

Ramseys Visit Montana Friend

BIRKENFELD — Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ramsey went into Portland Monday to see Mrs. John Horn, a friend of theirs from their former hometown, Libby, Montana. Mrs. Horn is in the St. Vincent's hospital where she underwent open heart surgery early in January. She had three valves replaced in her heart at this time. There are only 200 others in the United States with three replaced valves. Mrs. Horn's mother, Mrs. Clarice Erickson, also from Libby, and a friend of the Ramseys, will be with her daughter in Portland until they go back to Montana. The Ramseys also saw Mrs. Erickson Monday. At noon, Mr. and Mrs. Ramsey had lunch with their daughter Ann, a Cascade College student.

Mr. and Mrs. Everett Beach visited with Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Beach Wednesday evening. Ted Levecke, Seattle, and his mother, Mrs. M. E. Levecke, Vernonia, visited with the Lloyd Beaches Sunday morning. Sunday afternoon, Lloyd and Minnie were in Clatskanie.

Nick Berg and Butch Crawford recently spent the week end at Newport with Mr. and Mrs. Walter Zillman and family. The Zillmans recently moved to Newport from Clatskanie. They are operating a grocery store there.

Approximately 65 people attended the West Oregon Co-op meeting in the Birkenfeld Grange kitchen last Wednesday evening.

Julie Spitzer and Vickie Ramsey were initiated into the Vernonia Assembly of Rainbow Monday evening. Mrs. Norman Hansen took the girls to Vernonia.



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Longview Friends Are Visited by F. Udeys

BIRKENFELD — Mr. and Mrs. Fred Udey were in Longview last Wednesday. They did some shopping and visited with Mr. and Mrs. Robert Spain who live in the country near Longview. Mr. Spain is not working due to an injury sometime back.

Mrs. Philip Kinnunen and Cindy from Astoria visited her sister and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Miller early this week. Mrs. Miller took some of the pep club girls to Rainier for a basketball game last Thursday.

Mrs. Boone Johnston and Shirley Berg were in Clatskanie, Rainier, and Longview Wednesday of last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Bracy Neal and son Dean from Scholls visited with Mr. and Mrs. Robert DuPuis recently.

Mrs. Francis Nordstrom left Friday via bus for Los Angeles where she will visit with her daughter, Mary Ann Manning and husband Pat.

Eleven ladies attended the Garden club meeting at the home of Myrtle Mathews last Wednesday. They enjoyed a pot luck luncheon at noon. Mrs. Lee Barlow gave an interesting talk on Iris. Mrs. Bill Wolfe was a guest. The next meeting, Wednesday, February 16, will be at the home of Ferne Taylor.

Lloyd Garlock Home Visited by Relatives

MIST—Saturday afternoon visitors at the Lloyd Garlock home were Mr. and Mrs. Willard Garlock, Ray Garlock, Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Garlock, De Lake. Gloria's father has been quite ill and is in a hospital in Portland.

Oren Weed of Vernonia broke two bones in one of his feet last Wednesday while working for Lloyd Garlock Logging Co. He will be off work for about two months.

Callers at the Charles Sundland home Wednesday was Mrs. Elsa Knowles and Mrs. Walter Mathews. Saturday Mr. and Mrs. Arby Mills called on them.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Haynes, Scholls were week end guests at the George Mathews home. The Dee Veere Hersheys visited them Saturday evening.

Mrs. Hugh Cox, Mrs. Earl Knowles and Mrs. Martin Hansen were in Astoria Saturday. Mrs. Al Cavanaugh, Mrs. Knowles and Mrs. Cox were dinner guests at the Hansen home Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Shalmon Libel were in Seaside Sunday to visit his mother, Mrs. Clara Libel. Mr. and Mrs. Clair Devine, Vernonia, were dinner guests Thursday at the Libel home.

Knits and Purls Club Discusses Activities

The Knits and Purls 4-H knitting club met January 5 at the home of their leader, Mrs. Richard Huntman.

The members of the club are all working on various projects. At the meeting they discussed the officer training meeting at the McBride school. After the discussion, the meeting was closed by the president, Andrea Bell. Patty Hahmeyer, reporter.

THE PEOPLE SPEAK --

To the Editor:

I would like to address this letter to the people of this community in regard to the various cemeteries in the area. The question has arisen because a great many people have become concerned about the care given these cemeteries.

The principle ones concerned are the City Owned Memorial Cemetery on Corey Hill, the Pioneer Cemetery, just outside of the city limits on Keasey route, and the North Cemetery on Clear creek on Timber route.

The city council and the Vernonia planning commission have been concerned with the problem of these cemeteries for some time but there is no clear consensus of opinion as to what should be done.

It is in this light that this letter is addressed to the people in the hope that the city council and planning commission might better be guided in setting new policies or providing different organizations for their care.

At the present time the Memorial cemetery is cared for by the sexton, a city employee, under supervision of the city council. Because of more pressing matter, the city council has not given the Memorial cemetery the attention it has needed.

Much work is needed to put it in good condition; the present area is being rapidly filled up and new area must be cleared and subdivided into lots.

The Pioneer cemetery was organized in 1900 as the Vernonia Cemetery association and the land donated by Wm. Mellinger. Later some additional land was acquired from the adjacent Bergerson property.

The lots of the cemetery were nearly all sold by the middle 1930s.

The association met regularly from 1900 through 1927. The next meeting was in 1935 when it was

proposed to deed the cemetery property to the city of Vernonia. No one appeared at the hearing called to decide the matter and the proposal was dropped.

The next meeting of the association directors was in 1945 and it was decided that all further business of the association be turned over to O. G. Weed to administer. No meetings have been held of record since that time.

The care of the Pioneer cemetery has been in the hands of the Odd Fellows lodge as a voluntary project. The lodge no longer feels it can continue this work so there is no care provided other than that by individual lot holders and families of the deceased buried there.

A great many things can and should be done to insure its perpetual care. Additional land should be acquired to provide more burial space, grass planted and regular mowing provided.

The North cemetery on Clear creek is older than the Pioneer cemetery. It was originally located on the North family homestead on Clear creek, but all records have now been lost.

The condition of the North cemetery is much the same as that of the Pioneer cemetery. No care is provided outside of that of individual lot holders or their descendants.

A number of alternatives have been proposed to provide this necessary care, some deal only with one, or two, and some try to deal with all three.

One proposal to provide better care for the Memorial cemetery is to set up a committee by ordinance of interested citizens with powers to do the work necessary. Along with this proposal was one to deed the Pioneer cemetery to the city and let the city provide its care.

Another proposal is to contract with Jim Fuiten of Fuiten / Friesen Mortuary in the amount now being budgeted for Memorial cemetery care. This money, of course, could not be spent outside of the city limits for the care of the Pioneer or North cemeteries, unless these cemeteries were deeded to the city.

Another proposal is a non-profit cemetery association, as was the Vernonia Cemetery association, to include one, two or all three of these cemeteries. Under this setup funds for maintenance would be provided by sale of lots, by subscription, donation and perhaps by fund raising dinners, picnics or other events, much as the Banks cemetery association provides funds for its cemetery.

Another means by which the Pioneer and North cemeteries might be cared for is with increased public interest. These old cemetery associations might elect officers, ask for subscriptions, donations, acquire more land and sell lots to provide funds.

Another proposal is a cemetery maintenance district provided under Oregon law.

If 15 or more landowners within a proposed district which meets certain minimum standards of area and property evaluation desire a district, they may petition the county court. The county court finds that there is a need and a desire on the part of the people for a district, a hearing on the matter is called for.

If at the hearing the sentiment of the people is favorable, an election is provided for to allow the people to decide for or against organization of a district by ballot. If the people vote for a district, three property owners from the

district are elected to manage it, with one acting as chairman, one as secretary and one as treasurer of the cemetery district.

A tax of not more than three-quarters of a mill (.00075) on the true cash value of the property within the district is levied. Reviewing the summary of assessment and tax rolls for Columbia county for 1965-66 all other cemetery district have a 2.7 mill levy.

On \$10,000 worth of property this would cost the taxpayer of the district \$6.75. If the district included the City of Vernonia and, for example, the confines of the present rural fire district, this would provide a total property evaluation of \$1,256,820. This taxed at 2.7 mills would provide some \$3000 annually for maintenance of these cemeteries.

The use of the rural fire district was for illustration only and it would probably be better to place the limits to the district at the county line on Timber Rt., Highway 47 south, Keasey route to Keasey, Pebble creek to Rogers park, Highway 47 north to Apiary junction.

I would like to invite any and all comment on this matter, which if unresolved now can only become more acute in the future.

Very truly yours,
R. E. Keasey

(See questionnaire page 6)

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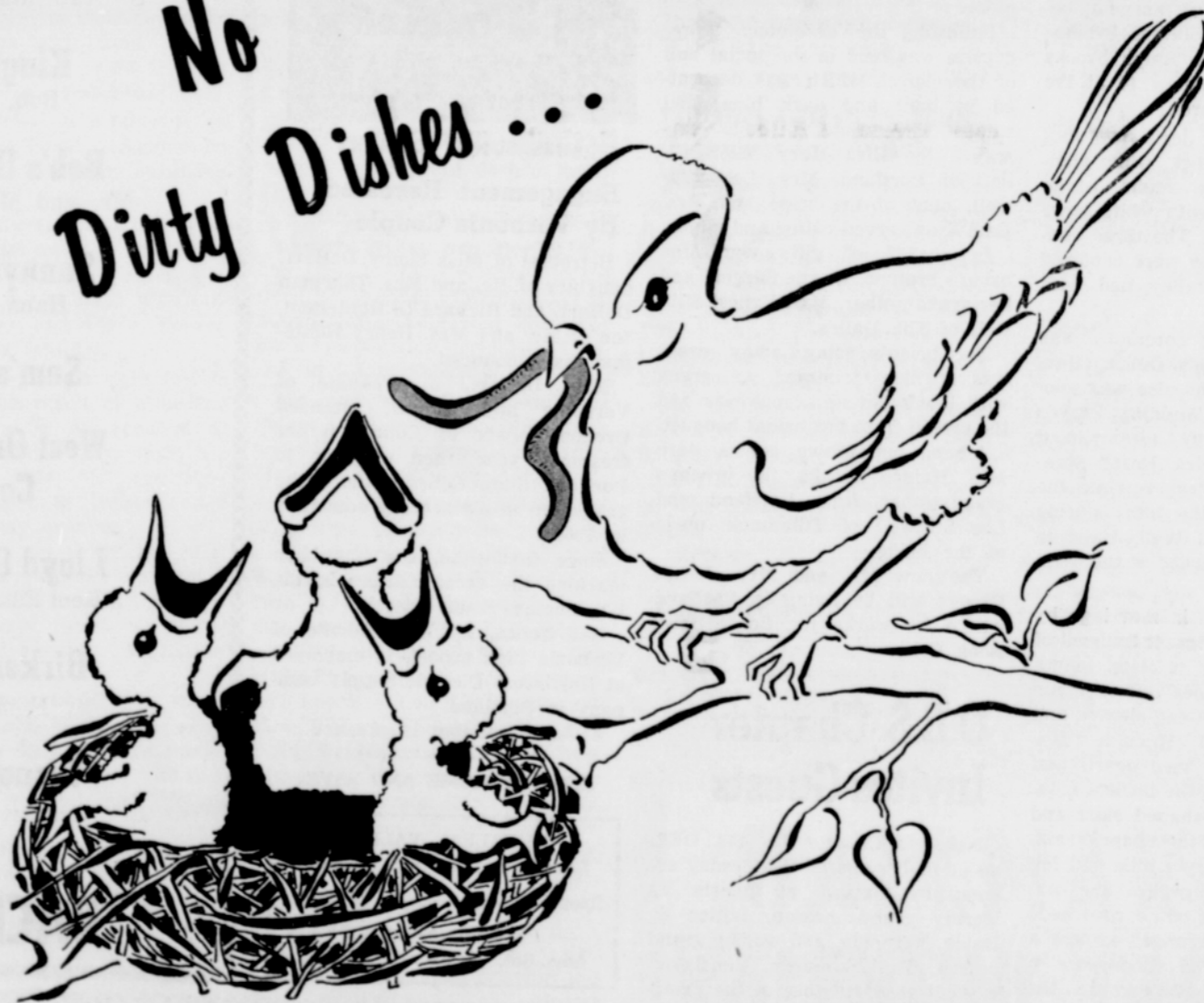
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