

The Coquille Valley Sentinel

THE PAPER THAT'S LIKE A LETTER FROM HOME

Oregon Historical Society Auditorium

VOL. XX. No. 37.

COQUILLE, COOS COUNTY, OREGON. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1923.

\$2.00 THE YEAR.

MONEY IS NEEDED

Why the County Should Vote a \$250,000 Bond Issue Set Forth

The budget committee for Coos county concluded their labors yesterday afternoon and their figures were turned over to Accountant W. H. Wann to put in proper shape. It will be some days before they are compiled and ready for publication.

Probably no budget committee has ever before had so much trouble in making the budget come within the six per cent limitation. And there is a very good reason why they could not. Delegation after delegation waited on the committee to secure an appropriation for the particular matter they were interested in—all of them needed, too, but the committee had to turn a deaf ear to them.

The fixed charges, prescribed by statute, and the administration of county affairs takes so great a percentage of the money that can be raised by taxes that there is little left for new construction work, bridges, county agent, county library, etc., etc.

In the first place the sinking fund for retiring the two road bond issues and to pay the bond interest has to be met every year, and this is now running over \$100,000 a year, and considerably over \$200,000 has been paid on these bonds in two years.

Also the general road fund was overdrawn \$23,000 the first of this year and the market road fund was overdrawn. All this leads the county court and the citizens' committee to the inevitable conclusion that unless another bond issue can be voted all road improvement, as well as most maintenance work will have to be until the county can catch up on what is due now and will be due next year to the state on highway construction.

Judge Mast furnishes us the following as to what is necessary to raise by a bond issue if the program for new road work is to be carried on:

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Overdraft from Gen. Road fund Jan. 1 1923 | \$ 13,000 |
| Now due state on Coos Bay-Roseburg road | 27,000 |
| Balance due on Coquille-Bandon road | 84,852 |
| Balance due on mile stretch south of Myrtle Point | 45,000 |
| Eastside bridge | 75,000 |
| Total | \$244,852 |

In reference to the last item, the judge says the Eastside ferry service is inadequate and the court is being asked to establish one-half hour service from 7 a. m. until midnight, which would mean an annual operating expense of \$10,000. Both ferry boat and slips are old and will have to be replaced shortly if the ferry is continued, and the increasing traffic from Coos river and Catching Slough will further congest it at Eastside. The court believes that a bridge is the only solution and that the cost of ferry operation would, in a few years, pay for the bridge.

Of course, there will be some objection to a \$250,000 bond issue, but should one be voted now it would be but a little more than has been paid off on previous issues during the past two years, and it would enable the county to continue its road program and have some of the necessities which the court now has to turn down. It would simply amount to spreading out for a few years the retirement of the bonds voted in 1916 and 1921.

Lyceum Course Pays Cost

The High School is assured of a profit on the three-number Lyceum course they have brought to Coquille this fall, for they have about enough funds in the treasury now with two numbers yet to draw general admissions from. The entire cost of the course, theatre rent, etc., is about \$285. Somewhere between \$370 and \$380 worth of season tickets were sold, and the general admission for the first number last Friday evening was \$60.

Teachers' Reception Tonight

The reception for the teachers of the Coquille schools, to be given this evening by the ladies of the Woman's Club, will be held on the lower floor of the Masonic Temple. All patrons and friends of the school and those interested in the schools are invited to attend. A program has been prepared for the evening's entertainment and light refreshments will be served.

Progress on Hotel

The plasterers began today the work of covering the inner walls and ceilings of the new hotel. The roof has been completed and yesterday the last room in the basement was given its concrete flooring. Contractor Metzger has a crew of finishers engaged who will rush that part of the job to completion as rapidly as possible, but it will be some months yet before the building is ready for occupancy.

No lease for the hotel has yet been made with anyone, but the store rooms have all been rented. Ralph Noeler will have the barber shop alongside the hotel entrance, C. J. Fuhrman will occupy the corner room at Front and Taylor street with his pharmacy, and the Coast Auto Line will use as an office the smaller room just west of that, and next door to Geo. A. Robinson's store.

Ready Early in November

Work has been at a standstill on the new brick building being built by A. N. Gould on First street, for a week or so. The building is ready for plastering, but the workmen have not yet got around to it. Gould & Gould expect to move into it some time between the first and middle of November.

COOS WINS FIRST PRIZE

The Sentinel is in receipt of telegrams from J. L. Smith announcing that Coos county won the first prize in the coast division at the State Fair at Salem this week, with 29 points over Tillamook. Although it did not win the sweepstakes, this county was given the highest score in the state on appearance and effectiveness of exhibits.

He says that the attendance is large and that many are there from Coos county and that there is a splendid exhibit in every department from all over the state.

We are glad to note that Mr. Smith still retains his habit of bringing home the bacon when he lets himself loose. Nor should we forget his associate, E. R. Peterson, who used to be our county club leader and is now associated with Mr. Smith in the work in which they have secured new laurels for our county.

The Salem Capital Journal says of the Coos county display:

"Probably more comments have been heard concerning the Coos county booth than any other. A huge slip of myrtlewood almost completely fills the wall space, surrounded by a solid mass of cedar boughs, and two tall pillars, which are half sections of cedar trees. Cedar bark furnishes the material for the hand rail of the enclosure wall, which is constructed of red and white fir and cedar, hemlock and spruce boards. A full display of myrtlewood novelties is to be seen, as well as the various vegetables and horticultural products of the county. P. L. Smith and E. R. Peterson are in charge."

First Football Game Sixth

The first football game of the season will be played here a week from tomorrow, Oct. 6, when the Marshfield and Coquille High elevens will meet. The coaches of both teams tell of the difficulty of whipping their teams into shape, and it is a well known fact that for years Coquille has had about the lightest team in the county. But the entire squad of 25 is enthusiastic and full of pep and are working hard five afternoons of the week to perfect their playing and get going as a well-oiled machine. With the coaching they are getting they should give a good account of themselves.

Death of Mrs. Stein Danielson

Mrs. Stein Danielson, of Parkersburg, died at North Bend at the home of her granddaughter, Mrs. Stora about 3 o'clock Thursday morning. The funeral services will be held at the Undertaking parlors here tomorrow (Saturday) afternoon at 2 o'clock p. m. conducted by Rev. H. V. Moore. Mrs. Danielson's home was near Parkersburg.

The Wernich house three or four blocks north of the Sentinel office on the highway has this week been purchased by Rev. A. W. Bell, rector of the Episcopal church here, who will make his home there, removing from his Spurgeon Hill residence.

Calling Cards, 100 for \$1.50.

COQUILLE IS HOT POWER CO'S PLEA

Intermittent Service of Mt. States Power Co. Draws Much Adverse Comment

Never before have the people of Coquille been so worked up over the failure of the Mountain State Power Co. to furnish uninterrupted electrical service as they have been this week. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings the lights were like Finnegan with his report on a street car accident—"off again, on again, gone again."

The people of Coquille and the whole of Coos county have been very patient with this public service corporation but patience has ceased to be a virtue. Time after time officials of the company have promised that when an improvement was installed the service would be better, but they never seem to have caught up with the demand for juice with their equipment, and it is doubtful if the 4000 kilowatt machine now being installed will be sufficient when the entire Smith mill is operated electrically.

Local managers of the company have secured the installation of electric ranges, power machinery, and other juice consuming devices on the promise that better service was to be given, and now when, here in Coquille alone, the lack of power means hundreds of dollars lost business a day to consumers, the service is as poor as it has ever been.

With millions of horsepower going to waste in Coos county, the power company continues the attempt to conduct their business with the juice they purchased at the Smith mill instead of harnessing these waterfalls and providing juice enough for all purposes. After the initial investment the cost would be less and their rates could be reduced and yet produce the same revenue. And it is a known fact that the light rate of 12 cents is higher here than in other sections of the state.

The following is a resolution adopted by the Coquille Commercial Club regarding the service rendered by the Mountain States Power Co.:

"After putting up with more or less indifferent service at the hands of the Mountain States Power Co. in the matter of electric power and lights for the past ten years, and for the past month particularly being subjected to great annoyance and considerable loss in business due to the erratic service rendered, which has been intermittent beyond all reason and exasperating beyond endurance, and in view of the fact that repeated promises made by the said Mountain States Power Co. in regard to new equipment and betterment of the service have only resulted in the service becoming continually worse, we, the members of the Coquille Commercial Club hereby protest against the very rotten service being given in the City of Coquille, and request that the Coquille City Council rescind the said Mountain States Power Company's franchise, which calls for continuous service, and take any other action that may seem necessary to remedy the present intolerable condition."

Held For Manslaughter

Frank Bellrose, the man who was driving the car when it went over the embankment near Norway and killed C. W. Sprague a month or six weeks ago, was taken before Justice Stanley on Tuesday. There were two charges against him. One was for driving a car while intoxicated to which he pleaded not guilty, and his trial was set for next Tuesday, Oct. 2.

The second charge was for involuntary manslaughter. He waived examination on this charge and was bound over to the grand jury, bail being set at \$2500, which he has not been able to furnish.

Miller Residence About Done

The concrete for the basement of the John W. Miller bungalow opposite the court house was poured yesterday and the floor of the porch and the front walks will be poured today. The latter two are of red to match the roof. The finishing lumber, failure to receive which caused the delay in completing the dwelling, has been received and put in place and John expects to be able to move into it shortly. There is not a handsomer home in the city and it was built for comfort as well.

Tells Its Patrons Why Power Has Been Off So Much This Week

Manager of Mountain States Tells About Its Recent Troubles

"This company regrets exceedingly the annoyance and inconvenience caused by recent interruptions in our service," said A. L. Martin, division manager of the Mountain States Power Company, yesterday. "We have been doing everything that is humanly possible to be done to maintain adequate and dependable service, but we have been the victim of circumstances that we could neither foresee nor forestall."

"However, within the next 24 hours we will have our new plant equipment ready to pick up an extra load of 6,000 kilowatts which should prevent any further breakdowns such as we have had to contend with."

"The shortage of water supply for the steam plant occasioned by the continued dry weather has greatly hampered our activities. In addition to this, the seepage of salt water into our boiler feed line, on Wednesday and the burning out of a large motor on one of our water pumps forced an interruption of between three and four hours, which, by the way is the worst mishap we have had so far as depriving our customers of uniform service is concerned."

"We have repaired the leak in the drain pipe which allowed the salt water to get into our boilers, and our chief engineer never left the plant for over 36 hours to hasten the repair work."

"Our new 6,000 kilowatt generator is ready to be turned on, and in order to expedite this additional plant facility, we ordered the new two-ton oil switch sent us from Portland by express and we are now ready for what we believe will be reliable and uninterrupted service from now on. This switch was promised to us by one of the most reliable electric firms on May 29th and was only received in Portland last Sunday. If this had been received our new plant would have been in operation before this."

"We have been sparing no engineering skill, money or energy to put our operating system into the best possible shape and we are confident that our customers will have no further difficulty. Thriving cities and towns on our lines have been growing so rapidly that it has been extremely difficult for our company to keep up with the constantly increased demands and we have delayed taking on some large and profitable engineering business in order that we might better serve our present customers, but with our new facilities more than doubling our present capacity now ready for service, we should have no more trouble."

"The minor interruptions we have had during the past several weeks have been due to the fact that we have been called upon to supply a greater demand for industrial power than we could deliver, in spite of the fact that we exerted every effort to hasten the installation and completion of our new plant facilities at a cost of over \$167,000.00."

The above article was received yesterday. This morning the power was off here in Coquille from 8 o'clock when we began work at the Sentinel office until about 9:30, and meantime the metal in our pot had got cold and it did not heat up so that we could use it until after ten. An intermittent power is for this reason the same as no power at all at the Sentinel office.

Owing to the frequent stoppage of the current here this week, we have been very much of the time without any power at all. And the power was off all of Wednesday morning and much of the time since.

The effect of this sort of power on our ability to get out work or a newspaper on time can readily be understood. And it is a sort of damage for which we have been able to secure no compensation from the Mountain States company, no attention whatever having been paid to our requests for reimbursements for a night's work by a machinist when our fuses were blown out by an excess of current.

Institute at North Bend

The Teachers' Institute, which will be held on the 18th, 19th and 20th of October, has been changed to North Bend on account of the inaccessibility of Bandon by road this year. Next

Students To College

Most of the local students who will attend the University of Oregon this year went out to Eugene last week. The list included the Misses Camilla Lorenz, Marjorie and Ardienne Hazard, Helen and Della Sherwood, Miss Myrtle Mast, of Lee, started Monday morning and Miss Gertrude Butler Tuesday morning.

Among those going to Corvallis to attend the agricultural college were Fred Wimer and Lorin Schroeder, who left yesterday morning, Fred Harlocker, who left yesterday morning and William Oerding, who leaves today. Chas. Harlocker, of Myrtle Point, drove out with his brother yesterday, and they expected to pick up Ralph Harry at Roseburg.

Out of Logs or Juice Every Day

The E. E. Johnson mill was shut down the first three days of this week. On Monday and Tuesday it was due to lack of logs, and on Wednesday lack of power caused it to be idle. Logs from the Cary camp are expected to begin coming up the river immediately which will avert any future log shortage, but heaven only knows when the power will be dependable.

ALL WANT A MARKET ROAD

Seven or eight Coquille citizens went over to the Roy school district Tuesday evening to attend the meeting of the taxpayers of that section of road district No. 20. Twenty-five or thirty were in attendance and the consensus of opinion was that the roads from the bridge here to Fishtrap, and from the Dement place around the foothills to the Roosevelt Highway should be made market roads, provided the state highway commission would permit a 40-foot right of way between the bridge and the Dement place.

Judge Mast, who attended the meeting, promised to take that matter up with Engineer W. E. Chandler at once.

The meeting was a most harmonious affair and there seemed to be little doubt but that the four mill special levy would be voted this fall. Ed. Detelsen had a table prepared which showed that even though an additional twenty feet of right of way had to be given that the ranches along the road would save enough in one year, with an improved road, to pay them for the land donated.

Wednesday afternoon Judge Mast and Mr. Chandler drove over the proposed market roads from the bridge here, and it is reported that Mr. Chandler said he would recommend a forty foot right of way through the bottoms from the bridge to the Dement place. From there on along the hillsides a 60, or a 100 foot right of way could be secured.

Dr. Covell Bound Over

The preliminary hearing of Dr. Fred Covell, charged with the murder of his wife below Bandon, was held at Bandon yesterday before Justice L. J. Radley. He was bound over to the grand jury on a second degree murder charge and bail, fixed at \$10,000, which he expects to be able to furnish.

Now that the preliminary has been held, it can be stated that Luke S. May, the most noted criminologist in the northwest, has been working on the case for over two weeks, he having been contracted with by the county to unearth all possible evidence on which a prosecution could be asked, after the county officials had been baffled in their attempts and had secured only the most circumstantial of evidence. The officials did not want to go before a jury unless they felt they had evidence enough to convict, and if the doctor is not guilty they wanted to spare the county the expense of a prosecution.

Mr. May, according to reports, has been unable to secure positive evidence as to how Mrs. Covell met her death. Dr. Leep testified at the hearing yesterday that her neck was not broken, but there was no denial of the marks of violence on her face and about her hips.

Alton Covell, the doctor's 15-year old son, will have a hearing in the juvenile court, which Judge Mast said today would probably take place tomorrow.

year the city at the mouth of the Coquille should have a winter road far enough along that it can be travelled at any time.

FOR COUNTY UNIT

County Court and Budget Committee All Favor Common School Tax

The present court and all the acting members of the budget committee at their session yesterday unanimously took a stand in favor of the county unit system of levying taxes for the support of schools in this county and doing away with the wide disparity in taxes in the various school districts of Coos county.

The reasons for the adoption of this method of levying taxes for schools in this county are so clearly manifest and so fully in accord with enlightened public sentiment that we feel like congratulating the court and the budget committee on their unanimous approval of a method so eminently fair.

The matter cannot of course come up for a vote until the 1924 election; but meanwhile there will be ample time to discuss it and demonstrate its fairness and desirability. The following is the resolution adopted:

Whereas, the County Court and Budget Committee have been studying the question of taxation in the preparation of Coos County's budget for the fiscal year beginning January 1924, and

Whereas, they have noted that there is an appalling inequality in the Special School District Tax, and Whereas, the aggregate of this item is over \$314,000 or about one-fourth of the entire tax on Coos County's tax roll for 1923, and

Whereas, this tax varies in different districts from 00.6 (nothing) to 41.7 mills, and

Whereas, it is our belief that the County Unit for support and administration of schools, would in a large measure correct this evil,

Be It Resolved by the County Court and the Budget Committee in joint session assembled, that the County Unit for administration and support of schools would be vastly superior to the present unequal system, and should be adopted by Coos County.

Dated at Coquille, Coos County, State of Oregon, this 27th day of September, 1923.

Signed R. H. Mast
H. G. Kern
W. W. Gage
Ben R. Chandler
M. O. Hawkins

Death of Mrs. Price Robison

Another pioneer of Coos county passed to her reward when Mrs. Price Robison, of Norway, died at Emergency Hospital at Bandon last Monday evening at eight o'clock. The cause of her death was apoplexy.

The funeral services were held at the Brethren church in Myrtle Point yesterday afternoon, being conducted by Rev. Thos. Barklow and Rev. T. B. McDonald. The church was filled with relatives and friends of the deceased and many were not able to gain admission.

The interment took place at the Norway cemetery, the services there being conducted by Beulah Chapter No. 6, O. E. S., of which chapter she was a member.

Laura Hoover was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Hoover, both of whom died early in this century. She was born in Hennepin county, Minnesota, on October 27, 1864, being 58 years, 10 months and 27 years of age at the time of her death. She came with her parents to Oregon in the fall of 1875, and in the fall of 1883 was married to Price Robison, who survives. To this union ten children were born, all of whom are living, and all but one of whom were present at the funeral, Mrs. Bell being confined to her home by sickness. The ten are:

Caleb Robison and Mrs. Clarence Schroeder, of Arago; Walter Robison, of Rochester, Wash.; Mrs. Ray Lewis, of Gaylor; Roy and Glenn Robison, of Norway; Mrs. Lucina Bell, of Broadbent; Mrs. Beunice Lillie, of Arago; Mrs. Bernice Gulstrom, of Norway; and Mrs. Joe Ellis, of Myrtle Point.

She also leaves twenty-nine living grandchildren, two having preceded her to the better land.

All of her married life was spent at Norway except for 13 years, from 1883 to 1896, when the family lived at Fishtrap.

Besides being a member of the Eastern Star she was a member of the local Grange.