

# Vernonia Eagle

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VERNONIA, OREGON

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1965

## 1965 Events Tabulated from Files

Vernonia began the year of 1965 on a new trend as the first woman to hold a seat on the city council, Mrs. Launee Cousins, was sworn in at the January 4 meeting. Tragically, she did not get to complete even the first year of her term due to illness to which she succumbed in October. Up to that time, she took an active part in city affairs.

Countywide, on January 4 Earl Seawright was sworn in as county judge and Don Kalberer as district attorney.

Darold Proehl, elementary school principal, was named as citizen of the year by the Vernonia Chamber of Commerce at their annual meeting held January 11. Service on the chamber, with the county planning commission, the Lions club, on United Fund and other philanthropic drives and to fraternal and church groups in addition to his many activities in the education field all figured in his selection.

At the city council meeting February 1, the council accepted the offer of the U. S. National Bank of \$10,000 for the building they occupy which they previously rented from the city.

Countywide, the first week in February brought the announcement that Shell Chemical company would build a 10 million dollar

plant on highway 30 below St. Helens on an 800 acre tract which includes the present Columbia county fair grounds.

A county-wide meeting was held at St. Helens February 3 to discuss the "court house question." Later in the month, the court announced plans for an election April 23 to ask allocation of funds for a new court house and to designate one of four sites, the present court house site, the Flat Iron site, the Violette tract or the Neuman subdivision. In March, the election was called off after the attorney general handed down the decision that the \$400,000 court house fund had reverted to the general fund. The "court house question" is still unresolved as the year ends.

In March, the PTA presented a revue, A Night at the Palace, which packed the high school gym with a capacity crowd and revealed a wealth of talent in the community. Over \$300 was cleared.

March 2, Bill Rundle was named as chairman for the 1965 Jamboree and plans were started for the annual celebration.

April 17, the Jaycee boat races were hampered by low water in the Nehalem river.

Another April event was the first Nehalem Valley Coin club show held at the high school which drew dealers and hobbyists

from a wide area.

April also saw the tri-county homemakers' conference held here for the first time. It drew over 200 women from Columbia, Tillamook and Washington counties.

May 1, two Vernonia high school boys, Mark Medges and John Jackson, won the Plymouth trouble shooting contest at Lloyd center which gave them a trip in June to Detroit to enter the national contest which they came close to winning.

Sunday, May 2, the first "drive-in grocery" in Vernonia drew much interest. A pickup crashed into Linn Grocery and put it out of business as a result of damage done.

In May, Vernonia high school was broken into and money from several school funds taken. A safe was broken open and ruined in the process and a vending machine was damaged. The same week end, a car stolen in Indiana was abandoned near the lagoon and the Albert Kriegers' pickup was stolen from their garage. It was later found abandoned in Vancouver.

In May, William Ambrose was hired as superintendent of district 47 schools to replace Joey Acaturri who had resigned.

Mrs. Harry Sandon retired after 34 years of teaching, most of it in this district.

On June 1, ownership of the Nehalem Valley Laundromat was transferred from LeMoine Todd to Wayne Hathaway.

June 24, Mrs. Wilbur Davis was installed as worthy grand matron of Oregon, OES, in elaborate ceremonies in Portland.

The fireworks sponsored and put on by the Vernonia Volunteer Fire Department with financial help from merchants and organizations drew a large crowd to the high school field July 4.

The ninth annual Friendship Jamboree July 23, 24 and 25, drew a large crowd for all events. Christine King was crowned as the queen. Princesses were Claudia Carter, Nancy Skidmore, Kathy Minger and Rory Workman. The float of Vernonia Milk Farms took sweepstakes honors in the parade and Gene Odum was high point man at the logging show.

In August, Henry Anderegg was named as chairman for the 1966 Jamboree and began planning for that event.

At the Vernonia Society picnic, Mrs. Olive Powell, aged 95 took honors for oldest woman present. Albert Parker, aged 90, was the oldest man and Beulah Parker Burkhart of Thorne Bay Alaska was from the greatest distance.

The Vernonia Golf Course changed hands September 15 when Gordon Reed sold to Beaver Sports Properties, a corporation formed by Roy Critser, Ken Nanson and Dave Gambee.

First day registrations at District 47 schools were slightly under 1964.

### Office Handles Heavier Load

The cancelling machine at the Vernonia post office was kept busy during the Christmas mailing season as it tabulated a total of 37,548 cards and letters during that period. This is 1460 more than were cancelled in December of 1964 when 36,088 passed through the machine.

No count is kept of letter mail coming in for distribution here but it is estimated that the volume would somewhat nearly approximate that sent out.

Parcels mailed out of Vernonia were slightly under last year's volume but 130 more packages came into the post office for local patrons than a year ago.

Postmaster O. T. Bateman and his staff expressed appreciation for the good cooperation of local patrons who mailed earlier this year and made it easier for them to handle the increased volume of mail. It was noted that many people were using zip codes and were placing the Vernonia zip code on return addresses so that they could be added to addresses. Bateman urges everyone to get into the habit of using zip codes on all mail.

There were 191 at the high school, 393 at Washington school, 73 at Lincoln and 33 at Mist for a total of 690. A week later it had risen to 727.

October 16, a record crowd attended the West Oregon Electric cooperative annual meeting.

November 1 Derl Roberts was appointed as city councilman to replace Launee Cousins who had passed away.

In November, in the contest sponsored by the Vernonia Hunter Safety Council, James Brewer took first place honors for his blacktail deer rack and Frank Reed for mule deer taken in Eastern Oregon.

Ownership of another business changed at the end of November. Mrs. Esther Ring sold her Mar Lee Beauty Salon to Mrs. Juanita Morford who renamed it the Cut and Curl Room.

December 4, the Lions club held a diabetic clinic for the Nehalem Valley at which over 200 persons were tested. Funds for it had been raised in October at the annual hotcake feed.

December also brought solution to one mystery with the identification of the skeleton found in September in the Oak Ranch creek area as Norman Anderson of Quincy. Original discovery of part of the skeleton was made by Ed Siedelman while cone picking.

A white Christmas was recurring snow flurries to keep things beautiful and enough melting to prevent it from getting too deep, and the increased Christmas lighting created a pleasant holiday season as the year drew to a close.

### Baskets Given To Individuals

Through the cooperation of many organizations and individuals, holiday cheer was extended to many Vernonia homes.

Wednesday evening of last week, representatives of the Vernonia Lions club, Gerald Russell and Bill Horn, delivered about 20 fruit baskets to senior citizens who are more or less alone. This practice has been carried out by the club for several years.

Several other organizations also sent fruit baskets to shut-ins and elderly people.

There were about 12 complete Christmas dinners delivered to families for whom Christmas might have been rather bleak this year without this assistance. These were filled through the donations of individuals and organizations under the direction of the civic committee of the Vernonia Study club with Mrs. Charles Minger as chairman.

Toys for baskets to families were donated by the Lions club. These had been taken to their Christmas party in lieu of a gift exchange.

### Business Moves

The E & B Drycleaners and Laundry operated by Ed Bredeau moved last week end to its new location at the corner of Bridge street and Jefferson avenue in the building which was last occupied by the Montgomery Ward sales agency. Bredeau indicates that he expects to expand services in the new locations.

## Weather Records Show Decrease in Rainfall

Weatherwise, 1965 was a rather dry year for Vernonia, along with the rest of the state which recorded the least rainfall since about 1890. Records kept by Mrs. Helen Spofford at her home on Corey hill show 37.89 inches of rain so far this year. In 1964 the total was 59.04 inches and in 1963 it was 48.19 inches. Mrs. Spofford stated that over a long period the year average was around 65 inches.

Driest month of 1965 was September when only .07 of an inch fell. July had .42 of an inch and June, .39. Wettest month was January when 10.96 inches fell. This is compared to 14.95 inches in Jan-



## THE STAFF OF THE VERNONIA EAGLE

### Blood Call Cancelled

Due to the current epidemic of colds and flu in this area, the visit of the Red Cross Bloodmobile scheduled for January 17 has been cancelled and a later date will be announced when the visit is rescheduled. The change was made on the advice of local physicians who feel that many prospective donors would be ineligible at present due to the prevalent illnesses.

### Title and Trust Firms to Merge

Wales Wood, vice-president and manager of the Columbia county branch of Title and Trust company, St. Helens, today announced that all necessary regulatory approval had been obtained for the merger of Title and Trust company with Washington Title Insurance company (Washington) and Union Title company (Indiana).

He stated that the merger will result in the creation of an entirely new title insurance company which will be in a position to expand its title services on a nation-wide basis. The name of the new company will be Pioneer National Title Insurance company, a California corporation. The three companies being merged, which are all wholly-owned subsidiaries of Title Insurance and Trust Company of California, now provide services through their own offices and affiliated companies in eight states and the territory of Guam.

Wood said that basically, the merger will affect only the name and the size of the company and that its operations, people and policies will remain unchanged. He added that the merger will bring to Title and Trust customers the fullest possible range of title services into additional areas under one company name, and policies of title insurance backed up by capital, surplus and reserves in excess of \$11 million.

Title and Trust company has furnished title insurance and escrow services in Columbia county through its St. Helens office since 1932 when it acquired the Columbia County Abstract company.

The Title and Trust Division of Pioneer National Title Insurance company will furnish title insurance through branches and agents in 22 Oregon counties. The employees of the local office, in addition to Wood, are Lois L. Anderson, L. Jean Buck, Hazel M. Evans, Sherryl M. Griffin, Mary K. Marson, Fred C. Morton and Ruth M. Wood.

### Chamber Lists Program Topic For Meeting

At the Monday evening meeting, the directors of the Vernonia Chamber of Commerce expressed their pleasure that so many people illuminated their houses with Christmas lights and had displays in keeping with the holiday.

For the quarterly dinner meeting, the chamber has asked City Chief of Police Earl Ray to provide a program on shoplifting. Even a small town is plagued by this problem at all times so the topic should appeal to all merchants and others, also. The dinner is planned for January 24 at the IOOF hall.

The chamber is departing from its usual custom of awarding a plaque to an outstanding citizen of the year. Instead it will honor two citizens, one of whom will be a woman. In past years many women have been nominated for that honor so it was felt a member of that sex should receive recognition. The awards will be presented at the dinner meeting.

### Telephone Tax Reduction Due

The cost of telephone service will be reduced by seven per cent on January 1, West Coast Telephone company reminds its customers. The reduction comes via the first step of the gradual elimination of the federal excise tax on telephone service.

The bill to repeal the excise tax on telephone service, which was imposed as a so-called "luxury" tax during World War II, was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Johnson in June. According to the new law subsequent reductions of 1 per cent will be made on January 1 of 1967, 1968 and 1969 when the tax will be eliminated completely.

In reminding its customers of the tax reduction, West Coast Telephone pointed out that it applies to both local and long distance service. In addition, the tax on many business telephone services, such as Private Branch Exchanges, sound and paging systems, and intercom channels, will be eliminated January 1, 1966.

The 1966 telephone excise tax reduction will save West Coast Telephone customers in excess of \$1.9 million.

## Long-Time Owner of Business Taken by Death December 21

Funeral services were held Thursday of last week, December 23, at 2 p.m. at the First Christian church for Ed Salomonsen who passed away December 21 at St. Vincents hospital in Portland where he had been for several weeks following surgery and subsequent complications.

Reverend Robert Sargent, pastor of the church, officiated. Mrs. Larry Jones was soloist and Mrs. L. H. Thomas, organist. Lodge rites were under the auspices of the Vernonia Odd Fellows Lodge No. 246.

Concluding rites and interment were at the Vernonia Memorial cemetery with Arby Mills Charles Sundland, Vern Sykes, Wilbur Davis, Tom Bateman and Ben Brickel as casket bearers. Arrangements were entrusted to the Fuiten-Friksen Mortuary.

Mr. Salomonsen was born September 10, 1892 at Clark, South Dakota where he spent his early days. About 1903 his family moved to Astoria. When he became old enough he engaged in commercial fishing for some years, then in 1918 he went to the community of Neverstill as a machinist for the railroad.

In the fall of 1922, when all eyes were turned toward Vernonia because of the promised boom due to the building of the railroad and the mill, he came to this community and in partnership with Perry Harvey and Pete Saara, cleared brush to build a blacksmith shop where Ralph's Chevron Service is now located. At that time there was no Rose avenue and that section of town was mostly covered with brush. The highway at that time followed much the same course as the railroad does now, entering town on Weed avenue.

In a few months, Salomonsen and his partners added a machine shop and the business became known as Vernonia Brazing and Machine Works.

In 1924, Saara died and a few months later, Mr. Salomonsen bought out Mr. Harvey's interest to become sole owner, but he soon took another partner, Cecil Bateman who was associated with him until 1935 when he sold his interest to Ed Bollinger. In 1936 they bought out the former Gilbey Motor company and moved to the present location of Vernonia Auto Company.

He retired from active business in 1948 and has since enjoyed many winters in the sunshine of Arizona but he was always glad to get back to Vernonia.

He has always been active in civic affairs. He was the first president of the Vernonia Lions club and also of the Vernonia Booster club which he helped or-

ganize. This was a forerunner of the Vernonia Chamber of Commerce. He was always striving for the betterment of the community which he had watched grow from a small farming community to a busy industrial hub while the mill was in full operation.

He had the first car sales agency in Vernonia for the Star automobile. Later he sold Dodges and in 1935 acquired the Chevrolet agency which is still held by the business he established.

He also had been a member of the Odd Fellows lodge for many years and was active in its work.

In 1918 he was married at Astoria to Maude Cole. She preceded him in death in Arizona in 1961. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Zoe Whitsel Salomonsen to whom he was married in 1962. Also surviving are his daughter, Mrs. James (Margaret) Davies, two grandsons, Craig and Scott Davies and a brother, Sigurd Salomonsen of Astoria.

### Red Cross TV Series Offered

A series of 10 programs about techniques of first aid beginning January 4 on Oregon's two educational television channels can make both young people and adults capable of caring for an injured person in a time of crisis. William McGrath, television program manager for Oregon Educational Broadcasting, notes that the weekly series Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m., covers information on how to treat most of the common accidental injuries.

Oregon Educational Broadcasting's Channel 7 (KOAC-TV, Corvallis) and Channel 10 (KOAP-TV, Portland) are televising the series in cooperation with the Oregon Trail Chapter of the American Red Cross. Television viewers can earn their Red Cross First Aid Certificate by pre-registering for the course through their local Red Cross chapter prior to January 4.

In addition to viewing the ten programs, McGrath says, the Red Cross will require use of a textbook for the first aid study, completion of workbook exercises and attendance at two work sessions at local Red Cross chapters to practice skills and evaluate abilities developed during the video classes. A final examination will be given.

The ten films should be informative for a general viewing audience, McGrath says. All stress the need for immediate action in certain injuries where first aid knowledge means the difference between life and death.