

# The Coquille Valley Sentinel

THE PAPER THAT'S LIKE A LETTER FROM HOME

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## OUR ALASKA TRIP

### We Reach Fairbanks But Find No Night There—Meet Old Prospector

Whether Fairbanks, Alaska, is the northernmost town in the world having anywhere near a thousand inhabitants we can't say. There are small towns in Sweden, Norway and Finland that are nearer the Arctic circle than the 200 miles we were distant from it there, but of their present size we are not informed. The famous mining camp at Dawson, a little east of the international line in the British Yukon territory used to be a very much larger place, but it is not quite as far north as Fairbanks and is now very much smaller than it was in the closing years of the last century.

And this reminds us that we met at Fairbanks one of the Alaska soundings, W. D. McLaughlin, who had just come in from across the country to the east. He was at Dawson in 1896 among the first to arrive on the great discovery of gold there, getting there two years before the big rush from the states in 1898, of which we heard so much, when Dawson had 10,000 population. He was not the first to stake a claim there, but so near the first that he got one of the best claims and made a great strike. If he had been satisfied to quit at that he might have come back to the states with a fortune; but who is satisfied to quit, after he has struck it rich in the mining business, or any other?

So when the beach sands at Nome were found to be rich in gold, he went there and tried his luck again—this time not so happily. He struck it rich enough, but in a little while his claim was tied up in litigation of which he did not see the end. So he lost all he had invested in this second venture, but still had some of his Dawson savings thrifly invested in government bonds.

McLaughlin was the most interesting character we met in Alaska and we had an opportunity during the second day we spent in Fairbanks to see him washing a pan of gold sands in one of the few mines now being worked there.

It is located nine miles north of Fairbanks on Gold Stream. McLaughlin had worked there years before, when gold was more abundant than it is now, for in the days when Fairbanks was young \$140,000 in gold was taken from the sands of this creek and the claim was afterwards sold for \$60,000. Now there is nothing left but tailings, yet the boys who are working it now have been getting 25 cents a cubic yard by hydraulicing and if they are lucky will probably secure over a dollar a yard when they get down to bed rock.

The process of saving what is left in these formerly rich diggings is interesting. A flume perhaps half a mile in length brings water to wash the gold bearing sands which are scraped up a ton or more at a time and emptied into the tail race, where the water the flume brings is turned on to wash the earth away. Bed rock had not yet been reached, but the soil that was being removed to get down to it carried enough gold to be worth working, so we saw the same thing being done over again here as was tried in the California mining section after the first comers had got the cream of the deposits. But the tailings there on Gold Stream were deemed worth washing and so we had an opportunity to see the work in progress.

This was on the afternoon of our second day in Fairbanks. Our first was the Fourth of July and we have preserved the program for that day, though it was nothing like the celebration it would have been if President Harding had not been due the next week, and that was expected to be the biggest event ever in Fairbanks.

On the morning of the Fourth, starting at the south end of the bridge we walked the length of the main street of this city of the far north, seeing most of the business blocks and later the residences—mostly log houses. When we had reached the last of the houses at the end of this city street we paused for a hasty glimpse around and retraced our steps; what we failed to note here owing to an intervening row of trees diagonally across the street from where we stood, was in many respects the most interesting enterprise in the city. Here was a

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## Highway Engineer Here

Roy Klein, state highway engineer was in Coquille Wednesday. He drove in from Portland, the object of visit primarily being to get first hand information as to the explosion on Camas mountain last Saturday, which wrecked Contractor Stone's plant and will delay the rocking of the grade on the mountain for a month or six weeks. The rock crusher was a complete wreck, four pigs and a lot of chickens were killed, a small house nearly demolished, and huge boulders were hurled as far as 600 feet.

Mr. Klein confirmed the report published last week that the gravelling of the Coquille-Bandon section of the Roosevelt Highway will proceed just as rapidly as the graders get out of the way. This road is considered one of the most important now being improved by the state and everything possible is being done to hasten it.

## Memorial Service

In response to the proclamation of President Coolidge, the Christian Science Society of Coquille will hold a memorial service as a tribute to the late President Harding at eleven o'clock Friday morning.

## COMMITTEE ASKS OPTIONS

The Community Building committee which met last Friday evening in the City Hall devoted its entire discussion at that time to the question of sites, it being agreed that some definite site must be determined on before stock subscriptions are solicited.

All available locations for such a building as the one contemplated were canvassed, and it was decided that blank options for 60 days should be sent out to all the property owners, but this does not prohibit anyone else who has a site they consider suitable from submitting a proposal before the next meeting of the committee which will be this (Friday) evening.

Those to whom blank options were sent are the following:

D. C. Krantz—for his 50x150 lot, known as the old J. J. Lamb lot.

J. S. Lyons—100x200 feet, southwest of the Masonic Temple.

M. H. Hersey—42x100 feet on the south side of Second street.

Geo. O. Leach—50x120 feet, on the north side of Second.

Mrs. Sarah Wickham—50x112 feet, alongside the Leach lot.

Chadwick Lodge A. F. & A. M.—50x112 feet, adjoining Mrs. Wickham's lot on Second.

Myron H. Wickham—100x100 feet, just north of the Sentinel office.

An offer had already been made by Geo. A. Robinson for his 100x100 tract at the corner of Second and Hall streets. His price is \$2,000 plus the street improvement assessments standing against it.

## Baseball at Bay Sunday

The first post season baseball game, between Marshfield and Bandon, winners of the first and second half of the season respectively, will be played next Sunday, Aug. 12, at North Bend, the game starting at 2 o'clock. The second game will be played at Bandon on the 19th, and should a third be necessary it will be played on the Bay, Aug. 26. The gate receipts for each game will be split 60-40 between the winners and the losers. Two games out of three are necessary to decide the championship.

Eddie Menser will umpire the first game unassisted, and the two clubs will line up with the same players that played the last games.

## Health Ass'n Next Wednesday

Mrs. J. M. Bledse, the secretary, informs us that the next meeting of the County Health Association will be held at Coquille Wednesday, August 15 at 1:30 p. m. This is the meeting for the election of officers and other business will also need attention so that it is earnestly hoped there will be a large attendance. Those who are not members are cordially invited and urged to be present and take part in this meeting. Be there if you possibly can.

## Postoffice to Close One Hour

Postmaster J. W. Leneve has received orders to close the office this afternoon between the hours of one and two o'clock, out of respect to the late president. All postoffices in the United States are to be closed for an hour, the intent being to suspend business during the funeral services at Marion, Ohio, at three o'clock this afternoon.

## PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, The inscrutable hand of Providence has removed from this earth and the scene of his labor our much beloved and esteemed President of the United States, Warren Gamaliel Harding; and,

WHEREAS, It is eminently fitting that all loyal citizens, wheresoever they may be, should express their sorrow and regret for our great loss and their sympathy and respect for the departed as well as for his loved ones whom he leaves behind.

THEREFORE, I, S. M. Nosler, Mayor of the City of Coquille, Coos County, Oregon, do hereby proclaim and declare Friday, the tenth day of August, A. D., 1923, as a legal holiday and most urgently request that all of our citizens refrain from their usual avocations on that day and to so conduct themselves as to express a proper reverence and respect for the honored dead.

Given under my hand at the said City of Coquille, this 7th day of August, 1923.

S. M. NOSLER,  
Mayor.

The City Council has arranged for a memorial service to be held in the M. E. Church South at 10 A. M., Friday, August 10, which all citizens are urged to attend.

## Coquille's First School Building.



For the above picture we are indebted to George T. Moulton, who had it made from a photograph he has of Coquille's first school house, which used to stand where the First National Bank building now does. The people now living in Coquille who attended school at this building when the tintype above reproduced was taken in 1876, or forty-seven years ago, are Geo. T. Moulton, Mrs. James T. Nosler, Mrs. Charles Watson and Mrs. T. A. Walker. Perhaps some of our readers can pick them out in the group shown in the picture printed herewith.

Luke D. Welford, who taught this school during the fall, winter and spring of 1875-76 and the spring of 1877, and also a three months term at or near Myrtle Point in 1876, moved away from Coos county in the summer of 1877 and did not revisit this city until June of the present year. He was born at Silverton, Oregon, in 1857 and moved to Colfax, Washington, in 1872. In the spring of 1875 he drove a team for Captain James M. Nosler from Colfax to The Dalles. Thence he went on down to Portland by river steamer. From that city he came by team up through the Willamette valley as far as Oakland. From there he came on down here over the coast ranges on the Coos Bay wagon road, switching off on a by-road down Cunningham valley to Coquille City, as it was then called.

He left Coos county in the summer of 1877 and did not return again until his recent visit two months ago. He has been a resident of Portland for the past sixteen years.

## Real Summer Weather

This week has given us real summer weather here in Coquille and the usual sea breeze of the dog days haven't been so much in evidence as they usually are at this time. Even at Bandon they tell us the usual stiff summer breezes are striking very softly and the summer afternoons lately have been ideal. The writer remembers well his first visit to Newport on a Sunday afternoon some eleven years ago, and how disappointed he was that he had hit upon a day when the beach was nearly deserted, owing to the stiff north-easterly gale prevailing. We thought we were out of luck to hit on such a day for our trip but later learned that these summer trade winds were the rule on this coast. Indeed, we remember that the finest day and the biggest beach crowd we ever saw at Bandon was found there in March.

## Death of W. B. Phelps

Our old friend, W. B. Phelps, who had been ill here for some time, passed away last Friday at the age of 77 years, 3 months and 14 days. His funeral services were held at the Christian church Sunday afternoon and the interment was in the Odd Fellows cemetery. He lived a varied life and was well known in many cities in which he had lived in this and neighboring states; but having left no near relatives here, it has been impossible for us to secure the materials for such a biographical sketch as we should have been glad to publish.

The Laird building, across the street from the postoffice is receiving a cement plastering over the west wall to prevent the rain from soaking through the brick. Heretofore it has never been possible to keep the inside of the building dry.

## Preparing for State Fair

Upon request of the Coos County State Fair Exhibit Association, J. L. Smith has been named by the county court to collect and display Coos county products at the state fair the latter part of September. Mr. Smith would appreciate information as to where good exhibits of grain, grasses and fruits may be found.

He plans this year to make a larger display of lumber than has heretofore been made, and will, of course, take out myrtle wood, although this does not count in the scoring. His endeavor will be to put Coos at the head of the coast division, but with the system of scoring now in vogue it will be a herculean task.

Since Tillamook county last year persuaded the authorities which arrange the score card, to give them over 700 points on their cheese exhibit alone, while Coos can only score something over 400 on its dairy products, it looks like the cards were stacked to insure the northern county a perpetual claim on the blue ribbon. Judge Wade made a strong objection last year to this unjust method of scoring, but to no avail. Coos county is gyped, all right, but we are not like Tillamook, which has only one product to display.

## CITY DADS IN SESSION

At the regular meeting of the city council Monday evening, which was attended by all members, the city engineer was instructed to prepare a map showing the street number for every lot in town. Marshal Leach reported that all street signs had been placed and as soon as Mr. Vinton is prepared to tell what number should go on each building, the ordinance requiring the numbering of each house can be enforced.

Only one bid was received for fencing the Rich creek dam. M. Broad and H. Holmstrom offered to do the job for \$300, which was \$22.13 above the engineer's estimate and the council voted to award them the contract.

The engineer's final report on the Fourth and Division streets improvement showed that job to have cost \$4996.65. There were a number of extras which had to be ordered as the work progressed, which ran the total cost a few hundred dollars over the original estimate.

Water Superintendent Dungey asked the council to order larger pipe for a section of Spurgeon Hill, on Hite street, where a three-quarter inch pipe supplies a number of families. The street is to be improved at once and it was left to the water committee to determine what should be done to accommodate that section.

Marshal Leach asked the council to purchase more bituminous rock for street repair work. He also recommended that the hitching rack on Front street be moved to some vacant lot, but then council were averse to any change.

A few other minor matters were discussed but no action was taken.

## Many Dokkies to Convention

About 25 cars of Knights of Pythias will leave Sunday for the D. O. K. national convention, which will be in session in Portland next week from Monday until Friday. Four or five of these cars will be from Coquille, S. A. Malehorn says, the rest being from Marshfield, North Bend, Bandon and Myrtle Point. At Roseburg they will be joined by the Dokkies of that section and from there to Portland it is expected the Knights will fall in line at every town so that by the time the convention city is reached there will be a caravan of several hundred cars.

## Shrine Picnic August 12

The Shrine picnic, which was to have been held last Sunday in the Maat grove at Lee was postponed until next Sunday, Aug. 12, by Dr. L. G. Johnson, president of the Shrine club, last Friday afternoon, too late for the Sentinel to give notice of the change. The postponement was on account of the death of President Harding.

## Mrs. Dunbar to Be Here Tuesday

Tuesday evening the Woman's Club will meet at the Setaspell. Let all the members come and bring any who are interested in the club. Mrs. Sadie Orr Dunbar, president of the Oregon Federation of Women's clubs, will speak.

Calling Cards, 100 for \$1.50.

## AUTO ACCIDENTS

### Leonard Hayes Found Dead Under His Ford—Truck Crowded Off Highway

A tragedy, which occurred on the highway Tuesday night will probably never be solved, although conjecture is that the victim either went to sleep for a moment, or that the fog was so thick he couldn't see where he was going.

Leonard Hayes, of North Bend, was the victim and it was not till early Wednesday morning that his lifeless body was found under his Ford by Jack Ross, who lives nearby.

The accident happened less than half a mile this side of Shingle House Slough bridge on a straight stretch of paving. The wheel marks show that the car did not skid but began to quarter across the highway and continued down over the embankment, about 70 feet from where it began to angle across.

Coroner Fred Wilson, who was immediately summoned by Mr. Ross, arrived on the scene about eight o'clock and found the body barely warm, from which fact he figured that the accident occurred some time between twelve and two o'clock.

Drivers, who travelled the highway that night, say that the fog was practically impervious to the lights of a car and it may be that young Hayes could not see where he was going, but the most likely supposition is that he dropped asleep.

Mr. Hayes, who was 25 years of age, was living with his brother-in-law, Joe Slife, at North Bend, but little seems to have been known of his whereabouts the evening before the accident, although it is stated that he brought a lady from North Bend over to the Coquille valley that night.

The car was registered in the name of L. R. and V. A. Hayes, the latter being a brother of the victim, who lives in Klamath Falls.

Max Kruger, driver of the Union Oil Co. truck, was crowded off the highway Tuesday evening by a touring car near the Taylor Dement bridge four miles this side of Bridge. The truck rolled over the river bank but Kruger escaped serious injury. As the touring car approached him Kruger saw that some one was going to be damaged and he kept crowding the river's edge closer until the bank gave away under his right wheels. As it was the touring car swiped the truck as the latter toppled over. Such reckless driving should be given the limit in the way of fines and jail sentences and the effort made to stamp out the crime of indifference to the rights of others on the road.

A sequel to the Union Oil Co. truck accident occurred Wednesday afternoon when Dick Braden was using his team to pull the truck out of the river. One of the truck drivers, hauling logs to Myrtle Point, drove so close to the team that a log brushed the whole length of one of the horses, injured its hip and one of the wheels ran over its foot.

Braden called to the driver that he had killed his horse, but the latter replied that it didn't look like a dead horse to him.

Traffic Officer went up there yesterday to investigate and a prosecution of the driver is likely to result.

Yesterday afternoon Traffic Officer Williams had the truck driver—E. Misner—before Justice Stanley on a charge of reckless driving. He pleaded guilty and was fined \$25. He was also sentenced to ten days in jail, but the sentence is to be remitted if he pays for the horse.

Misner had a load eleven feet wide on his truck, the law permitting but eight feet. He also had another man's chauffeur's license, but explained it by saying that he picked up his roommate's coat when he left Portland. He agreed not to drive further until he had secured his own tag.

## Fire at Asen's Camp

Fire broke out in the Asen camp, about a half mile from his mill near Norway, Wednesday afternoon, and while it burned rapidly it was not thought to be endangering any of the green timber, although down logs were suffering. The entire camp was turned out to fight the fire.

A number of Coquille families have been camping at Bandon the past week. Among those noted there last Sunday were the C. L. Willey, J. W. Miller and Alf Johnson families.