

Water System and Lines Discussed By City Council

The regular scheduled meeting of the Vernonia City Council was called to order by Mayor Sherman Fisher, Monday, September 4, with council members, Ed Miller, Lucille Tomlin and Bud Atkins in attendance. David Banta was absent. Also present at the meeting was attorney Allan Coon.

Under business from the floor, Bud Seegar requested that his Use Permit for Cable TV be extended ten years to coincide with the Land Use permit.

Following Seegar, Mrs. Susan Cavinee inquired about the slide for the swimming pool then Mrs. Essie Nance informed the council of drainage problems on her property. Roy Sanders was directed to check into the matter.

Pat Fennell then requested information on the opening and closing dates for the city dump and for sign information. Tom Hall inquired, following Fennell, about sewer service for his property and was informed that the hookup was already in and that he would be billed for footage as soon as annexation was complete.

John Lentz, building inspector, informed the council of the updating of Henry Anderegg's building permit. It was moved and seconded to approve the updating, according to figures submitted by Anderegg and carried.

It was also moved and seconded to refund \$12 to John Normand for a building permit. At that time Lentz was hired as inspector for the sewer hookups in the East Vernonia Sewer District.

Pat Goodman then took the floor to request that the retainer wall at the swimming pool be extended. Roy Sanders was instructed to investigate.

Under committee reports, Atkins stated that he and Albert Fuller would check on an oscillating siren then Lucille gave the monthly police report, followed by Fisher with the public

works report for the month of August.

Unfinished business included approval of the resignation of Olivia Brickel, city librarian, effective December 20, 1973. It was then moved and seconded to amend Section 6 of the Right of Way Easement and license for Vernonia CATV to read, "The rights and privileges herein granted shall cease and be terminated 15 years after December 1, 1968 unless otherwise terminated" and the motion carried.

It was moved and seconded to reject all bids on water system improvements and water line improvements following a lengthy discussion on the subject. Motion carried.

Applications were received for the position of sexton at the cemetery under new business with five applicants applying for the position. It was decided to refer all applications to the Cemetery Board.

It was voted to deposit \$100,000 T.D. in the checking account for

construction costs for the sewer district in lieu of Bancroft Bonding. A voice vote resulted in four yeas, 0 nays.

It was also voted to approve the request of the fire department for five gallons of detergent for tanks, two mirrors heads 5" x 16" and ten spanner wrenches and to put out bids for four complete sets of turnouts.

Atkins moved and Miller seconded to bring up at the next budget meeting the slide for the swimming pool and the motion carried.

Also discussed during the council meeting was a letter received from an attorney, Shulte, of the Portland-area regarding an auto accident which happened in December of 1972. The one-car accident resulted in the death of a Goble girl and the injury of the other three occupants.

Following the payments of bills the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 p.m. The next meeting of the city council will be at 8 p.m., Monday, September 17.

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Camp Wilkerson Dedication Event Scheduled for Sunday, September 9

It was cold that November night in 1970 when a large number of teenagers descended on the lodge at Camp Wilkerson. With fingers and toes partially numb from the nippy air that had accompanied their "beer bust" in the surrounding forest, the kids began to break up benches and boxes to secure the wood for the roaring fire they built in the big stone fireplace.

Once they had the blaze really going, they began to heat up fast. Everyone was feeling good.

Suddenly someone yelled, "hey, let's cut out," and as quickly as they had come, they were gone, leaving the flames leaping brightly up the chimney in the now empty lodge.

A piece of wood popped; a spark flew out, landing on the floor. It smoldered for a while then a tiny draft and it became a quick lick of flame devouring the floor.

It still wasn't too late for help yet, for the boys and girls were coming back, feeling the cold once more and ready to warm up. Instead they burst into the room to find it ablaze.

Some tried to put it out at first, but by now, what was needed was professional firefighters; not a bunch of half-stoned kids.

As their efforts proved futile, the first seeds of panic were planted and, as it swept through the group, they bolted for safety, piling into the cars, gunning the motors as tires spun and they roared away along the narrow winding road that led back to civilization.

Camp Wilkerson was named for Judge J.B. Wilkerson - a former principal of Vernonia High School, and later a Columbia County judge - just prior to his retirement. Wilkerson had always taken an active interest in the youth of the area, advocating the need for more parks and recreational areas for them.

The site was donated by September of 1940 - part of the Oak Ranch Creek site - with the Columbia County court setting it aside for youth activity and the Columbia Council of Boy Scouts originally named to administer the area.

During the next three decades, groups of boys and girls from the Boy and Girl Scouts, the Campfire Girls, 4-H and other youth organizations used the 280 acres for camping and nature study with the lodge a favorite spot.

For the past seven years the lodge had also hosted the Columbia County Outdoor Nature School with groups of grade schoolers camping out overnight while learning of nature and ecology from specialists in their fields.

The lodge, which was built in late 1940, had suffered only one really major disaster prior to the fire, and it was quickly repaired. In the winter of 1950, heavy snows caved in the roof, doing some damage to the room below but it was ready for use in the same summer.

It was early Monday morning when the sheriff's department was notified of the ultimate vandalism. By mid-morning members of the park commission, and other officials had gathered to view the remains.

"I was just sick," said Jay Ahlborn, Columbia County Commissioner and Chairman of the Park Commission, his face grim at the memory. "I just couldn't believe such wanton destruction."

All that was left of the hand-

built lodge was rubble, and twisted metal, the scorched and blackened fireplace standing like a lonely sentinel amid the ruins.

In the first shocked moments of discovery some thought to let the area go back to wilderness then determination took over.

Ahlborn continued, "I remember standing there and, after I got used to the sight, my first thought was how can we rebuild and how soon." He smiled. "The county didn't have the funds for it; the state would possibly help but we would have to match their funds. Where would it come from?"

In early December, 1970, a meeting was held with members of the Board of Commissioners, the Park Commission and many interested citizens, attending. Also represented at the meeting were the Boy Scouts, the 4-H, and county extension agents.

Using plans drawn by Matt Thompson, an architect employed by a Portland firm, but living in Scappoose, the building was ready to begin. Thompson volunteered his time and abilities to revise and incorporate ideas submitted by Glen Hawkins and Stuart Johnson, so that the maximum beauty and utility might be realized from the natural resources of the area. It was hoped that the bulk of the materials would come from the forest itself.

The forest began to sing with the music of saws and machinery as the old road was closed off and a new one laid, under the engineering guidance of Crown Zellerbach and Longview Fibre, while donations started to flow in.

"We've received about \$3300 to date," said Ahlborn, who has personally supervised much of the rebuilding. He smiled, blue eyes crinkling as he said, "it really makes you feel good though when you get a letter like the one from the lady in California who wrote that she remembered camping at Camp Wilkerson when she was a girl, then apologizing for only being able to send \$10. She cared."

"And the donations of time, labor and materials," he continued, shaking his head in amazement. "It's wonderful. I'd hate to try and say just how many thousands of dollars have been contributed in materials and labor from over 80 different companies, not counting individuals who come out to work."

"You know," he confided, "you can probably raise money for a good cause but when people give themselves, that's really something. It's the kind of spirit we use to see in this country but seldom do now."

"Why the first day we had over 150 loggers out there clearing the roadway and there's been people from just about every organi-

zation, company or group in the area, and from many in Washington County, Multnomah County, Portland and clear into the state of Washington.

"They come to work here. The Seabees and the National Guard; the 4-H groups and the Scouts; the Lions Club, Kiwanis, the garden clubs; even members of the Longshoremen's and Bricklayers unions; all working together to build something for the kids." Ahlborn smiled in admiration as he added, "we couldn't begin to buy what these people have given so freely."

By 1972 Camp Wilkerson was back in operation although the lodge still hadn't been completed. Once more the fragrance of wood smoke mingled with the scent of towering green trees as the sound of children rang through the grounds, their laughter underscoring the sounds of nature.

In this day of not-getting-involved and letting-George-do-it, people from every walk of life had united, both old and young, rich and not-so-rich, in a combined effort to give not the coldness of money - but the warmth of themselves in the spirit of days that are now only a memory.

On Sunday, September 9 Camp Wilkerson will be dedicated in ceremonies to be held at the Lodge.



JAIME REYNOSO, new foreign exchange student from Mexico, will attend Vernonia High School as a senior. He is staying with Howard Hopkins family.

Educational Courses Offered By U of P

Photography, powder puff mechanics, a home movie workshop, and conversational French, German and Russian are among 34 credit and non-credit classes being offered in the University of Portland's continuing education program starting September 10.

Most classes are in the evening and open to any interested persons. Continuing Education catalogs and details are available by phoning 283-7269.

A two credit course in animal behavior and learning will be taught by Bruce and Katherine Johnson at the Portland Zoological Gardens.

CARC Sponsors Benefit For Handicapped Children, Adults

The Columbia County Association for Retarded Children will sponsor a "Country Fair," a benefit for local programs for handicapped children and adults - Saturday, September 8 from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Jaime Reynoso Begins School

Jaime Reynoso arrived Friday, August 31 to start his year as foreign exchange student at Vernonia High School. Jaime, who comes from Mexico City will be staying with the Howard Hopkins family for the next three months.

The youngest in his family, Jaime has two brothers, 19 and 21 years of age. He enjoys football - or soccer as it is known in Mexico - and dancing.

The son of Senora Luz Maria Gomez de Reynoso, Jaime has finished preparatory school in Mexico and plans to attend the University at Mexico City when he returns home. He is studying in the field of industrial relations.

The fair, which will take place at Klegers' Park, three miles west of Clatskanie on old highway 30, across from the Bear Tavern, will feature craft classes in clay modeling and driftwood, sea shells, pine cones, etc.

There will also be a rock shop with polished tumbled agates, jasper, crystal and a few pieces of finished jewelry. All items are donated by local rock hounds. Kleger will demonstrate the sawing of rocks during the event.

There will also be hiking trips, a cakewalk, games including horseshoes, badminton, and croquet and "pick-pocket" clown. Children may pick his pockets for surprises.

The CARC sponsored "Country Fair" will also have wandering minstrels, balloons and other items of interest.

Time, talent, rock items, in fact, everything has been donated or at retailer's cost for this project and it is hoped that residents of the county will attend and enjoy the fair.

Handicapped Get Bus

There is bus transportation available to handicapped children wishing a way back and forth to Portland to attend special classes. The bus will travel the highway between Scappoose and Astoria picking up students Sunday afternoons, taking them to Portland and making a return trip Friday afternoons. For further information call Mr. Ray Godsey at the IED Office in St. Helens, 397-0028.

NOTICE

The "Breath of Life" campaign for Cystic Fibrosis house-to-house appeal is scheduled for September 10 through the 16.

Fire Destroys Evans Home

Fire destroyed the home of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Evans Friday afternoon. It is believed the fire started from a spark on the dry shingle roof.

Although Evans and his son, Tommy, tried to put it out with a garden hose, there was not sufficient pressure to control the flames until the fire truck arrived.

They were able to save most of their clothing but little else.

The home was located west of the Vernonia Golf Course, and was partially insured, according to reports.

Mini Quilt Fair Slated for Sat.

In anticipation of the quilt fair to be held September 14-23, the ladies of St. Mary's Parish will hold a Mini-Quilt Fair Saturday, September 8 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Vernonia (Cliff's) Sentry Market on Jefferson.

The mini fair will feature a sampling of quilts to be shown during the ten-day Quilt Fair.

The parish also invites anyone having heirlooms they wish to display at the quilt fair, to do so. Funds realized from the fair will go toward replacing the 50 year old church which is now deemed beyond repair.

Evening Class Schedules Set

Evening class schedules for fall term at Portland State University now are available at the Office of Continuing and International Education in Francis Manor, 614 SW Montgomery or the Office of Registration and Records, 113 Neuberger Hall, 724 SW Harrison.

The evening class schedule contains complete information on registration, fees and tuition. More than 350 regular classes will be offered beginning September 24.

Registration is Friday, September 21. However, special students, who may take up to two courses each term adding up to seven credit hours, aren't required to go through formal admissions procedures.

They may register by picking up registration packets in Room 203, Health and Physical Education Building, 950 SW Hall from 4 to 7 p.m. September 21.

Persons unable to register September 21 still may pick up registration packets at the registration and records window in Neuberger Hall on the evening of the first scheduled class meeting the week of September 24 to 28.

The deferred tuition plan allows students to pay a third of tuition at registration time and two other payments during the term plus a \$3 service charge.



FOR THIRTY YEARS Camp Wilkerson was a mecca for youth groups throughout the county. The original lodge, built in 1940, entirely by hand, had been the site for many local area camps including Boy and Girl Scouts, 4-H groups and outdoor nature schools.



ONLY THE burned and blackened fireplace remained standing, following the fire which destroyed the lodge in November, 1970—a lonely sentinel standing guard over the twisted rubble that was left.



THIS NEW lodge—built by volunteer labor and donated funds—will be dedicated Sunday, September 9, in ceremonies at Camp Wilkerson. The lodge, located in the hills west of Deer Island, is the result of three years and over 2000 volunteers of labor, cash, gifts, thousands of dollars worth of donated materials, and

—most important—love. The new camp consists of six craft centers, 25 adirondacks, support roads and buildings, water lines, and the new lodge, all using as much natural material as was feasible. See map on page 4 for lodge location.