

The Coquille Valley Sentinel

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Historical Society
Auditorium

VOL. XXXIX. NO. 31.

COQUILLE, COOS COUNTY, OREGON, THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 1943.

\$2.00 THE YEAR

Drilling To Start On Davis Slough Within Two Weeks

A rotary drill, with which a test well for oil or gas will be drilled on the Westport arch, at the head of Davis Slough, will arrive here the latter part of next week or the first of the week after, from Fresno, Calif., accompanied by a crew of 15 men who will work, five men to a shift, for 24 hours a day, was the statement of M. R. McArthur at the hotel this morning.

Mr. McArthur is from Bartlesville, Okla., where the company he represents, the Phillips Petroleum Corporation, has its main offices.

Mr. McArthur is not to be in charge of drilling operations but has been making arrangements for the preliminary preparations on the selected site which is on the Dobbyn ranch, section 28, township 26, range 13 south. Mr. Dobbyn, who lives at Trail, Ore., is related by marriage to Mrs. Keith Leslie.

A geologist from Oklahoma is coming next week to supervise drilling of the well which Mr. McArthur says will go to a five or six thousand feet depth if necessary.

Mr. McArthur is guarded in his statements as to the probability of striking oil and gas in Coos county. The surveys by geologists indicate that the formations, faults, etc., on the Westport Arch are the same as those where oil and gas is found but this country has been so broken up by quakes, slides and tremors in ages past that the oil may possibly have all escaped. He calls this strictly a "wildcat" operation, but if the black gold is found anywhere within a mile down from the earth's surface it will mean such an influx of capital and population as Coos county has never seen before.

That there is some oil beneath the surface in the Coquille valley was demonstrated by Walt Marrion a few years ago when he drilled that well across the valley from here, beyond Fat Elk, but the flow was not enough to prove that there is oil here in commercial quantities. However, the well was not drilled to the depth the coming operation by the Phillips Corporation contemplates. There was some gas, too, sufficient to cause Mr. Marrion to lay a pipe line from the well to the Coquille Gas & Power Co. plant near the Smith plant, but the flow did not hold up and the pipe line has been unused for several years.

Southern oil in considerable volume be hit by this wildcat well and thereafter by other wells, it will mean, eventually, the building of refineries on Coos Bay, the port from which the product can be shipped by either water or rail.

This writer was a resident of Independence, Kansas, when oil was first struck in the Mid-Continent field and there were scoffers, there at that time who would not believe that oil and gas could be found there but it was and from a peak of well over 300,000 barrels of production a day, the state of Kansas has dropped to something over 200,000 barrels daily, but oil and gas were the cause of southeast Kansas development into an industrial section.

The drilling here by the Phillips Petroleum Corporation will be watched with intense interest, not only here in Coquille and Coos county but all over the United States.

Shrine Ceremonial Here October 23

A Shrine ceremonial by Hillah Temple of Ashland is scheduled to be held in the Coquille Community Building on Saturday, Oct. 23, K. P. Lawrence reports. He also says there will be a large class of novitiates present for the ceremonial.

Paul Rynning, of Medford, Hillah potentate, formerly resided in Coquille when he was district engineer for the State Highway Commission, and enlisted for service in World War I, from Coquille.

The H. S. Nortons Are Grandparents

Mrs. H. S. Norton returned Sunday evening from Portland, coming home as a much more distinguished personage. A baby boy, who weighed eight pounds, seven ounces, and has been named Alfred Joseph, Jr., was born Saturday to their daughter, Beverly—Mrs. A. J. Claassen.

F. S. Emery To Manage A Mill At Elgin, Oregon

Coquille is to lose one of its most prominent citizens, a man who came here twelve years ago in May from Massachusetts, who is now president of the Lions club and has been identified with every progressive movement in the city for years. He is F. S. Emery, who will leave Sept. 1 to manage the large pine mill which the Ralph L. Smith Co. of Kansas City has just purchased at Elgin, Ore.

Mr. Emery turned the offer down when Mr. Smith first broached the matter to him by long distance but yesterday gave Mr. Smith his acceptance.

The plant there remanufactures 40,000 feet of lumber each operating day.

Mrs. Emery, who has also been prominent in social and church affairs and civic enterprises, will not join him until later next month, after their daughter, Betty, has entered the University of Oregon.

Telling the Sentinel of his pending move yesterday, Furb said, "You can say for me that some day I am going to live in Coquille again. We like it here."

His position with Smith Wood-Products, Inc., here has been that of superintendent of cedar operations, he having charge of the mill, factory, machine shop, power plant, carpenter crew and dry kiln.

Coquille will miss Furb Emery as much as he will miss Coquille and, while it is regretted that he will soon leave, one and all his friends rejoice that the new position will be to his material advantage.

Lions Win Soft Ball Game, Rotary Club The Golf Tournament

Friday, the 13th, was the unlucky day for the Coquille Rotary, which lost the softball game at Athletic Park to the Lions club that evening by an 8 to 5 score, but they evened up matters on the Coquille Valley Country Club golf links on Sunday, when they won from the Lions, 27 1/2 to 23 1/2.

Don Farr, Rotarian, was the hitting star in the ball game with two home runs to his credit and Willard Bosserman, Rotarian, who caught the entire game, was the hardest worked player on either club. His shirt wouldn't have been any wetter had he fallen in the river.

There were some aching muscles that night and next day for it was more strenuous exercise than most of these business and professional men are in the habit of engaging in.

Mayor O. L. Wood might be called the "hitting star" in the golf game Sunday for on the second round he joined the "hole-in-one" club from the first tee. His Lion opponent, Furb Emery, had won the first round and when Orville's tee-off shot rolled into the cup Furb remarked, "I didn't mean to make you that mad!" Others in the foursome were George Ulett and George Laird and the stunt entitled his honor to become a member of the Country Club.

The longest drive for the No. 8 hole was won by Ted Buck and for coming closest to the flag on No. 9, M. S. (Cranberry) Anderson was awarded the prize.

"Spike" Leslie won the "blind hole" prize. His was low score among the 34 who participated for the No. 5 hole, that hole being selected by a drawing after the match.

(Continued on page eight)

Dance For Benefit Boys, Girls, Clubs

The dance in the Coquille Community Building this coming Saturday night, Aug. 21, is for a most worthy cause, one that the Youth Advisory Committee is to be heartily commended for sponsoring. The net proceeds from the dance will be used to equip the rooms in which the Girls' Club and the Boys' Club will enjoy in the basement of the Community Building.

Shady's Orchestra will furnish the music for the dance, admission to which will be \$1.10 per couple, tax included and extra or single lady admission will be 25 cents.

The boys and girls who have been selling tickets report a fine response.

Calling cards, 56 for \$1.00.

Opportunity For The Greater Use Of Coos Co. Waste Land

M. S. Anderson, who was temporarily transferred from the sales department of Cranberry Cannery, Inc., to the production department in order to get the plant across the tracks from the depot here into operation this fall, says that after the war, when things return to normal, the program is to have a plant here which will turn out a quarter of a million cases—28 pounds to the case—of cranberry sauce.

The company also handles fresh cranberries and its location here will do more to help develop and put to use land in Coos and Curry counties which has been considered as waste for years and years, than anything that ever happened in Coos county before.

The company has just purchased 780 acres, nine miles south of Bandon, east and across Highway 101 from the Croft Lake road, where a logging operation is to be started, a lumber mill and box-making plant installed, which will be no small affair itself.

An 100-acre bog is also being put in on the 780 acres and it alone would necessitate a cannery, but the management is co-operating with all growers and will handle their product when desired both for fresh marketing and for canning.

Mr. Anderson says the canning and labeling operations, all by machinery, is most interesting to watch and that from two or three feet distance as they are labeled look like a continuous piece of tin so rapidly do they move on the conveyors.

Mr. Anderson, whose headquarters were in Chicago, expects to return there in a few months when an experienced plant man is available for the Coquille cannery.

Coquille Schools To Open September 7

As has been customary in the Coquille schools for years, the date on which they will open this year is Sept. 7, the next day after Labor Day.

The janitors, who are the same as last year, have the buildings and grounds in tip top condition, Supt. B. W. Dunn reports, and there is only one position in the corps of teachers to fill, that of girls' physical education instructor.

The list of instructors for the three schools—high, junior high and grade—for the coming year are:

High School—Mr. Clarence Osika, Principal, Socio-Economics; Mrs. Helen Ayers, Commercial; Mrs. Ruth Beyers, Mathematics; Miss Annice Chandler, Biology, Gen. Science; Miss Lunelle Chapin, English, French; Mr. Earl Leslie, Coach; Miss Lois Peterson, Home Economics; Mr. Paul Snider, Industrial Arts; Mrs. Rose Stromquist, English, Spanish; Mrs. Thora Watson, English, History; Mr. Harold Withnell, Music.

Lincoln Junior High School—Mr. Wayne Smith, Principal, Math., Phys. Education; Mrs. Mona Inman, Mathematics, Health; Mrs. Alice Lafferty, Soc. Science, Art, Penmanship; Mrs. Ruth B. Shaw, English and Reading; Mrs. Marie Stewart, Soc. Science, 7 and 8 Grades; Mrs. Elifeda Emsley, Gen. Science, Girls' Phys. Education.

Washington Grade School—Mrs. Hazel Hanna, Principal, Fifth grade; Mrs. Betty Barton, Fifth Grade; Mrs. Jane Creager, Fourth Grade; Mrs. Lavinia Peart, Fourth Grade; Mrs. Joyce Owen, Third Grade; Mrs. Althea Harrah, Third Grade; Miss Dorothy Page, Second Grade; Miss Arlene Robertson, Second Grade; Mrs. Inez Chase, First Grade; Mrs. Alberta Tyrrell, First Grade; Mrs. Edith Walton, Remedial.

Since the above was put in type the directors of this school district held a meeting last evening and granted Mrs. Joyce Owen a release of her contract. She is going to Corvallis, where she will teach the fourth grade in one of the schools there.

To take her place the board tendered a contract to Mrs. Guy Mintonye, who came here from Roseburg the first of June with her husband and children. She will teach the third grade in the Washington building.

Trepass notices printed on cloth for sale at this office.

Collision Of Trucks Was Fatal To Mrs. C. V. Smith Yesterday

A tragedy that cast a universal pall of gloom all over Coquille was that at 1:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon which resulted in almost instant death to Mrs. C. V. Smith.

The accident occurred at the intersection of Eighth and Heath streets when the parcels post delivery truck, of which she had been the driver since last December, collided with an empty logging truck, driven by Gerald Lillie, 16-year old son of Albert Lillie of Arago.

Mrs. Smith was driving the mail truck south on Heath and was going straight through, leaving the pavement for the gravelled street south of Eighth.

The logging truck had turned on to Eighth from Coulter and Lillie was going east on Eighth to the house up the hill where he resides.

A house at the northwest corner of the intersection prevented the two drivers, both of whom have had much driving experience and are careful, from seeing one another until just as they reached the intersection.

The wheel marks made by both trucks show that the brakes were applied and, in his endeavor to miss a collision, Lillie turned hard to the right and had slowed his truck almost to a stop when the collision occurred, according to ladies who saw the accident from 100 or more feet away.

The logging truck's left front bumper and the right rear fender of the mail truck hit with sufficient force, although there was only a comparatively small dent in the fender, to cause the mail truck to topple over on its side and it stopped about 30 feet from the spot of the collision.

Whether Mrs. Smith attempted to jump as the mail truck was turning over, or whether she was thrown by the collision will never be known. Only her head had emerged from the driver's cab—it has no doors—and her head was caught under the top of the cab, requiring the efforts of men to lift it from her.

Dr. J. D. Rankin, acting coroner, who was summoned, states that death was caused by the crushing of her head and a possible fractured neck. Had not Mrs. Smith attempted to slow down her truck, as she evidently did, it would have passed in front of the logger.

The fire department was summoned with its pulmotor, but Mrs. Smith had expired before its arrival.

Police Officer Beagle was the first officer on the scene, soon followed by Chief Creager and state police officers who took measurements and reconstructed the circumstances as clearly as possible in the report which will be presented in the coroner's inquest to be held probably tomorrow, when District Attorney Flaxel can be present. Young Lillie's statement, which cannot be published before its presentation at the inquest, is also ready for presentation. The logging truck he was driving belongs to Clovis Church.

Needless to say Gerald was stunned by the tragedy and while he did what every driver would have done under similar circumstances—turn to the right in an attempt to let the other truck go by—his grief is unbounded.

Baby Girl Born Saturday To The Lud Scharfers

Mr. and Mrs. Lud Scharfer were made very happy last Saturday evening, Aug. 14, when a seven pounds, four ounces baby girl was born to them. She has been named Barbara Elaine and was born at the Mast Hospital in Myrtle Point. Both mother and babe are doing well and Lud is expected to recover!

F. O. Eagles Annual Picnic To Be Held Sunday, Aug. 22

The annual picnic of the Coquille Eagles, to which their families and any visiting Eagle are invited, will be held in the Mast Grove near Lee this coming Sunday, Aug. 22. It will be a basket lunch affair with coffee and cream furnished by the lodge.

Mer Steward, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Steward, of this city, could only spend Saturday here with his parents, arriving that morning and leaving in the evening. He is in the Coast Guard, stationed at Port Townsend, Wash., and had to spend most of his 64-hour leave traveling. To further shorten his time he had to give up his seat on a plane to an army officer's wife.

Accident Victim For Past 23 Years Had Lived Here

Mrs. C. V. Smith, born Pearl Weaver Kellock, Sept. 26, 1888, at White River, Colorado, was the daughter of Lydia and Andrew Kellock. Her girlhood days were spent in Colorado and on December 24, 1908, she was united in marriage to C. Vernon Smith in Telluride, Colo. They came to Coquille in February, 1920, and have been residents of this community since.

Besides her husband she is survived by one son, Carlton A. Smith, a grandson, David S. Smith, of Coquille; two sisters, who reside in Nevada and one in Washington.

She had been a postal employee in the local office about 20 years ago and when the shortage of man power began to become acute was again engaged as parcels post deliverer here last December.

Mrs. Smith was a member and past president of the Coquille Woman's Club, a member of the B. & P. W., of the Coquille Grange and of Beulah Chapter, O. E. S. She was a splendid woman, a member of the Episcopal church here; one whose cheerful smile and hearty greeting always tended to make the day brighter for those she met and her passing is sincerely mourned by a very large circle of friends.

Funeral services are to be held at two o'clock Saturday, in St. James' Episcopal church, Rev. Robt. L. Greene officiating.

The body, where it was taken yesterday, will lie in state at the Gano Funeral Home on Saturday until noon. The interment will be in the Masonic cemetery, Beulah Chapter conducting graveside services.

Chas. Kolkhorst, Jr. To Be Buried Monday

Charles Kolkhorst, Jr., familiarly known as "Jiggs" to his friends here, where he had lived since 1927 until he went to work in the shipyard at Vallejo, Calif., two years ago, passed away at the Army camp at Shepherd Field, Texas, last Monday morning, according to word received by his wife from the commanding officer there.

The first message to Mrs. Kolkhorst said he was seriously ill but the cause of his death was not stated in either message sent.

The body will arrive on the Bay Sunday and funeral services will be held at the Campbell Funeral Home at 2:00 p. m., Monday with interment in Masonic cemetery.

Charles was born Sept. 5, 1920, in Arkansas and came with his parents to Coquille when he was seven years of age.

He attended Coquille schools and graduated at the age of 17, from C. H. S. in 1937.

He was united in marriage Nov. 29, 1941, at Napa, Calif., to Miss Elvera Hansen, of Marshfield, who joined him in California soon after he went to work there.

He enlisted in the Army Air Corps this summer and three days after he left for Texas their baby boy, Charles Lewis, now 14 days of age was born. He arrived at the Texas field Aug. 8.

Besides his widow and son, he is survived by his mother, Mrs. E. O. Clinton of Coquille; his father, Chas. Kolkhorst of this city, and two brothers, Harold, who is at Camp Roberts, Calif., and LeRoy, who is with the Army Air Corps, somewhere on the European front.

"Jiggs" Kolkhorst was a likeable friendly young man whose offer to serve his country resulted in his death before his actual service began.

Another Couple Who Will Return At War's End

Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Smith, who came down from Vancouver, Wash., last Friday night, left again by Sunday morning's bus. C. C., who was in the refrigeration business here and left fifteen months ago to go to work along the same line in Kaiser's Vancouver shipyard, says that as soon as the "duration" is past he is coming right back to Coquille. He doesn't appear to think much of the Evergreen State. The shipyard where he is employed is the one which makes airplane carriers and those vessels are floating cities with every convenience known to science. They will carry 38 planes and the third one has just been completely finished for commission.

Their son, Bill, who is in the Navy and stationed at San Diego, makes his dad look like a dwarf, Mr. Smith says.

Hundreds Of Pictures, Interesting Exhibits On Display This Week

Coquille entered into the spirit of Oregon's Historical Exhibit Week, commemorating the Oregon Trail Centennial with a very fair collection of relics and pioneer articles but where it really went to town is in the display of old-time pictures. A large percentage of them were taken by J. P. Beyers who was a photographer half a century ago and who, with the help of Mrs. Beyers, has a very large and interesting collection showing in both the Fuhrman Pharmacy and Geo. E. Oerding display windows. It is impossible for a newspaper to mention each of these camera productions separately, but it will be worth anyone's time to give them the once over this week. The camera with which Mr. Beyers worked is also in the pharmacy window.

In the Oerding window there is a picture of Crane's logging camp in 1906, showing Mr. Beyers and Sheriff Bill-dad Howell; and another of Yoakam's camp on Cunningham in 1907 in which E. E. Kniff appears.

A hunting party camp, in 1894, shows deer in the utmost profusion and dried meat scattered all over the camp. There are many Coquille street and river scenes, picture of Bandon, Langlois and Riverton, the McKinley school in 1900, the Sumner school in 1894, the Leneve store on Front street and the P. E. Drane store on Hall, and individual pictures all over the place.

An early day baseball club, in the 1890's lists J. E. Norton, Claude Nosler, Frank Busan, Chas. Baxter, Dave Johnson, George Baxter, Fred Nosler, Sam Norton and Byrd Nosler, all well known here half a century ago, as comprising the club.

At Fuhrman's Pharmacy is shown a large framed picture of "Shorty" and Cliff Martin with a boatload of 75 fish, caught in the river near Riverton, and "Shorty" says the next day they caught about 350 in their set nets. The "first band" in Coos county picture shows all of them with

(Continued on Page Eight)

Ethel Roop, Clem Howard Are Wed

News of the marriage of Miss Ethel Roop, former grade and last year Junior high teacher in the Coquille schools, reached here this week in a letter to Cherie Mae Hartwell. The groom is also well known locally. He is Clem Howard, former manager of the First National Bank of Portland, Coquille Branch, whose position was filled by E. T. Stelle, following his transfer to Portland. The couple were married Aug. 9 at Walla Walla and the honeymoon was spent at Wallowa Lake in eastern Oregon. They will make their home in Portland where the groom holds a banking position. Mrs. Howard will fill her contract to teach at Oswego this coming year.

Mrs. Howard came to Coquille as a teacher about four years ago and remained in the system until last spring when she left to teach in Oswego. Her leaving was a loss here as she was regarded highly and had made a place for herself which will be hard to fill.

Congressman Talks To Lions This Noon

Congressman Harris Ellsworth, who is making a tour of the Oregon fourth congressional district during the recess of Congress, was a Coquille visitor this morning and spoke at the Lions Club luncheon this noon.

He is looking fit and hearty and says he has gotten considerable pleasure out of serving this district in Congress and hopes that body will be able to accomplish more the coming year than it did the past—provided they are allowed to!

He was a caller in the Sentinel office just as we were going to press and we could not get as interesting a story of his experiences in Washington as we would have liked to have.

H. S. Principal Ready Aug. 23 To Confer With New Students

Clarence Osika, C. H. S. principal, announces that he will be in his office in the high school building, beginning Monday, Aug. 23, to confer with new students as to studies, hours, etc.