

The Coquille Valley Sentinel

THE PAPER THAT'S LIKE A LETTER FROM HOME

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COQUILLE, COOS COUNTY, OREGON, FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 1927.

\$2.00 THE YEAR

CITY'S FINANCES

In Good Shape as Shown by Annual Report of O. C. Sanford

O. C. Sanford's annual report as city treasurer, submitted to the council Monday evening, shows the city of Coquille to be in a very good condition. Including the balance on hand in the general fund a year ago of \$3414.10, the receipts for the year totalled \$24,098.39.

Expenditures for the year were \$21,488.22 leaving a balance on hand of \$2,610.17.

In the water fund, collections for the year were \$14,365.65, which with the balance of a year ago, \$3,228.42; miscellaneous receipts of \$65.29 and \$1,000 transferred from the general fund, makes a total of \$18,659.36.

Expenses of conducting the water department were \$7,975.36; \$4,000 was paid on bonds of Series B; \$3,986.01 interest on bonds and warrants was paid, leaving a balance of \$2,697.99 in the water fund.

The only fund that is getting deeper in the hole is that of the improvement bond interest fund, in which the overdraft increased during 1926 from \$3,438.70 to \$3,945.98. This is due to the fact that payments of street bond assessments are so often delayed for months or a year or more. Interest cannot be collected by the city on the delinquent interest, when payment is finally made by the property owner, and the city loses small amounts on each delayed payment which in the aggregate was over \$500 last year.

The city's outstanding warrant indebtedness is \$47,105.09. Of this amount \$29,732.28 is for the improvement of streets and sidewalks. It will be wiped out when the improvements bonds are sold and the warrants retired.

When that is done the warrant indebtedness as of December 31 will be—general fund, \$8,083.84; water fund, \$38.61; Lamb Grove, \$6,500; Athletic park, \$2,750.36; a total of \$17,372.81. Add to this amount the \$15,000 general fund bonds now outstanding, or a total of \$32,372.81 and it will be seen that the \$30,000 refunding bonds, authorized at the November election, will, when sold, pretty nearly wipe out the warrant indebtedness.

Water bonds outstanding total \$67,500, and street improvement bonds, \$46,600.67, which with the \$16,000 general fund bonds, makes a total city bonded indebtedness of \$129,100.67.

As the improvement bonds will eventually be paid by the property improved, Coquille's bonded indebtedness is in reality only \$82,500, not a large sum for a city of this size, which has been growing as Coquille has.

Taylor-Ditto Improvement

The Taylor-Ditto Battery Station is this week remodeling the front of their service station and enlarging the driveways, to take care of their increasing business.

They are also installing a new air-lift pump, one of the kind which shows in the glass container just how much gas has gone into an auto tank, and in the new pump will handle the Ethyl gas of the Union Oil Co., reserving the old pump for Red Crown. The driveways will be two feet wider across the corner allowing more room for the servicing of cars.

Coupe Took a Nose Dive

R. H. Weeks, traveling representative of the Burroughs Adding Machine Co., took an involuntary bath about five o'clock last evening in the ditch along the dyke, between the Fat Elk and the farthest bridge next the foothills. The steering gear on his Chevrolet coupe became loose, he lost control of the car and it plunged off the steepest bank there. It stuck its nose into the high water but was not submerged. Fred Koonz, of the Coast Auto Lines garage, went down and pulled the car out.

To Fight State's Grab

Judge R. H. Mast left this morning for Roseburg to attend a committee meeting of the O. & C. grant county judges. The object of the meeting is to formulate plans for combatting the state's attempt to edge in and secure a portion of the government's donation to the eight-counties.

Calling cards 100 for \$1.50.

17-Year Old Boy Caught

Leroy Finley, generally known as "Giant," because of his diminutive stature, was arrested by S. V. Epperson on the river bridge last Friday afternoon about 4 o'clock for possession of liquor.

Epperson had watched him go over toward the Gun Club house and was waiting for him when the "Giant" returned.

The letter has had the reputation of being in the bootlegging game for several months past, but so innocent did he appear as he approached Sam, that the latter had doubts of his guilt at this time. Going toward the boy, who is only 17 and very small for his age, Sam said, "I guess I'll have to look you over."

"No, you don't" said the boy as he started to run. But Sam overtook him and found four pint bottles well distributed around his person.

Later the deputy went over to the club grounds and found three gallon jars with but a little moonshine in the bottom of one.

Finley was taken before Justice Stanley Monday, but on account of his age was remanded to the juvenile court.

That the bootlegger for whom the youth has been peddling could not have been caught, is a pity. He is known but the officers haven't got the goods on him—yet.

NEW LEGION OFFICIALS

Ben S. Fisher, of Marshfield, state executive commissioner of the American Legion, with Bob Dillard, of Marshfield, was at the American Legion meeting last Tuesday night to install the officers for 1927. The following officers were installed:

Commander—C. C. Archibald
1st Vice Com.—J. M. Caughell
2nd Vice Com.—Walter Oerding
Adjutant—J. F. Cramer
Finance Officer—P. M. Drake
Chaplain—H. G. Frey
Sergeant-at-Arms—Lewis Hooker
Historian—G. Russell Morgan
Executive Committee—G. E. Low, Keith Leslie, Stewart Norton, Alton Grimes and Orvin Gant.

Coquille Post has been receiving numerous telegrams and letters of commendation from state headquarters for exceeding their 1926 membership by January 1st, 1927. With four or five more members signed up for 1927 than the post ever had for 1926, prospects for an excellent year are very bright. Plans are under way for a number of activities the local post never attempted before, and there is more enthusiasm among the members. Coquille Post won statewide attention last year, and took two important trophies, which they will endeavor to hold this year.

One of the factors which is making for greater success this year is the Auxiliary. The Coquille Post is no longer a bachelor organization, but joint meetings are held with the Auxiliary each month, and this is increasing the interest. A very successful social meeting was held after the meeting Tuesday night, following business meetings of the Legion and Auxiliary.

The Auxiliary plans to hold a cooked food sale tomorrow, January 8th at the 20th Century Grocery. The Legion has plans under way for their annual Minstrel Show, which will be given soon.

River Up Again This Week

The Coquille river reached flood stage here again Monday night and Tuesday morning was spread all over the valley, although it did not come within six or seven feet of the high water mark in November. It was high enough, however, to cause the E. E. Johnson mill to shut down Tuesday.

Marriage Licenses Off 68

Marriages are falling off in Coos county. According to the records in County Clerk Robert R. Watson's office, the 284 licenses issued last year were 68 short of the number issued in 1925. This morning not a single license had been issued in Coos county since the first of the year.

B. B. at Riverton Tonight

Coquille High plays basketball at Riverton this evening and a good many fans are going down to see how the local boys get started in their first scheduled game.

THE NEW COUNCIL

Takes Charge of City Government Monday Evening—G. E. Trott, Marshal

"Off with the old and on with the new," was the order of the day at the city hall Monday evening. Mayor Johnson and all councilmen except C. J. Fuhrman were present for the short session of the retiring city administration which listened to the reading of the minutes, allowed the month's bills and adjourned sine die.

Before surrendering the mantle of office as mayor, Mr. Johnson thanked the members of the council, the city attorney and the city recorder for their assistance and courtesy in carrying on the city's business for the past two years.

To the new mayor he expressed the wish for a happy and successful administration.

C. T. Skeels was thereupon sworn in by Recorder Lawrence. Before calling the new council to order Mayor Skeels said he had devoted considerable thought to the responsibility he and the new councilmen were assuming, along with the members of the past council, and he realized that conducting the city's business efficiently was no easy job.

He spoke in the highest praise of the retiring mayor and council.

Mr. Skeels declared that if he had had the selection of six men to act on the council for the next two years, he could not have improved on those selected by the people, not who would have suited him better.

He mentioned the city as four-sided and declared that the council must recognize and support the needs of those four sides—physical, educational, social and spiritual.

The new council is composed of G. H. Chaney, E. G. Opperman and C. C. Farr, hold-over members; C. L. Willey, A. O. Walker and H. T. Wimer, newly elected members. Those retiring from the body were C. J. Fuhrman, and Paul T. Ramsey.

On motion of Mr. Chaney, E. G. Opperman was chosen as chairman of the board for the coming two years.

After adopting a resolution fixing the salaries of the various city employees, Mayor Skeels submitted the names of the following for appointment. Each of them was confirmed by the council:

Marshal and Night Officer—G. E. Trott, \$125 per month.
Deputy Marshal and Street Commissioner—Frank Dungey, \$125 per month.

Water Superintendent—S. V. Epperson, \$125 per month.
City Attorney—J. J. Stanley, \$60 per month.

City Treasurer—O. C. Sanford.
City Engineer—E. L. Vinton, \$8 per day for time employed.
Fire Chief—C. W. Gardner, \$5 per month.

Health Officer—Dr. P. M. Drake, not less than \$10 per month.

Through an oversight the salary of the city treasurer was not fixed, but it has been \$350 per annum, \$250 from the general fund and \$100 from the water fund.

The recorder's salary was continued at \$125 per month, \$75 from the water and \$50 from the general fund.

The only change in the city's roster of employees was in that of marshal. The position of deputy marshal, or day officer, was transferred from the water superintendent to the street commissioner.

The bond of Recorder Lawrence, in the amount of \$1,000, with M. O. Hawkins and Paul Ramsey as sureties, was approved by the council and filed with the mayor.

The mayor then announced the following as the standing committees for the year:

Ordinance—Chaney, Willey, Walker.
Light—Opperman, Walker, Wimer.
Fire—Farr, Opperman, Willey.
Water—Willey, Farr, Wimer.
Street—Wimer, Chaney, Farr.
Finance—Walker, Chaney, Opperman.

The Coquille Valley Sentinel was designated as official newspaper for the city.

Asked his opinion as to building the Henry street bridge by force account at once, Councilman Chaney stated that he feared it would cost more just now to do it by force account than the estimate of \$5000 by the city engineer called for and said if

(Continued on tenth page)

50-50 A FAIR SPLIT

Raise Taxes or Reduce School Per Capita If That Division Is Changed

Statements by Marshfield papers that that city will endeavor again this year to secure a change in the law in regard to the distribution of the county general road funds, should be carefully considered.

Under the present law the road tax raised in any district is split 50-50 between the county and the district.

Under the new proposal it would be split 70 per cent to the district, or city, and 30 per cent to the county.

If should become the law where is the county to secure funds for general road expenses, operation and maintenance of ferries, etc.?

Is it not the part of wisdom for a city to have the roads leading to it improved? And should not the city help bear the expense of improving country roads and maintaining necessary ferries?

Look at Portland which has to pay to the state market road fund, but does not have it all returned as match money, as do the other counties in the state.

A few figures from this year's budget and last year's expenses will prove enlightening.

The levy for general road work this year will produce \$105,000, of which the county will receive \$52,500 and the road districts the other half. The cities of the county will receive between \$18,000 and \$19,000 under the existing law.

There was budgeted for ferries this year, \$36,450—which is more than the county would receive from the \$50,000 of it is for the Marshfield and North Bend ferries. Last year the Marshfield-Eastside ferry cost the county \$13,859 and the Roosevelt ferry \$19,372.19. Are those cities not getting value received for the taxes they pay which are included in the county's general road fund?

In addition to the \$36,450 budgeted for ferries, there are other general road fund expenses of \$31,325 to be provided for.

How can the county pay its general road expenses, if the districts are to receive 70 per cent, unless the taxes for road purposes are doubled?

The statement made in a Bay paper that the county is using general road funds on market roads is not true. In rural districts having market roads, the district's share of the general road fund has been used on market roads.

This year Marshfield will receive \$17,000 per capita school tax. The tax is now \$20 per pupil where it was formerly \$10, and unless the bay city takes a tumble to itself the county court will be forced to return to the \$10 per pupil school tax in order to have the funds for road work, or else raise the tax rate again, which has shown decrease the last two years.

The cities are not entitled to all their road taxes, unless no roads are desired leading from the farms and smaller hamlets. Fifty per cent to the district and fifty to the county is a fair division.

His Is a Busy Court

If anyone has the idea that a justice court is not a busy place he should consult the records in J. J. Stanley's office. Last year he heard between 600 and 650 cases, over a hundred more than were heard in the Circuit court. In the latter there were tried 75 criminal cases, while Mr. Stanley heard over 200. Of civil cases the circuit court was ahead of the justice.

Probably there is not another J. P. in the county who hears half as many cases as does Mr. Stanley.

Osmond Made Chief Deputy

Frank Osmond, who it has been expected for two months would be chief deputy sheriff, was named as such Monday by Sheriff Gage. It is not probable that a better man for the position could have been secured in Coos county. Cool, fearless, slow to anger, and yet keen in following up a tip, he will, without doubt, prove himself the right man on the job.

Geo. Bohrer was retained as deputy and W. P. Anderson was named as deputy sheriff on the Bay.

Calling cards 100 for \$1.50.

A Short Caused the Trouble

Giving away of the piling along the Bay water front, near the Smith mill Tuesday afternoon caused the juice to be off on this side of the county from 1:15 until after 5.

Two poles near the log dump at the big mill went down and shorted the circuit. When the switches at the plant were thrown in they "froze", and melted together as did those at the North Bend plant and at the common "bus"—the connection through which the current of both plants passes. It is just outside the mill plant.

The wire insulation around the plant also burned and for a time the mill plant was so full of smoke the workmen could not get in.

Marshfield was without power only about 45-minutes as there is a connection near the North Bend plant which can be hooked on for the Bay cities.

This common "bus" is necessary for regulating the current which might not be of the same power from the two plants, and when that "bus" was knocked out by the short there was no way to bring juice to the valley until it had been cleaned up.

RATE INCREASE GRANTED

A 24-hour telephone service was established at Powers Monday evening, as a result of the authority given the telephone company, by the public service commission, to increase telephone rates on single and two-party line services in Coquille, Myrtle Point, Powers, Bandon, Marshfield, and North Bend. The commission announced last Friday, after its members had returned from the special hearing at Marshfield on Thursday, that the increase asked by the company was justified, and their petition was granted.

The new rates became effective January first and statements mailed the first of the year carried the increase.

At the time of the telephone hearing at the Bay last Thursday, City Attorney J. J. Stanley asked Chas. Hall something about the salary he received as president of the company. The commission did not allow the witness to answer, but Mr. Stanley has since had a letter from the company's accountant, Jas. Sullivan, conveying the information that Mr. Hall receives a salary of \$500 a month. This is considerably less than the \$10,000 salary which street gossip has credited him with receiving.

Legislator Again in Toils

Hon. S. P. Peirce, joint representative from Coos and Curry counties, was again arrested for drunkenness in Coquille last Friday evening. Marshal Lee Goodman warned him he had better get off the street, and later Deputy Marshal Epperson and Special Officer H. T. Wimer warned him not to go into the dance hall in the condition he was in. He walked back down town and then decided "those fellows can't tell me what to do," and started back. He was arrested before entering the dance hall and remained in jail until Saturday afternoon when he paid a \$25 fine imposed by Recorder Lawrence.

The last time our member of the legislature was in jail here was during the Corn Show.

E. H. Harnden Improving

A letter received this morning from Mrs. E. H. Harnden conveys the information that Mr. Harnden is steadily improving in health, the climate in Iowa appearing to be beneficial for his trouble. At times he gets lonesome for the Coos country and his friends here, and Mrs. Harnden says she finds herself wishing for the balmy climate of southwestern Oregon.

Year's Receipts of Clerk's Office

Fees received in the county clerk's office for the year 1926, totalled \$10,675.42, which were received from the following sources:

Recording, \$5,400.02.
Circuit court, \$3,130.00.
Probate and county court, \$801.00.
Marriage Licenses, \$852.00.
Miscellaneous, \$492.40.

Among the things predicted for the new year by the Bandon World is the opening of the highway between Coquille and Gold Beach.

EGG MACHINES

S. B. Leeper Has Hundreds of Them Just North of Coquille

A call worth making, if you are interested in poultry is at S. B. Leeper's poultry ranch, just beyond the Cunningham logging road crossing. He has built up quite a profitable business in the last six years, after commencing in a small way with one 50-egg incubator and 24 hens. These he trapped, using the eggs from a few of the best, for hatching purposes. He has increased from that small beginning until last year he could set 5,000 eggs at one time and brood 5,000 chicks, and he expects to again enlarge his incubator capacity this year.

He now has over 1500 White Leghorns and he hopes to increase his flock to 3,000 by this fall. He is now trapping 600 pullets and will add the best of them to his flock of breeders in 1928.

Mr. Leeper now has three chicken houses of 1,000 bird capacity each, one incubator house and three smaller houses for special matings.

In one of these small yards the writer saw his foundation cock, a son of Lady Jewell, who still wears the original leg band with a number and initials of his former owner, H. M. Leathers, of Woodland, Wash. His pedigree is quite as extensive and accurate as that of a pure-blood registered Jersey.

Blood-trapping and care of the flock are the secrets of Mr. Leeper's success, and there is no doubt that he is making it pay, with a flock average of more than 21 dozen eggs to the hen in 265 days, and many of them laying for fourteen or fifteen months.

Mr. Leeper is preparing to supply other poultrymen with a large number of baby chicks and pullets this spring and summer, and after investigation of the prices of the big dealers elsewhere in Oregon and Washington, it can be seen that his prices are low compared with those of high grade poultry raisers elsewhere.

Mr. Leeper is always glad to take visitors over his plant, whether they are poultrymen or not.

Two Road Districts Changed

The county court this week has given considerable time to hearing and acting on a large number of indigent applications of assistance.

Besides allowing the month's grist of bills the court ordered the establishment of the Glenn Collier-Fish-trap road and directed that the road supervisor in District No. 18 to proceed to open it for travel.

The roadmaster was instructed to run a preliminary line for the Crofts Lake Road, below Bandon and connecting with the Roosevelt Highway. When this is done viewers will be appointed to lay out the road. It was petitioned for by W. B. Haynes and others.

Two changes in road districts were made by the court. The line between the McKinley and Brewster Valley-Dora districts, No. 13 and 14, was moved over to the Cherry creek mountain one-half mile north of the center of Sec. 3, Twp. 28, Range 11.

The other was the abolishing of the Beaver Hill district, No. 32, and including that territory in the North Bank district, No. 19.

Horns as Large as Elks'

As fine a pair of horns as is often seen is that on display in the Coquille Hardware Co. window this week. It is the mounted head of the eight-point mule tail deer killed by Arthur M. Fish in eastern Oregon last September. The mounting was done in Portland by the same man who mounted specimens for Theodore Roosevelt after the latter's return from his African expedition.

Within an hour after killing the eight-pointer, Art killed a five-pointer. Both were large animals, much larger than the deer of this section. The head on display looks almost large enough to be that of an elk.

Postal Receipts Increase

In preparing his annual report to the department, Postmaster H. C. Getz found that the local office showed an increase of postal receipts in 1926 over 1925 of nearly 9 per cent. For the year just ended the total was \$13,291.68 as against \$12,227.79 for 1925.