

The Coquille Valley Sentinel

THE PAPER THAT'S LIKE A LETTER FROM HOME

Oregon Historical Society
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COQUILLE, COOS COUNTY, OREGON, THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 1944.

\$2.00 THE YEAR

C. of C. Annual Meeting Next Tuesday Evening

At the insistent request of the Chamber of Commerce nominating committee and the board of directors, at the meeting in the Coquille Coffee Shop dining room, Tuesday noon, Geo. E. Oerding, who has served as president the past year, finally consented to serve another year if elected at the annual meeting next Tuesday evening, Jan. 11, in the Coffee Shop. It is doubtful that the offer to double his salary and triple his expense account for 1944 had anything to do with his acceptance! Especially since such emoluments were, and always have been, nil.

O. L. Wood reported at the meeting that Mayor Houston of Klamath Falls would be unable to appear on the program Tuesday evening and that he had secured Nels Rogers, state forester, to be one of the speakers. The other, as previously announced, will be Tommy Hoxie, public relations officer of the Kaiser shipyards in Portland who will present the city with a large picture of the recently-launched Tanker Coquille, and a plaque descriptive of the tanker.

For the musical portion of the program J. L. Smith has obtained the consent of Kenneth C. Talley, state police officer, to sing several numbers. He will be accompanied at the piano by Mrs. Talley.

The dining room will not accommodate more than 70, and the meeting will be for a mixed attendance, so those wishing tickets, the price will be \$1.50 per plate, should notify Hode Caughell at once. Mr. Caughell stated yesterday that more than half the 70 tickets have been sold and those desiring to attend should secure their pastebards at once.

The other candidates whose names will appear on the ballot are: For vice president—Geo. Jenkins, Don Farr, George Howe.

For secretary-treasurer—Hode Caughell.

For Directors, ten to be elected—O. L. Wood, R. L. Stewart, Lefe Compton, John Purkey, H. A. Young, Luckey Bonney, Geo. Burr, Ilo Heaton, J. E. Norton, J. L. Stevens, Geo. Ulett, Dr. R. F. Milne, Dr. C. G. Stem, "Andy" Anderson, Ralph Thrift, Phil Alborn, Ray Jeub, Dr. T. De La Rhue, H. A. Slack, D. E. Rackleff, Don Gillespie, Wm. Barrow, A. N. Gould, J. L. Smith, M. O. Hawkins, Rodney Cressler, Clarence Osika, Dick Connarn, Iris Elrod, J. P. Beyers, D. Brown.

In a short report on the Tanker Coquille launching, President Oerding stated that Mayor Wood made a very fine talk, that there were 21 from Coos county in attendance, and that women comprise 30 per cent of the crews which work on the vessels in the Kaiser yards.

Fees Collected By Co. Clerk In December And In 1943

Fees collected in the county clerk's office during December totaled \$1,158.40. Of this amount \$502.50 was for recording, \$345 for circuit court, \$70 for probate and county court, \$72 for marriage licenses and \$18.90 for miscellaneous items.

The total collected in the office in 1943 was \$12,987.20, with marriage licenses issued producing \$762 of it. Recording fees collected during the year aggregated \$6,183.20; miscellaneous items totaled \$1,361.50, while circuit court cases produced \$3,703 and probate and county court cases, \$918.50.

Coos County To Receive Nice Check In A Few Days

County Treasurer Stauff received notice this week from the Interior Department at Washington, D. C., that a check for Coos county, amounting to \$17,380.44, would be mailed soon. It is the payment the government makes in lieu of taxes on Coos Bay Wagon Road lands.

3,000 Pounds Of Clothing Salvaged Here For Needy

Coquille is furnishing about a ton and a half of salvaged wearing apparel which is to be distributed in this county and in foreign countries where needed by the national salvage organization.

The City Cleaners here had to close their plant to commercial business a few days in order to take care of the cleaning of this vast amount of discarded and salvaged garments.

Precipitation Is Now 17 1/2 Inches

Rainfall the past week, as reported by the weather observation here, totals 1.79 inches. The daily readings showed .02 inch on Dec. 31, .36 on New Year's, .80 on Jan. 2, .02 on the 3rd, .55 on the 5th, and .02 on the 6th. This makes a total of 17.52 inches of precipitation for the fiscal weather year, since Sept. 1.

Riverton Gym Again Destroyed By Fire Wednesday

The Riverton school gymnasium and all of its 4-H club and cafeteria equipment except a portable electric welder, was totally destroyed by fire about 8:30 Wednesday morning, and the loss is estimated at close to \$7,000.

As soon as the fire was discovered in the boiler room, a call was put in for the Coquille Fire Department. The boys responded promptly, taking down the tank truck which the federal government gave the city last year, but when the truck arrived and the hose was strung, it was found the hose lacked 400 feet of reaching the river from which the pumper on the truck could draw water to throw on the fire.

Before the call to Coquille for more hose could be made and the other small truck dash down there, the building was beyond hope of saving and all the men could do was to save the high school building, between 75 and 100 feet away.

Just what started the fire is not known but the janitor has had instructions to build up a good fire before he starts out with the bus to gather up the students who attend there. When the janitor's wife went over to the building as usual to see how the fire was doing the boiler room was ablaze.

This gym building was built ten or eleven years ago, after the old and smaller gym had burned. Adrian Werth, Coquille police officer, says it was in either 1932 or 33 while he was attending school there that the old gym burned.

The effort to save equipment kept in the building hastened the burning for when the door at the front was opened it caused a draft which made the flames leap beyond all control.

The firemen here say that had they had the additional 400 feet of hose they could have saved part of the building at least.

The fire alarm at 5:30 Tuesday evening was because of a car on fire at the Coquille service station but it had been extinguished before the firemen could reach the hall and the truck was not taken out.

Ration Board Honored By Rotary

The members of the local rationing board and their working staff were entertained at luncheon Wednesday by the Rotary Club.

Pres. Lundquist paid a nice tribute to the board and each member was introduced in turn. Response was made by Chairman J. Arthur Berg and also a brief one by Carala Savage of the staff.

The members of the board then took occasion to present Chairman Berg with a beautiful set of bookends, the presentation being made by George Burr and Don Gillespie.

Several birthdays were celebrated and it was brought out that this was also the birthday of Markie Smith Sherrill, of the ration board staff.

Secretary Hode Caughell read letters from Stillwater, Oklahoma, in regard to the activities of Donna Dean Bosserman; one from the lieutenant in charge of the 2nd Cadet Battalion at Cabanisso Field, Corpus Christi, Texas, also one from H. L. Gilbert from the Naval Air Station at the same place both expressing appreciation of the club's Christmas remembrance.

Mayor Wood told of the launching of the U. S. Tanker Coquille at the Kaiser yards in Portland, Dec. 16, and passed around a number of pictures that he had received showing various phases of the launching and following banquet.

Rotarian guests were J. E. Richmond of Eugene, Harry Nasburg of Marshfield and E. J. Hughes of Grants Pass.

Special guests were Ensign Jack Laird of Pensacola, Fla., and Bill Lehmanowsky of the U. S. Navy in the south Pacific area.

Elmer E. Benham Buys Coquille Hospital Building

Sale of the Coquille Hospital building by Dr. J. D. Rankin to Elmer E. Benham is expected to be completed today, the sale figure not announced.

Mr. Benham plans on moving the Benham Transfer office into the building; he will use a part of the floor space for storage, and expects to make a portion of it into living quarters for himself and family. He is advertising his home on Beach street for sale.

While arrangements with Drs. Rankin and L. B. Gould to continue having their offices where they now are, have not been made, it is very probable they will continue in their present locations. Mr. Benham also contemplates contacting other professional men with the idea of making the two street sides of the building into a medical center with a common waiting room for physicians and surgeons, dentists, eye specialists, etc.

There is quite general regret in Coquille that the former Coquille Hospital will not again be operated in the building. One hospital, the Belle Knife, is quite often not large enough to accommodate all those in this section who need hospitalization, and while the Myrtle Point hospital is but nine miles away, it requires the use of tires and gas for friends to visit patients there.

The building here, 100 feet square, was originally built as a dance hall, but was purchased several years ago by Drs. Rankin and M. Earl Wilson, who converted it to hospital uses, with rooms, wards, kitchen, x-ray rooms and offices.

Mrs. Henry Ware Buried Today

Mrs. Geneva Ware, wife of Henry Ware of this city, passed away at the hospital on Tuesday this week at the age of 62 years, three months and two days, after a three-day illness.

Liston Parrish officiates at the services, conducted by Schroeder Bros. today, and interment is to be in the Norway cemetery.

Mrs. Ware was born in Mt. Vernon, Missouri, Oct. 2, 1881, her maiden name being Snyder. With her husband she came to Coos county, from Kansas in 1912 and lived at Myrtle Point until five years ago when they moved to Coquille.

Besides her husband she is survived by a sister, Mrs. Stella Chard, of Los Angeles, and two brothers, Bert Snyder, of Wichita, Kansas, and Chas. T. Snyder.

Thermometer Down To 26 Again

The thermometer again this morning registered the same low that it has a couple of times before this winter—26 degrees. Wednesday morning it stood right on the 32 degree freezing mark and has been as low as 28 the past week.

There has been no snow here in Coquille, as so much of the state has experienced the past few days but there was a slight fall at Delmar, half way between Coquille and Marshfield Wednesday afternoon.

Coos 4th Bond Quota To Be \$1,518, 700

E. T. Stelle, at the bank here, has received information that the Coos county quota for the Fourth War Bond Drive is to be \$1,518,700, which is somewhat less than the third drive quota.

The drive is to start Jan. 18, but all E bonds sold between now and that date will be applied to the million and a half quota.

Little Improvement Noticed In Mrs. Hersey's Condition

Mrs. Emily Hersey is not showing the improvement hoped for and when the spasms caused by the intense pain in her arms come, she suffers terribly. Last week she asked for "her boys" and her son, Ben, and grandson James were called from Portland Wednesday night. She was feeling a little better Sunday and the two left for home that day.

Mr. and Mrs. Clark Fensler, who have been house guests of the Theo. Clintons returned to their home at Tulelake on New Year's day.

Permit Granted For Reopening Of Dillard Market

Only one councilman, John Purkey, who was ill at home with the prevailing epidemic, was absent from the regular council session Monday evening.

The first business considered was the application of W. Weston and Fred Burks, who asked permission to repair the old Dillard Market building on Front street with doors, floor, roof and foundation, and to redecorate the interior, at a cost of \$500. The application had been given an O. K. by Fire Chief Perrott and Building Inspector Dungey and the application was approved. It was reported that the two men had made arrangements to reopen this grocery store in the near future.

Restaurant licenses were granted Laura McLeod for the Quelle Cafe, and Lena Pribble for the White Cottage on Front street.

Card room licenses were granted S. H. Donsted for the Pastime and Abe Roberts for the Rex Tavern, and pool table license as well as card room for W. H. Fortier's Bill's Place.

Mayor Wood announced that he had conferred with Wm. Caughell and that the latter would take the position as caretaker of the Community Building. The council agreed on a salary of \$100 per month, plus rent, heat, lights and water in the building's living apartment, which is not yet ready for occupancy. It was also stipulated that Mr. Caughell should be deputized as a member of the police force and would relieve the other officers on their days off every other week.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmore J. Peterson were present to ask what would be required for them to allow young people to dance—free—on the floor he has installed in the Bowling Alley room on Front street. He said his plan would tend to keep young people off the streets, that the room is always under surveillance, and that no liquor of any kind is sold on the premises.

No definite answer was given the Petersons but Mayor Wood appointed C. M. Gray, M. F. Pettit and Geo. Taylor as a committee to investigate Mr. Peterson's request, and advised the latter to make application for a dance hall license. The policy of the council has been not to permit dancing in places of business. The last time dancing was started, in a cafe, a fight resulted and the police had to interfere.

While on that subject and the need for young people to be off the streets and at home at night, the council asked City Attorney Berg to prepare a curfew ordinance whose provisions will be made known at the next council meeting.

George Burr reported for the committee named to consider garbage disposal that "Shady" Howell was not desirous of continuing the garbage collection business and that he, Mr. Burr, had conferred with another party who was considering the proposition of taking over the business.

Flu Closed The Schools Tuesday

With 30 per cent of the pupils in some classes and rooms of the Coquille schools absent, and several of the teachers down with the flu, the school board ordered that school be discontinued Tuesday until next Monday.

The epidemic has been quite widespread all over southwestern Oregon the past two weeks but the rains, which are more conducive to health than sub-freezing weather, will, it is hoped, wash all the flu germs out of the air.

Scores, perhaps hundreds, in Coquille have been afflicted with the scourge which has been traveling westward since last fall.

Two Infants Buried The Past Week

The infant baby of Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Wilford Brown of McKinley passed away the same day it was born, last Friday, and interment was in the Dora cemetery on Jan. 3.

Another baby girl, Karen Katherine Sponsel, born to Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Bernard Sponsel of this city, on Dec. 28, died at the hospital on Jan. 1, and was buried in the Catholic cemetery at Bandon on Tuesday this week.

Schroeder Bros. Mortuaries were in charge of each interment.

Mrs. Brockman Died This Morning

Mrs. Maude Brockman, wife of Jas. Brockman, who had been ill for some time, passed away this morning at ten o'clock.

Funeral arrangements had not been made as we go to press, the body having been brought to Schroeder Bros. Mortuaries.

A more detailed account of this good woman's life will appear in the Sentinel's next issue.

Coos Electric Co-op To Operate In Northern California

Dick Connarn, manager of the Coos Electric Co-operative, R. E. A., this week received a telegram from Washington, D. C., informing him that two funds had been allocated the local R. E. A. for extension and line building purposes. One amount \$114,500—Mr. Connarn believe is for building a backbone transmission line in Curry county to connect the present end of their line at Port Orford and the properties they are now authorized to purchase in Del Norte county, California.

The \$405,000 item is for the purchase of Public Utilities Corporation of California properties in Del Norte county, at Crescent City and Smith River, and for which a deal was made with the California P. U. C. by the directors of the Coos Electric Co-op. The acquisition of the properties down there is for the purpose of enabling the R. E. A. to make extensions in the more thinly settled rural areas of southwestern Oregon and northern California.

The program calls for the building of 120 miles of rural lines, mostly in Del Norte county, but extending north through Brookings and to within a few miles of Gold Beach.

The transmission and feeder lines cannot be built at the present time, while the war is on, but the authorization permits the Coos Electric Co-op to make all its plans for extending its lines as soon as material is available.

The electric service in Crescent City and Smith River will be continued with power secured from the same source as in the past but the operation of the systems of the two cities will be in the hands of the Coos Electric Co-op.

Ration Boards Honored January 5

A nation-wide observance of the second anniversary of the establishment of the war ration boards all over the United States was held Wednesday this week. The event was celebrated to honor the ration boards' members who have given of their time, unstintedly, in carrying out the rationing program, and in honor of the office employees of the boards who bear the brunt of the work and the contact with everyone in their communities, whether the callers at the office are reasonable or not. They are deserving of much credit for the very efficient way in which they have handled an exceptionally difficult job.

The board officials and personnel of the Coquille office, which has the reputation of being one of the best conducted in the state, were guests at the Rotary luncheon in the coffee shop on Wednesday this week.

The board members are J. Arthur Berg, of Coquille; Wesley Chappell, of Bandon; O. L. Finnie and H. E. D. Brown, of Powers. Chairman in charge of oil rationing is R. L. Stewart; gasoline, Don Gillespie, E. A. Walker and Geo. E. Burr; price panel, Mrs. Maxine Jeub, Mrs. George Chaney, O. T. Gant and Dr. C. G. Stem.

The office personnel is composed of Mrs. Carla Savage, chief clerk; Mrs. R. H. Ziegler, price clerk; Rhea Walker, gas clerk; Mrs. Markie Sherrill, tire clerk, and Mrs. Colleen Ireland, counter clerk.

Making Of Dressings For Red Cross To Be Resumed

Mrs. Dix, county chairman, called Mrs. J. R. Bunch, Coquille chairman, this week to announce that material for making Red Cross dressings are again available and Mrs. Bunch states that the work will be resumed next week.

Mr. and Mrs. Loal Hickenbottom, formerly of Coquille, now of Crescent, were house guests of Mr. and Mrs. Alborn over the last week end.

Coos County's Monthly Land Sales Averaged \$8,459.68

By L. D. Felshiem, Coos County Judge

The Coos County Land Department, operated under the jurisdiction of the County court, with H. R. Clark in charge, during the first 11 months of 1943 (January 1 to December 1) took in and turned over to the county treasurer, the sum of \$93,056.54, according to figures compiled from the records. This amount represents receipts from the sale of real and personal property acquired through tax foreclosures, redemptions by original owners, and rentals.

Total operating cost of the land department during the same 11 month period was \$3,562.05, which is less than four per cent. Figured by the month, the average monthly sales were \$8,459.68 at an average monthly cost of \$323.82, or .0382 per cent.

In the distribution of these funds in their relative proportions among the various taxing units involved, the county receives approximately one-half, or to be exact, 50.2 per cent. County Treasurer Chas. Stauff reports that of the \$93,056.54 the county treasurer retains \$46,753.38.

Analysis of the various sources of revenue which make up the total receipts, shows that \$31,398.55 came from completed real estate contract sales, \$4,090.00 from incomplete contracts, \$22,503.74 from cash sales and rentals, and \$11,707.46 from redemption sales.

In order to facilitate the sale of county-owned property, the County court recently inaugurated the use of application blanks. A prospective purchaser is required to fill out and sign an application, giving description of the property and amount offered. The application must be accompanied by cash or check in the amount of the bid or by at least 30 per cent of the bid if the purchase is to be by contract.

Before the application is presented to the County court for action, the land department makes a thorough search of the records to determine the actual legal status of the property. This is done to guard against sales of land, the acquisition of which by the county might be questioned because of possible errors in the tax proceedings.

When the application reaches the County Court it contains all available information, and unless the court deems it advisable to make further inquiry, immediate action can be taken. If the offer is considered too low, the court may set a price.

Before making timber sales the court makes thorough investigation, which includes a cruise if the timber had not already been cruised in recent years. W. H. Kay, of Riverton, is now employed by the department to cruise timber when needed.

In dividing up the work of the County court to avoid duplication of effort and to expedite county business, real estate matters generally have been assigned to Commissioner Lars Peterson, while timber sales are in the hands of Commissioner P. W. Culver. However, in all deals of comparative importance the entire court gives consideration, and all deals must have the approval of at least two of the three members of the court.

Maps prepared by the land department to show location of lands, timber, areas leased for oil, chrome, etc., are used to advantage in handling the business, and a complete property register is kept up to date. Further improved methods are under consideration and may be put into effect gradually as time permits. One idea is to have lists of the more desirable property in the various sections of the county prepared for ready sale, which means they would be checked as to legal status, appraised and priced. Local committees may be asked to assist in the appraisals.

It is the purpose of the County court to systematize the handling of county lands to such extent as is necessary to assure orderly business administration. Not only is it desired to get the land back on the tax rolls, but to get a fair price for the land when it is sold. Any profit the county may realize in some of these transactions offset losses sustained in others. The interests of the taxpayers as a whole are considered along with the interests of the individual purchaser of county property.

Erwin O. Waite, of Toledo, spent the week-end here, visiting his wife at the hospital.