the Norman Hamnett home.

In recalling the family history, Lee remembered one incident that took place on the Pebble Creek homestead which proves the old adage that boys will be boys. He says that his brothers Nelson and Franklin had worked several days making a sled, then hitched it up to two bull calves which they hoped to break as oxen. The calves wanted no part

of it and ran away and the sled lasted only a few minutes.

So, with picnic season weather still expected well into the fall, perhaps those who go to Rogers Park can use their imaginations to think what life was like there in the early days when the country was rough and untamed and families knew the true meaning of frugality.

A representative of Crown Zellerbach reveals problems have arisen with maintaining the park, due to vandalism. Tables have been marred by carving, fireplaces have been damaged by gunshot and the area has been littered with debris. When such a park is provided for the pleasure of people without charge by a public-spirited corporation, it is deplorable indeed that a few thoughtless and destruction-bent people should ruin it for the hundreds who might enjoy it. It discourages efforts to maintain such an area and is poor thanks for their efforts.

Persons who used the park during July found it literally surrounded with a garden of foxglove. It grows in great profusion along the road leading to the park and if one walked from the park up the bank and followed an old road which comes out on a logging road, they could walk down it to the road to the camp through a veritable corridor of the pink and white blossoms. Nature, in every way is doing her part to make the area beautiful. Only thoughtless people defile it.