

The Coquille Valley Sentinel

THE PAPER THAT'S LIKE A LETTER FROM HOME

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COQUILLE, COOS COUNTY, OREGON, FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 1921

\$1.00 THE YEAR

SUES THE COUNTY

Ex-Gov. West Wants \$19,685 as Attorney's Fees on Wagon Road Lands

Oswald West began suit last Friday, April 16th, against Coos county for the sum of \$19,685.66, which he alleges is due him by this county for services rendered in connection with the passage of the act of congress providing for the payment to Coos county by the United States of taxes, interest and penalties on what is known as the Coos Bay Wagon Road Land Grant in the sum of \$469,141.68, approximately half a million dollars; and also providing for the payment to Coos county by the United States of 25 per cent of the net sum the government should receive from that part of the lands of that grant lying in Coos county when they were sold by the government, after paying the Southern Oregon company or its assigns for the extinguishment of its title to the wagon road lands and all other expenses incurred in connection with the resumption of the government title to these lands and their sale to purchasers.

Gov. West claims that on Feb. 14, 1918, James Watson, then County Judge of Coos county, employed him as an attorney to represent the interests of the county in this matter, and that he accepted said employment. He further claims and his suit is based on the additional claims set forth as follows: "That subsequent to said acceptance and prior to April 3, 1918, plaintiff proposed to Coos county, through its County Court, the terms on which he would continue said employment, which terms were that in consideration of representing defendant county in said matter and of agreeing so to do, that defendant county should pay to plaintiff such compensation for his services as should be determined by the County Judge of Douglas county and the County Judge of Coos county when such services were rendered and the matter relative to said bill were settled; and that the county court of defendant county by resolution hearing date, April 3, 1918, and duly spread upon the journal of said court further ratified the employment of said plaintiff by said county."

The statement at the close of the quotation is the nub of this case; and after copying it the Sentinel scribe at once verified the statements made by turning to Vol. 11, of the Records of Coos County, pages 254 and 255, in which the matter is set out in full, exactly as stated by Gov. West. In these records at a session in which James Watson, county judge; G. J. Armstrong and Archie Phillip, county commissioners; L. W. Oddy, county clerk, and W. W. Gage, sheriff, are stated to have been present, the following statement and order of the county court are set out:

"It appearing to the court that it is agreed that the compensation for such services shall in the settlement thereof be left to the County Judge of Douglas county and the County Judge of Coos county to be decided upon when such services are ended and the matters herein settled; which matter of settlement has been agreed to by Oswald West and the County Judges of said counties.

"It is therefore ordered that the agreement entered into by and between the County Judge of Douglas county, the County Judge of Coos county and Oswald West be and the same is hereby confirmed."

Gov. West further recites the services he rendered the county in the formulating of the law subsequently passed by congress above referred to; his various trips across the continent to expedite the passage of this law; the agreement of Judge Marsh and Judge Watson on or about June 5, 1919, that he should receive four per cent of the amount the government paid Coos and Douglas counties on account of the Southern Oregon taxes on the Coos Bay Wagon road lands; his presentation of his account for \$19,685.66 against Coos county; the refusal of the County Court to pay it and their issue of a warrant of his claim on May 4, 1920, and his refusal to accept the warrant so tendered.

So he demands payment of that sum, with interest thereon from June 5, 1919, and costs.

As soon as Gov. West's suit was filed the county court here adopted the following order:

"It is the order of the court here-

by made and the district attorney is hereby notified and instructed to prepare forthwith to defend against said suit and the whole thereof, with diligence, with persistent efforts in good faith to the best of his ability and to call upon this court, if, and whenever, at any time it can provide for or can be of any service or assistance in this matter."

This order indicates that the court is ready to provide District Attorney Fisher with such legal assistance as he may require in fighting the case. Members of Congress and possibly officials of the general land office at Washington are expected to be here as witnesses in this case, which is going to be a stubbornly contested one.

To Issue Daily Next Week

In deference to the wishes of the Commercial Club and our business men generally the Sentinel is preparing to issue a Highway Celebration daily on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of next week. The difficulty of securing additional help in the office these times will render it extremely arduous for the Sentinel forces to fill the contract but we shall do the best we can in going over the top with this undertaking. But we shall have to ask the indulgence of our patrons if their job work is delayed next week.

EIGHTY-SIX YEARS OLD

This morning Eben G. Willey passed away at the home of his son, Chas. A. Willey, in the southeast part of the city at the age of 86 years and six months. He had been ill less than two weeks, a severe cold resulting in pneumonia. For the past year he had been in failing health, though until then he had been quite active for a man of his years.

Mr. Willey was born in Dorchester, Mass., Oct. 14, 1834, and moved to Springfield, Ill., where he resided until 1881 when he came to Oregon with the family of his son here with whom he has since resided. His wife having died in 1908.

Mr. Willey served in the Union Army in the Civil war as a member of Co. C, Second Illinois Volunteer Artillery for three years and three months without any serious injury.

He married Ellen A. Hopkins, of the Springfield neighborhood in 1861, just before going to war, and to this union were born eight children, of whom seven survive, all of whom except his son here are living at Springfield, Ill. Their names are John, Caleb, Richard and George Willey, Mrs. Emma Buecher and Mrs. Cora Johns.

The funeral services will be held at the undertaking parlors at 2 p. m. Sunday and the interment will be in the Masonic cemetery.

To Be Ready in May

Supt. Earl W. Gates, of the telephone company, has been coming over from the Bay every day for the past two or three weeks and working on the installation of the company's new switchboard in their office across the street from the Sentinel office. He says that barring something unforeseen they will have the new equipment all installed by the end of this month and will begin the first week in May "cutting in" on the new board and putting in the new automatic instruments. This will be about a two week's job so that before the first of June they expect to have the new plant entirely completed and in smooth running order.

Summer Excursion Rates

Monday the Southern Pacific announced the restoration of excursion rates to all points east, the same as were in force in 1917 before this country went into the war.

Tickets will be sold from June 15 to August 15 and the time limit will be October 31. The old excursion rate of one and one-third fares for the round trip will be restored.

This rule applies to all transcontinental railroads. Excursion rates from the east on all lines were announced several months ago. Now the west gets them, too. Gradually we are settling down to old conditions.

Judge John S. Coke and Court Stenographer Mrs. Nellie B. Scott started today for Gold Beach, where the April term of the Curry county circuit court will convene next Monday. It requires one overnight stop at Bandon and another at Port Orford to reach Gold Beach now.

SIMPSON NAMED FOR THE JUBILEE

Succeeds Dr. Endicott as Councilman--Park Commission Provided

The city council was again made complete with a full complement of six members Monday night, when A. L. Simpson was appointed to succeed C. W. Endicott, resigned. Mr. Simpson stood next highest in number of votes received last fall to the three elected for the four year term and his appointment is a carrying out of the wishes of the people as expressed at the polls. More than that he is a man whose counsel, clear thinking and advice will be of benefit to the city generally in conducting its affairs. He will succeed Dr. Endicott as chairman of the water committee and as a member of the Ordinance and Finance committees.

The first business considered by the council was the granting of a franchise to Paul Ford to operate an auto stage line over the city's streets on the Bandon route. For this privilege he is to pay \$50 a year and must maintain a schedule of least four round trips a day whenever the weather and condition of the roads permit.

The ordinance creating a Park Commission was unanimously adopted. Under its provisions this commission has supervision over all parks and playgrounds belonging to the city and will have the authority to erect and manage the corn show building for which funds are to be provided other than from the city's general fund. It will consist of five members to be appointed by the mayor and confirmed by the council. The personnel of the commission will be one representative each from the city council, the Woman's Club, the Corn Show organization (to be effected soon), the American Legion and the Commercial Club, and these organizations should make their recommendations for appointment at once to Mayor Hamilton.

The council took the first step toward the improvement of Bush, Spring and Holly streets, out in Academy addition, by adopting the grades recommended by the city engineer and giving notice of intention to establish them.

The date for hearing Mrs. Hattie L. Bledsoe's petition for the vacation of ten feet on each side of Third street for the two blocks west of Taylor was set for Monday, May 2.

Resolutions were adopted condemning the open vault toilets on the following named pieces of property and ordering that connection be made with the sewer at once.

S. L. Leneve heirs--Across from city hall; house occupied by A. G. Miller.

Mrs. Emily Hersey--Ritter & Martin's Meat Market.

W. W. Elliott--Across street west of court house. Mr. Elliott is preparing to build there and would have abated the nuisance at that time.

Mary J. Johnson--Next house south of Mr. Elliott's.

Mary J. Gallier--Next house south of Mrs. Johnson's.

Nellie F. Dement--Just east of Coquille Service Station.

The bid submitted by Wm. Peart for the improvement of Beech street from First to the Knowlton Heights' bridge, was \$56 a yard for excavation, 21 1-2 a square foot for concrete sidewalks, \$28 a thousand feet for plank in place on the roadway, or \$775 for a lump sum bid. As this was higher than the engineer's estimate the bid was rejected.

Councilmen Simpson and Gregg and Engineer Gould were appointed a committee to supervise the construction of a municipal float for Coquille's participation in the Highway Celebration parade.

\$600,000 Already Collected

The tax collection force at the sheriff's office here has not yet got through making out receipts for the taxes that came in on or before April 5, in time to evade the interest penalty. Archie Walker, the bookkeeper there, informs us that the amount of 1920 taxes already turned over to Treasurer Dimmick amounts to \$550,000 and that it is expected the amount collected by the 5th, but not yet on the books, will amount to \$50,000 more. Even so, that \$600,000 would be a little less than half of the 1920 taxes, which amount to \$1,270,000. Practically all of last year's taxes thus far paid came in since March 1.

Preparations Insure Great Day Here Next Saturday, April 30th

A meeting of all the Highway Celebration committees was held at the city hall Wednesday evening at which time the various budgets of proposed expenditures were submitted by the sub-committees. These budgets totaled \$1600 or \$1600, with several smaller items of expense not included.

The Street and Park Decoration committees reported that they were in conference with Mr. Roy Fiske, who makes a business of street decorating. Another meeting with him will be held today to decide whether the decoration work shall be turned over to him.

The auto race committee are planning on allowing not more than fifteen entries for the race and probably less to make the start about three minutes apart. Sufficient patrolmen will be employed to keep the highway clear during the hour and a half it is in progress. Two classes have been designated--light cars and heavy cars--and a first prize of \$75 and second of \$25 has been offered for each class.

The music committee has arranged for a band of 20 or 22 pieces, having secured seven or eight musicians from the Bay in addition to the local players. John E. Ross, chairman of this committee, says it will be the best local band Coquille has ever heard. They will render popular airs throughout the day and evening.

The float committee, which has one of the hardest jobs of all on its hands, is visiting other towns of the county with excellent success in getting floats and decorated cars lined up for the parade. They have prepared the following schedule of prizes to be offered which is attractive enough to insure the largest and most spectacular pageant ever witnessed in Southern Oregon:

Municipal Floats--\$80 and \$40.

Community Floats--\$60 and \$40.

School Floats--\$30 and \$20.

Business Floats--\$30, \$20 and \$10.

Clubs, Lodges and Fraternal Organizations Floats

Decorated Cars--\$25, \$15 and \$10.

Most Unique Feature--\$25.

The Parade Committee is working with the Float committee in preparing for the parade.

The Burlesque committee is not advertising any of their stunts beforehand, but they have all had experience as comedians heretofore and their part of the program will be entertaining.

The Amusement committee, among other things, are planning a program of street sports, including tug-of-war between Coos Bay and Coquille Valley, free for all races, and High School athletic contests.

Nothing definite has yet been heard from Gov. Olcott and the State Highway Commission but positive assurance of their present next Saturday is expected today or tomorrow after the commissioners' meeting today.

The American Legion committee is preparing to handle the dance which, weather permitting, will be held on their open-air platform near the Hall. In case of rain Goulds' Hall has been reserved for the affair. Hegdahl's orchestra will furnish the music.

Of the program of music and speaking in the grove mention has not been made, but it will be given in our daily edition next week.

All roads lead to Coquille. Hit the highway on Saturday, April 30, and help to make it the biggest day Coos county has ever had.

Conditions in California

E. E. Johnson returned last Monday from a ten days' trip to San Francisco. He says there is a great deal of building going on around the bay there and also in Los Angeles but that the lumber market has not picked up very much yet.

While down there he ran across Capt. Arthur Self, who is in command of the Stanley Dollar running between Atlantic ports and San Francisco. Capt. Self is an old Coos county boy who was raised on a ranch a short distance above town, his father being J. B. Self. Mrs. Geo. Lester is his sister. He left the Coquille valley 22 years ago. The Stanley Dollar is one of the Dollar's larger carriers.

Gun Club's Shoot

The Gun Club shoot at the Cunningham range of the local club was very largely attended last Sunday, notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather. About twenty-five came over from Marshfield, including several ladies, and all enjoyed the picnic dinner.

Due to the weather and a defect in the traps the scores made by the individual members were no where up to their usual averages, and we are unable to report what percentage each shooter made, but out of 500 possible shots for each team the Coquille club won over the visitors by 85 birds.

Those from Marshfield who participated were Peter Bue, Ben Chandler, W. C. Conrad, Chas. Fuller, L. L. Thomas, Wm. Ekblad, Geo. Larson, Frank Luce, Fred Smith, Jas. Conley.

Coquille was represented by E. J. Lorenz, M. J. Hartson, Lans Leneve, Ira Johnson, Harry Krantz, A. J. Sherwood, Pete Miller, Jas. Laird, J. W. Miller and Alf. Johnson.

Coquille has been invited to go over to the Bay on May 8 for a return shoot on May 8 and will probably accept.

Everyone who can and will enter a float for the parade on Highway Celebration Day should immediately notify L. H. Hazard, chairman of Float committee.

ALL READY TO JOIN US

The Coos Bay-Coquille Valley Highway Celebration on Saturday of next week will be the biggest thing ever pulled off in the Coquille Valley and if Jupiter Pluvius will only shut off his sprinkling pot there will be the largest crowd in Coquille on that date which ever assembled on this side of Coos county. The Bay side can and will be in force, but unless there are several days of dry weather the farmers and ranchers to the south and east and west will find it almost impossible to get in.

Preparations are proceeding on a scale never before attempted. The result of the executive committee's visits to the other cities of the county are shown in the enthusiasm with which those communities are responding to the committee's invitation to be present and participate.

Tuesday the committee went to Myrtle Point and as one booster there exclaimed, "Myrtle Point is rarin' to go to Coquille and celebrate." Mayor Schroeder has declared April 30th to be a legal holiday, the council, commercial club and several business concerns have agreed to have floats in the parade, and it is hinted that they are preparing to enter something novel and unique from up there, but they are not telling what it is.

Yesterday the committee visited North Bend and Marshfield and were warmly welcomed. At North Bend Mayor Loggie had declared Friday, the 29th, a holiday to clean up the park, but a special meeting of the Chamber of Commerce has been called to postpone that event and make Saturday the holiday and Coquille the mecca.

At Marshfield the local committee met with the executive committee of the Chamber of Commerce at dinner. The most active interest was manifested in all phases of the coming celebration. Committees to co-operate with the Coquille committees were appointed. This applies principally to the floats and decorated cars, which it is hoped Marshfield, North Bend, Bandon and Myrtle Point will enter for the parade.

They were also greatly interested in the auto race which is proving one of the best advertising features of the jubilee. Two of the councilmen, who were seen, were in favor of closing business completely on that day, and Mayor Ferguson intimated that he would issue a holiday proclamation for the entire day.

This morning the committee went down to Bandon to secure its promise of co-operation in the day's doings next Saturday.

Another Baby Clinic

Next Monday, April 25, there will be another Baby Health Clinic held at Coquille at the city hall at 10 a. m. Children will be weighed and receive a thorough physical examination by one of our physicians. Miss Elizabeth Campbell, county nurse, who is to conduct the clinic, says she is anxious that the mothers of all babies who have been brought to previous clinics should bring them again.

NEARLY KILLED

Big Awning Falls on Attorney Pulford--But a Step From Death

At 10 o'clock Tuesday morning, Attorney S. D. Pulford had the misfortune to be passing along the walk beside S. M. Nosler's grocery and had only got part way under the wooden awning under which most everyone living in the east or north part of the city has passed so many times, or so many hundreds of times during the past fifteen or twenty years, when his attention was attracted by a sort of growling, tearing and rumbling noise. For a second he couldn't sense it, but almost instantaneously he realized that the awning was falling. Whether to jump towards the wall of the building or the street was a question, decided in a wink in favor of the street; but he was not quick enough to get from under. He says his sensation was of being in the middle of the street with everything falling around him; but he actually hadn't got off the sidewalk.

A piece of timber, probably one of the rafters that upheld the structure fell across the flat of his right foot--but fortunately broke no bone, though he has suffered intense pain from it and found walking very difficult. That was a minor matter, though, compared with what happened to his unfortunate head. He was probably between two of the rafters at the time, for if it had been a two-by-four that struck him he would hardly have lived to tell the story. As it was when the roof came down he was bruised in half a dozen points, under his hat as well as one on his thigh, though the heavy overcoat he wore furnished some protection.

The shock was so great that he soon lost consciousness and his pulse almost ceased to beat. When the victim of this accident got out in the street he saw an auto coming towards him driven by E. F. Postal and he waved his arms. Postal stopped just as someone shouted:

"Is anybody hurt?"

"I was under," responded Pulford.

Postal and other bystanders then carried him into the store, where he was, at his own suggestion, laid out on the floor and his clothing loosened. About this time he told a funny story about a darkey without, he says, eliciting a smile. For he was white as a sheet then, and everybody was wondering how serious his injuries might be. About that time he lost consciousness, and Dr. Hamilton, who had been summoned, arrived to find his pulse almost gone.

By the next day, however, he had so far recovered as to show no signs of the accident beyond the limp in his nearly broken foot. Altogether, it was a very close call and while Mr. Pulford may remain on the shores of time for many years; he probably will never again, while still well and hearty, find himself within a step of death as he certainly was Tuesday morning.

There are often times when children were playing under that awning and it was not unusual to meet from ten to thirty people there coming from court at the noon hour. A small child would not have survived the blow Mr. Pulford received and it is hard to guess what would have happened if a crowd had been there at the time that roof fell.

In view of this so nearly fatal accident it seems timely to suggest that there be an official investigation by the city to learn whether we have any more unsuspected traps for the unwary. Probably the T bridge wouldn't stand the traffic for a single day after the barrier to travel on the Marshfield-Coquille highway is removed at the Cunningham crossing; and how many pitfalls there may be in our sidewalks no one knows, though we are certain some exist. The city council evidently should have an official investigation and written report on conditions in the city that menace life or limb.

Elbert Bede Coming to the Bay

It is reported by the Coos Bay Times that Elbert Bede, of the Cottage Grove Sentinel, will come to Marshfield May 1, to take charge of the Daily News and give it a try-out to see whether he considers it worth while to take an interest in it permanently.

Right skies next Saturday are what Coquille prays for.