

Vernonia Eagle

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Wages Highlight Meeting, Increases Granted

It was a far-from-dull meeting when the Columbia County Budget Committee reconvened at the request of the Board of Commissioners following receipt of additional O&C funds, and the necessity for considering the proposed salary increases resulting from union negotiations.

Present were members of the Board of Commissioners, budget committee members, secretary Gloria Salvey (deputy clerk), Circuit Judge Don Kalberer and District Attorney Robert Lucas.

The meeting was opened by Commission Chairman Fred Foshaug, who stated that there had been a tentative allocation of the additional O&C funds, amounting to \$151,000, with \$51,000 assigned to the General Fund and the balance—\$100,000—to the Road Fund.

Foshaug also said that a tentative agreement had been reached with the union, with a \$35 across-the-board monthly increase, which amounted to 5½ percent. There is also a built-in step increase of approximately 3½ percent, which made an overall increase of roughly nine percent with an additional \$1,000 of life insurance coverage.

Prior to turning the meeting over to M.B. Morton of the budget committee, Foshaug advised those present that the board had requested the committee to make a decision regarding salary increases for elected officials.

Following a discussion as to whether the commissioners' positions were full- or part-time employment, with the conclusion that with the ever increasing meetings, etc., it was definitely full-time, the commissioners then commented that the additional \$100,000 allocation to the Road Fund was due to the present bridge inspection.

There has not been a full bridge inspection done since 1943, and with the completion of this inspection, there might have to be some bridge replacement, as well as a number of repairs, with bridges on school bus routes, taking first priority.

After a discussion regarding union bargaining for all employees, regardless of the fact that only a very small percentage of the employees were union members, the meeting "livened up."

Judge Kalberer felt the current salary received by commissioners was insufficient with the comment that it should be based upon the position rather than the office-holder.

District Attorney, Robert Lucas stated he would like the budget committee to set reasonable salaries for the commissioners, since the positions were, in essence, full-time, and felt the salary should range in the \$18,000-\$20,000 bracket, with the comment that, if the budget committee felt the positions to be only part-time, salaries should be adjusted accordingly.

E.T. Johnson stated that whenever a candidate ran for office, he was fully aware of the salary involved and that the candidate would run for office more to be in public affairs than for the money involved. He said he was against the suggestion made by Lucas and felt that if such salary increases were granted, the members of both the committee and board would be subjected to considerable criticism.

It was the opinion of Judge Kalberer that a small salary would serve to entice candidates unqualified for the position while a larger salary would tend to attract more desirable candidates for office, adding that it was worth considerably more than what is paid considering it should be a full-time position, with Commissioner Ahlborn stating that if all the duties required were fulfilled, it would certainly be full-time.

After Lucas stated that the board could override the budget committee's recommendations, although he felt it wouldn't be a good idea, things began to heat-up as Morton questioned other departments, as to whether those elective positions should be considered full-time.

Commenting on meetings held last year, wherein the budget committee recommendations were that neither the county clerk nor the district attorney were entitled to a salary increase considering the "large amount of time neither were in their office," Morton took a left jab at the news media, as he added that it was the committee's hope last year, that the feelings of the members of the budget committee would be published in the papers so that the citizens of the county would know they felt there was a definite lack of supervision in the two departments.

Lucas came back with the fact that he had received a letter last year, similar to one addressed to the clerk, adding that he had been extremely upset by it and had seriously considered libel action being taken at that time.

With that, Morton commented that in such a case, it might become necessary to utilize outside legal counsel and once more slapped the press as he stated again that he had hoped this information would have been publicized last year.

Johnson then stated that this was the reasoning behind the formation of the Charter Study Committee.

Lucas then helpfully suggested that it might be aidful to reduce the county clerk's salary as a result of frequent absences and inattention to supervision of the office, adding that he felt the

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Grand Jury Tours Jail Facilities

The Columbia County Grand Jury made its semi-annual tour of jail facilities in the county in April, and their findings, as reported to Circuit Court Judge Donald Kalberer, noted the following:

"On April 25, 1973, the Grand Jury of Columbia County inspected the jails of St. Helens, Vernonia, Clatskanie and Rainier. The following is what we found:

St. Helens - Generally good condition.

Vernonia - Facilities not in use.

Clatskanie - Generally good condition.

Rainier - Unsatisfactory condition, follow up inspection on June 29, 1973, found it to be in satisfactory condition with adequate plumbing and heating.

S. Emil G. Koch, Foreman."



DIARMUID O'SCANNLAIN, Director of DEQ is shown above with Columbia County Commissioner Jay Ahlborn discussing environmental topics while on a County wide tour last Monday.

Jamboree Art Show Feature To Be Demos

The Jamboree Art Exhibit committee of the Society of Arts and Crafts met last week to make plans for its tenth annual art exhibit. Meeting with the committee were representatives of Portland Community College.

Ms. Jacquie Crist, Community Service Director, and Bill Filter, County Community Education Coordinator, of the college, met at the home of society president Mrs. Claude Gibson with committee members, Mrs. L.L. Wells, Mrs. William Heath and Mrs. Wilbur Wilson, committee chairman.

The college has planned to provide craftsmen to demonstrate various crafts of the Northwestern area, as it did last year, in addition to the society's program of demonstrations by local craftsmen, plus oil painting demonstrations by Mildred Hubbard. Mrs. Hubbard has instructed the PCC oil painting class in Vernonia the past three terms.

Other artists and craftsmen scheduled by PCC to appear at the exhibit will be David Diving-horse of the "Speck of Earth" in Portland, leathercraft; Chris Holmes, calligraphy; Linda Laboda, tapestry weaving and macramé; Dexter Bacon, metalwork jewelry; and a spinner.

A schedule of times of the demonstrations will be given later.

The exhibit is to be held this year at the Masonic Temple.

Blood Unit Visit Set On July 16

The Red Cross Bloodmobile unit will be in Vernonia Monday, July 16, and will be stationed at the Oddfellows Hall between the hours of 3 and 7 p.m.

It is hoped the extra hour will encourage those who work later to donate this time. Due to the summer months much more blood is being used than expected and this is one way for those who can to help in a big way.

Several Vernonia people are in need of having blood they have used replaced. "You may give in anyone's name you wish to donate in. If you are between the ages of 18-65 and in good health," the Red Cross representatives advise.

Anyone wishing transportation or wanting further information may call 429-3552.

Boat School Begins on TV

"TV School for Boaters," a course preparing viewers to take the Coast Guard Auxiliary Courtesy Motorboat Examination, will be broadcast 6:30 p.m., Mondays, July 16 to September 17, over KOAP-TV, Channel 10, Portland, and KOAC-TV, Channel 7, Corvallis.

Jamboree Plans in High Gear

Plans are moving into high gear for the 17th annual Vernonia Friendship Jamboree slated for the weekend of July 27-29.

Already scheduled for the event are: the Art Show which opens Friday evening at 6 p.m. at the Masonic Temple, showing art and craft displays with demonstrations by both local and PCC-sponsored craftsmen. Besides these demonstrations, there will also be an oil painting demonstration both Saturday and Sunday.

Saturday morning will find crowds gathering for the annual parade with the Jr. Parade set for 10:30 a.m. followed by the Senior Parade at 11 a.m. Pre-judging of entrants will be from 8:30 until 10 a.m.

Also scheduled for Saturday are the Quarter Midget races with the Monza run to be held at 1 p.m.—finals set for Sunday at noon—the racers piloted by members of several quarter midget clubs. Saturday also marks the date for the Teen Dance to be held at Vernonia High School, with music by "Mother's Freedom." The affair is sponsored by the VHS Jr. class.

Sunday will find many attending the Logger's Breakfast sponsored by the Rebekahs. It will be held at the IOOF Hall and begin at 7 with serving ending at 11 a.m.

There will also be a trap shoot at the rifle range across from Anderson park, sponsored by the Vernonia Hunter Safety Council. The shoot will start at 1 p.m.

Horseshoes Ready to Fly

The Vernonia Friendship Jamboree Horseshoe Tournament will be held Saturday, July 14, at Hawkins Park. Senior Citizens will begin pitching at 7 a.m., followed by A, B, C, and other classes at 10.

"We also plan to have some of our leading state lady pitchers present and they will pitch possibly beginning about 1 o'clock," states tourney director Gerald Russell.

Howard Peterson of Portland will be defending Champion as he has taken first place the last two years.

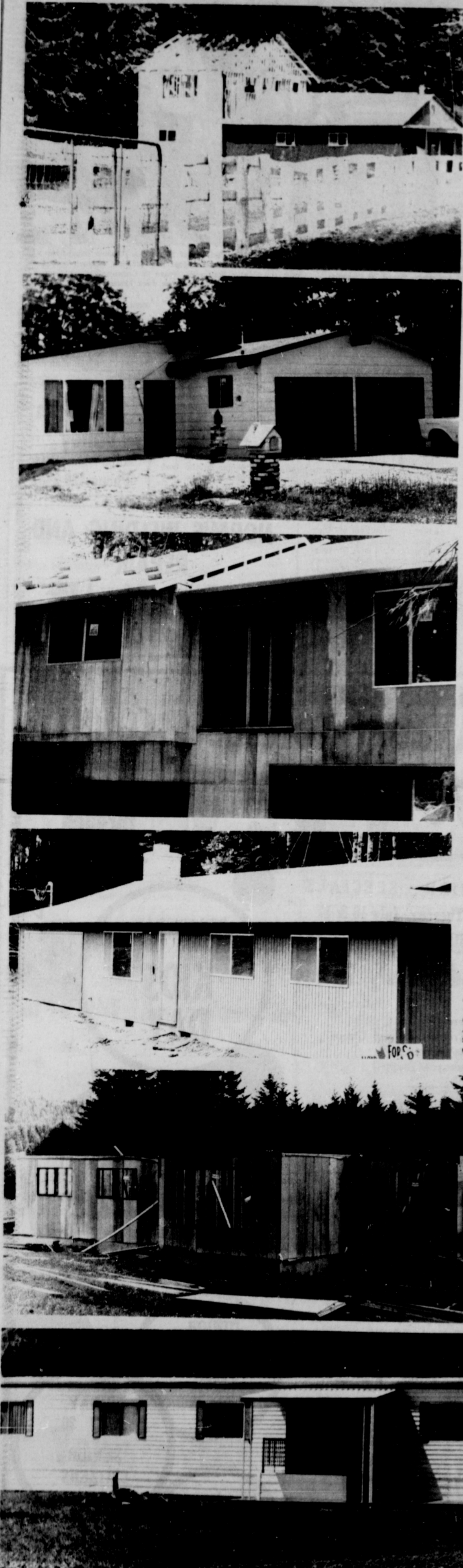
"We cordially invite the public to come and see some outstanding horseshoe pitching," Russel invites.

Anyone interested in pitching in the tournament may contact Gerald Russell for qualification preceding the tournament.

Coffee, soft drinks and cookies will be available.

Swimmers to Meet

City lifeguard Darlene Parrow has issued a call to all swimmers and others interested in swim meets to attend a meeting Thursday, July 12, 7 p.m. at the Scout Cabin at Hawkins Park.



A TOUR OF Vernonia streets holds a surprise for those who haven't made the rounds lately to "See what's going on." In addition to the renovation of businesshouses along the main street, a spurt of new construction is in evidence in Vernonia.

A number of new homes are either just recently occupied or soon will be ready for occupancy. Included in the building "boom" are multiple-family dwellings and modular home units, as well as the conventional frame buildings.