

The Coquille Valley Sentinel

THE PAPER THAT'S LIKE A LETTER FROM HOME

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COQUILLE, COOS COUNTY, OREGON, THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 1944.

\$2.00 THE YEAR

100 Million Tons The Coos County Coal Estimate

Much interest in coal development in Coos County has resulted from two public meetings held last week, one at Coquille and one at Marshfield, at which an oral report was made on the co-operative county-state coal exploration project by Earl K. Nixon, Director of the State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, and members of his staff, including F. W. Libbey, Mining Engineer, and John Eliot Allen, Geologist.

Drilling operations in the field are being concluded and the other field work will be completed within a few weeks, it was reported. It will be several months before the laboratory and compilation work is completed and the final report is printed. Geologist Allen stated that a total of more than 9,000 feet of hole boring was done.

The project started with the examination of over 150 coal properties and prospects and with a general study of the entire area and its past history of development and production.

In search of shallow seams of coal for immediate development by surface stripping methods, several areas were selected in which more intensive exploration was made, resulting in the blocking out of more than a half million tons and the location of another half million or more tons.

Nixon stated that it was at one time estimated by a well-known geologist that the Coos Bay area contained a billion tons of coal deposits. However, from information obtained by exploration, Nixon said he could most conservatively say that the Coos area has at least 100 million tons, which is sufficient to support a substantial coal production industry for many years to come.

One of the facts brought out at the meeting, as to why Coos county coal has not been constructed for by various government agencies, or by the Army for the cantonments in Oregon, was that the hard-fuels chief in Washington, Harold L. Ickes, appointed as fuels conciliator for the northwest a man who is head of, or directly interested in, coal mines and coal properties in Wyoming, Colorado and Alberta, and the speaker here said that naturally this man was looking out for his own financial interests and did not want an Oregon coal field developed which would prove a competitor for his own product, and that he had done all he could to prevent development of the Coos area field.

Another point mentioned at the meeting in Coquille was that the railroads very naturally prefer the longer hauls from the Rocky mountain states or Utah, and have been able to hold Portland dealers in line in their refusal to contract for Coos coal.

An analysis of Colorado coal, read at the meeting, showed that Coos' sub-bituminous coal has a less moisture content than Colorado coal and a higher B.T.U., or heat unit.

Judge Felsheim, speaking for the county court, stated that the entire \$40,000, provided by the state and county for exploration purposes, has not been spent, but to carry the investigation to the point where all data and blue prints will be available for manufacturers who may be interested in building plants in the county after the war, it will be necessary to have tons of the coal from here shipped to some processing plant where the cost of making briquettes from the Coos coal can be definitely ascertained.

Interesting among the data, maps, graphs, etc., revealed at the meetings was the "Report of Investigation Concerning the Development of Coal Production in the Coos Bay Region of Oregon" by M. D. Curran, President of M. D. Curran & Company, St. Louis, Mo., one of the leading authorities on carbonization, who visited Coos county last fall and made a personal survey and examination, and who, it is anticipated will be retained to conduct the final experimentation to determine a process of beneficiation upon which a permanent future industry can be based.

Curran's report concluded as follows:

Summary and Conclusions

This investigation included inspection of coal mines now in operation in the Coos Bay district, an examination of geological explorations which were in progress by the Oregon State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, and a market survey of the fuel supply to the principal cities

Frederick Watson Missing In Action

Another Coquille boy, James Frederick Watson, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Watson who now reside in Seattle, has been reported as missing by the Army, since March 4, the day of the big U. S. daylight air raid over Germany. The telegram was received here last Friday by his aunt, Mrs. Dorothy Tuttle.

Frederick was a fighter pilot in the Army Air Corps and was a lieutenant. He had been stationed in England for two months.

Fred was born at Coos City, over on the Bay side, May 20, 1921, and was a little more than two months under 23 years of age. He attended school in Coquille and was one of the graduating high school class on May 25, 1939. He enlisted in the Army in February, 1942, and graduated as a pilot from the Luke's Field training school on June 22, 1943.

Frederick was a most likeable boy, manly, clean-cut young man, and was the kind and character of a citizen that Oregon and Coos county cannot afford to lose.

His father, James Watson, for years county clerk of Coos county and later county judge, was forced to retire from the practice of law here last year because of ill health and he and Mrs. Watson, the former Eva Schroeder, went north to make their home in Seattle.

Public Is Invited To Lecture On Christian Science, Mar. 27

The general public is cordially invited to attend the lecture to be sponsored by the Coquille Church of Christ Scientist next Monday evening, March 27, at eight o'clock, in the Washington school auditorium.

Leonard T. Carney, member of the church's Board of Lectureship, of Beverly Hills, Calif., will be the speaker, his subject being "Christian Science—Prayer Made Practical."

Talk On China At Rotary Meeting Wednesday Noon

Following a National Rotary program of honoring China during the month of March, Rev. Robt. Greene gave an interesting talk on that country and the progress of Rotary there, at the noon meeting of the Club at the hotel on Wednesday.

Ed Detlefsen was introduced and welcomed as a new member. There were no visiting Rotarians nor guests for the first time in many months.

\$4400 Now In Red Cross Fund

Rev. Robt. L. Greene reports this morning that \$4400 of Coquille's \$5200 quota for the Red Cross drive has been subscribed and that amount is in hand. The drive continues until Friday night of next week, and there is still time to reach the quota set.

along the Pacific Coast. Our findings support the following general conclusions:

1. The Beaver Hill seam in the vicinity of Coos Bay provides adequate mineable coal to justify substantial mining operations at a moderate rate for many years. Potential reserves are an important asset to the West Coast fuel supply.

2. The coal, when mined carefully with hand picking of the rock impurities, will enjoy a preferred position in local markets as compared to competitive coals. Through the utilization of water transportation it may also compete favorably in industrial markets in Portland.

3. Beneficiation to raise the heating value of the coal should be considered as a necessary step in the preparation of the coal to meet competition in distant markets and to satisfy the requirements of domestic and many industrial users in all markets.

4. The use of simple and relatively inexpensive coal-washing equipment is indicated as the best and cheapest method of eliminating excessive ash-forming material.

5. Encouragement should be given to present mining operations by making electric power available and by lending aid in the establishment of a taxing policy which will encourage the investment of local private capital.

6. The greatest stimulation to mining development may possibly be obtained by encouraging a new mining venture based upon a large scale operation, provided detailed studies indicate all fundamental factors favorable for such a development.

7. A research program to determine the response of this coal to low-temperature carbonization is recommended as the most practical approach to beneficiation.

Judge L. D. Felsheim Talks To C. of C. On Coal Situation

The first meeting of the board of directors of the Coquille Chamber of Commerce, since early in January, was held in the hotel dining room Tuesday noon when it was decided that meetings would be held semi-monthly, on the first and third Tuesdays.

Judge L. D. Felsheim was an invited guest and he reported on what is being done along the line of coal development in Coos county, on the two meetings held last week, and he emphasized what Chambers of Commerce and individuals can do to help boost the coal industry, which may sometime support lumber as the chief industry in Coos county, that of urging all miners to go forward as rapidly as they can in getting out Coos coal.

With the securing of briquetting data and information as to costs, etc., the county's exploratory work will be completed and the only part it can take after that is the leasing of county-owned lands for coal mining.

Business transacted at the meeting.

(Continued on page three)

Powers The Class Of State B League

The Powers basketball squad brought Coos county into prominence at Salem last week-end when it emerged victorious from the B school tournament and became the state champion in the B class. The Saturday evening victory, when the basketball crown was won, was achieved over the Pleasant Hill of Lane county quint, 53 to 35.

Four of the eight boys who were on the Powers squad received all-star ratings for their showing in the tournament. Tom and Frank Grove were awarded places on the mythical all-star team, while Ted Stallard and Shirley Shorb were picked for the all-star second team.

Powers High only lost one game all season, that being to the Marshfield A league Pirates and they later evened that up by defeating the Pirates.

Navy Flier Take Bride From Myrtle Point

Chas. McIntee, a C. H. S. graduate who has been at the Navy air base at Corpus Christi, Texas, for several months, took a Coos county girl back with him when he left to return to duty on Tuesday. He came home the first of last week and last Saturday he and Miss Bonnie Billings drove out to Eugene and were married. They returned Monday and left in his car on Tuesday for Corpus Christi.

2 More Republicans File For Primary

Another candidate for nomination on the Republican ballot for county commissioner, J. W. Hildenbrand of Marshfield, filed his petition with County Clerk Oddy on Tuesday this week. There are now two candidates whose names will appear on the Republican ballot, the present incumbent, Lars Peterson of North Bend, and Mr. Hildenbrand, but no democrat has yet filed for the office.

County Surveyor J. N. Gearhart filed for renomination for that office, as a Republican, last Friday.

Sprague Has The Lead In Senatorial Race

Whether he has any ambition, just now, to be U. S. senator, Gov. Earl Sneli gave ex-Gov. Chas. Sprague the opening to get into the race as the successor to the late Chas. L. McNary and Sprague will be a hard man for Cordon or Snell or anyone else to beat, both in May and November. Sprague proved his stature when he took his defeat like a man, two years ago, when if ever a man's record in office entitled him to re-election Sprague's did.

An Attractive Floral Display

Passers-by may have noticed the attractive windows in Bergen's florist shop lately. Mrs. Fred Hickok is arranging plants and flowers with a special emphasis on the window effect. Yesterday pots of kalanchoe made a gorgeous border behind the myrtle animal carvings done by Bob Harbison.

Council Favors Play Center Idea

At the semi-monthly session of the council Monday evening, letters from Mrs. R. E. Markham of this city and from Dr. Stricker of the State Board of Health were read. Mrs. Markham had made complaint about condition in the northeast section of town where hundreds of pounds of chicken manure, spread on a garden, made living conditions almost unbearable. The doctor's designation of the matter was that it was a nuisance but was not a menace to health. The matter was turned over to the city health officer for investigation and action.

The item in a recent issue of The Sentinel about a day play center for children, whose parents are working, was read and elicited favorable comment on the proposal to establish one here. The matter was referred to Mrs. Elrod, county nurse, with the request that she ascertain, if possible, how many mothers are employed here, and also that she contact some local women's organization and endeavor to get the project started.

A restaurant license was granted Mrs. Elrod, county nurse, with the usual fire chief inspection report to precede the license issuance.

The budget committee, which will meet May 8 and 22, was appointed by Mayor Wood. It is to consist of L. H. Hazard, Don Gillespie, F. C. Hudson, Dr. C. A. Rietman, O. B. Harrison, D. E. Ruckelshaus, Julius Ruble and the members of the council.

The council authorized payment of \$200 to the state highway department as rental on the grader which will be needed for use on graveled streets this summer.

J. N. Gearhart reported that he had ordered the new doors for the fire hall. Mr. Gearhart also reported on his conference with L. A. Chezem in regard to the 33 acres the latter had agreed to deed to the city on the Rink creek watershed. The council voted that within six months from the date Mr. Chezem issues the deed, the city will fence across the deeded portion. It will probably cost \$100 for a six-strand wire fence, posts, staples, etc., plus the labor cost.

The deed is to be a settlement with Mr. Chezem for the damage done to the city's property up there when a fire he had set out spread over into the watershed.

The light committee was given power to act on Dr. C. G. Stem's request for a street light across the street from the Masonic Temple.

Lions To Give April Fool Dance

No foolin', the dance to be given in the Coquille Community Building next Saturday, April 1, by the Coquille Lions-Club, will be one of the outstanding social events of the spring season. The various committees named to arrange for this dance are earnestly and strenuously at work perfecting plans down to the minutest details and the Lions' past record for giving dances is a guarantee that this one will be outstanding.

Good music has been secured, admission will be 60 cents per person and, the fact that this is the finest dance floor in southern Oregon, insures a large attendance. Dancing will start at 9:30 and stop at 1:00 o'clock.

George E. Oerding Sells Henry St. Store Building

The store building owned by G. A. Sanford and Kate Watson on North Henry street was sold by George E. Oerding to Mr. and Mrs. Delbert James, of Coquille. The store building has been rented by Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Couden who have been operating the store and they made a deal with Mr. and Mrs. James whereby they sold all merchandise in store and the new owners expect to take over by the first of April.

Another residence deal also completed by Mr. Oerding was sale of the home of Mr. and Mrs. P. F. Hulbutt to Mr. and Mrs. J. LeRoy Starr. The Hulbuts are leaving Friday for Springfield, where Mr. Hulbutt will work in a defense industry. The Starrs will take possession Friday. Mr. Starr leaves for the army soon.

Leon N. LeFebere, representing the Equitable Life Insurance Co. of Iowa in Portland, was a Coquille visitor last Thursday afternoon. Among matters of business along the coast he was placing publicity for Leslie M. Scott, who is to be a candidate for nomination on the republican ticket in May for State Treasurer.

Barton Family Reunion Friday

The J. S. Barton family had a very enjoyable family reunion last weekend, with all them together for the first time in several years. Clarence Barton, who is now stationed in Portland, and Lieut. Jess Barton from an Army camp, arrived last Wednesday evening, their father's birthday. With Jess were his wife and baby and Mrs. Barton's mother, Mrs. Geo. W. Eden, of Tonopah, Nev.

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Van Otten, she being the former Anne Barton, were also here from Perrydale, Ore. They came Thursday and left for home after the celebration dinner on Friday. Those at the dinner beside the above were Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Barton, their son, Ben, Mrs. Clarence Barton and Mrs. Lorraine Vinton.

Clarence left on his return to Portland on Sunday, Jess and Mrs. Eden for Tonopah on Tuesday this week. From there he will go to his station in the south. Mrs. Jess Barton and daughter, Jacqueline Anne, will remain at the Barton home here for the present.

All of the group except the Van Ottens enjoyed the day Saturday at the Barton cabin on Bandon Beach.

Two Plead Guilty In Circuit Court Tues.

Ralph E. Fox, taken into custody on an obtaining money under false pretenses charge — passing no good checks at Marshfield — pleaded guilty in circuit court here Tuesday. Judge King sentenced him to a year in the county jail and then paroled him for a three-year period.

Robert Harry Close, 18, charged with burglary not in a dwelling — he broke into the Robert Kirk garage at Sitkum — pleaded guilty Tuesday. Judge King ordered that he be released from custody and suspended passing sentence on condition that he return to school and conduct himself properly.

The jury for this term of court has not yet been summoned for a single case in circuit court and it looks now as though they would not be called.

Much Interest Regarding Child Care Center

Requests for information regarding what progress is being made toward the Child Care and Play Center continue to be made. It is understood that Lawrence Lundquist, head of the Intra-Club Committee, is shortly calling for a meeting to plan for the survey which is preliminary to an application to the government for establishment of the Center. It is the consensus of opinion that the need here is great and is going to be more so.

A Cub Pack Is Organized In Coquille

Last Friday evening, twenty-nine boys were represented at the Guild hall by their parents, for the purpose of organizing a Cub Pack in Coquille. Ralph Kalaher, assistant executive of the Oregon Trail Council of the Boy Scouts of America, outlined the program and requirements of Cubbing. Those boys who were represented were divided into dens, which will be under the leadership of Den Mothers. Initial meetings of the dens are scheduled for this week, with a Pack meeting to be held at a later date.

While the boys who were represented are to be recognized as charter members, other boys will be able to join following the first official Pack meeting. Those boys who wish to be Cubs should get in touch with either Robert L. Greene, vicar of the Episcopal church which will sponsor the Cub Pack, or with Stan Sherwood, who will act as Cub Master.

Lieut. Charles Mulkey Home On A Furlough

Charles Mulkey arrived home last Monday for a visit with his mother, Mrs. Martha Mulkey, and his sister and her husband, the Don Farris. "Chuck" received his wings Sunday, March 12 at Luke Field, Phoenix, Ariz. He is now a lieutenant. He left today to report at Mather Field Calif., for B-25 transition training to prepare for night fighting. He has been in the service since Feb. 6, 1943, and is 20 years old. He graduated from Coquille High School in '41 and spent two years at Oregon State College.

Mrs. John McCue is here from her home in Forest Grove for a visit with friends and relatives.

Mrs. Gould Buried In Southern Calif.

Mrs. Harriett Gould, mother of Mrs. James Richmond and A. N. Gould of this city, who had come up from her home in San Bernardino, Calif., last May to make her home again in Coos county, passed away at the home of another daughter, Mrs. E. C. Barker, in Myrtle Point last Saturday. She had been ill since Christmas.

Her body, after funeral services in the Pioneer church here on Monday, was sent south to San Bernardino, where she was laid to rest beside the body of her husband, George A. Gould, who passed away in 1922.

She was born Harriett McClay, in Santa Clara county Calif., July 8, 1858, and was married to Mr. Gould at San Jose in 1873. They came to Oregon in 1886, and for years lived at the Gould ranch on north Coos river.

Of the nine children born to them the survivors are: Mrs. Georgia Richmond and A. N. Gould, Coquille; Mrs. E. C. Barker, of Myrtle Point; Clarence Gould, who resides on Coos river, and George Gould, Mrs. Richmond's twin, of San Bernardino. Two sisters, Mrs. Alice Baker and Miss Oelo McClay, both of San Bernardino, 15 grandchildren and 21 great grandchildren also survive.

Services For Mrs. Paris Ward Monday

Mrs. Paris Ward, whose home was on Bullards route, near Parkersburg, passed last Friday in the McAuley hospital at the Bay. She had not been well for a year and underwent an operation a few days before her death.

She was born Mary Ann Hufford, at Rucker, Ark., Feb. 28, 1887, and was 19 days past 57 years of age. She had lived in Coos county for the past 40 years.

Funeral services, with Rev. Chas. G. Brown officiating, were held in the Schroeder Chapel here at 2 p. m. Monday and interment was in the Odd Fellows No. 2 cemetery. A very large attendance and a wealth of flowers indicated the high esteem in which Mrs. Ward was held.

Besides her husband she is survived by three sons, Ronald of Tulelake, Spencer and Melvin of Coquille and a daughter, Mrs. Iva June Smith, of Vancouver, Wash.; also by four brothers, Sherman Hufford of Newberg, Amour of Blue River, Ore., Frank M. Hufford, of Tacoma, and Elmer Hufford, of Coquille, and a sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Fox, of Millington; also by four grandchildren.

Mrs. Ward had always been active in club and community work on the lower river.

A Lady Of 80 Years Passed Last Saturday

Mrs. Annie Wilson, a lady of Scotland birth who has been making her home here with her sister, Mrs. Jos. Peart, for the past eight months, passed away at the Peart home last Saturday, and funeral services, with Rev. Chas. G. Brown officiating, were held at the Schroeder Mortuaries at two o'clock Tuesday afternoon. Interment was in the Masonic cemetery.

Mrs. Wilson was born at Bethel, Scotland, August 6, 1863, and came with her parents to this country in 1865, settling in Pennsylvania. She had resided in Canada since 1912 before coming to Coquille.

Her husband, Ellsworth Wilson, passed away in Canada two years ago and besides the sister mentioned, she is survived by two other sisters here, Mrs. C. Peart and Mrs. Wm. Hodson, and several nieces and nephews.

James B. Copeland, 70, Buried Here Monday

James B. Copeland passed away Friday morning, Mar. 17, after an extended illness.

He was born in Oakland, Oregon, July 27, 1873, and was 70 years, seven months and 20 days at passing. In his early life he worked for the railroads in the Northwest and in Canada. Since that time he has lived in various parts of Douglas and Coos counties.

Burial services were conducted Monday at 2:00 p. m. under the direction of the Gano Funeral Home, Rev. Liston Parrish officiating. Interment was in the I.O.O.F. Cemetery No. 2, of Coquille.

Mr. and Mrs. Evan Alborn enjoyed a week's visit from her sister and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Thompson, who reside in Washington, D. C. When they left Monday they went to Medford to visit the ladies' mother.