

# The Coquille Valley Sentinel

THE PAPER THAT'S LIKE A LETTER FROM HOME

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## CRUSHED BY LOG

**J. R. Stemmerman Instantly Killed at Camp 3 Yesterday Afternoon**

A fatal accident in the Coos Bay Lumber Co. camp on Cunningham, about 4:20 yesterday afternoon caused the death of J. R. Stemmerman. He was crushed between a log and the spar tree, and his back broken. Death was instantaneous.

Stemmerman was setting "choke" with Don Pierce, and Don, who was on the up side was just ready to pass the line across the log to Stemmerman, when it slopped on the log across which it was lying. It mashed Stemmerman against the spar tree, with his face against the tree. As his back was turned he probably never knew what hit him.

Don got to the victim before he had fallen to the ground, but received no answer when he spoke.

Stemmerman, who was about 30 years of age, was the son of Coos river pioneers. His father was killed in the woods some time ago, and his mother was buried the day before Christmas last month.

He had been working at Geo. Chaney's camp, but had started in at Camp 3, a few days before Christmas. He had been knocked down by a log previous to the accident yesterday but was not injured the first time.

Mr. Stemmerman leaves a wife and a six year old son. Their home is near Chaney's camp on the highway. The body was taken to the Ellingson-Groskopf chapel at Marshfield last evening and the funeral will be held from there.

## County Court in Session

The county court last Saturday passed an order adopting the county budget for 1928.

This week's session has been devoted to allowing claims, hearing delegations and attending to regular business.

One delegation asked for the establishment of a ferry at the Danielson place on the lower river, between the Riverton and Bullards ferries. No decision was rendered by the court.

Another request by Marshfield citizens was for the construction of a county road from the end of 14th street in Marshfield, west to a connection with the road to Empire. It was estimated a new road would be between four and five thousand feet, with a bridge across Pony slough.

Some small changes were made in the boundary lines of several road districts in the county, and the voting place for the Prosper precinct was changed from the mill to Bullards postoffice.

Bids have been called for the operation of the Riverton and Bullards ferries during 1928 and for the construction of a portion of the North Bank market road on the lower end.

Dance hall licenses were granted to C. H. Shields, at Bridge, and to Geo. W. Cox for his hall on the highway, three and a half miles south of Bandon.

## 1927 Business in J. P. Office

In reviewing the business transacted in Justice Court in this District during the past year, J. J. Stanley has furnished us with the following data:

Total number of criminal cases, or those of a criminal nature, including Search Warrants, were 239; total civil cases were 269.

Total amount of fines collected and paid to County Treasurer were \$6,773.19; total amount collected paid to State Treasurer, \$681.50; total of all fines collected and paid were \$7,454.69. The month of July was productive of by far the greatest amount of fines than any other month, the total collected in that month being \$3,244.10, June being next in amount with \$719.20. During the month of July, there were several outside agents for the Federal Government as well as for the State and, working in conjunction with our local officers, they made numerous raids from which many arrests, prosecutions and convictions resulted.

During the year there were probably two civil cases and about fifteen criminal cases tried by juries, the exact number of each not being easily available.

One case of typhoid fever was the only report made of contagious diseases in Coos county to the state board of health last week.

## Coquille at Bandon Tonight

The basketball schedule of the Coos County High School League opens this evening with Coquille playing at Bandon, Marshfield at Myrtle Point, Coos River at Arago, and Powers at Riverton.

Coach Leslie's selection for players to start the game are Harlo Call, Royce Richmond, Jim Agostine and Paul Detlefsen, letter men, and Everett Seeley. "Brick" has not been saying much this winter about the squad, but with last year's experience the quintet should be able to hold their own with any squad in the county.

## Looking for K. F. Murderer

The sheriff's office here received word yesterday afternoon from Klamath Falls that John Meek, who left there Monday evening, was being sought in connection with the murder of John Ansell there last Saturday. It was thought he might have come into Coos county.

Meek is described as being 26 years of age, about five feet, ten or eleven inches, in height, weight 160 pounds, brown hair, large grey or blue eyes, very red cheeks and prominent nose. He talks slowly and very little. When he left Klamath he was driving a Ford roadster, with light delivery truck body, which bore license number 226,709.

## WERE MARRIED LAST EVENING

The marriage last evening of Ben D. Wood and Miss Lola Ball was not entirely unexpected by their friends, but they managed to keep the time at which the event occurred so well concealed that they were able to leave without any undesirable attention.

Mr. Wood waited until after five o'clock to secure the marriage license and at 6:30 the ceremony was performed at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. P. Ball, near East First street. Rev. S. D. Walters was the officiating clergyman, with Mr. and Mrs. Frank Thrift and the bride's parents as witnesses.

They left immediately for Los Angeles to spend their honeymoon, after which they will return to San Francisco, where Mr. Wood has a position awaiting him.

The bride is one of Coquille's fair daughters, a graduate of the Coquille high school, and for the past year has been stenographer in County Agent Hale's office.

The groom has made many warm friends in the few years he has been here with Fuhrman's Pharmacy. He resigned his position there Jan. 1.

The Sentinel joins with their many friends in extending congratulations and best wishes.

## Bonds Bring Good Price

Seven bids for Coquille city improvement bonds were opened by the mayor and city recorder Tuesday evening, and sale of the \$32,431.08 worth of bonds was made to Geo. H. Burr, Conrad & Broom, who bid \$104.18 for each \$100 bond, plus the accrued interest. This figures a premium of \$1355.62 by which the city treasury will be enriched.

The bonds are for the street improvements made last summer on Willard, Henry, Second and other streets in the east part of town, and for the Train basement drain improvement.

The other bidders were the two banks of this city, the Bank of Southwestern Oregon at Marshfield; Atkinson, Jones & Co.; Peirce, Fair & Co., and Lumbermen's Trust Co., of Portland. The bids ranged from approximately \$8.26 premium per hundred to \$4.18.

## Four More Game Violators

Four men were fined \$25 and costs each by Justice J. J. Stanley this week for hunting after hours. On Wednesday Guy Trout, Frank Potts and F. R. Moisan, all of Marshfield, pleaded guilty to the charge, and yesterday Paul Crouch, of this city, was fined. The arrests were made by Deputy Game Warden C. A. Hearing.

Judge Brand has not yet rendered a decision in the case of Port of Bandon, F. E. Drane substituted as plaintiff, vs. Inland Construction Co., which was heard by him here Wednesday.

A decree of divorce was granted last Saturday to June R. Knoff, separating her from John F. Knoff.

## PARK COMMISSION DENY OBJECTION

**Files Its Report and Asks to Be Relieved --- New One Not Named**

The report of the Park Commission submitted to the city council and read at the session Tuesday evening, showed that its receipts had been \$750 from the city, with a balance of \$59.48 on hand Jan. 1, last year.

Disbursements for the year for caretaker of the park and other incidental expenses were \$635.25, leaving a balance on hand of \$174.23.

In the report it was stated that \$130.93 had been received in previous years from rent of the ball park for athletic contests and that it had been the understanding between the commission and the several clubs which used it that the funds be used in improving the athletic field. But with apparently waning interest in games there, the commission had not felt justified in expending any funds on the field or in fencing the tract. They recommended, however, that the fund be kept intact so that it might be used out there at some future time.

The members of the commission seemed to be of the opinion that their terms of office expired January 1, and referred to the ordinance which authorizes the mayor to name a park commission each year. Mayor Skeels stated at the council session that he contemplated submitting for the council's approval the name of five young men who have not previously served the city in official capacity.

A vote of thanks is due the retiring commission for the wonderful improvement made in the appearance of the Myrtle Grove park during their administration. The members for the past year were E. D. Webb, E. G. Leslie, J. P. Beyers, C. C. Farr and L. H. Hazard.

## V. F. W. Elect Officers

At a meeting held last Thursday evening at the I. O. O. F. Hall the Veterans of Foreign Wars elected the following named officers to serve during 1928:

Commander—Alton Grimes  
Senior Vice Commander—Leslie Martin  
Junior Vice Commander—Thomas Michelson  
Quartermaster—Edwin J. Brophy  
Chaplain—Harold Goeldner  
Officer of the Day—Walter L. Heron  
Post Surgeon—Grant McLellan  
Post Advocate—Ernest Shultson.

A chicken dinner was served to all the foreign service men and their families. There were about 80 present in all. Santa Claus made a belated appearance much to the delight of the kiddies, all of whom he remembered with candy and nuts as well as toys. A taffy pull was managed by Comrade Martin and Comrade Goeldner won the attendance pot as usual, this being the third out of the last four pots won by Comrade Goeldner. Commander Grimes appointed Comrade Kuhn, Brinkley, and Lockett as an Entertainment Committee to function during 1928.

## Music Teacher Badly Injured

Mrs. Vivian Woodside, music instructor in the Coquille schools, is off duty for a week as the result of an auto accident last Saturday. She accompanied Miss Mary Druley as far as Eugene and was on her way to Portland with friends Saturday when a woman driver pulled on to the road they were travelling and on the wrong side. The cars met head on.

Mrs. Woodside was thrown through the windshield, suffering a bad cut in her scalp, requiring several stitches to close, four broken teeth, other bruises and the loss of her voice, resulting from the bruising of the ligaments in her throat. She returned to Coquille Monday and was directed by her physician Wednesday to remain in bed for a week.

## Directors Enjoy Duck Dinner

All but three of the directors of the Chamber of Commerce were present Wednesday evening to enjoy the duck dinner which Lave Compton had prepared. The duck were furnished by J. L. Stevens, who is one of the candidates for president at the election to be held Jan. 18. It was suggested to the other candidate, J. L. Smith, that he furnish turkey for the next meeting of the directors, but he declared he would be satisfied "to throw a little bull."

## Council Overrules School Board's Protest to Street Assessment

Mayor Skeels, Councilmen Opperman, Chaney, Walker and Wimer were present for the regular session of the council this week, held Tuesday, as Monday was a legal holiday. Billiard hall licenses were granted for the ensuing six months, as follows: W. W. Tighlman, with H. D. Jones and Carl Goodman as sureties on his bond.

Wm. A. Zosel, with C. A. Gage and W. H. Fortier as sureties.  
J. L. Holycross with P. W. Walker and Dr. James Richmond as sureties.

The annual report of the city treasurer was ordered placed on file. It appears on page five of this issue. Repeating a conversation he had had with the state health officer, F. D. Stricker, Mayor Skeels said that the city must watch its chlorination of the water more closely, not apply too much or too little of the chlorine. Water Superintendent Epperson stated that he was unable to gauge accurately the amount being used without a scale and the water committee was authorized to purchase one.

The water superintendent and street commissioner were instructed by the mayor that the employment of a day marshal was to enable the water and street departments to co-operate and to eliminate the hiring of extra men as much as possible.

A. T. Morrison and D. F. Thompson, school directors, and Grant Corby were present to talk over with the council the matter of the school district's assessment for the Tenth street paving, against which a formal protest and objection had been filed.

Mr. Corby stated that figuring on a front footage basis the district should have been assessed about \$3,900 instead of the \$5,081.49, which the proposed assessment calls for. He also went into the legal aspects of the assessment and intimated that the directors would strongly oppose payment of the larger sum.

Mr. Thompson and Mr. Morrison also expressed their views, that the assessment was not equitable, that a large part of the school district lies outside of the city and that the district property was not benefited any more than was other property in the block adjoining the highway.

Councilman Chaney expressed the opinion that the high school property was benefitted to a greater degree and that some of the property along the street was not benefitted at all and could not be assessed its proportion of the cost.

After a somewhat lengthy discussion the council voted to overrule the objection and the assessment will stand as originally figured by the street committee.

The ordinance establishing the assessment for the Tenth street improvement, and the garbage ordinance were both laid over until the next meeting.

Jno. W. Leneve entered a protest against the dumping street sweepings and trash under the bridge near his home, and the practice was ordered stopped.

At his request also the council adopted a rate of \$18 a year for each faucet installed in the Masonic cemetery, if the lodge laid a water line from the service station on the highway into the cemetery. It is not to be used for sprinkling, but to furnish water for those who want to place flowers on the graves there.

It was ordered that the sidewalk on Elliott street between the Pioneer Methodist church and the bridge on First street be rebuilt, or it would have to be disconnected from the bridge.

## Chas. Strang Here on a Visit

Otto Strang and Harry B. Tozier arrived here last Sunday for a few days' visit with old friends. They had come up from their home in Shasta Valley, California, to Roseburg on business. They left for home this morning. Mr. Tozier visited here a couple of years ago, but this was Mr. Strang's first trip to Coquille since he left eight years ago. He sees many changes in roads and in Coquille since he left this section where he spent most of his life. The men have been engaged in dairying but sold their stock recently and plan to lay off a year before getting back into the dairy business.

## Coos Bay Times Is Sold

After twenty years as publisher of the Coos Bay Times at Marshfield, M. C. Maloney retired as editor with the issue of last Saturday evening and on Monday ownership and publication had passed into the hands of E. J. Murray, former publisher of the Klamath Falls Herald.

Mr. Murray comes with the reputation of being a live wire, a hustler, and a newspaper man of ability. The Sentinel welcomes him to the ranks of the newspaper fraternity in Coos county.

Mr. Maloney has not announced what his plans for the future are. While the Sentinel has never hesitated to take issue with the Times when it made unwarranted attacks on individuals, whether public servants or private individuals, as it did under the Maloney ownership when James Watson was so unjustly accused and pilloried, it does not hesitate to say that Mike and Dan Maloney are very able newspaper men who have made the Coos Bay Times one of the leading small city dailies in Oregon. They are good newspaper men.

Police officers, on duty until two o'clock last Sunday morning, reported to Recorder Leslie that the New Year's Eve festivities were the most orderly seen here for some time and not a single arrest was made.

## BOY SCOUT ACTIVITIES

The annual meeting of the Boy Scout Executive Council for Coos and Douglas counties will be held at 6:30 next Thursday evening, Jan. 12, at the Hotel Rose in Roseburg.

Regional Supervisor Hayward, of Spokane, will attend and address the meeting. Those going from Coquille are N. C. Kelley, C. T. Skeels, C. C. Farr, H. C. Getz, and J. L. Stevens.

Mention is again made of the Boy Scout pictures to be shown in the Community Building next Tuesday evening, Jan. 10. They will show camp life and activities in last summer's camps. They are said to be very interesting, and every one is invited to witness them.

Next Friday evening a Court of Honor will be held at the city hall here, with J. J. Stanley, A. T. Morrison and C. C. Farr sitting as the court to make the awards to the boys who successfully pass the tests.

N. C. Kelley, vice president for Coquille, has named the following as the Coquille troop committee for 1928: C. T. Skeels, Geo. W. Swinney, C. C. Archibald, H. C. Getz and C. W. Gano.

## E. H. Harnden Dies in Iowa

Word was received here Monday by E. M. Kay from Mrs. E. H. Harnden, that Mr. Harnden passed away at Story City, Iowa, at six o'clock Sunday morning.

Mr. and Mrs. Harnden left Coquille for Iowa in October, 1926, after a residence of about ten years in this valley. Sometime earlier in 1926 Mr. Harnden had suffered a stroke of paralysis and while he had shown some improvement since, he never recovered his health.

The ranch on the Fat Elk-Fishtrap road, where they lived for many years, still belongs to Mrs. Harnden. Mr. Harnden was about 55 years of age and one who had made many friends in this section who regret to hear of his passing.

## Highway Robbery Saturday

It frequently happens on the Pacific highway, but last Saturday afternoon's robbery on the highway between Coaledo and Delmar was the first in Coos county for many years. Eldon Langlois, of Bandon, was flagged by a man whom he thought wanted a ride. The stranger shoved a gun in his ribs and when Langlois resisted, hit him on the head with his gun. The robber then took \$17 from his pocket and disappeared. Langlois reported the affair to the sheriff's office as soon as he had received medical attention but no clue could be found of the man.

## Job for a Good Trapper

Send an S. O. S. for Lams Leneve! From Riverton this week comes the story of a lady who had lost two dozen chickens from raids by a wild cat, who met the cat in the path between her home and the chicken house. She shoed and waved at the varmint who heeded her not at all; it just stood there and "wagged its tail." When a neighbor arrived with a gun it had disappeared in the brush.

## LOTS OF SMOKE

**But No Damage in Sentinel Office Fire Room Wednesday Morning**

While the Sentinel building was not in any way damaged, and only slightly endangered by the fire in its basement which called the department out about six o'clock Wednesday morning, a lesson from it can be learned by many people who do not keep all their ashes in containers. The ashes taken out of the furnace Tuesday and lying on the concrete floor were apparently cold, but by morning they had charred an old wooden cabinet and burned one side of it so that the smoke in the basement was intense.

Mr. J. W. McGuffin, who builds the fire about six each morning, was unable to get down stairs. After having a call for the editor made from the hotel, he and LeRoy Swinney made three trips to the coal chute and when they saw light from the flames, LeRoy turned in an alarm.

The response by the fire department was almost instantaneous. "Penny" Sturdivant had the chemical truck at the coal chute trap door inside of three minutes and Fred Wimer and Frank Schram were right behind him. Putting on gas masks, they entered the dense smoke and soon had the blaze extinguished.

But there was heat all though the ashes and it required considerable water to soak out all signs of life.

It is not the Sentinel custom to allow ashes to collect on the floor, but the men who haul them away had not been found when sought last week.

Had it not been that top, bottom and sides of the furnace room were solid concrete the fire would have been able to get a good start.

In talking the affair over with Fire Chief Gardner, he asked us to say that everyone is urged to send in an alarm at the first sign of fire, even though it may only be a smudge of smoke. Time and valuable property may be saved by a prompt call.

Another fire was avoverted the evening before the blaze in the Sentinel basement, when a local business man found that ashes dumped in a cardboard carton, had burned through the box and were starting in on the flooring. He discovered it when he closed up Tuesday evening.

## Bad Storms North of Here

What a difference one hundred miles in latitude or longitude sometimes makes. Last Saturday Portland and the Willamette valley faced the worst storm of the winter with the thermometer well down toward zero, sleet, snow and a high wind. Yet in Coquille and Coos county the thermometer did not reach the freezing point and aside from a little rain, weather conditions were ideal.

Even as far south as Roseburg and in Camas valley there was snow on Sunday. At Corvallis Tuesday morning there was still three or four inches of snow while at Eugene, 40 miles south, there was just enough to whiten the ground.

Many wrecks lined the Pacific highway Saturday and Sunday, due to the icy pavements and ice covered windshields. Four stages went into the ditch at Creswell and Goshen was another favorite spot for the ditching of automobiles.

## Finishing Chevrolet Building

E. W. Gregg and workmen began Wednesday removing the form lumber from the concrete walls of the new Chevrolet building, adjoining the Sentinel and they are now ready to put on the roof and finish the interior. Paul McElwaine, of the Southwest Motor Co., hopes to occupy the new Chevrolet home, with the new Chevrolet models, about the first of February.

## Had to Keep Windshield Warm

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. J. Bohrer returned Wednesday from Salem where they spent New Year's with friends. Mr. Bohrer did not suffer the fate of others who had their cars frozen while travelling north on the Pacific highway Saturday. The sleet and rain would freeze on windshields, stop the windshield cleaner and prevent a view of the road. George simply lighted two candles and set them inside the windshield which kept the glass warm enough to prevent freezing.