

# The Coquille Valley Sentinel

THE PAPER THAT'S LIKE A LETTER FROM HOME

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## Letters From Linus Seeley Who Was With The Marine Corps In That Recent Bloody Battle Of Tarawa

Mark Seeley sends the Sentinel a copy of the V-mail letter he received last week from his brother, Linus (Bill), Seeley, who was in that terrific battle the Marine Corps staged to capture the island of Tarawa. We print not only Bill's letter but Mark's introduction:

A description of my emotions when I read Bill's letter today is almost impossible. Just think of it! Here we have read of the terrible action on Tarawa and now I find that Brother Bill was a part of it. Frankly I both cried and laughed after I read his letter. I told a lady who was entering the apartment house about Bill, then walked across the street and read the message to a fellow almost a stranger to me.

I was sure that Bill was in the Gilbert battle, but even my most imaginative thoughts hadn't placed him on Tarawa. But here's the letter as Bill wrote it:

27 Nov., 1943

Dear Mark: Came through Betio, Tarawa Atoll of the Gilberts safely. Send all clippings on Gilberts from Nov. 20th on.

It was fierce and very bitterly contested but thank God the boys never wavered or gave ground, they fought like Tigers—coolly and bravely—honestly a tribute to American guts. The enemy was 4000 Jap Imperial Marines, fanatical but fine fighters. They fought to the last and very few were taken prisoner.

I was there from the first morning until it was secured. We landed on the 20th and came back aboard ship the 25th, Thanksgiving Day. We immediately held services, boys who had fought for four days wept, were 24 hours before they were battling. The heroes were by the hundreds.

One satisfaction we Marines have is that the Army thought we couldn't

take it. Men who thought we're over-rated and glory hounds now swear by us. The Jap prisoners said they were told their defense was impregnable—and it was a masterpiece.

There is much we aren't allowed to write; will tell later. You know I was in New Zealand. We're now off to a new base much nearer.

Doctors say I received shrapnel wounds in the hand—thus a Purple Heart medal.

Your brother, Bill.

Miss Alys June Fox also received a letter from Linus, which differs somewhat from his letter to Mark and she kindly permits The Sentinel to present it to its readers:

I may imagine you've been wondering how I came through the battle. Thank God I can say okay.

I was on Betio, Tarawa Atoll of the Gilberts, from start to finish, and I'll say that it was war at its fiercest. Our success was due wholly to the bravery, determination, coolness and sacrifice of all these fine boys. The enemy was Japan cream—the Imperial Marines—4,000 fanatic but excellent soldiers, of whom very few were taken prisoner.

One satisfaction to us Marines is that the Army said it wouldn't be taken, Jap prisoners said they were told it would take a million men to take it. The Second Marine Division took it in four days. Naval men with us who had thought us to be over-rated and glory hounds, now swear by us and never want to be detached from us.

On the fifth day—Thanksgiving—we were taken back aboard ship, had services and gave thanks—for once that day was more than a name.

The doctors say I have shrapnel cuts in my hand—so a Purple Heart.

We cannot tell much because of regulations.

## Train Building To Be Salvage Depot

Geo. F. Burr, Coquille salvage chairman, announced this week that he has made arrangement for use of the Train building, corner of Front and Hall streets, as a salvage depot where papers, magazines, paper boxes, etc., can be left.

The urgent need for paper at this time for so many of the government agencies connected with the war has not had the co-operation in Coquille it should have had since the closing of the former depot, but that will be rectified now.

Mr. Burr stated that the children from the Washington building will collect the papers as well as tin cans, but adds that anyone bringing his papers down, if the salvage depot is locked, can leave them with Jack Dolan across the street, or with Doris Gillespie at the Pacific Feed & Seed, or with Stan Sherwood at Southwestern Motors Goodyear store. The depot will be open on Saturdays, starting next week. The junk dealer at the Bay will pick them up whenever 20 tons have been collected.

The youngsters are doing a good job in collecting tin cans. Three truck loads have already been shipped out and a fourth is ready to go.

Mrs. Jas. Richmond and Mrs. Ida K. Owen have consented to take charge of the clothing salvage campaign and those having such articles to donate should contact one of the ladies.

The fats and grease salvage continues as in the past; this needed contribution can still be left at the meat markets.

Let's everyone now help build up Coquille's contribution to the paper and magazine campaign and see that the stuff gets to the Train building.

## John O. Marquette Buried Wednesday

John Orville Marquette, who came here from Klamath Falls nine months ago, passed away last Monday morning at four o'clock at his home, 678 East Third street here. He had been employed at the chrome plant until it closed recently.

Services were conducted at the Gano Funeral Home at two o'clock Wednesday afternoon, Liston Parish of the Church of Christ officiating. Interment was in Odd Fellows' cemetery No. 2.

He was born at Riblake, Wisconsin, June 13, 1893, and was six months past 50 years of age.

He is survived by his widow, Pearl Marquette; a daughter, Mrs. Morris Nance, of Prineville, Ore., and his mother, Mrs. Hattie Marquette, of Centralia, Wash. The latter two came to Coquille after being informed of his death. Also surviving are two grandchildren and a half brother, Lloyd Marquette, of Spokane.

## Trio Entertains Rotary Club

A trio, Mrs. Clara Stauff, Mrs. Buth Beyers and Mrs. Florence Hallock, accompanied by Miss Inez Rover at the piano, sang a cantata on the birth of Christ at the Rotary Club luncheon at the hotel on Wednesday and were roundly applauded by the members and guests present. They then led the club in singing a number of Christmas carols.

Names were drawn for the club's Christmas party next Wednesday and a placard was signed by all the members to be placed on the Christmas tree sent to Corpus Christi for the service men from this vicinity, last week.

Rotarian guests present included Geo. C. Huggins and Vic Torrey, of Marshfield, and E. W. Hughes, of Grants Pass. Other guests were C. M. Tyrrell, of Honolulu, and Wm. S. Shields, of the Navy Air Corps, who has been in the Aleutians at Adak for the past year, and Ray T. Kaufman, of Marshfield.

## Coos County Jail Empty For Past Three Weeks

Sheriff Howell says he has been helping out in the tax-collection department the past few weeks. There is absolutely nothing stirring in his office, very little serving of papers even.

For the last three weeks, since Curry county's prisoners were taken out, there has been no one in the sky parlor jail, and the last entry on the blotter of an admission from Coos county was on Nov. 11.

Calling cards 50 for \$1.00.

## Red Devils Getting Ready For B. B. Season, Opens Jan. 7

The C. H. S. basketball team lost its second practice game to the heavier and older Bandon Coast Guard five, at the gym here last evening by a 47 to 24 score. They had lost their previous game to the same squad, 53-38, and will play another with the same outfit next Monday evening.

With only two lettermen from last year's team—Ben Barton and Fritz Kunz—Spike Leslie has been working the squad hard, trying to get it in shape for the opening of the Coos high school conference on Jan. 7, when North Bend will meet the Red Devils here and the Myrtle Point Bobcats will play the Pirates at the Bay.

Besides Barton and Kunz the first ten on the Coquille squad are Roy Porter, Harold Train, Claire Gray, Floyd DeNoma, Dave Kline, Bud Meek, George Johnson, and Myron Haga. Four others—Jack Stevens, Bobby Jenkins, Melbourne Mitchell and Tom Boots—will complete the 14 man squad the coach will have available.

There is to be no tournament this year, the county championship to be won by the school having the highest percent as shown by its wins and losses.

The season will be a double round robin, with each team meeting each of the others four times, twice on its home floor and twice away from home.

"Spike" is making no predictions as to the outcome but the speed and knowledge of the maple floor game which the boys are showing indicates that they will make it interesting for each of the other three schools' squads, win or lose.

## County Court To Give Canned Goods

Dr. R. F. Milne, Coos County Welfare Commission chairman, says there are hundreds of cans of meat, beans and corn at the county farm, some of it canned last year and some this, which the county court is now ready to give to needy families or individuals whenever it is applied for.

The county cannot sell it nor give it as a part of old age pension assistance because federal funds are involved in that program and some Washington official will not permit the canned goods being given as a part of the old age pensions unless points are surrendered for the cans, and the county cannot use the points as a retailer does.

## School Board Seeks A Principal

The Coquille school board of directors have met twice this week, the session Monday evening to pass on current bills. At that time also they extended an invitation to a school man to meet with them last evening in regard to his possible election as high school principal to succeed Clarence Osika, whose resignation is to become effective the middle of January.

No action has yet been taken by the board but it is possible there will be something to announce in another week.

## Mrs. Emily Hersey Ill In Portland

Mrs. Emily Hersey, who went over to Murtaugh, Idaho, a couple of weeks ago to stay until after New Year's with her daughter, Marguerite—Mrs. Geo. Hartley—became ill the past week-end and wanted to come home. Her daughter started by train but by the time they had reached Portland, Mrs. Hersey was unable to travel further and she was taken to the home of her grandson, James Hersey, there.

Mrs. Julius Ruble was summoned on Monday and Mr. Ruble took her up there that day.

The doctor describes her trouble as an impacted artery and says she must remain quiet for a week or ten days yet. She is 76 years of age.

A card to Iris Elrod from Cliff Guleseth of the Marine Corps and stationed at San Diego, says that his furlough has been set and that he and Rose and the baby will arrive in Coquille either Sunday or Monday morning.

## Wreck Serious For A Coast Guardsman

A Coast Guardsman from the east who has been stationed at Floras Lake, Jay Burris, is in a most serious condition at Marshfield, where he was taken to the McAuley Hospital Sunday after being at the Knife Hospital here since four o'clock Saturday morning. He was injured so badly at that hour, internally as well as breaking of bones, that his recovery has been considered doubtful.

He was driving a Ford sedan, coming this way from Myrtle Point and failed to make the turn at the top of the grade just above the Jas. Jacobsen ranch home, a mile or more out of town.

The car went down the bluff there, snapped a Mt. States power line pole into three pieces, breaking it off at the ground and then some feet higher, and a part of the pole hit and smashed through the windshield, injuring both occupants.

The young lady with Burris, Miss Donna McCallister, suffered a broken arm above the wrist but was not seriously injured.

## Ralph L. Smith Here Tuesday

Ralph L. Smith, president of Smith Wood-Products, Inc., and whose home is in Kapsas City, Mo., stopped in Coquille this week while on a tour of his plants and properties on the Pacific coast. He came in Tuesday evening and left the next day.

Accompanying him from the Alturas-Canby plants were Mr. and Mrs. Hood, he being the former manager at Alturas.

Also here from the Smith Wood-Products office in Portland at the same time were "Sandy" Hamilton and Jos. Cool, who was formerly in the company's office here.

## Those From Here At 'Coquille' Launching

The S. S. "Coquille," 45th Swan Island Tanker, was launched at Portland Wednesday, December 15, at 11:30 a. m., with Mrs. Arland C. Hoggan, wife of the Labor Co-ordinator for the Kaiser Company Yard at Swan Island, as sponsor.

The "Coquille" set a new production record of only forty-eight days on the ways, and will be delivered in the remarkable time of eleven days before contract date. It is the third of five tankers to be launched in the big Portland yard, and will be the seventh tanker delivered in the month of December for another national record.

Mayor O. L. Wood of Coquille gave a brief talk during the launching ceremonies, and in the group from Coquille and vicinity who were present to see their ship slide down the ways were: Mr. and Mrs. Geo. E. Oerding, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. F. Burr, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. W. Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Stan Sherwood, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Best, John Purkey, Claire M. Gray, C. G. Caughell, L. W. Claver, all of Coquille, and Fred C. True, of Broadbent.

## Time This Nest Was Wiped Out

Dr. G. E. Stark, county health officer, and Dr. T. De La Rhue called this writer's attention to the condition of the stock in the former Dillard Market grocery store on Front street, which has been closed for the past year, since Ted Peterson entered the service. Huge rats can be seen through the windows breaking into package and eating the contents, such as noodles, nuts, and other items.

Just why, when there is so urgent a need for food, soap, fats, oils and other stocks carried in a grocery store, this assortment should be allowed to deteriorate is a mystery.

It was suggested to the county health officer that his official position warranted him in ordering the mess cleaned up and he asserted he would do all he could to wipe out this rats' haven.

## Clubs Will Be Organized When Heating Plant Is In

Mrs. Jack Dolan asks that it be reported that the Boys and Girls clubs, started some weeks ago, have not died but complete organization is awaiting installation of the heating plant in the Community Building. The local unions have offered to do the necessary carpenter work for the clubs' headquarters and there are several hundred dollars in the treasurer's hands to be used in getting the club rooms fitted up.

## Woman's Club Honors Relatives In U. S. Service

Mothers, wives, daughters and sisters of service men and women with in the membership of the Coquille Woman's club were honored Tuesday, Dec. 13, when the club held its December meeting, dedicated to War Service.

Names of eighty-four members and those of their one hundred and twenty-five near relatives in the nation's armed service were read by Mrs. R. E. Boober from a gold-faced scroll and the list represented almost every branch of the service in which these men and women are serving in all parts of the world.

Two gold star members are Mrs. D. B. Kesner, who lost her son, Thurlow, of the Coast Guard Aviation, and Mrs. Lee Barkwell, a brother, Lt. Richard E. Spencer of the Navy.

Mrs. W. W. Winegar has a son, Kenneth Winegar, who is a prisoner in Germany.

Mrs. M. J. Mineau has four sons in the service, Kenneth in the Army Administration; Richard, now in Italy, chief machinist mate; Leon, a yeoman; William, a Naval cadet.

Mrs. Frances Holmstrom has three sons in the service, Donald in the Forestry Engineering; Neal, staff sergeant, army signal repair; Robert, Navy radio technician in the South Pacific.

Fifteen members have two sons or two brothers in various branches of the service.

Mrs. Guy Mauney and Mrs. Harry Slack, stationed on either side of the

(Continued on page two)

## Coquille Red Cross Notes

Coquille Red Cross will not hold another work meeting until the first Friday of the new year, Jan. 7.

Workers generously responded to the call to attend the last meeting and take home all yarn and cut-out articles on hand, with the understanding that these need not be completed until after the holidays. All materials and yarn received has now been distributed and another shipment will be sent to Coos county chapter within the next few days.

Two more very lovely afghans have been received from Mrs. Frank Rover and Mrs. Earl Nosler. Wool materials, colored yarn, needles and turkish toweling have been donated by Mesdames Ed Aasen, M. McCarthy, Hall, Pete Norton and J. D. Rankin, and a very attractive pair of crocheted scuff slippers has been completed by Mrs. Hazel Dye.

Coos county chapter congratulates the Coquille Unit on the fine work done and writes as follows: "When yarn is overdue and materials are not forthcoming, Coquille goes ahead and makes more afghans scuff slippers and wash cloths. We feel that what is done for Red Cross is done gladly and thoughtfully and thought of thanks just doesn't enter into the picture; but we do, indeed, appreciate your wonderful co-operation. We may all have to do much more in the coming year than we have done in the past."

## To Drill Near Bandon In Spring

John F. Ewell, who had been here for the past month, left last Friday for Illinois, where he is now operating.

While here Mr. Ewell, representing the Sturgis & Miller oil company of Illinois and Kentucky, was engaged in securing leases in the Bear Creek section east of Bandon where he drilled a well a few years ago.

He reported before he left that his company would probably start drilling in the Bandon section some time next spring.

## Nearly All Mornings The Past Week Below Freezing

The minimum temperature the past week, in the daily reading of the registering thermometer has ranged from 26 degrees above zero to just on the 32 freezing mark this morning. But the days have been generally bright and pleasant—after the heavy morning fog disappears.

## Group Organizes To Study Youth Problem

At the request of Mrs. Martha Mulkey, the leaders of Coquille civic organizations met in the city council chamber Saturday, Dec. 11. The group spent some time in the discussion of the problem of juvenile delinquency and it was decided to have the Symposium group from the University of Oregon present their discussion of the delinquency problem.

The Coquille group after some discussion voted to form an inter-club committee to consist of the president or a representative from every civic or fraternal organization. Each group was asked to contribute \$5.00, which would be used to finance speakers or groups coming into the community.

The committee elected L. A. Lundquist of the Rotary Club president and Liston Parrish of the ministerial association, secretary-treasurer.

The organizations represented at the meetings were the Rotary Club, Lions Club, Carpenters Union, No. 1096, Coquille Woman's Club, Business and Professional Women's Club, Ministerial Association, Eastern Star, Masons, Rebekahs, Odd Fellows, Eagles, Mayor, Juvenile Officer, Coquille School Board, Coquille schools and the county school superintendent.

## Objection To Sect Shown Here Saturday

Coquille last Saturday joined Myrtle Point as a town where the High school boys object to the Jehovah Witnesses trying to sell their peace literature.

There was quite a crowd of the boys who assembled and to avoid further trouble Chief Creager advised the Witnesses to get off the streets and stay out of town. It was not an order, simply a suggestion on his part.

Only three eggs were thrown, one striking the police car, another the pillar at the entrance to the Odd Fellows Hall but the third caught one of the Witness in the back of the head and it ran down his neck.

From the conversation overheard, the boys did not get the one of the three whom they especially wanted to smear.

The Glaisyer House Sold To The C. M. Tyrrells

While in Portland yesterday Geo. E. Oerding saw Mrs. W. V. Glaisyer, who informed him that her daughter,

## Ask Aid For Service Club Party

Every Christmas the ladies of the Morale committee at Bandon hold a Christmas party at the service club down there for men in the service, with gifts for each one of them who attends.

To supplement the gifts given at Bandon boxes for the receipt of gifts for the service men have been placed in Coquille stores and suggested gifts include regulation ties and socks, handkerchiefs, cigarettes, stationery, soap, tooth brushes, powder and paste, books, games and shaving accessories.

The Christmas party at the Bandon Service club is to be held Christmas eve and the committee there also solicits tree decorations and lights for the three trees to be displayed.

Anyone having any decorations or lights which they are willing to donate may leave such articles at the Sentinel office where they will be picked up by the Bandon ladies.

## Did Anyone Find These Purses And Money

Two reports by those losing pocket-books or purses the past week were made by people who came to see if they had been turned in at the Sentinel office, as so many found articles are.

One of them was a young lady who lost her purse containing \$60 last Thursday afternoon. The other was by a Coast Guardsman, who lost his here Sunday evening. It contained \$26 in cash and a check for \$53.

If the finders will turn them in at the Sentinel office they will be returned to the rightful owners.

## Stores Not To Be Open Evenings Next Week

A canvass of the retail merchants this week revealed that none of the stores expect to be open evenings next week after six o'clock as has often been the case the week before Christmas in the past.

Dorothy, was to undergo a mastoid operation at once and that skin grafting would be necessary.

While there Mr. Oerding completed the deal for the sale of the Glaisyer property, corner of Third and Beach streets, to Mr. and Mrs. Cyril M. Tyrrell, who will move into their new home at soon as the Irelands can find any place into which to move.