

HISTORY OF COUNTY
SEAT REMOVAL ISSUE

Some time early in the year of 1925 the county court, worried by the lack of fire protection for the valuable records of the county, and by the large expense to which the taxpayers of the county were being put, such as jurors witnesses, county officials etc. in order to transact county business, announced thru the press that they contemplated repairs to the present structure.

This notice caused considerable discussion all over the county and a large number of the people expressed the idea that the proposed repairs would not only cost between \$30,000 and \$40,000 but when completed would not furnish proper protection for the county records and would not provide adequate quarters for the growing business of the county, in a few years it would be imperative to erect a new courthouse, in which case the proposed expenses for additions, although admittedly imperative, necessarily would result in a complete loss of that much money.

The individual directors of the Ashland Chamber of Commerce at a regular meeting Monday, April 5, 1925 and the Ashland city council at a regular meeting Tuesday, April 7, adopted resolutions urging the county court to defer action in regard to expending additional money either for improvements or additions on the present courthouse in Jacksonville, and that matters remain as they now are until such time as the people of Jackson county shall have been given an opportunity to vote upon the question as to whether it would not be advisable to move the county seat to Medford and to erect a modern courthouse there.

A committee appointed by the Medford chamber of Commerce also unanimously adopted a resolution asking that the proposed additions to the courthouse be postponed until the people of the county have a chance to express their wishes at an election.

The Jackson County Bar Committee composed of attorneys from different parts of the county, including Ashland, after thoroughly considering all sides of the question from the standpoint of actual needs of the county, passed a resolution asking the county court not to expend money for further improvements to the present structure or erecting other buildings, calling attention to the fact that a large majority of the people of the county, when visiting the court house pass through Medford and travel about ten miles further in order to transact necessary business at the courthouse, thereby incurring a loss of time and considerable expense. The resolutions also state that Medford is more centrally located and more convenient to the people of the county, and the removal of the county seat to Medford would not only greatly benefit all the people but would be an actual saving of approximately enough money in a few years to pay for the erection of a permanent courthouse.

E. D. Briggs of Ashland, for the Ashland committees, and bar association and committee members from the Medford Chamber of Commerce went before the Medford city council Tuesday evening, stating what had been done by the directors of the Chamber of Commerce and city council at Ashland, also the committee of the Medford Chamber of Commerce and County Bar association, asking that the Medford council take some action regarding the matter, and submitted a plan which they claimed had been thoroughly considered and which they believed as business like and sensible.

After thorough consideration the mayor and council unanimously decided to pledge, on behalf of the city, subject to a vote of the people, to furnish free of charge to the county a permanent site for the courthouse when needed by the county court, if the people of the county should decide to vote the county seat to Medford; also to furnish free to the county suitable temporary quarters for a courthouse until such time as the county court has sufficient funds raised to erect the new courthouse.

A delegation of citizens, with E. D. Briggs of Ashland as their chairman, appeared before the county court and presented the several resolutions, and a thorough discussion followed by the members of the court and the citizens. The court explained the fact that the county's business could no longer adequately be transacted in the present structure and that some relief would have to be given within the near future, but that they were entirely willing, if prompt action were taken, to await the will of the people, if the citizens present actually intended to proceed with the submis-

sion of all angles of the matter to a vote of the people of the county without unnecessary delay.

The court adopted the following resolution:

"Whereas, resolutions have been presented to the county court by the city council and directors of the Chamber of Commerce of the city of Ashland, also by the city council and Chamber of Commerce of the city of Medford, and also a large committee of the Jackson County Bar, urging the removal of the county seat of Jackson County to a more central location, and pledging an early expression by the people of Jackson County on such removal:

"It is the opinion of the county court that further expenditure for repairs and improvements to the present courthouse be deferred."

Following the action of the Jackson County Bar Association, the Chambers of Commerce of Ashland and Medford, and the city councils of both cities, the city council of Medford, on the 8th day of October of last year submitted the question of building a concrete city hall, twice the size of the present court house and donate same free to the county for court house purposes for a period of five years. This measure carried on the ballot almost unanimously and the city council stands ready to build a court house for Jackson County without any cost to the taxpayers and give them free use of it for as long as they desire.

The question of moving the county seat to a central location at Medford is on the ballot at the coming November 2nd election and it is generally conceded that inasmuch as the County Court will have to expend thousands of dollars if the court house remains in Jacksonville, while it will be furnished commodious quarters without any cost if moved to Medford, that the taxpayers with the exception of some in Jacksonville and the Applegate, will be almost unanimous in voting to make the change.

COUNTY SEAT REMOVAL COMMITTEE

Convicts Staged Plays

Though the first regular theater in Sydney, N. S. W., was Levey's Theater Royal, opened by Barnett Levey, a hotel keeper, back of his public house on October 5, 1833, some performances were given in a building erected on Church hill, erected at a cost of \$500 as early as 1798. These earlier performances were staged by convicts who were warned that any impropriety in the show would cause them to be banished to the outlying settlements. That warning apparently was heeded, but it was discovered that the homes of people who went to the theater were persistently robbed, probably by other British penal exiles in league with the players, so the theater was closed and the building razed shortly thereafter.—Sydney Bulletin.

Fortunate Exclamation

A friend of Prof. William Lyon Phelps related this odd incident to him: My nephew and I arrived in Paris at 2 a. m. and later went to the Gare St. Lazare to get our trunks. We knew no French and the porters at the station could not speak English. After failing to make them understand what we wanted, my nephew in despair exclaimed: "Oh, b'gosh!" Immediately a porter replied, "Oul, bah-gahz; oul, oul, bah-gahz!" and soon he brought the trunk. We never knew before that the French language contains the word "baggage" or how it was pronounced.—Boston Transcript.

Sound Common Sense

Between the value of a man's work and the money a buyer will pay for a finished article, the capitalist has his indispensable function. He must supply what people will find they want. But that will not in itself make them want good things. Sir Ernest Beven advises them to save rather than to spend, but only taste and morals can teach them spending. And when they have done both, they will need to adjust the social organism by some giving, which means as much from mind as from pockets. If the dues for that are left to the state, hundreds of millions will be thrown away.—Robert Lencourt in the Atlantic Monthly.

The Domesday Books

When Queen Victoria came to the throne the national archives were scattered in about sixty places, but by an act passed in 1838 they were concentrated in the public record office, which now contains records of the chancery, exchequer, various courts, and departments of state such as the treasury, home office, foreign office, war office, admiralty, board of trade and customs.

Amongst the principal exhibits are the Domesday books, that are the outcome of a general survey of England ordered by William the Conqueror at the end of 1085.—London Answers.

Darky Philosophy

"Dar ain' no such thing as easy money, if you count in de hard explanations an' de wear an' tear on conscience."—Washington Star.

Facts About COUNTY SEAT REMOVAL

Jacksonville has made this public statement in a page ad signed by Jacksonville citizens:

"The removal of the County seat to Medford means the ultimate outlay by this County of a half a million dollars for a new court house."

This statement is absolutely untrue as could easily have been determined by consulting the

County court should those who prepared the statement have desired to be fair.

The County Court has been considering the needs of the County, making plans, talking with architects and contractors and looking over the Josephine County Court House and other structures for many months with a view of forming an opinion as to what is the best for the taxpayers of this County.

What Competent Contractor Says About Old Structure

They have been advised by a competent contractor that it would be wasting money to remodel the present court house, as it has served its purpose, having been erected in 1883 and is not

fire proof. He further advised the court that it would be far better to build a new court house either now or in a few years.

Why Not Accept New Court House Free For 5 Years Offered by Medford?

Why not accept Medford's proposition to build a new structure, twice the size of the present Jackson County Court House and about the size of the Josephine Court house—which the city

of Medford recently voted to build and to start work immediately upon the people of the county voting to remove the county seat to Medford—and to give rent free to the county for five years.

Free Site Also Offered by Medford

Medford also agrees that when the county decides to erect a new court house the city will

give a site absolutely free to the county to be selected by the County Court.

Court House to Meet Demands for \$210,000

The County Court has also been informed by a competent contractor that a court house twice the size of the present Josephine County Court house, which the Jackson County Court believes would be sufficient to meet the requirements of this county for the next quarter of a century or

more, can be built for about \$210,000 or less than half what the committee who issued the Jacksonville statement claimed.

Why don't the Jacksonville committee stick to facts and not try to mislead the taxpayers of the County.

County Court to Erect Court House Either In Medford or Jacksonville

The county court believes that the time has come, in order to meet the demands of the county, to safeguard the records—involving the title to all property—which if destroyed by fire could not be replaced at a cost of millions of dollars, to save the office rent, time and expense of the county offices, extra time and expense of the tax-

payers traveling to and from Jacksonville, paying taxes, attending court and transacting other business estimated to be nearly \$50,000 a year—that the wise and economical thing to do is to build a new, modern, fire proof court house regardless of the outcome of the election.

The Facts Are

The present court house is not fire proof and cannot be made so without excessive cost.

Jacksonville has no banking facilities. The last bank there having cost the taxpayers over \$100,000.

Jacksonville has no hotel accommodations.

Only One-Twenty Fourth of Population West of Jacksonville

Another reason why the County should not build a new court house in Jacksonville is because only about one-twenty fourth of the population lives in Jacksonville and west of there.

Why should twenty-three twenty-fourths of the people have to be inconvenienced and taxed extra to please one twenty-fourth.

WE SUBMIT THAT THE PROPOSITION OF THE REMOVAL OF THE COUNTY SEAT TO MEDFORD IS THE WISE, SAFE AND ECONOMICAL THING TO DO.

WE ASK THE VOTERS OF THE COUNTY TO—

Vote 500 X YES

Paid Adv. County Seat Removal Committee