

# The Coquille Valley Sentinel

THE PAPER THAT'S LIKE A LETTER FROM HOME

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## THE VALLEY ROAD

### State Highway Commission Will Hasten Work on Road Through Coquille

The following from the Oregonian's report of the meeting of the state highway commission Wednesday will be of interest to every one in the Coquille Valley, and especially to the people of this city. It indicates a definite decision as to the route of the coast highway, now we suppose to be definitely known as the Roosevelt highway, from Marshfield over the Coquille bridge to be built this summer and down the south bank of the Coquille to Bandon. It also makes it clear that so far as Coos county is concerned our county court is lined up with the state highway commission to finish the valley road from Bandon to the Douglas county on a 50-50 basis as quickly as possible. But the conditions in Douglas county are not so favorable, though it seems unthinkable that this road which will benefit Douglas county as much as Coos will not be speedily built from the county line to Riddle.

Here is the report of the proceedings of Wednesday's meeting:

For the first time almost since its creation the highway commission took occasion to chide an unresponsive county and it was Douglas which achieved this distinction. A delegation from Curry, Coos and Douglas counties was present to see what the commission intends doing on the Roseburg-Coos Bay highway. Chairman Booth assured the visitors that this road, with the Dallas-California highway, was considered the most important secondary road in the state after the two trunk lines.

The commission suggested that Coos county co-operate with the state on a 50-50 basis between Bandon and the Douglas county line. The Coos county court accepted. Then a similar proposal was made to Douglas county, after the commission explained its desire to expedite the construction of this road from Roseburg to the California line. The Douglas county commissioner, in the absence of the county judge, said the county is heavily in debt and couldn't see its way clear to doing much.

It was this response which goaded the commissioners into prodding Douglas county and exposing its shortcomings. Commissioner Yeon wanted to know if this project hasn't been dragging along long enough and why Douglas doesn't want to get some action, particularly since such a road when completed will benefit Roseburg more than any other one county.

"No other county receives as much benefit from the Pacific highway as Douglas county," said Chairman Booth. "One reason for this is that one-third of the highway is within its borders. We have spent about \$5,000,000 on the Pacific highway in Douglas county, and the county has contributed scarcely one-fifth. We have built many and expensive bridges. Hereafter the state must ask Douglas county to bear part of the expense of the bridges. It looks to me as though Douglas county will have to vote another bond issue. We are now preparing to order for advertising every section on the Pacific highway in Douglas county which is ready for surfacing."

"Warm up Douglas county," observed Mr. Yeon to the Coos and Curry delegations, "and we can get that road under way."

Curry county has gone its limit, which will mean an expenditure, with state funds, of \$500,000 in that county. With the exception of counties such as Curry, the commission will refuse further co-operation except on the 50-50 basis. In considering the route between Bandon and Coquille, five routes were submitted by the engineering department. The one recommended by the engineer on location is the south bank road, 175 miles in length, estimated to cost \$461,000.

In talking with Judge Wade about this matter, he thought that the 175 miles must refer to the entire length of the proposed road from Roseburg via Bandon to the California line, though the \$461,000 referred to is the estimated expense of putting the road on line and grade from the county line to Bandon.

He was also very much gratified by the interest manifested in this road from Roseburg to the California line which will probably become the main tourist road from San Francisco to

Portland when completed, with unrivalled scenic attractions.

As to the line to be followed down the river to Bandon he said that of five routes the state engineers had been investigating, the three principal ones were via Fishtrap, over the hill to Lampa, which would not only be the shortest route but 50 per cent cheaper than any other. Then there were the old road following the south bank of the river and the proposed north bank road.

The concurrence of opinion of both the highway commission and the county court was that the south bank road by way of the bridge to be built at Coquille was the route to be taken, though the cost of right of way for the three miles across the bottom land from this city to the hills will have to be taken into consideration before the matter is absolutely settled.

As to dividing the expense on the road between Myrtle Point and the Curry county line on a 50-50 basis between the state and the county, the highway commission thought that the amount the county has already spent in building the road from Myrtle Point to Bandon and the cost to the county of the river bridge at Coquille should be credited to the county's share in making an adjustment, but were not certain whether the expense incurred by the county in building the Bandon to county line road should also be taken into the account.

## RAILROAD ECONOMY

F. C. Lewis, Southern Pacific traveling agent, was in town yesterday and explained to us why it was that the mail train down here now starts from Eugene forty minutes later. He says the necessity for rigid economy in the operation of the road has led to the cutting out of a good many trains in the Willamette Valley and the laying off of their crews. So the crew which brings the mail train down here from Eugene has been given a little extra work. Before starting on their run down here they have to leave Wendling on the Springfield-Wendling branch at 7:00 a. m. that brings the only daily train over to Eugene, where they arrive at 8:10. Then at 8:25 they take charge of the Coos Bay train and bring it down here ending their run at Myrtle Point at 4:00 p. m. and laying off for the night there. The following day they leave Myrtle Point at 6:52 in the morning, on the same time our train used to run, to take it up to Eugene, arriving there at 2:45 and getting out to Wendling at 4:40 where they spend the alternate night.

As soon as the Marshfield road is completed, the Marshfield Lodge of Elks are coming over here for a special initiation. The following Coquille men were on Wednesday elected members of that lodge: Otto G. Schneider, Orvil H. Haga, R. F. Miller, J. E. Paulson, Wm. K. Hall, Jr., R. W. Catton, A. O. Walker, J. J. Stanley, E. J. Page and H. R. Lukens. George McDonald, of Norway, was also elected.

### Build Garage Opposite Sentinel

A deal was completed this morning whereby the ownership of the 100 foot square across the street east of the Sentinel offices passes from the Collier estate to A. O. Walker and E. W. Gregg. This deal, which has been hanging fire for some weeks, means the erection of a fireproof building in this section. A garage covering the entire two lots will be erected there as soon as the present residence can be removed and the material for the new structure assembled. It has not been determined yet whether the building will be of concrete or stucco, but it is to be built this spring and the Coquille Service Station, Inc., will lease it and operate a garage therein. This will be the third building erected across the street from the Sentinel corner within the past year. The Coquille-Marshfield highway is bound to have other local results besides these three buildings.

### \$25,000 Was Loaned

R. H. Mast says he is receiving applications daily for loans under the federal farm loan act, now that the dam has been broken on the funds appropriated, but held up for a year by a suit in the Supreme court. Before loans were stopped the Coquille National Farm Loan Association had secured loans here on eleven farms, the amounts ranging from \$1000 to \$5,000. The directors of this association are C. E. McCurdy, president; Geo. S. Davis, Geo. W. Gilman, D. F. Thompson and E. H. Harnden.

## TO ENFORCE LAW MANY MATTERS

### Objects of the League Just Organized Here Are Plainly Stated

To the Citizens of Coquille:

There seems to be a general misunderstanding as to the purpose of the Citizen's Law Enforcement League just organized in this city.

First: "Citizen's" means, not only church members or Christian people, but everyone who is a citizen of this city or county.

Second: It is not the aim of this league to try to close up any of the places of amusement as some seem to think. But it is the aim of the League to have better and cleaner places of amusement, and a better and cleaner city and county in which to live. This we cannot have unless the laws of our city and county are enforced. We do not believe that the officers can fully accomplish this purpose without the support of the citizens. The object of the League is to furnish this support.

During the war if a man refused to take up arms in defense of his country and of right he was condemned as a slacker. If refusing to fight for right then made a man a slacker, is he any less a slacker now if he refuses to fight for right and the enforcement of the laws of that same country? Would it not be well to attend meetings of the League before condemning it? I am sure, men and women, fathers and mothers, if you will only stop to think what this means to you and to us all, that each and every one will be willing to do his part in making this, our city and county, one of the finest to call "Home." Again we appeal to all true and loyal citizens to do their part in helping to clean up our city and county.

At the meeting held in the Methodist church Tuesday evening the remainder of the constitution and by-laws was drawn up, and the necessary committees were appointed.— Rex Dallas.

### The League's Constitution

Article I. This organization shall be known as the Citizen's Law Enforcement League.

Article II. The purpose of Citizen's Law Enforcement League shall be to assist the officers of Coquille and Coos County in the enforcement of law.

Article III. The officers of the Citizen's Law Enforcement League shall be President, Vice-President and Secretary-Treasurer.

Article IV. Section 1. It shall be the duty of the president to preside at all meetings of the organization and to perform such other duties as are usually delegated to the presiding officer.

Section 2. The duty of the vice president shall be to perform the duties ascribed to the president in case of his absence.

Section 3. It shall be the duty of the secretary and treasurer to make records of all meetings, and to have charge of all funds belonging to the organization.

The president shall appoint an executive committee consisting of nine members, of which the president shall be ex-officio member, whose duties shall be to investigate reported violations of law and to originate and carry out plans for better law enforcement.

This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members at any regularly called meeting; provided, notice of said amendment shall be presented at a previous meeting.

The following is the executive committee appointed by the League: R. E. Baker, Thos. Dungey, Paul Ramsey, Charles Upton, Rex Dallas, A. B. Pendleton, L. L. Bunch and Chas. M. Bowman.

### J. D. Mickle Calls

J. D. Mickle, former state Dairy and Food Commissioner, but now one of the officials of the Dairymen's League, was a pleasant caller Wednesday morning. He gave us in detail the legislative history of Bill 284, the Co-operative Marketing Bill at Salem last month, and confirmed our suspicion that if money could have defeated that bill it would have been a dead one now—though he said he had no absolute knowledge of money having been used in opposing it.

Butter Wrappers and Trespass Notices for sale at this office.

### The Council Holds 3-Hour Session Monday But Doesn't Finish Its Work

The city council, with all members present, put in a full three hours at the regular meeting last Monday evening, and then not having attended to all the pressing business adjourned until next Monday.

A petition for the improvement of Coulter street from the forks of the street at the Butler corner north for three blocks past the east side of the Academy with plank roadway and sidewalks was read. It had been quite generally signed.

Another petition from the same section of town asking for the laying of more six inch water mains and a line of four inch from the Elwood corner north to the E. C. Church place and from the Elwood corner east to the N. C. Kelley corner was likewise generally signed. Both these petitions were laid over until next Monday evening, when they will be made a special order of business.

City Attorney Stanley submitted a written opinion on three questions that had been referred to him. One was that the city ordinance forbidding dogs running at large does not conflict with the state law and could be enforced.

As for licensing of "for hire" motor vehicles he could not give an opinion as to the council's rights until he had received a copy of the new road laws enacted by the last legislature.

He recommended that the city engineer be instructed to make an accurate survey of the highways on Sherwood Heights and after getting this data they would be in a position to petition the county court to turn these roads over to the city, after which their improvement might be begun as city streets.

Acting on the last recommendation the council ordered the survey made.

The question of "dogs" developed quite a discussion, some of the council wanting to put a \$5 license fee on every canine in town, while former councilmen stated that the license plan had never been satisfactory. It was finally decided to leave the matter to the ordinance committee and city attorney to prepare a new statute providing a license fee, if they deemed it advisable.

S. V. Epperson's bond, as water superintendent, with C. T. Skeels and J. W. Miller as sureties, in the sum of \$500, was approved.

The property owners of the lots on Third street for a block on either side of the T bridge, gave notice that they would petition the council to vacate ten feet on either side of the street for the two blocks as soon as the legal formalities had been complied with.

The matter of wages to be paid by the City was left to the marshal, water superintendent and chairman of the committees under whose instructions work may be done, to settle, it being thought that \$4.50 a day was too much for the city to pay for common labor now.

City Engineer Gould reported that some of the property owners along Henry street in the block just east of the court house preferred a hard surface pavement to a plank one and he was sure the county would prefer a permanent job. This improvement would eliminate two sharp turns in coming into town from the Fairview road. After consideration the engineer was ordered to prepare his plans for hard surface paving for this block.

The sidewalk from the Methodist church corner south along Elliott street to First was ordered replaced with a new wooden walk.

Having cleared the decks of all pressing matters the council then took up the water question. The written report of R. E. Koon was read, but as it dealt principally with matters covered in our report of his verbal statement last week, it is not here repeated. His bill to \$143.26 for his trip in here was allowed and ordered paid.

He also submitted a bid for his services as consulting engineer if the council decides to build the pumping plant over on the North Fork. His bid was for three per cent of the cost of the work, plus \$25 per diem and travelling expenses for the three or four trips the council might think it necessary for him to make down here. His duties would include getting out plans, specifications and estimates for the plant and pipe line, securing state and federal permission to build the line, act as consulting engineer with

Mr. Gould on all matters pertaining to the job and to have general supervision until its completion.

Whether or not the council will employ Mr. Koon was not considered Monday night, but there is considerable local sentiment in favor of leaving the construction of the works to Mr. Gould who is thoroughly competent to handle the job.

But they did authorize the water committee to begin at once carrying out the recommendations included in Mr. Koon's report. This includes the securing of data over on the North Fork side and surveys of best routes across there; the location and correction of faults in the present Rink creek line; the raising of the head on that creek about 35 feet by running the line a thousand feet or farther up the gulch; the repair of the Walker creek line; and, it is presumed, the installation of meters on every service in town. Of course, the adoption of the meter plan would mean a readjustment of the water rates, but it would mean a saving of water and that the man who used the most would pay for it.

The provision of these essentials for increasing the water supply will probably enable Coquille to get by another summer with its present water sources; and as the river here is the only other means for securing an increased supply during the coming dry season, it is hoped that the improvements ordered will fill the bill.

## POOL HALLS SUNDAY?

At the council meeting Monday night Mayor Hamilton brought up the question of bootlegging, gambling and other violations of the law by referring to the activities of the Law Enforcement League and telling of several conferences he had had with Sheriff Ellingsen, who claimed that one of the city's officers was not doing his duty in the matter of enforcing the laws. The sheriff told the mayor that if this official was replaced, he would appoint a man to police the town, and the mayor stated that he wanted to find a man who would enforce the laws if violations were being winked at.

The mayor then went on to say that the pool hall men had been to see him regarding their being allowed to run their pool tables, not card tables, on Sunday. Personally he was not opposed to allowing it, but he wanted to obey the wishes of the majority of the people.

Councilman Mansell stated that his opinion was that a majority of the people were in favor of allowing the pool rooms to operate their places Sunday, but that he favored granting short time licenses to the owners, putting them under strict regulations and close supervision, and requiring them to secure those licenses from the council, as the saloons formerly did, so that if any man who conducted a shady place or whose reputation for conducting a clean place was not good, he could be refused a license.

Allan McLeod was outspoken against granting the Sunday privilege, and Dr. Endicott did not believe a majority of the people would favor it.

A. O. Walker wanted to find out how the people felt and thought the council would hear enough on the subject before the next regular meeting that they might form a pretty accurate opinion of how the majority stood. His remarks about the gambling reported to be carried on, not only in the pool halls but elsewhere, were concurred in by all the councilmen and it seemed to be the unanimous opinion that a stop should be put to it. The matter will probably come up for further consideration at the next regular meeting of the body.

### Hall Stood Firm

During the recent session of the legislature we learn that the highway commission made very attractive offers to Senator Hall for Coos county if he would give up asking for further action on the Roosevelt Highway. They proposed to pave the coast highway from Bandon south to the county line and the section of the Coos Bay to Roseburg road from Coquille to Myrtle Point this summer if the Roosevelt Highway was not pressed; but Hall could not be put off with these offers. He insisted on making the entire coast highway a state project and won out.

The first of the week N. C. Kelley sold his residence property in the north end of town to County Superintendent C. E. Mulkey.

## HELD NOT GUILTY

### The Jury in the Stephens' Case Finds Shooting Was In Self Defense

The case of the state against J. B. Stephens, of North Bend, charged with the murder of Ed Wilson, the following jury was selected in the Circuit Court here Monday: E. W. Fahy, Bullards, farmer; E. C. Kay, Bandon, merchant; Willis E. Neely, Sumner, farmer; S. L. Shumate, Bandon, laborer; H. T. Miller, Parkersburg, cheese maker; J. T. Jenkins, Parkersburg, farmer; E. D. Webb, Coquille, banker; J. H. Jones, Bandon, retired; Charles Webb, Coquille, retired; L. G. Simmons, Coquille, laborer; Ed McKeown, Coquille, logging foreman; F. L. Ball, Coquille, teamster.

The opening statements to the jury were made the same day by County Attorney Fisher for the state and Tom T. Bennett for the defense.

The case occupied the time of the Circuit court here for four full days. Most of the day Monday was required to secure a jury and the greater part of Thursday for the arguments of the counsel, Ben S. Fisher, district attorney, for the prosecution, and T. T. Bennett for the defense.

The case was given to the jury about six o'clock yesterday and it only took them three-quarters of an hour after supper to reach a verdict of "not guilty," so that the defendant, Stephens, became a free man again a little after 8 o'clock.

A good many witnesses were introduced both by the state and the defense but little was brought out that was new or important until Stephens took the stand in his own defense Wednesday afternoon, and he certainly was the only man present when Wilson was killed or that knew all about the case.

He testified that Wilson had tried to get him to murder Mrs. Wilson; and also to burn down the rooming house she was running at North Bend in order that he might collect the insurance on it.

On account of his refusal to commit these crimes Stephens said that Wilson was determined to kill him, so he got a gun to defend himself.

He admitted the killing but claimed that Wilson was about to attack him with a knife and that the latter came to the door just before the shooting and he heard him say: "I will cut his heart out." When Wilson came into the room where he was and advanced toward him in a crouching position saying, "I will kill you now," he thought he was getting ready to spring upon him and shot him.

It transpired that Wilson was released from the California penitentiary, where he was doing time on a counterfeiting charge, five years ago yesterday, and that previous to that he had been convicted in this county of non-support of his wife. He afterwards became a member of the crew of the notorious Barnacle which was fitted out to go to Mexico on a counterfeiting expedition, but was subsequently wrecked.

He certainly appears to have been anything but a model citizen, but as to whether Stephens was justified in killing him as a matter of self defense there are varying opinions.

### Votes \$110,000 For Plant

The appropriation to issue \$110,000 in bonds was approved by the voters of Bandon almost unanimously last Tuesday, there being only 10 votes against to 453 for it. The plan is to spend \$35,000 to buy the plant and equipment of the Bandon Power Company and to use the rest of the money to develop a hydro-electric plant at Willow Creek near Denmark in Curry county. The water power there would develop ten times as much electric power as is now needed in Bandon and the fact that the city will have a big electric plant it is believed will be a big asset in securing industries for the city.

There was general rejoicing after the votes were counted Tuesday night, and the band helped celebrate the event.

### Cheese Expert Here

Mr. Lockery, a cheese expert from the U. S. Department of Agriculture, will arrive here March 15th to spend a month in this county aiding the cheese factories in improving and standardizing the production of cheese. His services are free.

Calling Cards, 100 for \$1.50.