

# The Coquille Valley Sentinel

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## THE MILL ON FIRE

### Much Damage Done and More Threatened Here Yesterday Morning.

About nine o'clock yesterday morning a succession of short, sharp shrieks from the whistle at the Johnson mill warned Coquille that something serious was happening down there. The immediate ringing of the fire alarm brought every one outdoors to be greeted with the sight of an immense cloud of smoke which appeared to rise from the rear of the buildings on front street facing up Taylor street.

Even before the bell rang one hose cart was on its way to the scene with the other not far behind. It was the work of but a few short minutes to get two lines of hose laid, one from the Farmers & Merchants' bank corner and the other from the Woodruff barber shop corner, and start two streams of water to playing on the west end of the mill where the fire was raging fiercely.

As soon as the carts were freed of their hose one was taken back to the city hall and another string hurried down to the Bob Train corner. With this hose connected up there were five streams playing on the fire, two of them being the mill and electric plant lines.

It seemed at first as though water would be ineffective against the mass of flames which were roaring from underneath, inside and on the roof of the mill, but gradually they began to subside and in an hour they had been completely overcome.

It was a splendid exhibition of fire fighting and all honor is due the department, and volunteers who, soaked to the skin, stood there in the chilly wind and fought for the protection of the city as well as to save Coquille's most important industry.

With a fairly stiff breeze blowing towards town a few moments more would have seen the smoke flying and the fighters divided as more buildings caught.

At the time the hose began to pour their fire destroying liquid the heat was almost unbearable at the rear of the stores across the track from the mill.

How the fire started is not positively known. The first blaze and smoke was noticed by Geo. Goodrich, who saw it issuing from under the resaw machine. Whether it was a hot box under the floor which set fire to the greasy sawdust, or whether the hot cinders from the logging train, which had descended in a shower a few moments before cannot be told. Both views are held, but the mill people are inclined to think a hot cinder from the logging engine dropped through a hole onto the pile of sawdust.

At the first shriek of the whistle the mill employees had got out the two lines of hose kept there for such emergencies—a 2½ inch hose of the mill's and the 2 inch line at the electric light plant. Stanley Bartlett quickly got the mill hose at work on the roof. G. McC. Johnson, who came in record time from the lower mill, and A. R. Clinton had the mill hose turned on the resaw machine where the fire was fiercest when suddenly they were knocked flat on their backs. A broken electric wire had short circuited around the machine and the current followed the stream of water to the nozzle they were holding.

On the outside of the building the fire boys and volunteers were pouring a flood underneath the floor, on the roof, walls and interior. Had the Telegraph or Dispatch been here to pump from the river into the burning sawdust beneath the floor the fire could doubtless have been more quickly subdued. But as it was the 90 pound water pressure, 500 feet of new hose and the efficiency of the department proved that Coquille has an A1 fire-fighting combination.

Only the old part of the mill was damaged. This is where the planer and resaw stand. The "shakes" roof was completely destroyed, several hundred dollars' worth of belts and pulleys were burned and the Babbit melted in the boxing of the machines. A couple of saws were also more or less injured. The loss will probably run as high as \$2,500 and is partially covered by insurance.

Mr. Johnson said yesterday that the work of repairing the damage would probably begin in a couple of

## Dairy Meeting at Norway.

A big dairy meeting is being planned at Norway for next Tuesday, (instead of Monday as was planned) by the dairymen of the Arago and Fish-trap sections. The affair has been worked up on short notice but it was desired to hold it while H. A. Chaplin and Prof. W. A. Barr are here. Everyone is invited to come and especially the ranchers around Myrtle Point, and those along the lower river are invited and "dared" to come.

The nature of the dare is a tug-of-war and basket ball game between the upper and lower river ranches. A fine list of sports and entertainment is being prepared, besides which there will be talks by Prof. Barr and various local dairymen. A big dinner will be served by the ladies of the Norway section and no one need bring "eats"—nothing but their presence is desired. This is the annual affair at which the up and down river ranchers entertain one another. Last year the event was held in Geo. Laird's big barn near Lampa.

## SHALL VALUES BE BOOSTED?

County Assessor J. P. Beyers last week sent out notices to the commercial bodies of Coos county requesting their opinions on the plan he had in view of assessing all property in the county at a figure as near the actual cash value as it was possible to arrive. According to the State Tax Commission, Coos county with \$20,000,000 valuation is assessed at about 66 per cent of its cash value. This would mean that on the average all property in the county would be rated about 50 per cent above the present valuation, with a corresponding lowering of the tax levy.

Wednesday Mr. Beyers went over to the Bay to meet with the Marshfield and North Bend Chambers of Commerce. Apparently there was not much interest taken in the matter at Marshfield, but at North Bend that evening about three hours was devoted to the matter which the citizens there felt impelled to get out of their systems. Most of the large taxpayers, such as the Menasha Woodensaw Co., the Southern Oregon Co., the Beuhner Lumber Co., and the Simpson interests, were represented. Their final action was a resolution urging the assessor to devote his energies to equalizing the present assessments, rather than to increasing the valuation of all property.

## How Would This Do?

Apropos of the recent hitching rack discussion by the Commercial Club and the attempts by the council to settle this important matter, The Sentinel wants to make a suggestion for its accomplishment. When Taylor street is improved with a plank paving in the center of the street, as it may be this summer, between the Sntinel office and the Bledsoe rooming house, why could not the plank be extended from the roadway to the curb on the east side, or the west for that matter and a line of posts connected by pipe or chain be strung along the curb line? It might be well to lay the plank for the roadway a little to one side of the center and thus give ample room for the hitch rack planking.

As this would not be a street improvement the expense should be carried as a separate item and paid out of the general fund of the city.

We suggest a plank surface rather than ashes or gravel because the plank could be easily kept clean and thus the greatest objection to hitching racks in front of a residence property eliminated.

A block of hitching racks near the center of town as this would be, is worth many times what it costs.

## Snow Lasts All Day.

Today's aspect has been the most wintry of the season here in Coquille. Two or three inches of snow fell last night covering the trees, fences and everything out of doors with a fleecy mantle, and the sun not having broken through the clouds, it has not disappeared during the day. This is the third morning this week that the ground has been covered, first with a thick coating of sleet and hail Tuesday and then again with snow Wednesday, but they soon disappeared under the sun's rays.

There were dozens of out-of-town people here for the Washington's birthday dance last evening.

## THE FINEST EVER

### That Is What Is Said About the Masquerade Ball Last Night.

"The biggest and best public dance ever held in Coquille" is the proper way to describe last night's masquerade ball given by the Coosonians and Coosonian Band as a Washington's Birthday Dance.

The receipts amounted to \$125 and there must have been approximately 500 people in the hall, more than 200 of whom were masked.

It was a splendid spectacle the multi-colored costumes of the dancers presented and beside the pleasures of the dance there was fun and merriment furnished in large measure by those who devoted themselves to the entertainment of spectators and participants.

To attempt to describe the costumes in detail, or even to mention all the characters portrayed is impossible. Probably the most comical character was that of "Jocko, the Monk," who carried on in true monkey style even to the catching and eating of the fleas, some of which he found in the Chinaman's que.

The Zulu chief and his African queen were excellent imitations of the real thing and won the prizes for the best sustained character.

The Chinese lady and her masculine shadow participated not at all in the dance but kept up a "clack, clack" around the hall with their wooden shoes all evening, uttering unintelligible gibberish which had to pass for Chinese as she spoke. The Chinese man turned out later to be a lady also.

The "heavenly twins" were all over the house playing pranks, giving exhibitions of high kicking, ragging and generally stirring up a turmoil wherever they went, especially to the monkey's annoyance.

There were men in ladies' clothes, and vice versa, tall players, an Indian chief and squaw, card backed girls, Sentinel girl with a clever dress and cape made entirely of Sentinels, cowboys and cow girls, witches, clowns, a mother with baby and nursing bottle, his Satanic majesty, Columbia, star spangled banner girls, reubens, French boulevardier, Spanish belle, Hiawatha, Cootown dude, sailor boys and girls, Jews, barefooted ghost who also resembled Diogenes looking for an honest man, Highland Scotch lad and lassie, Coquille Ad Club, Herald girl, sunflower girl, khaki clad soldier with a pig's snout, simple country lassies, nigger barber, Santa Claus and a quintet of farmer boys forming a mandolin and guitar club. One of the simple country girls really deserved a prize for if there was ever a more simple expression than hers with her artless coquetry, we have not seen it.

Only getting a view of one side of the hall at a time we cannot describe all the stunts pulled off before the masks were removed but they were legion. The barrel man with an oil can for his head and arms stuck through holes in the barrel was unique, if not uncomfortable.

Mrs. Earl Schroeder presented a unique thriller. Covered with electric light bulbs she traversed two live wires laid on the floor. As her metallic shoes touched the wires, the lights would flash and darken as she trod her perilous way.

The winners of the prizes were: Best sustained character: Mrs. Clifford Martin and Mrs. Cleo Martin, first; Miss Allie Phillips and Chas. Willey, second; Mrs. Wm. Donaldson and Mrs. Rilla Neeler, third.

Most comical character: Miss Clara Thornton and Geo. Donaldson, first; Mrs. A. O. Walker and Claud Gilman, second; Miss Nellie McQuillan and Miss Ruth Thornton, third.

Most recently married couple: Mr. and Mrs. James Collier.

Masquerade dancer coming greatest distance: Mrs. Claude Moon and Willard Peterson, both from Powers.

First masquerade dancer to arrive, Mrs. Clifford Martin.

Best sustained character: Miss Vera Pany and Wm. Donaldson.

The judges were Nels Osmundson, J. C. Savage and Dr. G. E. Low.

After unmasking at 11 o'clock the dance was continued until about 2:30, everyone declaring it the finest ever.

Another Coosonian dance on St. Patrick's day, March 17, was announced last evening, but it is not to have the fancy frills of last evening's successful affair.

## K. P. MEET HERE

### Monday Night's Anniversary Banquet a Grand Success.

The Pythian celebration at the W. O. W. Hall, last Monday evening, which combined the annual observance of the founding of the order of Knights of Pythias by Lycurgus Lodge and Justus Temple, Pythian Sisters, with the annual Coos county convention, was a very successful affair, notwithstanding the bad weather prevailing. All the lodges in the county were well represented, Delphi No. 64, of Bandon, sending up a special boat with her delegates.

While it was mostly a social, get-together meeting, a short, informal, business session was held after the arrival of the delegations from Marshfield and North Bend. The problem of changing the date of the Grand Lodge, which is scheduled to be held in Marshfield the first part of October, to the latter part of August, was discussed. The matter will have to be referred to the lodges throughout Oregon for the decision and should it be changed it will assure all who attend good weather and good roads, while the Coos county boys agree to provide ways and means of using these to good advantage. The Pythian Sisters will also ask to have the date of their convention changed to conform with the Knights.

The ladies who had charge of the banquet arranged with Mrs. Evland to use her spacious bake ovens and there superintended the baking of seven monstrous chicken pies and other delicious viands. The banquet rooms were artistically decorated with streamers of red, blue and yellow—the colors of the order. Upon the tables were hyacinths, daffodils, and a large vase of pussy willow marked the seats of the honored guests.

The steamer Telegraph, bearing the visiting delegation, arrived about 8 o'clock with a crowd of thirty, who had braved the storm to take part in the festivities. They soon forgot their discomforts, however, when seated at the banquet tables and declared that part of the program alone was worth the trip.

W. C. Chase, as district deputy, presided at the session following the banquet and made a splendid address of welcome. Responses were made by the various lodges of the county as follows: E. C. Roberts, Hector No. 90, of Myrtle Point; Edgar McDaniel, Poseidon No. 94, of North Bend; Tom T. Bennett, Myrtle No. 3, of Marshfield and J. W. Mast, Delphi No. 64, of Bandon. Interspersed were musical numbers by Mrs. M. O. Hawkins and Genevieve Chase, and vocal solos by Rev. F. S. Shiman, Misses Leta Mast, Marion Schroeder and Mabel Bay. A telegram was read by Mr. Chase from Grand Chancellor Harry G. Wortman, of Medford, and Grand Keeper of Record and Seals Walter G. Gleeson, of Portland, who were in attendance at a similar celebration at Baker, Oregon.

W. J. H. Clarke, of Portland, familiarly known as "Jack," was then called upon and in his talk mentioned the various departments of the order and the work they are doing—the uniform rank, the insurance department and then the subject which he said "was nearest his heart"—the D. O. K. K. When the Grand Lodge meets at Marshfield, Abd-Uhl Atif Temple, D. O. K. K., of Portland, will bring their entire patrol team and regalia with them and escort a large number over the burning sands to the oasis.

Following the address of "Jack" Clarke, the Grand Vice Chancellor, Leslie Crouch, of Portland, was introduced and won for himself a place in the hearts of his hearers by his talk on "Fraternity." Although quite a young man to have assumed the position of honor which he now holds, Mr. Crouch's record shows he has been an untiring worker and has practised what he preaches—the principles of fraternity. He will take the office of grand chancellor at the Grand Lodge in Marshfield and it is safe to say that the Pythians of the domain of Oregon will have an earnest and efficient officer to guide their destinies during the year in which Mr. Crouch will be at the wheel.

Meetings will be held in the near future to arrange for the Grand Lodge convention at Marshfield, which will be known as a Coos county affair, all the lodges of the county joining together to make it a success.

## Improving Lower Mill.

The lower Johnson mill here was shut down Wednesday afternoon owing to a lack of logs. The new Assen camp down the river is not yet able to furnish them as fast as they are needed, but they are now busy putting in high lines there which will enable them to largely increase the output. To make these high lines some of the fallers have had the ticklish job of sawing off standing trees 170 feet from the ground to hang the blocks on.

Advantage was taken of this shutdown to repair a leaky boiler and to move the resaw machinery which prevented the rapid transfer of logs to the second or truing saw and caused a congestion there. Although the mill has a capacity of 60,000 feet a day, 45,000 feet has been the maximum product so far, owing to this transfer being obstructed.

Hear Herbsman at the Scenic next Tuesday evening.

## A GOOD MAN HAS GONE

Adam Pershbaker, one of the oldest and, among old settlers, best known residents of this county, died last Saturday at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Aimee Fahy, near Bandon. He was 78 years of age and had lived in this county since 1867, a matter of half a century. He was born in St. Charles county, Missouri July 1, 1838.

The funeral services were held at 11 a. m. Tuesday under the auspices of the Masonic lodge at the K. P. cemetery where the internment was made.

Those in attendance from this locality were: Judge L. Fallock, Judge James Watson, A. J. Sherwood, E. E. Johnson, Postmaster J. W. Le-neve, County Treasurer T. M. Dmick, J. A. Collier, H. W. Dunham, J. W. Laird, A. R. Clinton, Arthur Ellingren and W. H. Hall, of Riverton.

During his active business career Mr. Pershbaker took a hand in most of the big enterprises of the county and was one of the principal promoters of black sand mining on the beach. He also ran a general merchandise store at old Randolph, and while money was very scarce and times hard extended credit to scores of people who but for his aid could hardly have remained in the country. Indeed, we hear of one customer who at one time owed him \$1,500 for supplies—a bill which he never was able to pay. Mr. P. declined to take any legal proceedings, however, saying that he would pay when he could. Mr. Pershbaker also furnished capital to finance many enterprises, and Mr. Clinton avers that at one time his father owed Mr. P. \$20,000.

He built the Prosper mill and operated it for a long time. He left an estate estimated at \$200,000, and took with him the good will and gratitude of those he had befriended to the value of millions.

Mrs. Pershbaker died several years ago, but two daughters are left to mourn their loss—Mrs. Fahy mentioned above and Mrs. Ruby E. Muir, of Oakland, California.

## Giving It To Us Raw.

During the past week the splendid, sunshiny spring weather that prevailed through the earlier part of the month has given way to cold rain, snow and sleet, accompanied by high wind and altogether disagreeable conditions, and as is so often the case, a coal famine has prevailed to aggravate our troubles. As to the reasons, we are informed that a scow of coal promised Mr. Hill for Monday was shipped to Portland, and that instead of working the Riverton mine with a full complement of ten men only two or three miners have been at work.

## The Annex Accepted.

The court house annex or "Hall of Records" as it will probably be designated hereafter, has been completed and W. W. Ladd, the contractor, has turned the keys over to the county court. It is not yet, however, ready for occupancy, the upper floors needing to dry more, and most of the furniture yet to come. It will probably be April before the county clerk, sheriff and prisoners move into it.

Part of Assen's crew down at Beaver Hill were laid off this morning until the chute being built there is finished.

## 12 FEET TO CITY

### Major Fries Recommends Spending \$128,000 to Deepen Coquille River.

Major Amos A. Fries, of the U. S. Corps of Engineers, and Secretary J. E. Norton, of the Bandon Port Commission, went down to Bandon yesterday to attend the meeting called for 2:30 o'clock in the afternoon by the major to consider the establishment of harbor lines at the mouth of the Coquille.

The meeting was very largely attended and there was much interest and enthusiasm.

After inspecting the bar and going over the plats of the boring survey at the bar Major Fries has sent in a report recommending the deepening of the river to a depth of 12 feet from its mouth to Coquille and the blowing out of the rock pinnacles sufficiently to provide a depth of 13 feet at low water. This, we believe, will practically double the depth of water now available in crossing the bar when the tide is out. The result of the investigation was to show that the depth of 13 feet could be secured at a moderate expense, while to go to 14 feet would entail an expenditure almost prohibitive.

The total expenditure necessary to secure a depth of 13 feet across the bar and 12 feet from the light house to the wharves at Coquille is estimated at \$128,000; and this is the appropriation that Major Fries has recommended. It will be noted that the completion of this project will enable any vessel that can enter the port of Bandon to come up the river to Coquille.

Elsewhere we publish an item in regard to Senator Chamberlain securing an amendment to the river and harbor bill to deepen the river channel from Coquille down, to a depth of 10 feet. This was a mistake due to incomplete information, which the senator will at once correct by making it 12 feet instead.

## What a Cow Can Do.

This is a new cow story. The time and place we do not know, but the event actually happened. A young man and his girl were on the way home from a dance. It was pitch dark and they were, of course, pretty sleepy. All at once, however, they became wide awake. They felt the buggy in which they were riding begin to ascend and as it moved upwards they could not tell how fast nor how far they were going. One who has experienced the sensation of stepping off into space when he thought he had reached the floor in going downstairs, knows how many things it is possible to think when the foot goes unexpectedly downward for still another step and how many tremors one can feel before his foot reaches the floor. So in this case the buggy appeared to be going up and up indefinitely, and with a very wobbliness at that, as if it might be an earthquake that had started it. The hearts of the young people seemed to come up into their mouths as they felt this might be the great convulsion that meant the end of the world. After a little time, however, the buggy came down to the ground again and they slowly learned what had caused the eruption. It seems a cow was lying in the middle of the road and the careful horse stepped right over her. About that time the cow woke up and at the same time felt impelled to rise and learn what was the matter. In doing so she had lifted the buggy far enough to cause the sensation described. The hero of this incident is a well known citizen of Coquille.

## Chas. Hall on Road Bonds.

On the fifth page of this issue Charles Hall, president of the Good Roads Association of Coos county, gives a summary of the provisions of the \$6,000,000 state road bonding bill, we are to vote on in June as they will affect this county. It is decidedly worth careful reading. The arguments he presents are those on which appeals to our voters to approve this law will all be based during the next three months.

Rev. F. G. Jennings, who has been over at the Bay for some time writes that he will return to Coquille Sunday afternoon.

(Continued on sixth page.)