

Council Votes for Survey

The Vernonia City Council met in regular session Monday night, January 21 with Mayor Sherman Fisher presiding and councilmembers Miller, Tomlin, Atkins and Banta in attendance.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved then business from the floor was heard. First to speak was Wilbur Davis who informed the council that a meeting had been scheduled with Terry Rahe, Columbia County Sanitarian, January 28, to work out operational plans for the city dump. Dave Banta will also attend this meeting.

Bud Blackburn then took the floor to suggest that the State Highway Department be informed of the condition of the culvert near the highway near Washington Grade School since he felt a new and larger culvert would help eliminate the high water problem in the area. Later in the meeting, Todd Bowerman also requested that something be done about the culvert. Roy Sanders was requested to investigate the matter.

Dick Stearns then suggested that the highway department also be informed of the water on Highway 47 at the top of the hill near the Arnold Tolens residence, which is extremely dan-

gerous when weather is freezing. He also requested that he be allowed to install an awning over the sidewalk at his place of business (Lew's Place). The building inspector will investigate.

Representing the Chamber of Commerce, Gordon Smith requested that the city either repair or remove the benches on main street and he also suggested that something be done about the garbage on the lot between Mario's and Quinn's building. It was resolved that the city would clean up the area by February 1. Smith also requested that the holes in front of his place of business (Vernonia Sentry) be repaired.

Lucille Tomlin then informed the council that Chief Cunningham and she had checked and could find nothing illegal with the coin-operated ice hockey machine. The council moved to check the ordinance with attorney Allan Coon.

A request was then heard from Tom Bruce that a First Aid kit be made up for the disaster truck.

Committee reports were then heard with the council agreeing to give a vote of thanks to the departments who aided during the recent crisis.

Under communications a letter from Evelyn Heath was read, recommending Olivia Brickel as a member of the Vernonia Library Board.

A letter from the State Highway Department was then read which called the council's attention to the fact that there were state highway funds available for street repair.

A letter from the Department of Environmental Control informing Robert Meyer Engineers stated that contract modification No. 5 could not be approved until clarifications are made.

Zen Dutton, with Robert Meyer Engineer, sent a letter explaining the Elton Robertson's sewer assessment and letters from Robert Meyer Engineers to North American Contractors, Inc. were read on the urgent need for street repair in the Riverview area and a list of completion costs for the project.

Mayor Fisher then recommended the following appointments to the Planning Commission. Darrold Proehl, Jim Davies, Ralph Sturdevant and Ed Roedigger, with the council giving their approval.

The mayor then recommended appointment of Wm. M. Nelson as municipal judge for the remainder of 1974. This was approved and Olivia Brickel, former city librarian was appointed to the Library Board, replacing Mrs. Culbertson who retired.

Atkins then reported that rock could be purchased from Scappoose Sand and Gravel for \$4.85 a yard.

The council agreed to have Robert E. Meyers, Engineers make a complete survey of drainage problems in the Riverview area.

It was also approved that the city purchase a 1000 gallon gas tank to be buried and two gas pumps.

Under new business the council elected Atkins, Chief of Police Cunningham and Fire Chief Don Webb to prepare a disaster plan for Vernonia.

It was then approved that the oscillating fire siren should be installed on the General Telephone Company tower since they have an emergency power supply.

A committee meeting was set for January 31 to go over zoning maps.

Meeting then adjourned.

Kate Coates Rescued From Nehalem River

Fears that Vernonia might be isolated for several days following the heavy flooding in the area which severed roads to thru transportation both north and south, proved unfounded Wednesday morning, January 23 as workers headed out Highway 47 on their way to jobs located in Portland, Beaverton, Forest Grove and Hillsboro and found the highway south clear.

Unfortunately roads to the north of Vernonia were not, as one unlucky motorist found out to her dismay. Kate Coates, former owner of Kate's Cafe, decided to be a Good Samaritan and drive a Rainier resident home after he was stranded in Vernonia. Since the Scappoose-Vernonia Road was closed due to earth slides which destroyed portions of the highway, she drove her passenger out Highway 47 in her small yellow foreign car.

Kate travelled through the flood areas of Riverview and on to Highway 47 toward Big Eddy Park without incident until she reached a point where the road dipped then the waters overcame her determination.

"The car started to spin," Kate said, once more warm and dry. "Then it went into the Nehalem river until it washed up against some trees and caught there. The young man I was driving broke out the rear window and pulled me through then he went for help."

Jim Johns, a teacher at Washington Grade School, lives on Highway 47 aided in the rescue of theisty lady, said, "I heard a car motor then it stopped. I thought someone had just drowned out in the high water so I got my pickup and drove down to the area."

When he arrived at the scene he was surprised to see a little yellow car, front under water, with Kate sitting atop it, clutching a tree branch. "I said, 'Kate is that you?' and all she'd say is 'yeah'. Not another word."

"I went back to the house and with two other men who had been there drying out after their jeep stalled in the water—we took a canoe and brought her out. Then one of the fellows—they were both from Portland—went back and tied a rope around the car bumper. He was just in time. The car went completely under water as we started pulling it out." Johns paused for a moment then added, "you know, I went down there this morning (Friday) and found that the car had caught in brush some 15 feet above the river. She was just inches from going in all the way."

ACS Sponsors Free Films On Cancer

The Vernonia branch of the American Cancer Society will sponsor two films to be shown at the Joy Theatre Tuesday, February 5 at 7 p.m.

Subject of the films which will be shown free delve into the signs and treatment of lung cancer and rectal cancer. There will be a doctor at the theatre to answer any questions viewers may have.

Strict Enforcement Of Lease Law Set

Due to the large number of dogs running loose in the Vernonia area the leash law will be strictly enforced and fines will be levied, according to spokesman from Vernonia city hall.

In the past when an owner of a canine was cited a fine was given but it was usually waived if the owner kept the dog tied. Now due to the large number of complaints the fine will no longer be suspended.

Jaycees Slate Kid Wrestling

The Vernonia Jaycees Kid Wrestling program is underway again for the community youngsters. The program is designed to train youngsters between the ages of six and 12 the basics of high school-style wrestling.

This past week Jaycee chairman Gene Baska announced the schedule for the weight classes. Those wrestlers weighing more than 83 pounds are to report at 9 a.m., the middle weights, (67-82) pounds, are to be at the school at 10 a.m. and anyone weighing less than 66 pounds is to report at 11 a.m.

The sessions take place each Saturday morning in the high school wrestling room. Head Vernonia High wrestling coach Mike Taylor is heading up the instructional staff which include some of the high school wrestlers.

Boys who have not yet signed up may do so by reporting at the proper time as listed above. The boys must fill out a form which requires the parents signature and a statement of insurance. The boys may be covered by a family policy or purchase insurance through a special Jaycee group rate at a cost of \$2.50.



Flood Causes Extensive Damage In County Area

As flood waters began to recede early Wednesday morning, residents of Columbia County started assessing damages to property throughout the area.

Hardest hit was the Vernonia area where the rain-swollen Nehalem River rose over its banks in the Riverview area along Highway 47 north of the main section of town, spilling across the road, causing several residents to be evacuated and filling many houses with from one inch to three feet of dirty water.

Considered by many to be much worse than the flood of 1971, efforts by volunteers kept many from losing furniture and other valuables as the water rose steadily throughout the afternoon and into the night. By midnight the water had crested then began to slowly drop.

Isolated from both sides by the flood, Vernonia thanked everyone for offers of aid but a spokesman said, "we think we can handle our problems right from here." The city of Vernonia, working with volunteer labor, had already established their own rescue and survival program with an emergency flood headquarters set up at the city hall and staffed around-the-clock. Personal property damage in the immediate area was estimated in excess of \$160,000.

In the Scappoose area relatively little damage was suffered compared to other parts of the county although several homes were flooded when Scappoose Creek overflowed its banks.

One problem the city has encountered is that of sewer trenches settling—a problem which has been aggravated by the heavy flood waters. Among the more minor ones was the filling with rock of the holding ponds.

Few city streets were damaged according to reports although there was some on Watts Road, Smith Road and Elm Street. However, most damage was in the county area.

Elsewhere in the county damages also mounted with the biggest problem appearing to be

the Scappoose-Vernonia Road where two large washouts will take several months to repair according to Jay Ahlborn, Columbia County Commissioner.

One section above the Crown Zellerbach sorting yard dropped an approximately 30-foot section of highway down the hillside, scattering chunks of asphalt into the brush.

The second major washout, some ten miles west of Highway 30, was more pronounced as roughly 200-feet of roadway disappeared leaving behind a jagged scar of earth, rubble and large trees, tossed some 150 feet down the hill, looking as if they had been carelessly dropped by the hand of some giant child. As the base of the earth fell, a turbulent stream of muddy water rushed on down the hill further eroding the area.

In both sections, cracks in the asphalt indicated that it would be an extensive job of repair before the main link between Highway 30 and the Nehalem Valley is once more in service.

By Wednesday morning seven roads in the south end of Columbia County were closed. Apple Valley Road, Alder Creek Road, Coal Creek Road, Oester Road, Kingsley, Otter Miller Road and the Scappoose-Vernonia Highway were deadends. Particularly hard-hit were county roads in the Warren-Chapman-Scappoose areas where flood waters went over creek banks and bridges, washing out culverts and caused roads to be severed and broke paving in several areas.

Although no official reports of damage has been released as yet, it has been estimated that the figure will reach in excess of \$500,000, following a tour of county roads by Columbia County Commissioners Fred Foshaug, Jay Ahlborn, and Jack Minkoff.

Minimum Wage Up

Labor Commissioner Norman O. Nilsen wishes to remind employers that the State Minimum Wage for adults over 18 years of age was raised effective January 1, 1974, from \$1.25 an hour to \$1.60 an hour.

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Columbia County Signs Contract With Oregon DEQ

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners have signed a contract with the state of Oregon Department of Environmental Quality allowing the county's Environmental Health section to act as the agent of the Department of Environmental Quality in matters involving subsurface sewage disposal. This contract allows the county to continue accepting applications and issuing permits as it has in the past. The actual mechanical function of accepting applications has been moved to the Planning and Building office located on the main floor of the old courthouse. However, the actual field evaluations of proposed building sites will be conducted as in the past with sanitarians from the Environmental Health Section reviewing the individual property in relation to the rules of the Department of Environmental Quality.

The rules of the Department of Environmental Quality have recently been adopted through a standard procedure where testimony is received from all members of the public. This testimony is then reviewed and integrated into the rules. The resulting rules are then considered for adoption.

The new rules of the DEQ have several provisions which have not been incorporated in earlier regulations. The new regulations establish a one-year life span for any permit issued by the DEQ and accepts all prior permits which are no more than one-year-old. This allows a prospective builder at least one year to complete his proposed drainfield. The new regulations also prohibit the installation of drainfields where sewer lines are already available. Every sewer system depends to some extent on connection and assessment fees for its support. This regulation is intended to help assure that support for existing or newly extended sewer systems.

New rules were also created to prevent the installation of a sewage disposal system in an area which serves as a drinking water source. Large land owners may be affected by a section in the regulations entitled, "Rural Areas." This provision in the regulations states that the Department of Environmental Quality and its representatives may consider construction of specially designed systems when they are on land areas large enough to provide 250 foot setback from property lines. These systems can only be considered

Female's EMT's Record First

Thursday, January 17, a first was recorded in Vernonia as two female certified EMT's took a patient by ambulance to the Forest Grove Community Hospital. Pat Goodman and Pat Mitchener—who received their certificates just a week prior to the incident—transported Mrs. Leah Hotchkiss to the hospital when it was found there were no men available to operate the ambulance due to the flood.

"You girls are doing a good job and I have every confidence in you," Mrs. Hotchkiss said during the trip to Forest Grove.

VERNONIA WEATHER

As gathered from the weather station located at the Vernonia water plant.

Vernonia weather improved for the week of January 16-22 with a maximum high of 54 degrees recorded Saturday, January 19 and the low of 26 degrees falling January 22. Precipitation for the period was 3.86 inches.

Spaghetti Feed Set For Friday, Jan. 25

There will be a Spaghetti Feed Benefit Friday, January 25 at Alice Menary's Timbrenook between the hours of 7 and 8 p.m. The Italian-style meal will cost \$2 per person with all monies to go to the Heart Machine Fund.

Police Cadets will act as busboys. Food is being donated and Ms. Menary will provide the cooking. Residents are urged to attend this benefit dinner and aid in the purchasing of Life Pack Three which includes a readout monitor, defibrillator and cardio scope.



FURTHER signs of water damage to roads are seen in the Riverview area as testified by this sign "No Shoulder." Roads throughout the county suffered similar damage with estimates for repairing the area highways and other destruction running in the \$500,000 bracket.



THE SMALLER earth slide that blocked through traffic on the Scappoose-Vernonia highway was only about 50 feet across and some 50-60 feet in depth but it will necessitate extensive repair work before this section of the road is open again.



The view from the edge of the gigantic earth fall that took over 200-feet of the Scappoose-Vernonia Road during last week's flood is an awesome sight. The 150-foot deep swath is one of two slides which has cut off the Nehalem Valley from Highway 30, limiting traffic to a few smaller roads that meander through the area. The picture below shows the real magnitude of destruction, with tons of earth and fallen trees mixed together—making the prediction by county authorities that it will be several months before road repairs can be completed, a stark reality.

