

Crook County Journal

COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER FOR CROOK COUNTY

COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER, \$1.50 YEAR

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The Sheriff Presents His Side of the Case

Prineville, Ore., Feb. 21, 1914.

Editor Journal: I have been asked several times to give publicity to the courthouse troubles, but until the last "outbreak" of the county judge I was very reluctant to make any mention of the matter. Every official in the courthouse has been annoyed frequently by his antics and has worked himself into a fine frenzy at times, trying to make each official do and act as he wishes without regard to the laws governing the case, but solely on his opinion. This is a strong statement, but a disagreeable fact.

The judge recently got the idea that he could clear out the courthouse by getting another expert (this is the third in 12 months) to go through the books, especially as it was nearing election. This "expert," after 19 days of strenuous and painful labor, brought forth a "report" and not a very loud report at that. This report was founded generally on hearsay and was inaccurate throughout, especially concerning the sheriff, the larger part of this being entirely false and apparently for a malicious purpose.

We will refer to his statement that he could have performed all that was done by Mr. Peoples in two days. Could he?

Mr. Peoples from January 15th, 1913, until April 1st, 1913, worked sixteen hours every day except Sunday, on which day he worked until noon. During this time \$265,000 in round numbers was collected.

From June 1st until August 1st, Mr. Peoples laid off, then worked on the delinquent rolls until put in as building inspector by the county court to take charge of the work in the courthouse basement. Since January 1st, 1914, he has been chief deputy to the county treasurer.

At the adjourned term of the county court, March 15th, 1913, the following proceedings were had: "It appearing to the court that considerable expense in auto hire may be saved by the county, should it own its own automobile. It is hereby ordered that the county purchase a 'Haynes 40' for the sum of \$2400. It is therefore ordered that the clerk draw a warrant in favor of Joseph Paquet of Portland, Oregon, for the sum of \$2400. It is also ordered that the sheriff be authorized to keep said automobile insured."

The automobile was purchased in pursuance with the order and I insured the car for the sum of \$1700 at a yearly premium of \$34, which was paid by the county.

I notice from the "expert's" report that among the expenses charged to the sheriff, I am wrongfully charged with the following items:

Salary of T. N. Balfour, sheriff, (Nov. & Dec, 1912)	\$ 416 66
Automobile	2400 00
Insurance	34 00
Garage repairs	25 50
Repairs	583 65
Repairs to courthouse (sheriff office)	65 45
Gasoline	385 39
Total	\$3908 65

The above, with the exception of \$416.66, should have been charged to "general expense." The \$416.66 has no place in this report, whatever. This automobile, which has now become famous, has been used by members of the county court 3970 miles, and over 1000 miles by various other officers of the county, excepting the sheriff, who, with the district attorney a considerable part of the time, has made a total of 6500 miles on criminal work. The civil mileage made by the car amounts to about 1000 miles, making a total of about 7500 miles which the car has been used by the sheriff.

I wish to state here that 127 criminal complaints have been investigated and 52 arrests have been made, of which 18 have been sentenced to the penitentiary, 12 of whom are serving sentence and 6 paroled. Seven insane patients have also been brought to the county seat by means of this car. The above mentioned criminal work has resulted in the breaking up of the most notorious band of horse thieves that ever operated in Crook county and has undoubtedly saved the stockmen of this county many dollars. A considerable amount of stolen property has been recovered and restored to the owners. For the past three months the county jail has been without an occupant, while at this time last year, we had from eight to twelve.

I have repeatedly suggested to the county court that a smaller car should be substituted as the one now operated is too large and too heavy for the work required and too expensive of operation.

Referring to the alleged shortage of \$450 which the "expert" claims that I have refused to turn over to the county treasurer. This can be properly placed under three heads,

as follows: (1) Moneys paid to sheriffs of other counties for legal services. (2) Moneys paid to special officers within the county for legal services and for the care of personal property; (3) Moneys paid to newspapers for the publication of legal notices.

These matters are personal transactions between the sheriff and the attorneys and in NO WAY county business, but are placed on the sheriff's docket as costs that the sheriff has been put to in carrying out the instructions of the different courts and are not fees. The fee collectable by the sheriff and payable to the county treasurer is mileage. (Section 3129 L. O. L.)

"For each mile necessarily traveled in serving any civil process or subpoena, ten cents, PROVIDED, that no charge shall be made for constructive mileage in any case."

We now refer you to the last paragraph of 3112 L. O. L. which reads as follows: "The sheriff is not required to remit to the treasurer the amount received for any sum received for the preservation of personal property."

I will state further that the sections of law referred to by Mr. Ball have been superceded by the "Flat Salary Law" which became effective in 1895, and the only laws under which the sheriff can work are as stated above, 3112 and 3129 L. O. L.

As to Mr. Ball's statement that the fees on the docket were extended on the docket after he came here on December 18th. This statement is absolutely false. I, personally, made a statement of the fees due the county, filed the original with the clerk, and attached a copy to the check which was delivered to the treasurer on the first of the year as has been customary

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Agricultural Short Course Well Attended

The First Agricultural and Domestic Science Short Course of Crook county opened on Monday, February 23, at Prineville, with an initial registration of about 150 people. The course is given by instructors of the Oregon Agricultural College. The wide publicity that has been given through the efforts of the High School authorities and by the Prineville Commercial Club, has brought in many practical farmers from widely separated communities. They are here for securing scientific instruction along better farming lines. The instructors are kept busy answering questions about many of the local agricultural problems. The eagerness of the Short Course students and the intelligence of the questions put forth are indicative of the interest taken in the work and of the teachings of the Oregon Agricultural College.

Dean H. W. Calvin, of the Domestic Science School, and Assistant Prof. L. W. Robbins of the same school are in charge of the Home Economics work. Their work is being largely attended by the ladies of Prineville and vicinity and so great has been the attendance that the Domestic Science laboratory of the High School has been crowded to the limit each day.

Dean Calvin addressed the High School assembly and later took up her work before the Short Course by giving a lecture and demonstration of meat substitutes. Many were the expressions of surprise at

her ability to prepare these dishes and at the same time to fully explain each step in their preparation and to answer the running fire of questions that were constantly being asked.

She gave a very instructive lecture on the care of the sick during an afternoon and one evening before a large audience of men and women made a very forceful talk bringing out the importance of educating girls for their business which in the majority of cases finally proves to be home making.

Mrs. Robbins has been giving a course in dressmaking and many of the women in attendance have learned some of the fine points in sewing. She also gave a course in vegetable cooking showing how to prepare the vegetable foods in the way that would make them digestible and palatable.

The women of the Short Course are having a good time while learning these things and many are the new dishes that will be tried out on the Crook county men in the next few days.

The Agricultural work of the Crook County Short Course is in charge of Associate Prof. G. R. Hyslop of the Agronomy department of the O. A. C. and Assistant Prof. E. B. Fitts of the Animal Husbandry department of the Agricultural College. Large numbers of farmers are attending the lectures in the Commercial Club Hall and the judging work on the grounds.

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We have taken over a large consignment of tires which will be here about March 1st

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