

The Coquille Valley Sentinel

Oregon Historical Society X Auditorium

THE PAPER THAT'S LIKE A LETTER FROM HOME

VOL. XIX. NO. 31.

COQUILLE, COOS COUNTY, OREGON. FRIDAY, AUGUST 18, 1922.

\$2.00 THE YEAR.

PAULSON DID IT

Ole Paulson Confesses That He Fired the Dance Hall July 16

The question as to who set fire to the Paulson dance hall at Coaledo on the 16th of July has been settled. Yesterday afternoon Ole Paulson walked into the sheriff's office and stated that he did it himself. Asked why, by Deputy Sheriff Malehorn, he stated that he was afraid some one else might be accused of the act, and tried for it, and he didn't want any one else to suffer for his sins.

The confession came as a distinct shock to Malehorn and, as soon as it became noised about the streets, to all his friends and acquaintances, who cannot understand why he did it, or having done it, why he confessed.

Yesterday morning Paulson walked back and forth around the court house and after dinner went down to C. R. Barrow's office and told the latter what he wanted to do. The attorney went with him and told Deputy Archie Walker that Ole had something he wanted to tell.

Mr. Malehorn and the three went into the sheriff's private office where Paulson's first words were, "I'm the man you're looking for." Asked what he meant, he stated that he burned his dance hall. "Did you collect the insurance?" "No, and I don't want it, I'm broke and I want to get through with this as soon as I can."

He then went on and told how he had set the fire and all details in connection with it. Mr. Malehorn immediately telephoned to District Attorney Ben Fished to come over from the Bay and get his statement, which the latter did and Paulson signed it.

Mr. Fisher having taken the manuscript back with him to Marshfield, the Sentinel cannot give a verbatim report, but the following is the substance of what the confession stated.

After being sworn he told how he had started construction of the hall at Coaledo on the 13th of last February; that he had spent \$5,500 in cash, besides his own labor in its construction. That he had taken out \$2000 in insurance with Bert Folson, another \$2,000 with Ned C. Kelley and upon the latter's frequent suggestions he had taken out another \$2,000 policy, making \$6,000 in all.

That when he found the sheriff was not going to give him police protection it made him so mad and sore that he decided to burn the hall.

When the Dokkies gave their bail there on the evening of July 12 he told them they would have to furnish their own protection, and he was then figuring on burning it.

On Saturday afternoon, July 15, he went to Marshfield and ordered some dance posters for the following Saturday night (which he has never taken from the Gasoot office) and some other things and returned to Coaledo that evening.

Sunday noon he went into the toilet in the men's dressing room, spilled oil and excelsior all over the floor, set three candles in the middle of the mess, lighted them and started for Coquille where he attended the ball game and was sound asleep at the home of his sister, Mrs. Hans Gisholt, when his brother, John, telephoned that the dance hall was on fire. This was between 10:30 and 11 o'clock. What kind of candles they were that would last ten hours before burning down Mr. Paulson did not state.

As soon as he had made his first confession Malehorn locked Ole up in jail and he is still there. This morning he was asked if he wanted his brother to arrange for bail before the latter went on a hunting trip, "No, it will be time enough when he comes back," was the reply. He expressed the greatest relief at getting the load he had been carrying off his mind, so that he could quit lying, he said. He felt easier yesterday afternoon than he had at any time since the fire.

He apparently had been thinking that Malehorn was suspicious of him for about a week after the fire two fire marshals quizzed him for over two hours in the sheriff's office and Malehorn is convinced now that if they had asked him if he set it he would have confessed then. But their investigation as to his reputation and standing in the community resulted in such favorable replies from all sources that they did not even hint that Paulson might have done it himself. Ever since that time, however,

he had been ill at ease when in the presence of Mr. Malehorn and evidently thought suspicion was directed his way, and his mind had become so depressed that he could bear the load no longer.

Beside the fact that he was prieved because Sheriff Ellingsen could not give him police protection, there was also the fear, continually thrown up to him, that he had a white elephant on his hands which would never pay out and he probably thought the \$6,000 insurance would be better than nothing. But aside from making the application necessary to collect the insurance he had done nothing towards hurrying its payment.

The suggestion that he might be a little off is pooh-poohed by Malehorn and Walker who say that he thinks as straight and clearly as ever and that the secret of his guilt was more than he could bear alone.

The penalty for incendiarism, even though it is one's own building, is from three to five years in the penitentiary for a fire in the day time, and from five to ten years at night.

The case cannot be presented to the grand jury until the third Monday in October, but Paulson has waived a hearing by his confession, and can be released on bonds whenever the request is made.

TRYING TO COLLECT \$2250

Last Saturday Deputy Sheriff Malehorn went up to Myrtle Point and arrested Chas. Hulet, who had been working there for a short time. The warrant for his arrest was issued in Lewis county, Wash., and the charge was grand larceny.

Tuesday evening Sheriff J. M. Roberts and Attorney Thacker came down here in their car to get Hulet but as they failed to bring extradition papers and be objected to going without such a requisition they had to leave yesterday without him.

Some time ago Hulet's wife secured a divorce and the lower court's order was that Hulet pay over one-half of the \$4500 he had in cash to his former wife, and also gave her a valuable property in Bellingham. Hulet's attorney appealed to the Supreme court and while the case was pending there Hulet took his \$4500, cached it somewhere and came down to Coos county.

As soon as the Washington Supreme court ruled on the appeal, which only differed from the lower court's decision as to the Bellingham property, word was sent to the sheriff's office here to arrest and hold the man.

It is supposed that the Washington sheriff and Mr. Thacker, who is the ex-wife's attorney, thought they could induce Hulet to give them the \$2250, but he stood pat and refused and they had to go home without him.

Hulet has secured Kendall as an attorney and is expecting to be released on habeas corpus proceedings in a day or so.

Run Over by Traffic Officer

Homer Holverstott had a narrow escape Saturday night when a car, driven by Traffic Officer Williams, hit him and knocked him down. Mr. Holverstott was crossing from the meat market to the hospital corner on Front street and as the car swung around the corner he thought he had time to get out of the way, but Williams swung in close to the curb and hit him before he could jump. Whether the car ran over him or not Mr. Holverstott doesn't know, but he was badly shaken up and bruised and has had to use a cane since. Mr. Williams says he didn't see Mr. Holverstott until his car struck him and didn't know there was anyone in the street. That always has been a dark corner there.

Roseburg Road in Better Shape

George Bryant, manager of the Coast Auto Lines, says the Roseburg road is in so much better condition now than earlier in the season that it has been possible to reduce the time of the stages, and that the bus leaving Roseburg at seven in the morning reaches Coquille at eleven and Marshfield at twelve.

Sheriff Nelson of Clatsop county was recalled Friday last and H. J. Slusher was elected to that office by a majority of about 400. Nelson was accused only of drunkenness, neglect of duty, disorderly conduct and inefficiency.

MINING ON SIXES IN COUNTY COURT

Channel Operations on South Fork Canyon Begun Recently

J. C. Savage returned Wednesday from a two weeks' visit at the Inman Mines in the Sixes River in Curry county and is very enthusiastic over the work done by that company and their prospects for big returns in the near future.

After several months' preparation the company began actual mining operations in the canyon of the South Fork just before Mr. Savage left for home, so he has as yet no idea of the measure of success of the present operations.

The preparations for the South Fork work consisted of the construction of a four foot by four foot flume four hundred feet long in bed rock and the equipment of this flume with every known device for the saving of placer gold, both coarse and fine. The foundation for the flume is blasted out of solid bed rock for over 250 feet of this distance, and the flume is anchored to bed rock with tie rods every four feet on both sides. In addition to these tie rods it will be further anchored with rock at both sides to the full height of the flume and Mr. Inman, head of the company, says no force save an earthquake can ever shift it an inch.

To handle the vast quantity of large bowlders in the canyon the company has installed an air compressor to operate power drills for blasting and flushing dams; and hydraulic giants will drive the broken rock and gold bearing gravel through the flume. Work has not yet progressed sufficiently to form an estimate of the yardage that can be handled daily, but a double shift is being operated and a heavy yardage will be handled every sixteen hours.

Placer mining on the Sixes has been conducted for many years, the first work being done in "the days of '49," with varying degrees of success, but this is the first organized effort ever made to mine the canyon itself, previous efforts having been directed toward mining the high bars, both above and below the canyon proper. This canyon extends over five miles and is virgin channel gravel, sufficient to keep the company busy for many years. Its richness is unquestioned, the canyon having been prospected throughout its length many times.

History records put one previous effort to mine the channel gravel in the South Fork, Searies and Thompson having tried pitting on one of the claims now owned by Mr. Savage, many years ago. Those gentlemen sank a pit or shaft in the bed of the stream to a depth of over 20 feet, but were unable to reach bed rock, so were compelled to abandon the project after spending several thousand dollars.

Mr. Savage states that the company is very optimistic over the outlook and expects favorable reports from the operations in the near future.

Glad the Recount Was Made

While so little was found to justify a recount on the republican vote for governor in the state primary, the Sentinel is glad it was demanded. Had it not been, a very large percentage of the people of the state would always have believed that Ben W. Olcott was not the choice of the voters and that illegal means had been used to give him a majority. As it is now everyone must be satisfied that the election, except in one Portland precinct, as far as the recount went, was free from fraud or glaring irregularities. Singularly enough the beneficiary of the frauds in that lone precinct was Mr. Hall and not Mr. Olcott.

Why Not a Coos Co. Band?

An item elsewhere published states that a Roseburg band is to receive \$900 for three days' concerts at the Myrtle Point fair next month. Why such discrimination against home industry? Coos county certainly has as good musicians as Douglas and when anything is going on at the bay they don't find it necessary to import players.

Dean & Brown, of Marshfield, who have a contract for street work at Myrtle Point, will get their gravel from the Dement bar a mile and half below that city.

Rights of Way on Bandon Highway Being Arranged For-- Other Business

The county court was in session here last Wednesday with all three members present. Considerable business was disposed of before they finally adjourned, not intending to meet again this month.

The bonds of D. P. Strang, of Coquille, and T. M. Hermann, of Myrtle Point, in the sum of \$500 each, as trustees for handling and dispensing the sums paid monthly for the relief of indigent soldiers in their respective G. A. R. posts were approved.

On recommendation of Sheriff Ellingsen and District Attorney Fisher, the sheriff's office was authorized to employ a deputy sheriff for one month at a salary of \$150 to collect delinquent taxes, of which a great many appear on the tax collection records.

A resolution was adopted addressed to the United States engineer for the district of Oregon, requesting that the Southern Pacific crossing over Beaver Slough be removed, modified or in some way adjusted so that the use of the slough as a waterway to its head at or near Coaledo would not be interfered with.

The district attorney and associates were instructed to give legal notice of appeal from the decision of the circuit court in the case of Oswald West vs. Coos county, in which the former was awarded a \$19,645 fee for assisting in securing the payment of the Southern Oregon Coos Bay Wagon Road land grant taxes by the government in the sum of nearly half a million dollars.

Rights of way damages on the Bear Creek to Lampa creek section of the Coquille-Bandon highway were allowed as follows:

Bartol Domenighini, for one-half acre, \$100 and \$113.25 for building 151 rods of fence at 75c a rod.

Jas. T. Jenkins, \$305; the county either to build 65 rods of fence or pay him 75c a rod for doing it.

No agreement could be made with D. P. Jenkins, who owns a ranch through which the new highway from Bandon to Bear creek will pass for a mile or more. The court offered him \$250 an acre for 3.02 acres of bottom land and \$5 an acre for 6.75 acres of hill land, a total of \$788.75. The county also offered to buy the merchantable timber on the right of way desired at mill scale and current stumpage price. Also to build the fences along the right of way or pay him 75c a rod for doing it.

In conversation with a Sentinel representative Tuesday Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins stated that their offer to the court was that the county give them about 8 acres of land, near to or adjoining their ranch, as good as what was desired for the highway, or that the county pay them the assessed value of their stump land, clear an 8 acre tract and put it in as good condition as is the part needed for the highway.

Inasmuch as the new highway will put them right on the state road, so that they will not have to pass over their neighbor's land, as at present, to get to the Bandon road, and considering that the county's offer was fair, the county court refused to accept Mr. Jenkins' offer and have passed the matter up to the highway commission which will start condemnation proceedings.

The roadmaster was instructed to prepare plans and specifications for the grading of 2250 feet on the Myrtle Point-Lampa Creek Market road from the end of Peart Bros. contract. It also called for bids for the grading and graveling of a mile of the Norway-McKinley Market road, between the foot of the hill at the Clark place and the Pinkston place. Bids for both jobs will be opened Sept. 6.

The county refused the application of the city of Eastside for a loan of county funds. A meeting of the taxpayers in Road District 3, to be held at the Larson Slough school house Sept. 2, was called by the court. The purpose of the meeting is to decide whether the \$1139.80 special tax voted last year shall be expended on the main road, as was the intention when it was voted, or shall be used in helping pay the cost of the construction of the new Larson Slough bridge, as a majority of the residents in that district now appear to desire.

Several logging and trucking permits were authorized. Dennis Mc-

Carthy was given a ten day permit to transport a donkey engine from Coquille to Fairview. T. M. Devereux, J. C. Hess and Ervin Shreder were granted permits on the Two Mile Road, Part Peterson on one-half mile or road north of Upper North Inlet Landing, and Clare Dement on the Catching creek road. A \$500 bond was required in each case for placing the road in as good condition as it was found.

L. G. Masters, as secretary of the Sumner Hall Co., was given a license to conduct a dance hall at Sumner, having 1800 square feet of floor space.

Hunters to Take Radio Outfit

Ira Johnson, of this city, left yesterday for the Rogue river section of Curry county with a party of hunters from Portland. They have one of the most novel hunting camps ever established in an Oregon wilderness, as one member of the party brought in a small radio receiving outfit, which will be attached to a tall tree and each evening when they gather 'round the camp fire instead of telling huntin' stories they will listen to musical concerts from the big cities.

HER FEET ARE STRAIGHTENED

Joe Albini, of Sitkum, was certainly a happy man, when he called at the Sentinel office Monday afternoon on his way home from North Bend. He had with him in his car his little daughter, Emma, eleven years of age, who had been under treatment by the Doctors Keizer at North Bend for the past two months. She suffered from a congenital deformity, both her feet being doubled under backward and wrong side up, and had never walked a step when he took her there. In a month her feet had been restored to their natural position and she was walking around barefooted and going up and down stairs. Hundreds of people in this valley knew the Albini family and know how apparently hopeless a cripple Emma had been all her life. She knew no more about walking than an infant after her feet had been straightened out, and now that she had been fitted with her first pair of shoes she was fitted with braces to support her limbs until they grow stronger. Her father, who is very hearty in his praise of the work done by Doctors Keizer, says that her feet were made of use without any cutting except a slight incision, not more than half an inch long. What has been done in this case seems not only marvelous but almost miraculous. For a girl, who had never taken a step and had only moved by shuffling about, lying on the floor, to be able to walk upright, is the greatest possible blessing that could have been bestowed. Her father had even considered having both her feet amputated and then having her fitted with artificial feet; but what has been done for her is a thousand times better than that.

State Pamphlet Out

The state pamphlet containing the text of the constitutional amendments and measures to be submitted to the voters at the November election has been received by the Coquille people. There are nine of them, three of which, at least, are of very great importance. We refer to the two income tax measures, one an amendment and the other a bill; also to the compulsory education bill which would abolish all private schools for pupils in the grades below high school. The arguments on this measure cover ten pages of the pamphlet, one in the affirmative and nine in the negative. Our old friend Single Tax also bobs up for another drubbing.

Coquille at the Bay Sunday

The baseball games next Sunday will be at the Bay and at Bandon, North Bend playing at the mouth of the Coquille river, while Marshfield entertains the Coquille team at the Bay. Coquille has won three out of four from Bandon, which should, on the dope, enable them to win both of the remaining games on the schedule from Marshfield.

Heavy rains in spots (two inches down in Curry county) all over Oregon last week. We are still waiting our turn.

Calling Cards, 100 for \$1.50.

BUILD CONCRETE

Arthur Ellingson to Start Construction Soon of Modern Structure

Arthur Ellingson last Monday began tearing down and burning the old frame building just north of the Farmers & Merchants Bank building and Tuesday O. C. Harry began excavating for the basement and foundation of the concrete structure. Mr. Ellingson is planning to build there. The new building will have a frontage on both Front and Taylor streets, east and north of the bank. It is probable that the Coquille Hardware Co. and Hudson's Drug Store will have quarters on the ground floor of the new structure and that Dr. G. E. Low will have a suite of rooms on the second floor.

Mr. Ellingson having gone to Curry county on a hunting trip, it was impossible to ascertain just when building operations will begin.

When the demolition of the frame building began one old resident told Mr. Ellingson that he had a lot of money invested in it which he would like to get out before the building was destroyed. This old landmark was formerly occupied by a saloon when it was situated where the F. & M. bank now stands, and had more recently been occupied by Henry Sengstacken's abstract office.

Days of 1872-50 Years Ago

The various committees of Coquille's Golden Jubilee to be celebrated August 30th are so busy making preparation and arrangements for one grand and glorious day of happiness and fun and one to be remembered for years to come that they will not take time to tell the publicity committee anything.

But we can assure you that nothing is going to be overlooked or neglected to make you glad you came. There will be a basket lunch in the Myrtle Grove at noon. Coffee, sugar and cream will be furnished free.

There is going to be a genuine old time dance in Goulds' Hall in the evening. Come and dance to "Turkey in the Straw." There will be a street lance for the young folks where those that have become too modernized to dance to "Turkey in the Straw" can step the light fantastic to the very latest of jazz.

Gather with us around the big campfire in the evening.

This is going to be the day of "Auld Lang Syne" when old acquaintances will meet and experience of long ago will be lived again.

Come, come, come all. We are trying to get invitations to every pioneer in the county but if you know of anyone not receiving an invitation take this as authority to invite them. Committee.

Bridge Open to Traffic

The bridge across the river here is twinging freely and easily under the power of the Ford engine now, and Engineer Archibald says he expects to open it to travel this week, probably today. The bridge crew yesterday were cleaning the debris off the deck, getting the few remaining timbers on the approaches in place and putting on the last touches. Only half of the earth fill has been put in place at this end of the approach, but as soon as the ferry is discarded that will be finished. A few cars were permitted to cross yesterday afternoon.

Everything in connection with the operating machinery is working smoothly and Mr. Archibald expects to be able to turn it over to the regular operator in a few days. The latter has not, however been appointed by the county court as yet.

"Slippery Gulch" a Success

"Slippery Gulch" in the days of '49 was a very successful presentation of the olden days here last week—at least it resulted in enough funds being secured to pay off the note held for last year's baseball deficiency and add a small amount to the club's treasury. The receipts were \$538.20 and the expenses \$192.50.

Picnic to Be Held in Coquille

The Jersey breeders jubilee next Sunday will be held in the Myrtle Wood Grove at Coquille at 11 a. m. instead of at the J. N. Jacobsen place as heretofore announced, owing to the bad condition of the Rink Creek grove.