

# Vernonia Eagle

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## CRAG Membership Rejected By Columbia County Commissioners

"We are not backing out (of CRAG) because of the recall drive," stated Commissioner Fred Foshaug Wednesday, June 19, during the regular Wednesday Columbia County Board of Commissioners meeting.

CRAG — Columbia Regional Association of Governments — has become a nasty word in Columbia County allegoric to "1984's Big Brother", a state which has rift the area with claims and counterclaims, and resulted in the circulation of recall petitions against the three Columbia County Commissioners.

Originally billed as advisory and research assistance on planning information, it now appears that the ramifications of enrolling in the five-county CRAG which includes Multnomah, Clackamas, Washington, Columbia and Clark in Washington means metropolitan control of land use, sewer and water planning and solid waste control, according to opponents of the organization something few seem to care for in the area.

Foshaug, speaking for the County Commissioners, noted that the Commission was not withdrawing from CRAG because "officially" Columbia County has really never been a member of CRAG. In his explanation he alluded to several communications between the CRAG offices and the County Commissioners offices, June 6, and May 1.

Citing the May 1, letter Foshaug attempted to make it clear that a representative of the commission had attended on a non-

voting voluntary basis. According to the letter from Larry Rice, Executive Director of CRAG and agreement for associate membership can be reached only by consensus. An agreement must be signed between the association and the county before full membership is achieved. Foshaug also noted that the official organizational meeting was not held until June 13, and the official bylaws and rules of CRAG were not adopted until that time. The County Commissioners were waiting until the official structure of government was established before making a decision regarding membership, noted Foshaug.

Following receipt of the bylaws and rules of the organization and the June 13, or-

### Recall Meetings To Continue In County

The Recall committee (organized to Recall the Columbia County Commissioners) met in the Chapman Grange on June 17 and in Vernonia on June 18. At these meetings the committee attempted to point out to citizens how the County Commissioners were responsible for the final decisions on the oppressive resolutions and orders initiated in the environmental, health and the planning agencies.

Citizens attending the recall meeting were informed of their rights, under the constitution by Mary Kanges and were urged to uphold their local government against the dictatorial collective governments of CRAG (Columbia Regional Association of Governments.)

According to the committee, the next recall meeting will be held this Wednesday night June 26 at the old high school gym in Scappoose at 8 p.m. Mary Kanges will again be the featured speaker and will talk on Regional Government zoning and planning. She will appear again July 2 at 8 p.m. in the 4-H Building at the Columbia County Fairgrounds in St. Helens, according to Marge Stafford, Secretary-Treasurer for the recall committee.

### Vickie Serby Enlists In Air Force June 19

Airman Basic Vickie L. Serby is the youngest female in the United States Air Force as of 2:30 Wednesday, June 19. Vickie became eligible under a new criteria change to allow young ladies to report to active duty, with parental consent, who are 17 years of age, and is the first in the nation to take advantage of this change. Vickie was born August 24, 1956 in Atlantic, Iowa. She attended Vernonia High School in Vernonia, and graduated in June of this year. Vickie's parents are Casper and Ruby Serby who live at Star Route, Clatskanie, Oregon.

Vickie will be at basic training preparing herself for a new Air Force future tomorrow morning at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. For six weeks she will find the excitement and rewards of a young Air Force basic trainee. Upon departure from Lackland Air Force Base, Vickie will proceed to Chanute Air Force Base, Illinois for 14 weeks of training as an Air Frame Repair Specialist. She will learn how to repair all the structural com-

### DA Proposes \$29,000 Pay To Association

Robert Lucas, Columbia County District Attorney, before the Oregon District Attorney's Association, proposed that the association push for an annual salary of \$29,000 for all full-time DA's.

Lucas said he sees no reason why the DA's should not be paid as much as Circuit Court judges. He said, "I think we have more responsibility than they do."

Lucas' motion was defeated 12 to 6. Only 18 counties were represented at the business session.

According to Lucas, the problem in devising an acceptable salary schedule for DA's is that prosecutors' salaries are paid basically by the state (DA's are officers of the state), but are supplemented by the counties. The amount of the counties' supplement is "negotiable," and some counties add nothing to the state allocation, he noted.

One DA at the meeting contended that unless higher salaries are adopted, prosecutors will continue to leave public office within a short time and go into private practice to make more money.

Jess Himmelsbach, Baker County Dist. Atty., stated that he believes the Association of Oregon Counties would support a proposal that the state take over complete funding of DA's offices and Circuit Courts.

ganizational meeting a decision was made at the regular Board meeting June 19, by the three Columbia County Commissioners that the county would not at this time participate in CRAG.

In discussing the pros and cons of CRAG membership Foshaug cited several negative aspects relative to associate membership. A jurisdictional dispute regarding authority was cited as one problem. According to Commissioner Foshaug, it is unclear concerning who would have authority since the definition of "Metro" area and "Region" are unclear. He also noted that Columbia County would be "required" to adopt land use planning. Another problem noted by Foshaug was that associate members would be bound regarding future courses of action that they might wish to take. A current commission could bind commissioners three to four years from now to courses of action that they might not want to follow. Finally, Commissioner Foshaug noted the lack of participation on the part of delegates from Clackamas and Washington counties and cited this as an inherent weakness in CRAG.

Foshaug also noted one problem that may be encountered by the county by non-participation in CRAG. It may create a problem regarding the obtaining of federal funds. Foshaug said, "You have a better chance of review if you are a part of the organization than if you are not." He specified that all requests for federal grants must be reviewed by CRAG. He also stated that he felt that the county probably will not be in need of federal funding in the near future but that several of the cities are going to be in need of federal grants and they may have difficulty obtaining these grants.

Concerning CRAG and the problem of Columbia County Jay Ahlborn stated, "What disturbs me most is seeing the county divided. What we need is a cooperative organization to deal with these problems. I'd like to see a cooperative endeavor."

Foshaug concluded the commissioners remarks concerning CRAG by stating that Columbia County is not going to be in any regional form of government.

### Chris Loves Being Royalty

(Editor's note: This is the second in a series of interviews with the girls who are vying for the crown of 1974 Vernonia Friendship Jamboree queen. Sponsors who provide attire for the girls are: Sew Simple Shop and Brunsman Hardware, Dana Andrus; Cut and Curl Room, Kimmel's Apparel, Chris Sauer; Chalet Flower and Vernonia Variety, Sharon Smejkal; Western Auto and Lew's Cafe, Renee Williams.)

Chris Sauer at 15, has already decided she would like to be an elementary school teacher and with that goal in mind, has made her plans for the future which naturally include college.

A junior at VHS, Chris is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Larry Sauer and has two younger brothers and a sister. "We moved here two years ago from Portland. I like it better," she said.

The Vernonia Eagle will not be distributed until Friday due to the Fourth of July holiday falling on Thursday.

### Chiefs Vote Out CRISS

In a meeting of the Columbia County Chiefs of Police Tuesday, June 25, a vote was taken on CRISS—Columbia Regional Information Sharing System—and the group voted unanimously to withdraw from the organization. Also attending the meeting were representatives from the Columbia County District Attorney's office, Columbia County Sheriff's office and the Oregon State Police.

Citing unsatisfactory service and down time (the time it takes after a two-minute wait to get needed information) the group felt that CRISS did not give them the ability to provide the best of service to the residents of the county as it was hoped when the county joined the organization approximately 18 months ago.

No official action has been taken on the recommendation of the chiefs as yet. Last week Washington County law enforcement agencies withdrew from CRISS.

adding, "here you can do more and get to know everyone. You can just be yourself."

Chris admits she loves being a princess in the Jamboree. "We get to go places and see people that we wouldn't meet otherwise. It's just a lot of fun," she said enthusiastically.

For summer fun she enjoys horseback riding, swimming, tennis and hiking. "I try to fit in everything between my baby-sitting job I have this year," Chris said smiling. "And of course, now we'll be going to the different festivals in the county. We just appeared at the Scappoose Pow Wow, both at the coronation on Friday night and then we rode on the float during their big parade Saturday. We—the float—took first place, too."

During her freshman and sophomore years at VHS Chris has participated in several clubs including GAA and Foreign Language. She was also a football cheerleader.

Her likes are many but her pet peeves are few. "I guess my only real dislike is gossip," she commented, thinking awhile before adding, "I don't mean the kind like who wore what at a dance but the mean kind that can hurt someone. Even if it's true, people shouldn't make things worse by talking."

On a happier note she said, "I guess the very best thing is just to try and get along with everyone and not criticize others. It's their life—let them live it."

Chris, along with the rest of the Vernonia Friendship Jamboree Court, will next appear at the St. Helens Port-O-Fun which will be this next weekend, June 29-30.

### Association Slates Friendship Hike

The Columbia Youth Association for Retarded Citizens invites residents of Columbia County to be a Big Brother of Big Sister for an afternoon.

"Join us Sunday, June 30 at 1:30 p.m. for a hike in the forest, and bring a sack lunch, sturdy shoes and friendship," they invited.

The group will meet on Vernonia Road, four miles up from Highway 30. For more information about this event, please contact Fran Robinson, 543-6672.

### Antique Clock Collection Links Past And Present

Tick-tock go the clocks on the walls, the clocks on the shelves and the clocks on the floor as they merrily continue to keep time long years after they were first constructed.

The shiny brass pendulums swing back and forth, some slow, some more rapidly, and on the hour—sometimes the half hour—chimes can be heard as some of the more elucidate ones tell the time.

The clocks belong to Sherman Fisher, now retired but still working part-time in his business of electrical repair. Fisher also is mayor of Vernonia but his real life is his clocks which he has been collecting for several years.

Many of his acquisitions are far from the homes of their origin. Sturdy ones from Vienna, West Germany and Japan; more delicate ones from France and England.

Fisher first came to Vernonia

on a visit and liked it so well he returned in 1948 as a resident, working as chief electrician at the Oregon-American mill.

"It was a nice town and the people were friendly. It just looked like a good place to live," he said, then commented, "it's still a nice place to live."

All of the clocks on display seem to have their own unique features. Some have porcelain faces, handpainted with roses while others are handcarved around the sturdy wood cases or have embossed brass faces that shine even in the evening light.

"They don't come in here looking like that usually," the clock doctor said. "Sometimes they're all in pieces and generally they're pretty dirty. I take them apart then clean the brass parts in a sonic bath filled with a special cleaning solution. A few minutes in that and the brass is as shiny as the day the clock was made."

The vast array of old-time clocks fills the room of the shop with an air of nostalgia as the soft ticking fills the air. On display is a Seth Thompson clock, over 115 years old; advertising clocks that read Coca Cola and Calumet Baking Powder; delicate steeple clocks; several dainty 100-day anniversary clocks, their works encased in a glass case; and the names: Waterbury, Jeromes, and Gilberts all seem to be echos from the past.

Fisher, at 68, is serving his third term as mayor of the city and had been in business here for several years until his retirement last month. In his fully equipped shop where he repairs the clocks, often with tools he has invented to aid him in the fine labor, he belongs, as he gazes fondly at his collection of antiques.

"Sometimes—just rarely—I sell one of my clocks; then I feel as if I had parted with someone that was a friend." He smiled, blue eyes twinkling, as he added, "of course, when I get them, a great deal of the time they have been mistreated and then I have to rebuild them, clean them, and put them back together, so I get attached to them."

When visitors step in the door of Fisher's shop they are first filled with amazement at the variety then soothed by the gentle ticking as the clocks form a continuation of life, reminding people of the generations that came before today and will continue tomorrow.



CHRIS SAUER finds being a Jamboree Princess is fun.

### County Planners Hear Rahe On Solid Waste Problems

Columbia County Sanitarian, Terry Rahe, gave a presentation concerning the history and problems of solid waste disposal in Columbia County before the Columbia County Planning Commission at their regular meeting, June 17. Members in attendance were Fred Marrassi, Fred Bernet, Earl Avis, Don Coin Walrod, Howard Hopkins and Charles Fleming. Also present were Commission Staff members Ronald Reeves and Rosaline Mallory.

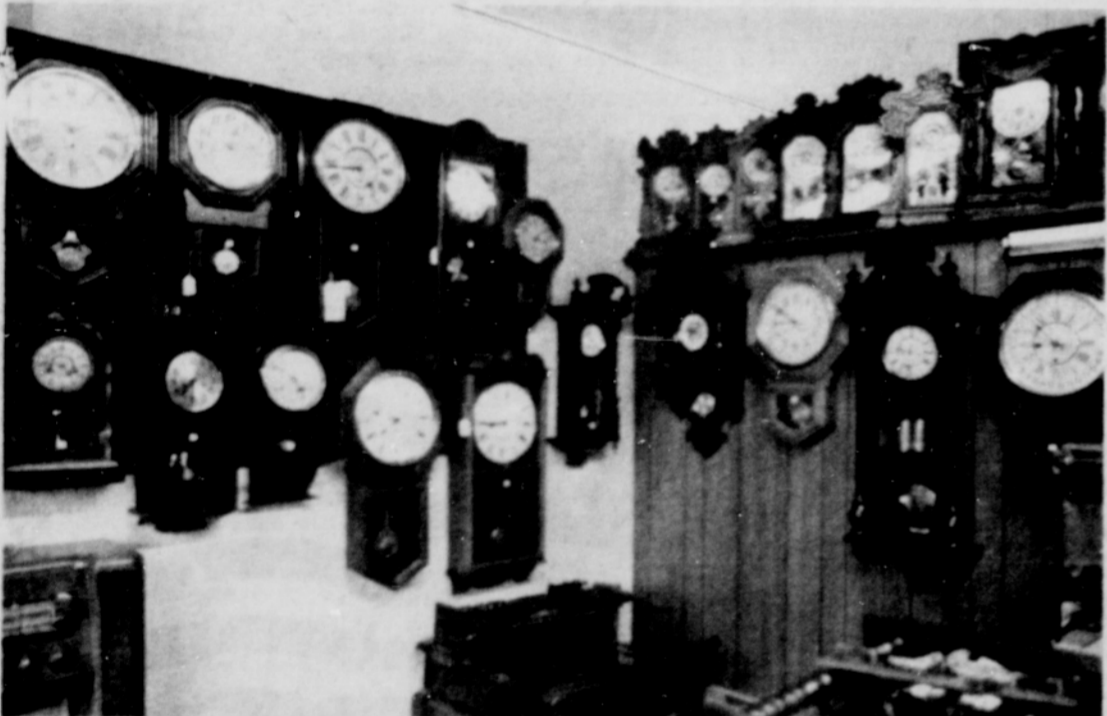
Rahe noted that, up to 1973, there had been no steps taken by local government to organize solid waste disposal. He then presented the results of a survey conducted by the Environmental Health Division.

Rahe then noted that there are presently two proposed alternatives to solve the solid waste problem. 1) Having four transfer

stations at Clatskanie, Rainier, Vernonia and St. Helens with all refuse to be hauled to one long range land fill at Santosh in Scappoose. Santosh is already an established and approved land fill and a recent study indicates that disposal there will be approximately 20 cents per ton cheaper. 2) Establishing two landfills, one near Beaver in Clatskanie and Santosh in Scappoose with transfer stations in Vernonia, Rainier and St. Helens.

Other items considered by the commission were the following: Hiring of Mr. Curtis Schneider of Eugene as County Planner II. Adoption of the 1973 UBC structural code as required by Senate Bill 73.

And approval of a building permit by Mr. Malarkey to enlarge a home to seven bedrooms in a designated flood plain area.



CLOCKS from everywhere, hang on the walls of Sherman Fisher's shop. Many operate on the basis of a pendulum, invented by the Chinese

many years ago, replacing the older water driven clock.



SHERMAN FISHER, retired electrician and mayor of the city of Vernonia, points to one of his delicate older clocks, a steeple clock. On the chest stands an anniversary clock, its works enclosed in a domed glass case. At the right of the picture is an advertising clock, popular today with many collectors

while above it is an old-fashioned mantle clock. The majority of the clocks are housed in wooden cases, many hand carved with figures or flowers while brass seems to have been a favorite for hands and pendulums.