

The Coquille Valley Sentinel

THE PAPER THAT'S LIKE A LETTER FROM HOME

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Oregon Historical Society X
Auditorium

A TRAGIC DEATH

C. E. Mulkey Instantly Killed by Falling Tree Last Friday

The people of Coquille were shocked and stunned when word of the tragic death of C. E. Mulkey, county superintendent of schools, was received here last Friday afternoon, about 3:30, for Mr. Mulkey had made his home in Coquille for the past eight years and they honored and respected him as one of our squarest and most up-right citizens, a kindly Christian gentleman, who was above board in all his dealings and in whom they placed implicit trust.

Mr. Mulkey had been over to the Haynes Slough school district and returned on the ferry Roosevelt which reached the North Bend slip at 2:15. Halfway between the ferry and the viaduct over the S. P. tracks a tree in the Simpson park, a tree, 18 inches in diameter, was uprooted by the gale blowing at the time and it fell across Mr. Mulkey's car, killing him instantly. His neck and jaw were broken, his legs were crushed to a pulp and almost the only bones in his body which were not broken were in his arms.

It required nearly half an hour to cut the tree sufficiently so that the body could be removed.

Word was sent here to Judge Mast, who called Mrs. Paul Ramsey and they went out to the Mulkey home to notify the wife, who in the twinkling of an eye had become a widow.

The three proceeded to North Bend and made arrangements for bringing the body to Coquille.

Sunday, from twelve to two p. m. the body lay in state in the Ellington Chapel here where it was viewed by hundreds of his sorrowing friends.

The funeral services were held at Pleasant Hill, near Eugene in Lane county, Monday morning at 11 o'clock and the body laid to rest in the family plot beside those of his father and mother. The latter passed away at the Mulkey home here last year. Services were conducted by Rev. W. A. Elkins, of Eugene.

Charles E. Mulkey was born at Pleasant Hill, Lane Co., Oregon, June 27, 1881, and was 20 days past 44 years of age. He was lived with his parents at Pleasant Hill until 16 years of age, when they moved to Bethel, Polk Co., Oregon.

Mr. Mulkey came to Coos county in 1918 and taught the first standardized grade school at Bridge, Oregon. He then went to Klamath county and taught school there for nearly three years. He was also engaged in the mercantile business there for a short time.

He returned to Coos county in 1917 and was appointed School Supervisor under School Superintendent R. E. Baker, August 1, 1917. R. E. Baker resigned as superintendent and Mr. Mulkey was appointed County School Superintendent, September 1, 1918, which position he held for the unexpired term of Mr. Baker's. He was elected School Superintendent in 1920 and re-elected in 1924.

Mr. Mulkey was married May 27, 1917, at Eugene, Oregon, to Martha Foster. From this union were born two children: Emma Frances Mulkey, aged five years, and Charles E. Mulkey, Junior, aged two years.

Both of Mr. Mulkey's parents are dead. He is survived by four brothers and two sisters: B. F. Mulkey, Portland, Oregon; Mrs. Ella Parks, Creswell, Oregon; P. J. Mulkey, Arlington, Oregon; Elbert Mulkey, Kenewick, Washington; Mrs. James Dixon, Bly, Oregon; J. T. Mulkey, St. Johnson, Oregon.

Mr. Mulkey was a member of the Coquille Church of Christ, a devout and enthusiastic worker in the church, and superintendent of the Sunday School there for the past four years. His passing leaves a vacancy in the affairs of that institution which cannot be easily filled.

Mr. Mulkey, although his work called him away frequently, was a great home-lover, and he had two fine children to whom he was devoted as well as to the faithful helpmate who is left to give them their Christian and citizenship training alone.

Since the sad occurrence last Friday it has been frequently remarked that fate had decreed such an end. A split second either way would have saved his life, but it was otherwise ordered.

Another tree, a short distance to the rear of his car, crashed down and across the road at the same time as

the one which caused Mr. Mulkey's death.

Steel Pipe Rusting Out

When the 10-ton roller was pressing the asphaltic concrete into place for the repair of Second street where the highway from Marshfield intersects, it broke through the concrete and showed a subterranean lake. Investigation by Water Superintendent Epperson developed the fact that the water main had sprung a leak and a hole the size of a ten-penny nail was permitting the water to wash away the dirt base of the concrete. That was probably the main cause of the sunken pavement at the intersection, but the paving on Second is so rotten all over that it would not much more than support the roller. It was a very inferior job that the Coos Bay Paving Co. did here twelve years ago.

Mr. Epperson says he is fearful more leaks, from inside rust, will develop in this Mathison pipe all up and down Second street. To repair it will mean tearing out the pavement along one block where the paving is laid from curb to curb.

EVOLUTION TO WASHINGTON

The theatre of the conflict between science and religion has been suddenly transferred from Dayton, Tennessee, to the national capital at Washington, where it has just been discovered that a rider was attached by congress to the District of Columbia appropriation bill for the present year that goes much farther than the Tennessee statute, which has recently created so much commotion. The District of Columbia appropriation bill as enacted by congress has a rider, which very likely not one congressman in twenty knew anything about, when the bill was passed. It provides that "no part of the sum [appropriated for the public schools] shall be available for the salary of any superintendent, who permits the teaching of or of any teacher who teaches disrespect for the holy Bible."

The action taken to enforce this portion of the law is said by the press reports to be "in the nature of an injunction proceeding directed at the auditor and disbursing officer of the District of Columbia and Frank White, treasurer of the United States, to prohibit them from making further payments of salaries to Frank W. Ballou, superintendent of schools, and W. P. Hay, head of the department of biology and chemistry in the Washington high schools."

Hot in California

Mr. and Mrs. Jas. W. Laird and Miss Mary O'Farrell returned Monday evening from their ten day trip down through California. They stopped at Cape Town in Humboldt county, for a short visit with Mr. and Mrs. L. P. Branstetter, and went as far south as Santa Rosa and thence inland to Sacramento. They found the thermometer there registering 116 degrees and in Ukiah it was 120 degrees in the shade. Needless to say they were glad to get back to Coos county and they even enjoyed the heat at Medford, it being much less than down the other side of the Siskiyou. Mrs. Laird suffered blistered fingers from the hot wind and sun's rays, while riding in the car.

Mr. and Mrs. Pete Miller and Mrs. Anna Rooney, who left the Lairds at Ashland, went over to Klamath Falls, up The Dalles-California Highway and across the Mackenzie pass, arriving home Tuesday evening.

"Mulkey School" Suggested

The only suggestions so far made for a name for the new grade school building, according to C. C. Farr, chairman of the board, is that it be called the "Mulkey Building." Several people have suggested it to him and Mr. Farr expressed himself as favorable to the suggestion. It would stand as a memorial to the man who gave his whole life to school work and would honor his memory.

Predicts "Terrific" Quakes

Professor Bendandi, noted Italian seismologist, whose predictions of earthquakes in recent years have been fulfilled almost without exception, yesterday through the United Press, predicted a "terrific" earthquake in Alaska and North America on July 25 or 26. He likewise predicted a new earthquake would strike Japan on the 30th.

HOSPITAL PLANS DESTROY CROPS

Mrs. Mary Smedburg Expects to Build One in Coquille Soon

The principal matter to be considered by the directors of the Chamber of Commerce at their weekly meeting in the hotel dining room Wednesday evening was the question of a hospital.

Mrs. Mary Smedburg, of Marshfield, has expressed a desire to bring her equipment to Coquille and establish a twenty-room hospital here. She was unable to be present at the meeting but had outlined her plans to James Watson, who was present and presented them to the directors.

Briefly her request was that a site be provided and on it she would erect a one-story, with basement, fire proof building, of the bungalow type of structure. It would be 70x96 in size, with a large open court in the interior opening to the south.

Mr. and Mrs. Smedburg had been over here several times consulting with Secretary N. C. Kelley and had looked at possibly fifty sites in and adjoining Coquille. Their choice centered on two tracts at the west end of Spurgeon street—the M. O. Hawkins and the W. S. Sickels properties.

What made these sites so especially ideal was the southern slope where a couple of cows could be kept, room for garden, and ample room on the level near the street for the building.

After discussing the question of location at length the president appointed the building committee—C. C. Archibald, S. M. Noles and N. C. Kelley—to confer with Mrs. Smedburg and pledge her that the chamber would endeavor to raise funds to provide a suitable site if she would erect and equip a hospital thereon.

The directors did not approve of one suggestion made that a corporation be formed and stock sold to provide funds for building the hospital. It was felt that a straight donation of the site would be more likely to appeal to the humanitarian instincts of our citizens.

Drs. G. Earl Low and J. B. Gillis were in attendance at the meeting and they set forth many cogent and convincing reasons why Coquille should establish a hospital here instead of depending on one twenty miles away.

During the course of his remarks Dr. Gillis stated that he had read figures in medical magazines that the average cost of operating hospitals in the United States was \$5.28 per patient per day.

Another statement made was that from one community tributary to Coquille there will be a number of cases this year, which would prefer to come here if hospital facilities were available.

And the idea of building up a medical community here, with the hospital as the center, has carried an appeal. Mrs. Smedburg estimates that the building which she plans would cost \$20,000, and contain twenty wards.

Dr. Low stated that she had first class equipment sufficient for fifteen wards at the present time and that it was all of standard type and nearly new.

Eliminating Bad Curves

A. B. Gidley, who has the contract for re-gravelling the Highway between Coquille and Myrtle Point, set a crew to work clearing the new right of way this week. The highway is to be straightened at two or three points. The first is on the D. F. Thompson place where the point of a hill is to be cut back from 20 to 70 feet. The dirt from there will be used to make a fill just beyond, across the bottom, eliminating one big curve. On the Pete Jacobsen place another point is to be cut and the new grade will remove one large S from the highway.

Another curve elimination will be at the Finley Schroeder place, a half mile this side of the bridge and railroad crossing.

No More Varmint Bounty

According to an announcement elsewhere made, Coos county will pay no more bounties on varmint scalps this year. The amount budgeted for this purpose has been exhausted and Judge Mast instructed County Clerk Watson to give notice to that effect.

There has been \$317,925 of common school funds loaned on farm lands in Coos county.

Army and Cut Worms Work Havoc in Coquille Valley—On Coos River Too

In some ways this is the poorest year for crops the Coquille valley farmers ever experienced. We refer to cut worms and the army worms.

Not only in the valley of the Coquille and its tributaries, but over on Coos river, the cut worms have been playing havoc with all vegetable crops, such as potatoes, corn, beets, etc., and the army worm is destroying the hay grasses.

County Agent Richards this morning said that he has helped save hundreds of acres from the devastation of these worms this summer, where the poison was spread before the fields were destroyed. Bran mash, with molasses, poison, and lemon flavoring, prove a very attractive morsel to the worms, and when they smell it they will leave the vegetation for it. The mash is thrown broadcast and Mr. Richards said two of them covered an 8-acre field in two hours. The mash costs about 90 cents an acre to manufacture.

In the grass fields the poison mash cannot be used on account of stock, but in potato and cornfields and gardens, the county agent says the stuff has been very effective.

The cut worm hatches from the eggs of the white moth which you see flying about lights at night. The army worm is a product of a large brown moth.

After a month or two the worm passes to the moth stage and is ready to lay eggs for the next year's crop of worms.

Whether the heavy rains last year covered the moths up in the trash and grasses and protected an unusually large number for this year's worm propagation is uncertain, but old timers say that there has not been such an epidemic for 25 years.

One of the ranchers who has suffered heavily is Henry Hess. He had one hundred acres of bent grass from which he expected to realize \$30 an acre from the seed and have the hay for feeding. The army worms have totally destroyed the seed and reduced the hay crop to such an extent that he will probably lose \$50 an acre.

On the Bestal ranch, Martin Jacobsen lost 20 acres of corn—cut clean off over the whole field.

D. F. Thompson tells of watching the worms work on Antony Ahild's cornfield. While he watched one stalk the worms started in near the ground and in a few moments had so weakened it that it fell.

On the Ford ranch, H. S. Cadman started spreading the mash after the worms had got a good start in his potato field. Hundreds and thousands of worms were next day found dead and the patch practically cleared of the menace.

The time to sprinkle the mash is in the evening so that it will remain moist till morning when the worms start out for the day's depredations.

The cut worm epidemic is general on the coast. Mr. Richards told us that a letter from the county agent of Clatsop county informed him that the worms were getting well started there, although some weeks later than here.

Mr. Richards has not completed his survey of the ruined sections and is unable yet to state how many acres of crops have been destroyed in the Coquille valley.

Streets Being Repaired

The holes in the paving on Front street and on Second were repaired by the United Contracting Co. last Monday. At the Sentinel corner autoists can now get into town without going through the roof of their cars, and at the Hall street bridge there is no longer any danger of breaking a spring. That bad hole, in front of the Coast Auto Lines office, where the sewer for the hotel necessitated tunnelling under the street, has also been filled, and when Second and Front have been covered with asphaltic-concrete, as they will be in a few weeks, and the concrete laid to the city docks, the pavement in the business section will all be in good shape.

The worst piece will then be the Hall street bridge which is almost as rough as a corduroy road. The city council still has hopes of making arrangements with the Highway Department for filling that hole.

Lions Aiding the Blind

S. E. Neer, of Salem, district governor of Lions Clubs for the western part of Oregon, was present at the weekly luncheon of the local club yesterday. He was here to make arrangements for the meeting on August 15, when their charter will be formally presented to the club. He said that at least 100 Lions from over the state would be present on that occasion.

Mr. Neer had just returned from Ohio, where he attended the international convention of Lions Club members, and those present were greatly interested in hearing him tell of the talk made by Helen Keller.

One of the big things that the Lions do is the publishing of a Braille magazine, for free distribution among all the blind children of the country, by which they can read as readily as can those who are blessed with sight. Each member in the country pays twenty-five cents a year toward the publication.

A. C. Chase, of the Myrtle Point cannery, was a guest at the meeting and made a short talk.

SPURGEON TO BE FINE STREET

If appearances mean anything Spurgeon Hill will have the finest street paving in town. The original macadam improvement there was rolled and tamped better than any street has been treated since. Then when the scarifier went over the gravel, cutting down six inches, and the base was rolled down it was crowned and shaped to an almost perfect base.

Tuesday morning the crew began laying the asphaltic concrete—in which there is not a pinch of cement—and laid 235 feet that day. On top of the conglomerate of gravel and asphaltic composition, which is heated to 275 degrees, a liquid coating of asphalt is brushed on hot. This is a waterproof coat and keeps water from reaching the base.

On top of this is spread the squeegee, or sand top dressing, and the traffic will help wear this into the waterproofing, even after the roller has done its work thoroughly.

Second street and Front, from the Busy Corner to Ferry street, will have this same top dressing but on Second street, especially the concrete will not provide as firm a base as does the macadam on Spurgeon street.

It is not beyond the possibilities that First, Second, Third, and the cross streets will be given a similar improvement next year when the property owners there see what a splendid paving this asphaltic-concrete makes.

This is the same paving that the state laid a few years ago and on which it was required to pay over \$200,000 royalty. But the patent has since expired and any one can use it now. The Warren Bros. patent is very similar to what is being used here, and the foreman on the local job, who has been in the business 18 years, was formerly with the Warren Construction Co.

Power Line Moved Across

Very few people in the Coquille valley knew that the juice was off last Friday night. The reason for it was that the power company crew was installing the main line on the highway side of Isthmus slough between Millington and Delmar. With the change completed, as it was Friday night between 1:30 and 6 a. m., it will be much easier to locate trouble between here and the bay, and will hasten repair of breaks.

The wire taken down between Millington and Delmar will be used in rebuilding the power line between Coquille and Myrtle Point.

Will Bid on School House

H. Snook, of Salem, has been camping in the Myrtle Grove this week and plans to remain over until after the school board meeting next Monday when bids are to be opened for the construction of the new grade school. Mr. Snook was the contractor who built the frame section of the Coos county court house, back in 1898. He says he doesn't find very many of his former acquaintances among Coquille's present population.

Geo. A. Robinson and wife left last Saturday morning for Yosemite valley, Lake Tahoe and other California points, expecting to be gone a month.

ELECTION JULY 30

Voters to Decide Next Thursday on Road Bond Issues of \$980,000

Some people have questioned the figures, prepared by the county court and published in the Sentinel two weeks ago, as to the cost of operating such a bridge as that proposed between Marshfield and Eastside.

The estimate was \$2400 per annum for one operator. Before making public the figures, the members of the court went over the whole question very carefully with State Highway Bridge Engineer McCulloch, and he stated that a state highway bridge across Young's Bay, not far from Astoria, is operated by one man, who lives in a house on the bridge. Five days a month he is allowed off, and one man takes his place. The bridge there is opened five or six times a day.

In the case of the proposed bridge, it will be built, if the bond issue carries, sufficiently high that practically the only time it will be necessary to open it is when lumber carriers are going to the Smith mill and that will not average once a day.

A bridge across Coos Bay is an economic necessity. It may not be built next year, nor possibly for ten years, but some time the people of Eastside and Coos river will have a direct, quick outlet to Coos county and the outside world. The question is, can the people of Coos county afford it now.

After this year the unpaid county road bonds will total \$356,000, on which \$46,625 in interest will have to be paid.

That is not a very large indebtedness for roads, and it will be entirely wiped out in 1930.

Payment on the proposed issue of \$280,000 and \$700,000 would not begin until 1930 and would be finished in 1939. The interest on the two issues would be \$465,000, scattered over a fourteen-year period.

No one questions that the bonds to meet the county's obligation to the state will be voted, as they should be.

Whether it will be better to accept a \$700,000 issue now, or have a million and a half issue proposed and voted on next year—and it might possibly carry—is something each voter will have to decide for himself before he makes the cross on his ballot next Thursday, July 30.

Mrs. Mulkey Appointed

Yesterday the county court made an order appointing Mrs. Martha Mulkey as county superintendent of schools to fill out the unexpired term of the last Charles E. Mulkey. She will have the same compensation, traveling expenses and incidentals as did her predecessor in office.

This action was in accord with the quite general talk of last Friday evening that she should be appointed to succeed her husband. The court offered her the position last Saturday and upon her return from Eugene she notified Judge Mast that she would accept.

Mrs. Mulkey is a lady of unusual ability along the line required for that office, was formerly a school teacher, and her appointment will be welcomed by all her friends and acquaintances and even by those who did not know her but were friends and acquaintances of her husband all over the county.

Clarence Schroeder Injured

Clarence E. Schroeder, who fell from the barn on his ranch at Arago and ruptured a lung Wednesday noon, recovered consciousness yesterday morning and apparently has a good chance of recovery. So far as Dr. J. B. Gillis has been able to determine no bones were broken and if pneumonia can be prevented he believes Mr. Schroeder will continue to rally.

Oregon Is Safer

Four persons were killed by lightning in New York City and its environs yesterday. A cloudburst at Trinidad, Colorado did \$400,000 damage and drove scores of families from their homes near the Purgatorie river. The Sentinel senior who spent many years of his life in New York and Colorado is thankful to be living in Oregon now.

Three days out of the last four here have been cloudy here. Fall rain may begin early.