

# The Coquille Valley Sentinel

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Oregon Historical Society Auditorium

VOL. XXXVI. NO. 12

COQUILLE, COOS COUNTY, OREGON, THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 1941.

\$2.00 THE YEAR

## George C. Huggins Named To Succeed J. H. McCloskey

The resignation of J. H. McCloskey as Coos county's representative in the legislature, last Thursday, created quite a furor for a week, with several candidates being urged for the position.

The appointment of a successor by law placed in the county court's hands, the law also being that the appointee shall for the past five years have been registered under the state party banner as the one whom he succeeds, which meant he must be a democrat in this case.

The official notification of the vacancy did not arrive from Secretary of State Snell until this week, and it became the most important matter of business for the new court, which took office Monday, to set upon.

The appointment of George C. (Chet) Huggins, Marshfield insurance man for more than 21 years, was announced by the court yesterday noon.

There were several other candidates whose names had been proposed by friends—L. H. Hamard, J. A. Lamb, Geo. H. Chaney, of Coquille; Mrs. J. H. McCloskey, Norway; W. J. Conrad, of Marshfield, and I. N. Hartley, of North Bend. The latter declined the democratic county central committee's endorsement, preferring to retain his office of city treasurer.

At the morning sessions of the court yesterday, Harry A. Black spoke in favor of Mr. Hamard's appointment—the latter was not an active candidate but would have accepted if chosen. Clarence Barton for the central committee, urged Mr. Huggins' appointment, and Fritz Hagen, of the Marshfield Central Labor Council argued that Mr. Conrad be named.

In announcing the court's selection, Judge Ervin L. Peterson said that the office was not one in which geographical location of the appointee's home should be considered, that he was representing all of Coos county and whether he lived on the valley or bay side was immaterial. He also said that had Mr. Hamard received the same amount of active support as had the others who were being considered that the Coquille ex-lunatic president might very possibly have been chosen.

As it was Mr. Hamard received one of the three votes all through the court's deliberation.

In Coquille, while everyone approves Mr. Huggins as a very able man and one who will make a good legislator, there is still a feeling of disappointment that Mr. Hamard did not receive the honor to round out a very active life.

Mr. Huggins refuses to commit himself as to whether he will support Robert S. Farrell, of Portland, or W. M. McAllister, of Medford, for speaker of the house. Their claims of pledged votes indicates that it will be a close race.

Whether the selection of a speaker will affect the counties included in each of the congressional districts of the state, when it is redistributed at this session is not known. Oregon's population now entitles it to four seats in the lower house at Washington, and it is desirable that the coast counties, whose interests are so similar, should all be grouped in one congressional district.

Mr. McCloskey's resignation was the result of the accident he suffered last summer when hit by a car in front of the Norway store. His injuries have not sufficiently improved so that he could be as active as Salem as the position requires.

Mr. McCloskey has been a very conscientious and highly esteemed member of recent legislatures and was re-elected last November for another term.

The 1941 legislature will convene next Monday.

## H. E. Baldinger Suspends Publication of The Farmer

H. E. Baldinger, who returned Tuesday evening from Eugene, states that he has been compelled to give up the publication of the Coos-Curry Farmer, which he had gotten well started last fall, because of his duties with the Hodges-Evewester Co., which recently bought the Eaton Ford Store in Marshfield.

Mr. Baldinger is a field manager of all the properties and expects to open more branches in southwestern Oregon. He will make his headquarters at the Coquille store, and after school closes next summer anticipates that his family will join him here.

## 23 Finish Seven Driving Lessons

C. D. French, driving instructor of the state's traffic safety division, who was here yesterday to conduct his seventh and last lesson of instruction for high school students under 15 years, told the Sentinel that it was an unusually good class he has had here the past two months and all of them are now ready, when they reach the age of 16, to take their examinations for driver's licenses.

Not only has he given them lessons in actually operating a car, but they have all been thoroughly drilled in the rules of the road and other matters which a driver must know besides the actual driving of a car.

The following are the 23 who have just completed the course: Betty Dandred, Marilyn Sage, Clarence Stem, Edwin Stewart, Viola Dunkley, Patricia Halverstott, Don Kramer, Thomas Newton, William Stephens, Marvene McClellan, Phyllis Bunch, Donald Ducey, Loren Waterman, Davis Ann Wood, Joe Estes, Mary Woodhurst, Dorothea Yarborough, Lorne Saylor, Merrill Tozier, Robert Churchill, Charles Mulkey, Paul Anderson, Richard Roy.

## Mystery Car's Burning Solved

After Robert Pittman had been arrested by the state police at Cushman last week and the burned mystery car near Headport became no longer a mystery. He had been engaged by the owner at Seattle to steal and burn it in order that the owner might collect the insurance. The car is still in the county jail here awaiting arrival of officers from Washington.

Others thought to jail here the past week were Edgar Miller, wanted in Yamhill on a petit larceny charge. He had been living with a young girl at Bangor for the past three weeks.

Another was Frank Scheider, sentenced to ten days on a vagrancy charge by Justice Beck at Marshfield last Saturday.

## Slide Danger Over For Present

The slide on the highway just this side of China camp bridge is now under control, the highway crew having been on the job there for the past ten days, a part of the time day and night. One stretch of between 50 and 100 feet has sunk a few inches but dirt applied on top has kept it in condition for travelling. The large rocks and boulders which had been rolling from above have stopped coming down and the spot only needs careful driving to cross.

## Red Devils In Natty Warm-ups

The C. H. S. Red Devils squad will look pretty classy in new red warm-ups when they step out on the floor for their first home game tomorrow (Friday) evening.

Their competition will be with the Myrtle Point Bobcats, the B squad first game starting at seven o'clock.

## Roy Buckles' Home Saved

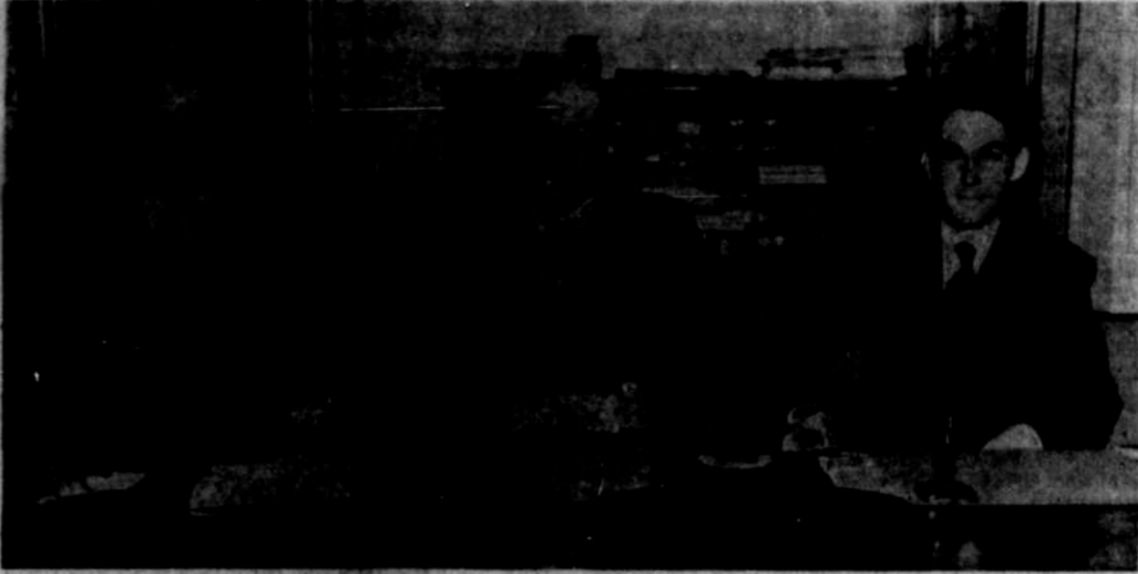
The fire department and the chemical truck saved Roy Buckles' home from destruction at six o'clock Monday evening. His place is across the road from the Roy school house, a couple of miles up river on the Flittrap road, and the walls were of Firetex which does not burn easily. The damage is estimated by Fire Chief Snyder at \$200 from the smoke and fire.

The blaze started from the heating stove and the boys had to use gas masks before they could stay in the confined space and get the chemical on the fire.

## State Official Here Monday

Louise Stockman, of Pendleton, a member of the state liquor control commission, was a Coquille visitor on Monday. She is a great lover of this section and one of the largest stock owners in Coquille. He said he and Mrs. Stockman were on a vacation trip down to this section, but that he also had in mind his duties as one of the liquor commission was evident.

## The New County Court



Just after the new members of the Coos County Court took their seats above picture was taken by Edgar McDaniel and the cut is furnished by the Coos Bay Harbor.

From left to right they are: R. H. Lawhorn, holdover commissioner; Lara Peterson, commissioner, and Judge Ervin L. Peterson.

## One Survey For New Route

No announcement has yet been made by the state highway department, nor has it yet been decided just where the new section of the Coast Highway between Coaledo and Coquille will be located, but one of the possible routes surveyed is one which turns east just this side of Coaledo, near the school house, and cuts across to the headwaters of Budd creek, that creek which flows into Cunningham a short distance north of Bert Gould's game farm.

What kind of grades would be encountered on such a route, which would shorten the distance between Coquille and Coaledo upwards of a mile, is not known for the engineers have not made any public report of their survey, but it would eliminate that slide-stricken spot near China camp bridge and do away with a very winding section of the highway, one curve after another for six miles as it now goes.

## Coal Samples Sent To Dupont

A complete report of the coal deposits in the Coquille valley and samples of the lignite has been sent to the Dupont headquarters in the east with the idea that this huge manufacturer of nylon might be interested and eventually a plant for the manufacture of the product might be located in the Coquille valley.

Les Child, who sent the samples and information, secured all possible data that could interest the Dupont concern.

## Going East For New Buicks

Mr. and Mrs. David B. Biegger and Mr. and Mrs. Clarence A. Barton who are leaving this evening for Portland, will take the Portland Rose tomorrow for Chicago. From there, they will go to Flint where each family is to pick up a Buick, purchased through Southwestern Motors.

They separate at that point, Mr. and Mrs. Barton going south to New Orleans and then heading west expecting to arrive about Feb. 1.

Mr. and Mrs. Biegger will go from Detroit to Iowa, where they will spend a week with his parents and then go to Albuquerque, N. M., for a short visit with his brother. They expect to be gone about five weeks.

## No. 5 Well Down One Thousand Feet

The first time that a well has been drilled over the Coast Oil Co. property, across the bottoms beyond Fat Elk, that no water was encountered was the No. 5 well which is now down a thousand feet, according to W. E. Marrior. That has held up the drilling of the well for eventually it was necessary to pump water to the new hole from a nearby small stream. The No. 5 is on the west side of the structure.

## Woman's Club Meets In Guild Hall Next Tuesday

The Coquille Woman's Club will meet Tuesday afternoon, January 15, in the Guild Hall at 2:00 p. m. A special lecture will be given by Mr. Allan East, supervisor of Psychiatric Social Work for Oregon. Every member is urged to be present.

## New Council Members Take Seats Monday

No official changes were made by Mayor Milne, except in the position of health officer, when the new council convened Monday evening, after the old council had allowed the December bills and adjourned sine die.

M. F. Pettit who, with Dr. De La Rhue retires from the city's governing body, said he had enjoyed working with the mayor and council the past two years. He has been chairman of the board and has been a very efficient member of the council.

All six members were present for the opening session of the new body—O. L. Wood, Geo. W. Taylor, Everett Seeley, C. M. Gray, Dr. G. E. Stark and David B. Biegger.

All appointments made by the mayor were approved by the council, as follows:

- Marshall—Lewis English.
- Deputy marshal—Frank McCrary, Harold Kolkhorst, Sherman Morris, D. A. Burch.
- Treasurer—C. G. Caughell.
- Attorney—Tallant Greenough.
- Engineer—J. N. Gearhart.
- Fire Chief—Ted H. Snyder.
- Building and sign inspector—F. T. Dungey.
- Health officer—Dr. Marshall Kennedy.
- Water and Street Supt.—S. V. Epperson.
- Auditor—Keith Leslie.
- Division of Public Safety—Harold Kolkhorst, J. N. Gearhart, Dr. Marshall Kennedy.

The Sentinel was designated as the official paper for the city. The council committees were appointed, the first named being chairman:

- Ordinance—Gray, Taylor, Seeley, Finance—Wood, Taylor, Gray.
- Fire—Taylor, Wood, Stark.
- Lights—Seeley, Stark, Biegger.
- Water—Stark, Biegger, Seeley.
- Streets—Biegger, Gray, Wood.
- Dr. Marshall Kennedy, the new city health officer, succeeds Dr. G. E. Stark, who has served in that capacity for the past two years but now, due to his election as councilman, is ineligible for the health officer position.

In accordance with the plan suggested by Mayor Milne and mentioned in the Sentinel last week—that of retiring the last of the city's outstanding 6 percent bonds on February 1—the council adopted a resolution transferring \$4,903.72 from the general fund surplus to the street improvement bond sinking fund to pay face and interest on those bonds. The resolution provides that that amount shall be returned to the general fund when improvement assessment payments have reached that figure.

City Engineer Gearhart had submitted a written report on the condition of the First street sewer, from First and Henry street to Front and Hall street. Certain portions of that sewer have become partially crushed due to heavy truck traffic on the gravelled street, and a portion of it is below the original level allowing the bottoms there to be flooded at the J. E. Quick place. The engineer added it was not large enough to carry its load in the first place.

His recommendation was that the line be raised on solid ground, and that the elevation be raised so that it would eventually fit into a system with one outlet for all the sewers of Coquille leading to a treatment plant. The council instructed him to prepare plans and specifications for a new sewer along the lines recommended.

The Southwestern Motors company was granted a permit to make a double driveway opening in the north wall of its garage building on Second street, in front of the grease and wash rack now being installed.

A quit claim deed from Bert Folsom to a lot northeast of the ball park was accepted. Mr. Folsom bought the lot and asked that it be deeded to the city ten years ago for street—but for some reason the record on the county's books showed it made out to him and there is a ten year accumulation of taxes on it. City Attorney Greenough was instructed to present the facts in the case to the county court and ask that the tax charges be rescinded.

The bond of the recorder was set at \$5,000. The bond required of the city treasurer is \$10,000.

A restaurant license for the Coquille Cafe on Front street was granted and the bond approved.

Matters left over till the next meeting, Jan. 26, were the purchase of street back-topping equipment; the request of Everett P. Thompson that the city install a septic tank for him on his lot on Cecil street, and to pay for it in annual installments as sewers are paid for.

Another was the petition for a gravel improvement of Kelley street, the names appearing on the petition not being the same as those appearing as owners on the county records.

## Larger Than A Pair of Pears

Mrs. Callie Leach brought in to the Sentinel last Friday one of the largest pears we have ever seen. It measured 15 inches in circumference the long way and 14 inches around. She said it is a winter pear, good only for baking or preserves, and that eleven of them made a dishpan full. She ascribes the huge size to the fact that George Tracy Leach pruned the tree way back a couple of years ago.

## Water To Be Off Sunday Afternoon

S. V. Epperson announces that the water department crew will flush the city mains next Sunday, Jan. 12, and that the water will be shut off from two until five o'clock that afternoon.

## I.O.O.F. Joint Installation

A joint installation of officers of Coquille Lodge No. 53 and Mamie Rebekah Lodge No. 20, I. O. O. F., will be held in Odd Fellows hall next Wednesday evening, Jan. 15. Delos Richardson, District Deputy Grand Master, and Ena Harless, district president of the Rebekah Assembly, will be the installing officers.

The public is cordially invited to attend this ceremonial session.

## New Teller In The Bank

E. H. Peterson, Jr. from the main bank at Portland, came in Monday morning to join the force in the Coquille branch of the First National Bank of Portland. He succeeded Vern Knox, who resigned to engage in outdoor work for the next few months and who intends to go to college next fall.

## Chamber Commerce Solicitation To Start Next Tuesday

According to the announcement made by Dr. DeLaRhue, chairman of the membership committee, at the Chamber of Commerce luncheon Tuesday noon, the committees which solicit for chamber memberships and subscriptions will meet for an eight o'clock breakfast at the hotel next Tuesday morning, Jan. 14. The committees and the districts which they will canvass are:

Front street—L. L. Bonney, Drue Cunningham.

First street—R. L. Stewart, H. A. Young.

Second street—C. M. Howard, Andy Anderson.

Hall street—Geo. Witter, Lloyd Claver.

Taylor street—Geo. E. Oerding, Lefe Compton.

Court House—J. E. Norton, Geo. H. Jenkins.

Schools—B. W. Dunn.

Industries—J. L. Smith, Dan Fish.

While it does not affect the Coquille Chamber of Commerce, whose only employee is a secretary who is paid for only a small portion of her time, the directors voted to go on record as opposing the payment by Chambers of Commerce of any unemployment tax, such as general business must pay. There are chambers in the state which might be compelled to contribute.

An invitation was extended to Atkinson-Jones & Co., of Portland, to present their 20-minute program at some noon session in February, they are to select the date. The subject of their program is "capital investment" and consists of pictures and talks.

It was voted that the secret solicitation committee be continued again this year and that every subscribing member of the chamber pledge him or herself not to contribute to out-of-town solicitors' schemes—or rackets—unless the solicitor shows a card signed by President Stewart that the project has been found worthy of support.

President Stewart stated that with the co-operation of George Jenkins, an effort would be made to have a co-operative weather bureau station in Coquille.

The Portland bureau is to be asked to lend assistance in securing a Coquille weather observing station.

George Witter and Lloyd Claver reported on the Santa Claus activity of the chamber last month and bills of \$44.99, contracted by the committee, were ordered paid. The committee was also given a vote of appreciation for the very satisfactory way in which the pre-Christmas program was carried out.

Bert Gould, who recently travelled from Coquille south to southern California, stated that in no town through which he passed did he see holiday street decorations which compared with Coquille's. On his motion the Christmas decoration committee was given a unanimous vote of thanks.

## Pinned To Earth By Heavy Beams

Wm. Dern, of Marshfield, who was tearing down what was left of the old Sitka Mill on the river bank west of town, was caught by falling beams and timbers and pinned down until released by fellow workmen. When taken to the Belle Knife Hospital, it was found he had suffered a broken ankle, injured back, head and face, and was badly bruised all over.

## Reservoir Gets Annual Bath

Work was started Monday by the city's water department crew on the annual "washing" job at the Rink creek reservoir east of town. Frank Dungey said Monday evening that the reservoir was nowhere near as dirty this year as it was last and that the streams thrown by the engine last January had practically cleaned all the debris and trash out of the pond. The job this week was much easier because of last year's thorough cleaning.

## Coquille Grange To Meet Friday Evening

At the Coquille Grange meeting scheduled for Friday evening, the new master, Henry George, will conduct his first meeting.