

The Coquille Valley Sentinel

THE PAPER THAT'S LIKE A LETTER FROM HOME

VOL. XXVI. NO. 49.

COQUILLE, COOS COUNTY, OREGON, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1936.

\$2.00 THE YEAR

Oregon Historical Society
Auditorium

START NEXT WEEK

Drilling Operations to Be Resumed at Oil Well—Prospects Are Bright

J. F. Ewell, president of the Fat Elk Oil & Gas Co., announced yesterday that all the equipment and casing ordered by him on his recent trip to southern California, will arrive by boat on Coos Bay the first of next week and will be delivered at the well beyond Fat Elk at once.

With this equipment on hand drilling operations will be immediately started and carried on 24 hours a day to completion.

Mr. Ewell expresses the utmost confidence that the black liquid gold will be found and predicts the development of a large oil field in southwestern Oregon. So confident is he of success in the near future that his order was for only 1650 feet of 8 1/2 inch casing, but he adds that if more pipe is necessary it will be secured.

He also expresses confidence in the people of Coos county and that they will not allow this test to fail for lack of funds. Only a portion of the \$20,000 subscribed has as yet been paid in, but with resumption of drilling and steady operation, every subscriber will be asked to pay the amount for which he signed.

No one who has had no experience with an oil field development can really know what such an event means to a community. This writer saw a town of 4,000 in southeast Kansas begin a growth after oil and gas were found, which carried it to a city of 12,000, and it has not taken a single step backward. Property advanced in value, business increased by leaps and bounds and the magic of oil and gas was responsible.

Such conditions will be repeated here if the liquid is found, and those who know best say that the indications are as bright here as in any unproven field they ever saw. No one knows positively that the subterranean pools will be placed here, but neither has anyone known that there would be oil in any new location, and the opinions of geologists are what the wild cat operators must depend upon. And these scientists, who specialize in earth formations, are unanimous that the Fat Elk Oil & Gas Co. are located on the best of prospects.

With lumber off, dairy prices down, poultry products at a low level, the development of a "Spindle-top" in southwestern Oregon would be the biggest thing that ever happened to Coos county, and not a few, but everyone here would benefit, and that beyond their fondest dreams.

Now is the time for everyone who has faith in the future of this empire to prove that faith with their works.

Mr. Ewell announces that H. E. Bell has been elected secretary-treasurer of the company to succeed Miss Carima McRae, resigned.

Lions Seek Used Toys

At the Lions Club dinner yesterday noon, F. W. Martin reported that the committee had received several Santa Claus letters and also verbal reports of children where the Lions Club could help Santa Claus in providing a more cheerful Christmas. As yet there has been practically no response to the invitation to donate used or outgrown toys for the club's Christmas boxes, and it is again brought to public attention that such donations will be greatly appreciated.

Wm. A. Zoel was named as a committee to purchase a loving cup to be presented to the winning team of the Junior High basketball tournament which will be held in Coquille late in January and early in February. All the Junior Hi teams in the county will be present to participate.

Next Thursday being Christmas and the following Thursday New Year's, it was voted to hold no meetings until Lion Ray Jebb has returned from a very important trip he is to make in the near future. He was quoted by George Ulett as having changed his opinion, and is now a firm believer in Santa Claus.

Sentinel List Continues to Grow

Another indication of the Sentinel's growing subscription list, which will be of interest to our advertisers is that our cash receipts for subscriptions has shown a steady gain in 1936 over 1929, each month of the present year exceeding that of the corresponding month last year. Notwithstanding headline claims by others, the Sentinel more nearly covers the Coquille valley like a blanket than any other paper published, daily or weekly.

It Will Be a Short Week

Sentinel advertisers and correspondents are requested to get their advertising and communications in a day earlier than usual next week, and also the week following. When Christmas and New Year's fall on Thursday it is probably more of an inconvenience to a Friday published weekly paper than to almost any other business. Both Thursdays will be observed by practically every business house in Coquille.

Camp Three to Open Jan. 5

Rumors to the effect that the buckers and fallers will resume work Dec. 20, at the Coos Bay Logging Co. camp on Cunningham, are incorrect, but it has been announced that Camp 3 will reopen Jan. 5. Whether the camps near Powers will reopen at the same time is as yet uncertain.

Orders for a good many million feet of lumber by the mill at the bay probably has something to do with the short shut-down of Camp 3.

Here to Build Gas Plant

D. K. Wooden, who will be in charge of construction of the gas plant south of the city, arrived last Monday morning, but has made no announcement yet as to when actual operations will start.

A COOS RIVER MYSTERY

An unexplained mystery on Coos River, or its tributary, Daniels creek, is receiving the attention of Sheriff Heas and deputies, and they are going over again tomorrow to further drag the creek.

Last Thursday night at nine o'clock a man approached the Daniels creek ferry and when taken across by the ferryman, James Smith, said he would be back in a few minutes as he was only going a mile up the road. Smith waited an hour but the man, who was driving an Essex coach, did not return. Nor did he return any time that night, nor has he or his car been seen since.

Inquiries farther up the road have not revealed the car, nor did anyone see him as far up as the fish hatchery, near the road's end.

In only one place, where a smooth, rocky surface slopes off to the creek and a 40-foot hole could a man have skidded into the stream, and it was at this point that the officers dragged the creek Monday one hundred feet each way from the rock.

Mr. Smith describes him as being about the build of Roadmaster W. A. Gilbert, resembling Mr. Gilbert somewhat, and smoking a pipe. He did not know whether the car bore an Oregon license or not.

To Assist Coos Bay Celebration

At the last Chamber of Commerce directors' session, held in the hotel dining room Wednesday evening, the last for this year, a committee to nominate candidates for 1937 was appointed, consisting of O. C. Sanford, J. E. Norton and J. E. Ross. They will make their report Jan. 7.

The books of the chamber had been audited and were reported OK by the finance committee.

J. E. Norton was named as the Coquille representative on the committee which will be in charge of the Coos Bay Harbor celebration next July 2-3-4.

Buys Five Carloads of Cattle

A. S. Goode, of Bakersfield, Calif., a regular buyer of Coos county dairy stock, who had been in the county for the past ten days, left this week with three carloads of heifers, about 150 head, which were purchased from dairymen and dealers in this section. He is expecting to have two more carloads taken down a little later by Jas. T. Jenkins.

Is He a Coquille Resident?

An Oregonian dispatch this morning says that fifteen years ago J. F. Bickerstaff, of Pittsburgh, Pa., reported his watch was lost or stolen. Today it was recovered from a pawn shop. Whether the police can find Bickerstaff, whether this is the same Bickerstaff who recently came to Coquille it will be interesting to learn.

To Dedicate Hall, January 15

Dr. L. E. Baker, of Eugene, grand master of the Odd Fellows lodge in Oregon, has written W. E. Boeserman, secretary of the Coquille lodge, that he will be here for the dedicatory services which will be held in the new I.O.O.F. temple on Thursday, Jan. 15. The dedication will be open to the public.

A VERY FINE SHOW A WELFARE COM.

H. S. Students a Credit to Themselves and Their Director, Miss Pollock

It was an ambitious undertaking, that of Miss Helen Pollock, high school instructor, in drilling and training those fifty or more students, for the presentation of Hoolywood Sketches at the Community Building last Friday evening. The wonder of it lay in the fact that the students in great part were without previous stage appearance; that they devoted hours upon hours in perfecting themselves under her able direction, without allowing their school work to suffer; that in the short time at Miss Pollock's command that she could present so varied a program of vaudeville, and keep the audience interested throughout.

There was not as large a crowd as there would have been had the evening been less inclement, and the show given in a more comfortable auditorium, but the student body realized \$65.00 for its depleted treasury.

Craig Perrott, the baby of the Cornstalk family, which occupied a box adjoining the stage pretty nearly stole the show with his acrobatic stunts, climbing the supports of the building like a cat, descending head foremost, and putting on an exhibition seldom seen off the professional stage.

Denton Ellingson was the Cornstalk mother whose fears and concern over the baby's antics was equalled by Frank Schram's solicitude as father, Ray Woodyard as sister, and Mark Seeley, Uncle Silas Hayfever, whose wisecracking could mostly be heard about the sound of the rain.

In the Harvest Moon chorus and dancing set, which opened the show and gave an idea of the excellent program to follow, appeared Laura Davis, Rose Matney, Bonita Huntington, Hazel Mansell, Bernice and Frances Eggleston, Katherine Jane Hessler, Tracy Leach, Jack McCue, Keith Holverson, Bill Pook, Herman Ellingson, David Smith and Tom Osmond.

The Hawaiian hula-hula girls, in grass skirts, giving the rhythmic dance of the native islanders, showed a great deal of clever work by Grace Ellingson, Rose Matney, Beatrice Getz, Lucille Hergert, Jean Hatcher, Bonita Huntington, Violet Thrush, Freda Wilson, Eileen Thurman, Vera Gaslin, Yula Minard, Tessie Rubie, Helen Robinson, Barbara Unsoeld, Robelle Oederkirk and Audrey Aasen.

In the one-act play, "Not Quite Such a Goose," Melba McCoy was unusually fine in her role of mother. Her acting was as natural as her every day life and her rendition of her lines in perfect time. Florence Folsom and Carol Young likewise did well, while Tallant Greenough, the athlete, and Frederick Fuhrman, the tennis player, were as unconscious of (Continued on last page)

Elks to Distribute Baskets

As is their annual custom the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will distribute Christmas baskets to the needy next week, on Wednesday. The program carried out is termed the Elks' Christmas Cheer Work. W. A. Gilbert and Geo. W. Bryant are the members of the Coquille committee having the matter in charge for this city, and they ask that anyone willing to make a donation of vegetables, groceries, canned fruits or money, notify one of them at once, or donations may be left at the Sentinel office.

County Has Many Applicants

The county court is besieged at this time with more than the usual number of requests for assistance by dependent mothers and needy persons, and while all applications cannot be granted, the court is helping the most worthy.

The local unemployment committee has been notified by the court that a county road program to help the unemployed is being worked upon and will be ready for announcement soon.

Santa Claus to Appear Monday

J. L. Holycross, as has been his custom for a number of years, has invited Santa Claus to appear at his cigar store next Monday, Dec. 22, between one and two o'clock and the jovial St. Nick has accepted the invitation. He will have candy for all the children. Mr. Holycross is the children's friend and it always is a source of pleasure to him to entertain them.

Now Functioning in Coquille to Relieve the Unemployment Situation

As a part of the state-wide program to relieve unemployment in Oregon, and which was inaugurated by Gov. Norblad, in co-operation with H. B. Van Duzer, of the highway commission, and C. H. Gram, state labor commissioner, thirteen men were put to work by Paul Van Scoy, resident engineer, Monday morning, widening the shoulders on the highway, both toward Myrtle Point and Marshfield.

The men were employed by Mr. Van Scoy on the recommendation of the Coquille Welfare Committee, which consists of Community Chest committee members and the Chamber of Commerce appointees—A. T. Morrison, N. C. Kelley, Mrs. Ida Owen, Miss Marion King, C. C. Farr, J. E. Ross and J. L. Stevens.

This committee decided not to proceed with a woodyard for the unemployed, but to attempt to secure jobs for all those making application for employment. Thus far 17 men, heads of families, have been given jobs, and next Monday an alternate crew of 13 will start on the highway work, each crew working one week and then laying in for a week.

Of the 54 who have made application to Mr. Farr, 34 have been checked and found seriously in need of employment. Others who are known to have a reserve are not being given consideration at this time.

The greatest need of the community is a place to put men to work, and anyone having a day or a week's work to offer should confer with some member of the committee at once.

The attempts of the churches, the Salvation Army, the Community Chest committee and the Elks to furnish baskets next Wednesday for those who would otherwise endure a cheerless and hungry Christmas, are being made easier by Penny Sturdivant who has a list of those requiring assistance and which he has personally investigated. He reports not more than 20 in this district, half of them in Coquille.

The suggested idea that the Community Chest funds be conserved for later contributions, and that the charitable organizations be depended on for Christmas baskets is a good one. There will be greater need in all probability before the winter is over than there is now.

Closing the Rogue Would Benefit

In view of the stand taken by officers working for the state game commission that Rogue river should be closed to commercial fishing, some of the statements made by a Gold Beach citizen who was here this week are quite interesting.

There are just fifteen commercial fishermen living at the mouth of the Rogue, the rest of them coming down from Astoria and Oregon City for the season. Nor would it be cutting off a source of income from Curry county to close the river. Those fishermen, by the time they secure their supplies from the Macleay estate are so in debt that it takes all season to pay out, and very little cash is paid out and put in circulation.

The white women who work in the canneries there would be nearly as well off if the canneries were closed. The pay is 40 cents an hour, but by the time the season closes they have averaged to work just about one hour a day. Chinamen, working under contract, were formerly used in the cannery there, but when they found their contracts resulted in about the same compensation as the women receive now they stopped coming in for the season.

Of course, there are two sides to the question, but in southwestern Oregon the majority of people seem to feel that the only one benefiting from commercial fishing on the Rogue is the millionaire canneryman, and that more financial benefit results from the porterman fisherman's visits than from the commercial fishing.

Rebekahs to Meet Dec. 24

The last Rebekah meeting for the year will be next Wednesday evening December 24. The meeting will be made as short as possible but as some important details have to be arranged before installation it is hoped there will be a good attendance.

All of our high school chocolates and candies, both box and bulk, at wholesale cost. Let us supply your Christmas needs. The Poinsettia, on Front street.

Former Coquille Boy Honored

Never before, and possibly never again, will a former Coquille boy be chosen on the All-American football team as selected by Knute Rockne, "Pop" Warner, W. A. Alexander, T. A. D. Jones and Christy Walsh. We refer to Ted Beckett, the outstanding guard of the county, who has played on the University of California varsity the past three years. "Pop" Warner says he is the greatest guard he ever saw in a football suit.

Ted left here with his father, who had operated the Maryland Bar on Front street, when the saloons were voted out in Coquille, about 16 years ago. He was about ten years of age then, so, of course, received no football training here but he is one of the gridiron's best for 1936.

Community Christmas Tree

The ladies of the Woman's Club are this year locating the community Christmas tree on the vacant lot across the highway from the Ford garage. Last year's tree, on the court house lawn, and decorated by the club, was a beautiful sight. The one this year will be visible to a greater number of people, and it is hoped the thieves can be kept away from it. A couple of dozen globes were stolen from last year's tree.

CROWDS JAM COURT ROOM

The circuit court room has been crowded to overflowing the past two days with the morbid and curious who have flocked here from all parts of the county to listen to the salacious evidence of the Geo. Gothro trial. Standing room has been at a premium.

The greater part of Wednesday was spent in securing a jury, the following being the ones finally selected: Verne Bennett, Gravel Ford; Allen E. Baker, Myrtle Point; Harry H. Holvorstott, Coquille; Delbert W. Shelton, North Bend; Simon Albee, Myrtle Point; Margaret Detlefsen, Coquille; Beatrice Getz, Coquille; Morris Jamison, Bandon; Tike Cook, Myrtle Point; Kate S. Watson, Coquille; and H. A. Wise, Marshfield.

The Sentinel is not presenting any of the sickening testimony introduced by the state in its attempts to prove that the defendant, a man of 50 years, was guilty of the statutory assault for which he was indicted by the grand jury.

The victim of the assault was Hazel, 13-year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. N. J. Smith, of Marshfield, and if her testimony is true, the extreme of the law is not sufficient punishment for a man who did what Gothro is said to have done.

The disgusting story of a wild night party, with liquor as the means of starting it off, and the ride the child took with the defendant, and all that happened were told by the girl, and corroborated by one of the other girls up to the time they separated.

Dr. Hornfall, who made the examination, stated on the stand that while any fall might have caused the bruises he found, the girl had not been defiled prior to that night.

While condemning such atrocities and a man guilty of them in the strongest terms possible, it must be admitted that there are other culprits. We refer to parents whose lack of training and possible neglect of their children, results in such shocking conditions as sometimes come to light and more often do not.

The state rested at 10:30 this morning and the defense began its introduction of testimony, the general tenor of which is to be that the defendant brought the girl from Charleston to Marshfield and let her out near her home, without ever going to Davis Slough, where the assault is alleged to have been committed.

Whether the case will go to the jury this evening was problematical at noon.

Liberty's Decoration Is Pleasing

The redecorating of the Liberty Theatre was completed this week by the Thompson Decorating Co., of which O. Thompson is proprietor. The two-tone ceiling and the three-tone walls in futuristic conception, make a vast improvement in the interior appearance and it has also improved the acoustic properties. Removing the glazed finish of the walls lessens the reverberation and helps reception by the audience from the talking machines.

To any boy or girl bringing pressing or cleaning to the value of \$1.50 we will give one of those natty "Coquille" army caps. No strings to this offer. City Cleaners & Tailors.

NO AUTO CAMPS

In Residential District Is Decision of City Council—Other Business

With the city council expressing themselves, five to one, in opposition to an auto camp on the highway, between the high school and the business section; Mr. Keiser, of Marshfield, who was applying for a building permit Monday evening, decided to abandon the project.

Opposition was expressed by nearly all the residents of that section, and were represented by H. A. Niergarth, Roy Wernich, F. L. Greenough and Ray Burns at the Monday evening session.

The deal made by the city recorder and mayor for sale to W. E. Thompson, of the lot owned by the city on delinquent tax purchase, was confirmed by the council. The lots lies between the W. H. Mansell and Roy Watson homes, and the purchaser agrees to pay \$378 and interest for it—ten per cent down and \$25 a month.

C. Woolvers was authorized to construct a pound for stray animals, on the city's property at the dump, at his bid of \$70. It will be taken care by C. B. Gregory, who lives near there and is handling the city garbage.

The councilmen agreed with C. W. Gardner to heat the city hall with steam when the central heating plant main is run to that corner on Hall street, provided the charge was not in excess of what the city has been paying for other fuel.

City Engineer Steacer reported that \$2116.63 was due Peart Bros. for construction of the Beach street bridge and payment was ordered of that amount, less \$500.

Final payment of \$481.10 for the Willard street sewer job was ordered made to Peart Bros.

The city engineer also reported that there was due Knapp & Goss for construction of the North Outlet sewer the sum of \$5,367.29, but inasmuch as the contractors have gone, leaving a great many unpaid bills, the money will not be paid over until Mr. Goss can be induced to return and O. K. the accounts. In the meantime it is working a hardship on the local creditors of the contracting firm.

Four Knock-outs Last Night

Cyclone Joe Coffman, the whirlwind who is knocking them over with regularity in the northwest, was all there was to it in the main event at last night's boxing card here. He toyed with Harold Westover, of Portland, for a couple of rounds, and then opened up in the third, putting the Portland youth to sleep with solid blows to body and chin.

"Chuck" Borden, advertised to meet Cyclone Joe, was here from Eugene, but could not fight because of an infected eye, and Matchmaker Watson secured Westover at the last minute.

Coffman, a Brooklyn, N. Y., boy, who is fighting here under the management of Roy Watson, is the best scrapper seen in Coquille at his weight for many a long year. He will feature the Christmas card at the Bay.

Kermit Shaw caught Judd Wilson just right in the second frame of their mix, with one of his husky right smashes and the Eugene boy listened to the birdies.

The cleverest fight of the evening was between Tony Camden, of Myrtle Point, and Ray Avery, of Eugene, at 122 pounds. Tony won a close decision. It was the best bout on the card.

Brewster, of Coquille, substituting for Roy Morgan, of Marshfield, was handed the K. O. sign in the second by Ellsworth Willett who is improving in every match he enters.

In the curtain raiser Bud Nichols, of Empire, slipped one to Jack Schermer's chin in the second and that ended that.

Only a fair house greeted the card which was an average show with Coffman's fighting and the Camden-Avery bout as the bright spots.

For the tournament on the Playmore Golf Course here tonight (Friday), Marshfield is sending over ten of its best players in an attempt to clean up on the local crack players. Beside the ten men there will be six ladies from the Bay who will participate in the tournament.

The music class in connection with the Coquille Woman's Club will not meet until the fourth Tuesday in January.