

The Coquille Valley Sentinel

THE PAPER THAT'S LIKE A LETTER FROM HOME

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COQUILLE, COOS COUNTY, OREGON, FRIDAY, MAY 29, 1921.

\$2.00 THE YEAR.

J. ALLEN COLLIER

Passed Away at Mercy Hospital
Tuesday—A Life
Sketch

Joseph Allen Collier, one of the early settlers and most prominent citizens of Coquille, died at Mercy Hospital, North Bend, Tuesday morning, and was buried yesterday. He was 72 years, 6 months and nine days of age, and had enjoyed robust health until a few weeks ago when a carbuncle developed, whose after-effects proved fatal. Indeed, when we saw him at work last fall, day after day, clearing and burning trash on the lots where the garage is now building, and laying a cement sidewalk beside them, he seemed as strong and vigorous as a man in middle life and scarcely anyone would have imagined that he had passed three score.

The funeral service was held yesterday afternoon at the Odd Fellows' cemetery, being in charge of Chadwick Lodge No. 68, A. F. & A. M. C. A. Howard, of Marshfield, read the impressive Masonic service and the full honors of the order were paid as a last tribute to the one who had been a member of the local lodge since May 3, 1879. The attendance of members of the order was the largest ever before witnessed in Coquille.

The mound of earth adjoining the last resting place of this pioneer citizen was banked with beautiful floral emblems and set pieces, mute evidence of the esteem in which Mr. Collier was held by his neighbors and friends.

Mr. Collier was born in Buchanan county, Iowa, of which A. J. Sherwood, who was his kinsman, was also a native. He came of sturdy Scotch stock and was very much like his father, the late Joseph Collier, who was a typical pioneer and one of the "makers of the West," as Roosevelt calls them. The elder Collier, born in Ohio, soon found that state too narrow for him and moved to Indiana; thence he went on to Wisconsin; thence to Illinois and next to Iowa, where the subject of this sketch was born. Life finally became too tame for him there and he crossed the Missouri, as he had the Mississippi and made his home in Nebraska. But the west still kept calling on and in the late fifties he took the long trail across the mountains and deserts to California by ox team.

Young Allen, a lad of 13, was then old enough to ride a pony into the caravan, and, no doubt, found the trip the greatest event of his life thus far. They soon came north to Oregon and tarried awhile in Jackson county during the days when the gold excitement was at its height.

In August, 1865, the family came to Coos county by way of the Middle Fork on pack horses, as there was no road, only a trail. They settled in this valley near the present site of Coquille, before there was any sign of a town here.

The elder Collier invested largely in lands here, his first purchase comprising a tract running from the present location of the Johnson mill up to the O. K. Creamery and embracing what is now the east eighty of Elliott's Addition. They then built a log cabin near the site of the old barn on the Lafferty place just southeast of the city on the Myrtle Point road.

Sept. 30, 1875, the subject of this sketch was united in marriage to Amelia E. Robinson, an aunt to Geo. A. Robinson, of this city.

Mr. Collier was a fine carpenter as were his brothers, and attained great skill at the trade, which he picked up, without serving any regular apprenticeship. He was one of the workmen on our old high school building when it was erected.

In his first wife he found a business woman of rare qualifications and in 1882 and 1883 they started a general store on Front street, where the express office is now located. Later they bought a hardware store, just west of Knowlton's drug store, which was eventually destroyed in Coquille's big fire of 1892.

He also owned a ranch where the first Johnson mill stood, two and a half miles up the river, and invested largely in real estate in this city. Indeed, he has been many years one of the wealthiest citizens here and a very prominent factor in the town's development and business.

For years he was president of the town council and a member of the school board.

From 1891 to 1896 he mined intermittently on Johnson Creek.

Of late years he has devoted his time to the management of his properties here, one of his last acts in that connection being the sale of the lots where the garage is now building.

The first Mrs. Collier died Oct. 8, 1895. She was the mother of one child, David A. Collier, who died July 31, 1907.

In January, 1907, Mr. Collier married Viola Sugg, who survives him. Of this union was born one child, Alice, now eleven years of age. Mrs. Eva Currie is a stepdaughter.

Mr. Collier was the third child in a family of ten, of whom five are still living, two brothers, B. F. and H. J. having died in the past eight years.

The survivors are George and Charles and Mrs. Sarah Walker, of this city; Mrs. Jane Paxton, of Ashland, Ore., and Mrs. Dora Franz, of Aberdeen, Wash. Clyde Collier, James Collier and A. B. Collier, of this city, are among his nephews.

Only one marriage license in three months is said to be Curry county's record this spring. Dan Cupid must be neglecting that portion of his preserves lately.

TO BE PAVED QUICKLY

The matter of paving the "No Man's Land" of the Coquille-Marshfield highway—a stretch of about 1100 feet from the Sentinel corner to the Burkholder residence was definitely settled Monday when the county court took action on the state highway commission's proposal to undertake this work on a 50-50 basis. The State gives the county credit for the grading of this street, at a cost of slightly less than \$7,000. The expense of paving is estimated at about \$9,000. The total cost of these three blocks here will thus be \$16,000. Half of this would be \$8,000, so that giving the county credit for the \$7,000 already spent, its share of the work will be only \$1,000.

The state will let the contract for this work one week from today, and it is hoped that it will be completed speedily. Of course, this piece of road, was a good deal of an eyesore on celebration day, when the rain that fell at night made it almost impassible. So, all last winter it made access to the residence section across Cunningham creek as well as to the Masonic cemetery extremely difficult. All this trouble will soon be over, however, and it will not be necessary to longer use the antiquated and unsightly, if not unsafe, T bridge in traveling between here and Marshfield.

The county would have liked to get the city to take over the Long bridge north of the court house and provide for its upkeep and that of the Fairview road out there in exchange for the adoption of the portion of the Marshfield road within the city limits by the county, and the building of a gravelled road by the county across from the Fairview road to the paved highway at the new high school building. But the city had never regarded this as a fair exchange, and having advertised for the improvement of a cross road at the school house, the turning over of the road to the city now would have resulted in a good deal of confusion. So the county court gracefully waived that matter and took the step that insures the immediate completion of the Coquille end of the great highway—the first ever built in Southwestern Oregon.

Hearing on Phone Rates
Public Service Commissioner Fred Williams was in Coquille Wednesday morning for the hearing on the application of the Coos & Curry Telephone company to increase its rates. The people of Coquille had almost unanimously signed the petition circulated by the company agreeing to the proposed increase after the new system had been installed, so that the hearing Wednesday was a mere matter of form. J. J. Stanley appeared before the commission as representative of the city government and agreed to the proposed changes so that Mr. Williams will be able to report to the entire board at Salem an acquiescence in the rates on the part of Coquille; and the new schedule will be approved by the commission soon.

Mr. Williams congratulated the people of this city on having a system of this kind installed as it is a better one than most cities of this size enjoy.

CONTRACTS LET 140 BANQUETTED

Much Street Work Will Be Done Here the Coming Summer

The city council held two meetings this week, the first on Monday evening, at which time the bids for street work were opened, and again Wednesday evening to award the contracts.

Contracts totalling \$21,439 were let, divided as follows: For clearing, grubbing, grading and putting in the culverts in the North end improvement, \$11,740. For the entire work of grading, curbing, concrete roadway, concrete sidewalks and crosswalks, on Henry street between Second and Third \$2,934. For the same work on Hall from the city hall to the Chase barn and on Third from the court house to the highway, \$6,765.

M. W. Payne, of Marshfield, was awarded the north end work, his bid being the lowest and only \$257 higher than the engineer's estimate. Peart Bros., of Coquille, were awarded the contracts on the other two jobs, their bids being under the engineer's estimates—\$180 lower on Third and Hall streets, and \$209 lower on Henry street.

There was a great discrepancy in the unit prices bid on the various items of work, the grading bids ranging from 68 to 75 cents per yard, and the concrete street from \$2.17 1-2 to \$2.86 per square yard.

The only bid for the planking in the north end improvement was that of A. B. Gidley for \$30 per thousand board feet in place. The council thought this excessive and voted to readvertise for bids on that work, the same to be opened at the regular meeting, Monday, June 6.

The bidders on the north end work were M. W. Payne, and A. B. Gidley, of Marshfield. Robt. Train submitted a bid for the work of putting in the plank work, curbing, sidewalks, etc., but as he did not figure on furnishing the lumber for the job his bid was not considered.

For the other two jobs the bidders were M. W. Payne, A. B. Gidley and Dean & Brown, of Coos Bay, and Peart Bros., of Coquille.

Before moving to accept any of the bids, Councilman Mansell said he wanted to inform all contractors that heretofore some successful bidders for street work had seemed to think they owned the town after being awarded a contract, and that they could prolong the work indefinitely. But this time, as far as he was concerned, it would have to be a mighty good reason, which would cause him to vote any extension to the time set for the completion of a contract.

Several other matters of street work were given attention. The first was the establishing of the grades on Holly, Spring and Bush streets; and on Wednesday night the council instructed the engineer to prepare plans, specifications and estimates for the improvement with plank of Holly street from Smith to Bush and thence east on Bush street 83 feet.

The council also established the grade on Third street between Taylor and Moulton streets and gave notice of their intention to establish the grades of streets on Sherwood Heights. The streets up there had been surrendered by the county court to the city on Monday and the council that evening adopted an ordinance accepting them. The engineer was also instructed to prepare plans, specifications and estimates for an appropriate improvement up there, conforming to the wishes of the property owners.

First Skirmish Fought
The first round in the \$19,000 suit of former Governor Oswald West against Coos county as commission on the half a million Southern Oregon taxes paid from the United States treasury, was fought here Tuesday in the district court, when the motion to require the governor to elect whether he would stand on an express contract or an implied one was argued by County Attorney Ben Fisher for the state and the plaintiff's attorney. It was not decided, however, Judge Coke wishing to take time to consider the points raised. The indications are that this will be a long arduous case, in which every inch of ground will be contested.

The Portland night train from Coos Bay is to be restored June 1, for three-days-a-week service.

Business Men's Association Held Successful Meeting Here Last Night

The annual meeting and banquet of the Coos & Curry Business Men's Association held in the Coquille Club rooms last night was a splendid success from the opening strains of the orchestra to the final talk by Tom T. Bennett, not the least feature being the very appetizing and satisfying dinner served by the Episcopal Ladies' Guild.

Upwards of a hundred were present from the Bay, fifteen or twenty of them being ladies, while of the forty or fifty Coquille citizens about a dozen were ladies. Plates were laid for 140 and every seat was occupied.

When the doors were thrown open to the banquet hall everyone was ready to do justice to the spread. The menu consisted of:

Oyster Cocktail Loganberry Juice
Salad and Wafers
Chicken in patties Mashed Potatoes
Rolls and Jelly
Pumpkin Pie and whipped cream
Coffee, crackers and cheese

During the intermission between courses the banqueters were entertained with vocal solos by little Geraldine Lloyd, Miss Clara Myren and Mrs. Guy C. Noble, with Mrs. L. L. Thomas at the piano. All were required to respond to hearty encores and they graciously responded.

After the serving of the last course, (and right here it should be added that the ladies made a fine record for themselves in point of serving), Mr. Carl Evertsen, president of the association, introduced Jno. C. Kendall as toastmaster. The latter, in his usual felicitous manner, filled that position with honor to himself and kept the talk going with many humorous quips and sallies as well as interesting introductions.

A. J. Sherwood was called upon to give the ball rolling. He said that this was the first time he had been invited to attend the Business Men's meetings and had asked, when invited, what was the purpose of the banquet. He was told that it was the custom of the association to get together at regular intervals to discuss the credit reliability of all Coos county citizens, and also to establish closer relations between the business men of the banquet. This banquet he learned was to establish closer relationship between the Association and their intelligent debtors; and a show of hands proved that about half the crowd belonged in the latter class, as they were not in the association.

Mr. Sherwood had asked Mr. Seaman, secretary, why the association came to Coquille for their banquet and was informed that the Bay members wanted some excuse to give their wives, so as to be able to go home past Delmar after dark. It required no diagram to tell the crowd what he meant.

Col. J. W. Hughes, of Washington county, when called upon, referred to a remark by Mr. Sherwood that in all his years of selling purebred cattle at auction, he had never had a failure until yesterday, by stating that the local attorney called it a failure because he had failed to sell the latter's purebred Jersey herd of one cow. The colonel also said that in all his years of travel up and down the coast states he had never before visited a county where there seemed to be better spirit of co-operation between the various towns than in Coos.

M. C. Maloney in the course of his address on "Closer Co-operation between Coos Bay and the Coquille Valley," elicited a hearty laugh when he stated that he had for months been trying to convince Tom Bennett that co-operation should be the big ideal in business while Tom insisted that competition was the life of trade.

Wm. Arthur made an interesting talk on "Patronizing Home Industry," and Jas. E. Montgomery talked on taxes, boosted good roads and the bond election to be held next month.

L. L. Thomas made a lengthy talk of great interest to the members of the association, outlining the plans and aims of the State Association of Retail Dealers, in which they hoped soon to combine all the state organizations of different mercantile lines. Tom T. Bennett, Coos county representative in the legislature, closed the evening's talk-fest.

Altogether it was one of the most successful meetings ever held by the association.

Calling Cards, 100 for \$1.50.

Is This Course Wanted?

There is just one chance left for Coquille to add the agricultural course to our high school curriculum in co-operation with the state and federal governments. Under the provisions of the law there are eight or nine schools in the state where half the salary of the teacher is paid by the two co-operating departments and all but one have been chosen. The salary is \$1800, which would make the expense to District No. 8, \$900.

To this must be added \$300 or \$400 for equipment. The directors have not felt like adding this amount to the budget this year but have decided to submit the matter to an informal vote of the citizens at the annual school meeting next month, and it is hoped the matter will be thoroughly discussed before that time, so that the voters may know what they want to do.

An agricultural course of the kind proposed in the local high school would be a good thing if sufficient pupils would take an interest in it, and it did not interfere with the establishment of a manual training course next year.

PROCLAIMS HOLIDAY

Remembering the heroes of the sixties, who for four long years faced death in so many forms and breathed shot and shell that the nation might be preserved and the nation still live, of whom so few yet remain among us; and remembering also the gallant sacrifices of the soldiers and sailors of the Spanish-American war and the world war, in which four millions of our countrymen were called to arms and tens of thousands made the supreme sacrifice, it is proper and fitting that all our citizens should turn aside from their usual vocations and devote a day to revering the memory of all these heroes, and attesting our affection and reverence for them and the work they did by recalling what the living have done and strewing the graves of those who have gone before with flowers.

Now therefore, I, V. L. Hamilton, Mayor of the City of Coquille, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby declare Monday, May 30th, known as Decoration Day, a public holiday on which all of our citizens are requested to refrain from their usual vocations and join with one accord in the commemoration exercises of the day.

V. L. Hamilton, Mayor.

Ball Season Opens June 5

The baseball season will open in Coquille on Sunday, June 5, with Myrtle Point as the opposing team. The same day Marshfield will play in North Bend with the club there. The schedule calls for a game each Sunday, each team having eight home games and eight visiting games.

A letter received by E. H. Creagor yesterday from Spike Leslie conveys the information that he expects to be in Coquille this summer and would like to play ball on the side. He will also bring two good players with him if they can all secure good jobs for the summer. One of them is a pitcher and the other an outfielder and both are strong with the stick.

Coquille is getting a strong team lined up and if the rains will only stop for a season so that the boys can get a little practice we will have a team here to be proud of.

Memorial Services May 29th

The Memorial services will be held at the Liberty Theatre May 29th at 11 o'clock a. m. Rex Dallas, the Christian minister, will preach the sermon. All churches are requested to suspend their morning service and join in honoring the memory of those brave men who gave their lives that our union might live. The American Legion is requested to join the G. A. R. and W. R. C. at the W. O. W. hall at 10:45 and march to the Liberty Theatre. Abbie M. Kelley, Press Correspondent.

Begin to Cut Over Soon

Earl W. Gates, of the telephone company, tells us that the installing of the new plant in the office building northeast of the Sentinel office is nearly completed, and that they expect to make the cut over a week from tomorrow night. Three crews of two men each will then start on the installation of the new telephone instruments, which it may take ten days to complete.

Send the Sentinel to eastern friends.

BONDS OPPOSED

The McKinley Grange Passes Resolution Condemning The Proposition

It seems a little strange to find in this issue of the Sentinel the McKinley Grange P. of H. resolving to oppose the proposed \$300,000 road bond issue on the ground that the people of McKinley are not getting anything for roads, and then turn to the McKinley notes in another column and find that the first item reads as follows:

Fred Maat had business in Coquille. He made his first trip home by the Norway and Lee road. The road crew is at work up as far as Lee and the road is in fairly good condition as far through as McKinley.

And then to turn to Judge Wade's summary of road projects on which the county is at work now, and find this:

The market road from Norway to McKinley is under way with approximately \$16,000 special tax money now on hand to add to the available market road funds.

That much for the claim that McKinley's needs in the way of roads are being neglected.

Now as to that \$300,000 bond issue. The State Highway commission has decided upon the road from Roseburg through Camas Valley and down the Coquille Valley to Bandon and thence to the California line, as the next great state road to be built, now that the Pacific and Columbia highways are practically completed. As it stands now the commission promises to spend \$500,000 more on that road if the county will raise \$300,000 for it, giving the county credit for the work it has already done. This is an exceptionally liberal offer, and it seems as if every man, who wants to see good roads in his county, should be heartily in favor of meeting the state commission's terms. If we are so short-sighted as to turn this offer down, such action might cost Coos county half a million dollars, for if we do not do our part to help the state build it, they will probably quit in disgust and spend the state money elsewhere. And remember that we are contributing to hat state fund whether it is to be spent here or on the road from the Dalles to Klamath Falls.

As to people who do not pay taxes having a voice in a bond election, that's the law, and no resolutions will affect it any way.

We hope our McKinley friends will let see the light and be willing to do for others as well as for others to do for them. The only way to get anywhere in this world is by helping each other.

Bridge Work Started

Under the supervision of Engineer Archibald the preparations for the construction of the river bridge here have been going forward the past week. The ferry slip on this side of the river has been moved about twenty feet east of its former location, but that on the other side is unchanged as the new structure will be just below it over there.

The dredging of sand with a steam shovel where the piles are to be driven has been going on this week on the opposite bank and the pile driver and piling are at hand for that part of the work. Mr. Archibald does not expect the bridge to be finished much before the first of the year.

Jno. Galli Released

John Galli, the moonshiner, from the Bay, who was doing time in jail here at the time of the highway celebration, and who was given his liberty during the parade to appear in the float representing a moonshine outfit, making the exhibit so much truer to life than it would otherwise have been, was released from jail on the expiration of his sentence on the following Friday.

To Build Another Residence

Henry Sengstacken has sold a lot in the Park block to G. F. Burr, who will build a residence there. He has rented it in advance of building for three years at \$20 a month. Coquille is going to see more building this year than it has in any three years during the past seven.