

# The Coquille Valley Sentinel

THE PAPER THAT'S LIKE A LETTER FROM HOME

VOL. XXV

COQUILLE, COOS COUNTY, OREGON, FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 1921.

1921 THE YEAR

## COST OF ROADS

### A Million for East and West Highway and Then Some More Millions

In an interview this week with a Bay paper Senator Charles Hall is reported as saying:

The highway commission has made the following estimates of the cost of the road work in this section:

Route	Cost
Douglas county line to Remoto, 6.1 miles	\$170,000
Remoto to Bridge, 2 miles	100,000
Bridge to Myrtle Point, 10.3 miles	100,000
Myrtle Point to Coquille, 16 miles	25,000
Coquille to Bandon, 17.5 mi.	400,000

Total for grading ..... \$975,000  
If the highway commission stayed with its old agreement it would hold at state cost all of the road to Coquille and the county would have to grade from Coquille to Bandon which would cost \$400,000 but under the new agreement the whole work is put together and the county asked to go half to Coos county will get off cheaper, as it will cost less to pay half of the total than to alone grade the Coquille-Bandon road.

Of the work given in the above list the \$170,000 expenditures for the 6.1 miles from the Douglas county line to Remoto is included in the work already undertaken by the commission and the contract will be let this spring. The county does not have to participate in this cost. This leaves a total of \$805,000, of which the county is to pay half, which is \$402,500.

The county can bond for this amount or if it is decided at once under a new law the state can make a temporary loan to the county of the money needed for the road work. So with the expenditure of \$402,500 by Coos county the road work can be completed from Bandon to Coquille, and from Coquille, 6.1 miles to Remoto, and from Remoto to Myrtle Point, the latter with the hard surface now being completed.

Senator Hall says that the highway commission is probably done with hard surfacing of roads in the state for the reason that the pavements are not holding up. Either they have not been heavily enough laid or because of the traffic and autos being much heavier than counted on, the hard surface roads in the Willamette Valley are breaking down and the cost of maintenance is very great. Mr. Hall says that until something in the way of pavement which will stand the travel is found he does not anticipate that there will be any more hard surface roads laid but they will be graded or macadamized.

A good gravel road in this county would be regarded as a first class winter road.

These figures are certainly illuminating. That it will cost a full million dollars yet, after all that has been done, to complete the grading of the road from the Douglas county line down the Middle Fork of the Coquille and the main stream as far as its mouth at Bandon, ought not to be incredible, but certainly gives us a new realization of how much digging we have got to do to get out of the mud in Coos county.

When that is done, however, we shall have something more than a grade down the valley of the Coquille from the county line. Much more than grading has already been done between Coquille and Sugarloaf on this route, and at Coquille it will connect with a paved road to Marshfield, and a gravelled road from Bandon down into Curry county.

We are sorry the highway commission did not also make an estimate of what it would cost to finish graveling the Coquille river road for the portion of the way not already improved between the east county line and Bandon. There must be about thirty miles of it. To make a roadway 16 feet wide with gravel eight inches deep would require 63,578 cubic yards of gravel. At \$2 a yard in place on a finished road the price would be \$127,156 or about one-fourth of the expense of the grade. But we are only making a more or less wild guess at the cost of that work. Add that, however, to the cost of the grading and the other work already done on this 42 miles of roadway, and we may say that a finished gravelled road across Coos county east and west will mean, by the time we are done with it, an expenditure of not less than

a million and a quarter dollars. Add to this a like amount for a road through the county north and south, and then probably double it again for all the laterals and market roads required to give us even good gravelled roads throughout the county, and we face road improvements to the extent of four or five millions in Coos county, without any more hard surfacing.

Divide this, though, by the 25 years it may be estimated that it will require to build such a road system, and add \$100,000 or more for annual upkeep of these roads, and the cost may not exceed \$200,000 a year for the next quarter of a century. And if the money is wisely and honestly expended under competent engineers, the system will be worth all its costs to Coos county. But we have got to learn to think of our road system we need in millions rather than hundreds of thousands.

It is disquieting, of course, to know that the state's paved highways are breaking down under the burden placed on them; but we have only been figuring on the cost of grading, building and maintaining gravelled roads. The concrete, asphalt surfaced roads would be for another generation to figure on, but by that time there will no doubt be roads on which the truck load will not be limited to 3,000 pounds.

## WAS NEAR DROWNING

Fred Lafferty, the 15-year old son of A. L. Lafferty, had a very narrow escape from drowning last Monday afternoon, just opposite the city docks, when the canoe in which he was paddling on the river turned over with him. Eye witnesses state that he must have been in the water ten minutes before being rescued and to the heavy overcoat he wore is attributed by some the fact that he is alive today. This coat, while it prevented his swimming, served to keep him on his back, and although he went down time after time, it also seemed to buoy him up and prevent his going clear down out of reach.

Thor. Smith, a young man on the ferry, was the first to start to his rescue in the ferry rowboat and he was the first to reach young Lafferty, who had floated 100 to 150 feet down stream after upsetting. He seized the drowning man, whom he caught floating under the surface of the water and pulled him into his boat. About that time Elmer McCue and another man arrived in a power boat from across the river, but which they had to row because they couldn't start their engine. They rolled Lafferty across the seat of the rowboat and one of them headed for the docks.

Dr. Hamilton had been called but before he arrived the young man was able to walk up town. It is miraculous that a man could go down as many times as young Lafferty and not drown, and if he had ever gotten over on his face once he probably would have perished.

## Liljeqvist A Visitor

L. A. Liljeqvist dropped in at the Sentinel office Monday morning. He came down from Portland to clean up some old cases in the Circuit Court here and said he was ready to take up the Kinney tax cases whenever Judge Skipworth could come over to hear them. Speaking of the work of the legislature, he said that Coos county's representative, Tom T. Bennett, was developing a good deal of the abilities of his father as a leader of men and had been fast taking a position as a leader of the house. Some real constructive legislation stands to his credit, like the act fixing the title to land in receding lake beds below their meander lines in the state.

## For Better Pictures

In line with their policy of giving their patrons the best possible in pictures, the Liberty Theatre has just installed this week a 50-ampere two-arc Hertner Transverter, which operates to a better projection of the picture on the screen and eliminates the flicker so frequently observed in the movies. The machine cost the management about \$1000 installed.

It might be a fit subject for Commercial Club investigation, to learn why the time of leaving Eugene for our afternoon train was changed from 7:45 to 8:45 a. m. There is no train on the main line to necessitate this change in making connections and it brings our mail in thirty minutes later than formerly.

## DEFECTS IN THE PIPE LINE

### R. E. Koon Tells What Our Immediate Water Needs Are and How to Increase Our Supply Quickly.

The arrival of R. E. Koon, consulting engineer of Portland, whom the city council requested to come down here, look over all possible sources of water supply and make recommendations, was delayed until Monday, but on Tuesday he and Mayor Hamilton, City Engineer Gould, Water Superintendent Epperson and several members of the council went out to Fairview and thence down the North Fork to the two Lost creeks, up over the mountain and down to the headwaters of Rink creek.

They were out again on Wednesday and in the two days investigated the possibilities of Walker creek, Cunningham and Dutch John, besides looking over the plans and blueprints of the proposed filter plant.

Wednesday evening Mr. Koon gave a verbal report to the council of his conclusions based on the hurried observation he had made.

His first declaration was that the pipe line laid five or six years ago was not properly constructed, a fact which most of our citizens know, as it never has delivered the supply of water, even in the wet season, that such a line should. This he attributed to two causes, one of which was that the intake of the Rink creek line was only about 19 feet above the outlet at the reservoir. The length of the line is 19,000 feet, making a fall of one foot to the thousand. At this end of the line the water drops from the end of the pipe a sheer 30 feet or more which should have been spread out over the length of the line making the head about 55 feet feet instead of 19.

In laying a pipe line, every foot of it should be below a straight line drawn from the intake to the outlet, and this law of nature, Mr. Koon declared had been violated at one or more points where the pipe is laid a foot or more above this imaginary straight line. Sharp angles in the line also tend to retard the flow of water. The correction of these faults, Mr. Koon declared, should be the first matter attended to; and he recommended that the city engineer make a complete survey of the line and ascertain where these errors in level in the pipe line were.

He also recommended the raising of the intake on Rink creek by placing it a thousand feet farther up the gulch at Dean's Mill, raising it to the same elevation as the one on Walker creek, and giving about a 50-foot head. Right now practically all our water is coming from Walker, the smaller of the two streams, because of this difference in elevation of the intakes. Not more than 200 gallons a minutes is coming into the reservoir, where if there were no faults in the line and the head was raised to 50 feet the table of calculation shows there should be 325 gallons.

While these changes in the line would increase the amount of water we are getting from our present sources, Mr. Koon went on to say that he hesitated to make a recommendation for securing other means of supply as he should have complete data on dry weather conditions before advising. He strongly urged the council to wait another year, if possible, before tapping new sources as that this information might be secured.

But, if we couldn't wait, he advised pumping from the two Lost creeks adding a line into the North Fork in case of need. That plan, which J. A. Lamb urged when he was on the council last year, the engineer declared to be perfectly feasible and practical. By diverting the water from one of the Lost creeks into the other over there and pumping from only one he declared, according to present wet conditions, our supply of water could be doubled.

Dutch John he declared to be impossible, because of its contamination. Cunningham would not furnish a sufficient head at any elevation which would get it into the reservoir. The cost of a storage dam, sufficient to store water for a summer's supply, he thought, would be excessive and then the water would have to be chlorinated.

He strongly advised against a force filtration system such as had been contemplated by using the Coquille river. A gravity system of filters

would be satisfactory, but in view of the fact that the water from the river might be brackish, and its constant pollution, he declared that he could not recommend it as a source of supply. The water supply for most of the cities in the United States is treated, and filtration would purify water, but it was not advisable where other sources of supply existed.

As to the statement that there were dead eels and fish found in the North Fork every summer, he said that while the thought of that might not be pleasant, it did not constitute a menace to health, nor was it considered pollution, while in running from the places where the eels abounded to the proposed intake the water would practically purify itself. More than that, it is not expected to pump direct from that stream until a considerable growth of the city may require it.

As to the cost of installing a pumping plant on the North Fork he had not been asked to make an estimate nor could he afford, but if the \$30,000 bonds voted at the last election were taken as a basis for figuring, he thought the annual cost would be approximately \$5,000. Of this amount \$1,800 would be interest charges, \$2,000 depreciation with about \$1,000 for maintenance and expenses. If a filtration plant were installed the first two items would be the same but he thought the expense of operation would be more than \$1,000.

The average daily consumption of water per capita is usually figured at less than 100 gallons in 24 hours. The estimated supply here in Coquille shows a daily consumption of 175 gallons per person. This would seem to indicate that there is a great waste somewhere and the installation of meters was recommended as a means of stopping it. A dozen leaky toilets would waste as much water in 24 hours as 25 per cent of the normal consumption would be.

After Mr. Koon had given this verbal report, which he will submit in writing, numerous questions were asked by the members and the large number of citizens present, and a talkfest was indulged in until 11 o'clock. Much of the information given above came out in this general discussion.

Another statement in regard to storage was that the reservoirs would probably fill rapidly with silt and require frequent cleaning. Every particle of vegetable matter should be removed before any water was stored back of a dam.

Probably if the pipe line is altered, he head raised and the use of meters adopted to stop leaks, we can get through another summer without additional sources of supply and the necessary data on the North Fork can be secured this summer. But in any event the impossibility of getting over there with material before late June almost precludes the idea of getting any increase in supply anywhere until early fall.

The council, which was not in regular session Wednesday night, will probably take action to begin the improvements at the meeting next Monday evening; and they are to be congratulated in starting in the right direction by securing the services of so capable an engineer as Mr. Koon appears to be.

## For Law Enforcement

A meeting of citizens interested in law enforcement—especially of the prohibition and anti-gambling laws—was held at the Church of Christ Tuesday evening. The large and enthusiastic audience present freely discussed the many phases of law enforcement and decided that the ends of law and order could best be served by a permanent organization. A partial constitution was adopted and the following officers elected: C. E. Mulkey, president; Mrs. Paul Ramsey, vice president; Ray Peart, secretary.

The next meeting will be held at the Methodist church Tuesday evening, March 8th, at 8:00 o'clock. All citizens who are interested in having a cleaner and better Coquille are cordially invited to be present at that time.

## Ricketts Glee Club Coming

The next number of the American Legion lyceum course will be held at the Liberty Theatre next Monday, March 7. The Ricketts Glee Club will be the attraction and all four of the performers are artists of high class.

This company was organized for the purpose of pleasing every class of lyceum patrons. The members of the company are specialists aside from being a male quartet of singers and musicians.

Special mention should be made of Vernon Ricketts, who specializes on the concertino, saxophone and piano. He has few equals on these instruments. Glen R. Meneley, the pianist, is a renowned baritone singer and is in great demand as a soloist. Jesse E. Ricketts, the manager of the company, and "Ted" Ricketts are also masters of the saxophone.

This company has worked all the past summer as headliner in Chautauqua programs for the Cadman Chautauqua.

The grand jury failed to find a true bill against Geo. Edwards and Carl G. Grover, the two men from the Conlogue's Camp neighborhood, arrested on the charge of killing an elk down there.

## WEATHER REPORTS

Postmaster H. L. Hansen, signal service weather observer at McKinley, makes the following report for February:

Maximum 69 degrees.  
Minimum 27 degrees.  
Precipitation 10.52 inches.  
Greatest in 24 hours, 1.90 inches.  
Total snowfall, 1.7 inches.  
Days rainy, 17; days clear, 5; partly cloudy, 4; cloudy, 19.  
Rainfall since Sept. first, 65.08 inches.

It will be noticed that these McKinley figures differ very little from those for Coos Bay given below, the maximum temperature being three degrees lower at Marshfield, and the minimum one degree lower.

The month of February just closed was a very wet month, more so than is usual for February. The total precipitation for the month was 19.75 inches. That was not quite as much as in January when there was more than 11 inches of rain but it was far above the usual amount for February. However, after the almost continuous rains the fair weather started at the end of the month and gave promise of early spring.

According to the figures of the weather observer at the Bay, Mrs. James Cowan, there were during the month 5 clear days, 3 partly cloudy days and 20 cloudy days.

The greatest amount of rainfall during any one period of 24 hours was 1.90 on the 20th.

There were killing frosts during three nights in the month, on the 16th, 17th and the 20th. There was hail on two days, the 14th and the 16th.

The average temperature for the month was 45.3 degrees. The highest temperature of the month was 72 degrees on the 23rd and the lowest 28 degrees on the 17th.

## Money For Farm Loans

Farm loans for fifty millions of dollars have been held up ever since last May on the claim that the bonds to be issued to secure the money could not constitutionally be exempted from taxation. The Supreme court by a six to two decision swept away that claim and the money the farmers have been waiting for will soon be available.

There is a Farm Loan Association in Coquille, of which R. H. Mast is secretary, and he will have complete information soon for all those desiring to secure loans.

## Still Working on Tunnel

We learn that while the Smith-Powers camps in the neighborhood of Powers have been shut down ever since the holidays, work has been going on without interruption on the railroad the company is extending to tap a lot of big timber on the headwaters of the Sixes beyond Eckley. The work on the tunnel that places the divide between the headwaters of the Coquille and those of the Sixes is to be 600 feet in length and has kept the railroad building crew busy so far this year, and will for some time yet.

Calling Cards, 100 for \$1.00.

## IN COUNTY COURT

### Borrowing From S. O. Fund—Several Off the List—Road Business

The county court met Wednesday in regular session with Judge Wade and Commissioners Yeakam and Kern present.

The general fund of the county being at a low ebb, with little probability that any considerable amount would be received from tax collections during March, it was ordered that \$18,000 of the Southern Oregon fund be transferred to the general fund. There is now \$30,000 of idle money in the Southern Oregon fund, and this transfer will enable the county to keep on paying cash for road warrants this month, instead of stamping them unpaid for want of funds.

A certificate of delinquency for \$180.00 on lot one and two, block 44, Elliott's Addition to Coquille, was given to Conrad Lapp, to enable him to protect his interest in these lots.

The indigent allowance, heretofore given to Mrs. Nina Fisher, of Bandon, and Mrs. Phoebe Wilson, of Coquille, were discontinued at their own request.

Jennie Goodwill, having changed her address, and failed to call for four warrants made out to her on account of the indigent fund, it was decided not to issue any more for her.

The following road orders were issued:

One opening a road 60 feet wide from Eastside to Outlook Slope.

Opening a road sixty feet wide from Remoto to the Bridge neighborhood as a part of the Myrtle Point to Roseburg highway.

The bid of A. E. Gilday for the right of way 2500 feet north of the Powers lower bridge at \$9,500 was accepted and he was awarded the contract.

The bid of D. P. Flynn on the Bandon Two-Mile road below Bandon was accepted.

An appropriation of \$500 was made for work on the Parkersburg-Fremont road on the left bank of the Coquille river for the present year.

Road petition No. 759 by R. E. Shields and others was approved and C. B. McCulloch, Marion Clinton and Charles Webb were appointed as viewers.

The court adjourned until March 19 when it will meet to consider the bids on the Coquille river bridge at this city. Judge Wade says that many bids are being made on as far away as Seattle and San Francisco.

## Laugh For New Building

Two solid hours of fun is promised at the Liberty Theatre next Wednesday evening, March 9, when the North Bend minstrel troupe puts on their show here under the auspices of the K. P. and D. O. K. K. It is strictly a local talent company from the Bay city which played to full houses at both North Bend and Marshfield recently. The music is the latest and, having been secured from New York city, while the costumes are imported for the occasion and the scenery especially prepared for this show.

While the K. P.'s are sponsoring the attraction they do not intend to receive one cent for bringing this bunch of 30 coon artists to Coquille, but all the net proceeds will be turned over to the Corn Pavilion fund. This is an opportunity to realize a tidy sum for the building fund besides enjoying a good show and many a hearty laugh and so one can afford to miss it.

## To Be Big Pay Roll

It is probable that road and bridge work to the amount of half a million dollars will be done in Coos county this year, a part by the county, a part by the state and a part by the Federal government. The Forestry Service will let a contract next Wednesday for about \$25,000 worth of work between Lakeview and Hauser at the north end of the county; and next month the Highway commission has a \$175,000 contract to let on the Middle Fork between Bridge and Remoto. These, with bridges and other projects the county will carry along, may be expected to put a tidy sum of money in circulation this summer.

At Denver, Colo., a gasoline "war" has reduced the price to 20.7 cents. War of that kind would be welcomed here in Oregon.