

The Coquille Valley Sentinel

THE PAPER THAT'S LIKE A LETTER FROM HOME

VOL. XL, NO. 11.

COQUILLE, COOS COUNTY, OREGON, THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 1946.

\$2.00 THE YEAR

Lived Two Years On Sweet Potatoes—Saw No White Man

Living for two years without seeing a white man and subsisting mainly on sweet potatoes, with an occasional monkey, snake or lizard as a variation in diet, was the experience of Frank Laird of the Brewster Valley section.

He was in Coquille recently, having arrived home about a month ago from Australia, and the two years of non-association with white men was spent on one of the Philippine Islands. Laird had been in the Army for 18 years and was on Corregidor just prior to its fall, after the Japs took the Philippines. He managed to escape, before the "Rock" fell, to another island of the group and one on which there was not another white man. For military reasons he does not tell how he was rescued, only remarking that he "did not fly or swim from the island to Australia."

When landed "down under" he had shrunk from his previous 180 or 190 pounds to a mere 110, and it required a quart of blood plasma and a diet of sweet potatoes to save his life. He is still far from a well man.

The Filipinos, his only associates for the two years, lived on sweet potatoes. There are two varieties of those spuds; one is sweeter than the other and the sweet variety caused both the natives there and Laird severe cramps when eaten too steadily. For tender meat he watched the monkeys and when one was known to be about to become a mother her young ones were large enough to eat.

There is an underground connection between the island where Laird found a haven and the Jap camps on the islands and he says the stories of atrocities committed in the Philippines by the savages from Tokyo, which have appeared in print, do not begin to tell the entire story of what the natives and whites suffered at the hands of the invaders.

There is much more to Mr. Laird's experience over there which he does not feel should be told at this time but which he will never forget and will tell when the war is over.

G. M. Griggs Buys Western Merc. Agcy.



ILO H. HEATON

I. H. Heaton announces the change of ownership of the Western Mercantile Agency, Inc., and the Coquille Credit Bureau, having sold his interest to George M. Griggs.

Mr. Heaton has operated this business for the past seven years, and wishes to thank the merchants, business and professional men of Coos County, for their patronage and co-operation, and wishes to assure them that they will receive the same efficient service as in the past, as Mr. Griggs has spent the last 22 years in this field, and has a thorough knowledge of the business. He has been affiliated with the Western Mercantile Agency during the past four years.

In announcing the sale of the Agency, Mr. Heaton comments on the business growth of Coquille during his seven years here and believes this city is destined for an expanded development for years to come.

Mr. Heaton plans to reside in Coquille for the present and plans to enter other business soon.

Notice to Rotarians!

Any Rotarian who could possibly enjoy a Lions Club Dance should accept their invitation for free admittance to the April Fool Dance.

Lack of good entertainment these days by the Lions Club prompts this suggestion. —Coquille Rotary Club.

Mr. and Mrs. Cince Finley returned this week from Portland, where he has been working in a shipyard.

Red Cross Drive Through Saturday

In order to enable those individuals who have as yet not made their contributions to the Red Cross to do so, booths will be placed in the Bank and in the office of the Mountain States Power Company, on Saturday.

Of the \$5200 quota, \$4800 has been turned in to Bob Stewart, the treasurer for the Drive funds. Several organizations have made pledges which will be turned in the first of next week. While the committee in charge of the drive cannot tell the final outcome until all organizations and individuals have reported, a good response from those not heard from will show the Coquille district satisfactorily near its quota.

The drive as a whole has gone well. There have been few who have been unable to give, and fewer yet who might have been selfishly inclined to refuse contributions. The response in the residential sections was better than expected. The organizations thus far reported have for the most part made sizable donations. Many have been the phone calls asking where contributions should be made. Unsolicited checks have come in from the fringes of the territory to be covered. All this demonstrates undeniably that people are awake to the realization that through the Red Cross those on the home front are by the side of the men and women overseas.

The chairman of the Drive asks that all solicitors and organizations turn in any funds to the treasurer as soon as possible.

Fred True To Seek Election As Assessor

County Clerk Oddy this week had to turn down \$30 offered as a filing fee. The tender was made by County Coroner "Red" Campbell, who thought his term in that office would expire next January when it really has two years to run after that.

Coos county was assured that it will have a well-qualified County Assessor next year even though it turns out that this is to be a Republican year and the present Democratic incumbent, Chas. Forrest, should be defeated.

Fred C. True, who returned to Coquille to make his home recently, after operating the store in Broadbent for many years, filed last week as a candidate on the Republican ticket for that office. Fred's past experience as a bookkeeper and office man, as well as his mercantile activities, cooperate in making him an exceptionally qualified candidate for the office.

A candidate who filed for the Democratic nomination for County Commissioner, on Tuesday this week, was Chas. E. Powers, of Marshfield.

B. W. Olsson, last Thursday, filed as a Republican candidate for nomination as commissioner on the Port of Coos Bay.

Fine Attendance At Monday Lecture

The Washington school auditorium was well filled Monday evening when Leonard T. Carney, Beverly Hills, Calif., attorney, and who is a member of the Board of Lecturership of the Church of Christ, Scientist, delivered a lecture entitled, "Christian Science: Prayer Made Practical."

Mr. Carney was introduced by Mrs. R. J. Connors of the local church, with a few well chosen words, and Mr. Carney was listened to with close attention by the audience which included a bus load of passengers from Marshfield.

The complete lecture appears in Section 2 of this issue of the Sentinel.

Navy Mothers Club Organized In Bandon

Mrs. C. W. Gatchell, of Marshfield, and Mrs. Stella Cutlip, of North Bend, were in Bandon last Thursday and helped to organize a chapter of the Navy Mothers Club with a charter membership of fifteen.

The Coos Bay Navy Mothers Club, No. 23, was organized Oct. 18 of last year and has a membership of 45. They meet the second and fourth Fridays of each month in the Marshfield City Hall and they wish to extend an urgent invitation to all Coquille Navy mothers to join them. Mrs. Gatchell is president and Mrs. Cutlip, secretary and treasurer, of the Coos Bay club.

The ladies were accompanied to Bandon by Lieut. Alda Hendricks of the Air Wacs, who is stationed in this district on recruiting duty.

Wisconsin Cranberry Growers Visit Coos County Bogs

Four cranberry men from Wisconsin, who were making a get-acquainted tour of the Pacific Northwest last week, after being through Washington landed in Bandon last Saturday and came up to Coquille Sunday evening.

The men were Elbert Redler, a grower of Phillips, Wis., who had to leave Sunday because of a death in his family; Vernon Goldworthy, manager of the Wisconsin Sales Co., of Wisconsin Rapids, and who has the reputation of being one of the most successful co-op managers in the industry; C. L. Lewis, Jr., of Shell Lake, a producer and director in several cranberry co-operatives; and Roy Potter, of Wisconsin Rapids, one of Wisconsin's largest producers.

The Wisconsin Sales Co. marketed last year 80 per cent of its product, as fresh berries, through the American Cranberry Exchange, and 20 per cent were processed by Cranberry Cannery, which owns the plant in Coquille.

In an interview here Monday morning the men said the purpose of their visit was to get acquainted with growers and conditions in the Northwest. They said conditions in their state were quite different from those in Oregon. Back there they do not use the sprinkling system but, with so much below freezing weather, they flood their bogs in the fall. In fact the bogs back there are still covered with ice. Their reservoirs for flooding cover about seven times as much ground as do their bogs.

They grow McFarlin berries there but more of the Jumbo variety which is only slightly grown in the west. They said the Oregon berries are larger than those grown anywhere else in the United States. They also expressed the opinion that growers in Oregon are harder hit by the manpower shortage than anywhere else that cranberries are grown.

They said that about 80 per cent of the Wisconsin berries are marketed through co-ops and that the Northwest has had a remarkable growth in berry culture due to a great extent to the advantage of organization and to the opportunity of securing machinery and learning insect-fighting methods from the Wisconsin co-operatives.

They expressed the opinion that this year's berry crop in the U. S. would be a normal one, about 650,000 barrels.

The Western World at Bandon this week reports the visit of the four men to the various bogs down that way as follows:

The first stop was made at the holdings of the Cape Blanco Cranberry Company where J. A. Stankovich is manager and co-owner with Marcus L. Urran of Warham, Mass., president of Cranberry Cannery, Inc. Here a mill has been built to provide box stock for members of Cranberry Cannery. The mill is now turning out alder shooks for the light weight stitched shipping boxes and stock for cannery lugs. The material is hauled to Coquille to be dried and made ready for growers' use at harvest time. The idea is to give growers boxes at cost. A twenty acre bog is also under construction but due to labor shortage and the necessity of getting the mill in operation, the bog work has had to lag. However, Mr. Stankovich plans to finish the marsh as early as feasible. Mr. Lewis took moving pictures of the visitors and the mill.

A. T. Morrison welcomed the guests in his customary genial manner and made them feel that Oregon not only grew fine cranberries but was also a friendly state. Mr. Morrison's lovely flowers were Mr. Goldworthy's first consideration.

The last marsh to be visited was that of John Neilson. Here one of the visitors remarked, "If it wasn't for this cold wind, I'd like to sell out my holdings in Wisconsin and move to Oregon, buy me a place like this and really have fun growing cranberries."

Arago Hires Teachers

The Arago School Board reports that teachers have been hired for the Arago school for the ensuing year. The principal, Miss Ethel Fish, has been re-hired at a salary of \$1800 and also Mrs. Vera Moomaw, who has taught for the last seven years at Empire, has been hired at \$1700. The board stated that a primary teacher may be employed if a satisfactory one can be secured.

Harris Ellsworth To See Renomination As Congressman



Harris Ellsworth, Representative in Congress from the Fourth district of Oregon, today formally filed his declaration of candidacy for reelection with the Secretary of State. The filing included a brief platform statement in which Ellsworth declares: "If I am nominated and elected I will, during my term of office, devote sincere and determined effort to the duties and obligations of that office. I shall continue to work hard on all problems of my district and my state, and for the development of its resources. I shall exercise considered judgment in national legislation. I stand for peace with victory only, and for a peace settlement with permanency as its goal. I shall work to curb bureaucrats, reduce federal extravagance, and to stop waste."

The Secretary of State's office reports that the slogan which will appear after Ellsworth's name on the ballot will read as follows: "Continued hard work and sound judgment on District needs and national problems."

Did Not Need A License For This

Fred Watson had a "Believe It or Not" experience this week, a sort of double-header Ripley.

He was driving along the highway when he saw a pheasant headed for his car. He slowed down but the bird crashed through his windshield, making a hole about a foot in diameter in the glass, and fell on the seat beside him. He was not injured by the flying glass but the bird was knocked out.

The double feature was apparent when he examined the pheasant. It had lost both feet some time in the past, whether from freezing or being shot off; could not be said, but both stumps had healed over, making certain that the feet were not cut off in the crash.

Riverton School Man Talks To Rotary

Dr. Edmund S. Cyckler, superintendent of the Riverton schools, was the guest speaker at the meeting of the Rotary Club on Wednesday.

Dr. Cyckler studied two years at the University of Prague in Czechoslovakia and in discussing the post-war problems that will come up at the peace table, he displayed a quite thorough study of the racial and political questions that will develop in that central country of Europe but frankly stated that he had no practical solution to offer. He gave a very interesting talk that held the close attention of those present.

A new member in the person of Fred True was introduced by Dutch Clinton. Rotarian guests present were Judge Dal M. King, Jesse Clinton and John D. Carl, of Myrtle Point. Other guests were Nell Barnes, of Marshfield, and Lou Braley, of Coquille.

Seven directors were elected to serve for the coming Rotarian year as follows: J. S. Barton, Orville Wood, Dr. J. E. Stark, George Burr, George Laird, W. E. Bosserman and Rev. Robt. L. Greene.

Baby Chicks Destroyed In Brooder Fire Monday Night

The fire department was called at 9:40 Monday night to the M. W. Pinkston home, corner Fifth and Elliott streets, where the brooder in the chicken house had become overheated and started a blaze. By the time the fire was discovered about 90 baby chicks had been destroyed and brooder was burned but the fire boys saved the building.

End Comes To Early Day Mariner

A Danish-born citizen of Coquille for the past 20 years, Peter F. Gehlke, passed away here last Thursday night and services were held in the Schroeder Chapel here at 2:00 p. m. on Monday. Mrs. J. E. Norton acted as reader for the Christian Science burial service, he being a member of that church. Interment was in I. O. O. F. cemetery, No. 1.

Mr. Gehlke had lived a very eventful life. Born in Schleswig, Denmark, Sept. 9, 1862, he went to sea when he was 15 years of age and followed a maritime trade for 22 years, during which time he thought he had entered every port in the world. He had been around the Horn five times.

Just before the turn of the century he decided to live in San Francisco and there became a citizen of the United States. He came to Coos county and in 1902 was united in marriage, at Bandon, to Delcina DuBois, mother of Fred Von Pegert of this city, and who passed away last December. They lived on their Parkersburg ranch for more than 20 years and made their home on Sanford Heights in Coquille for the past 20 years.

As far as known, his stepson, Mr. Von Pegert, is the only living relative of this splendid man who lived to the ripe old age of 81 years, five months and 24 days.

Need Proved By Preliminary Survey

There is every reason for the many persons interested to feel optimistic toward the possibility that a Child Care and Play Center may become a reality for Coquille. A volunteer group has this week started on a survey to determine the number of women employed now or who would seek employment if such a center were available for the care of their children. Twenty-six mothers, representing more than forty children, were listed after a few hours work on the survey had been done. So far no house-to-house canvass has been attempted. Forty children is a sufficient number to meet the requirements for establishing a unit.

Sam Lehman visited Coquille on Wednesday and stated he had sent in a letter to the Federal Works Administration office in Portland advising the Field Representative of the situation in Coquille and explaining the progress already made toward an application for a Center. Mr. Lehman is in charge of the Federal Employment office in Marshfield.

He is emphatic in his belief that women are going to be called on in the next few months to take the jobs being left by men called by the draft. To help in the war effort, as well as to supplement their government allotments, is a matter for serious consideration to qualified, healthy young women unless they have a means of placing their children under supervised care. The present shortage of teachers, stenographers, clerks, house workers, etc., could be definitely relieved in this section in the event of the establishment of such a center.

Mrs. Estelle Harbison, of Bergen's Florist Shop, is one of the group at work on the survey. Because of the convenient location Bergen's has been selected as a headquarters for the survey. Interested persons may sign up for the survey there or receive information on doing so, by telephone.

Although the Center will be available for use by mothers not employed, this preliminary survey is including only the employed or potentially employed. Judging from the response and the tone of individual expression, there not only is a need here but a crying need for the establishment of the Center.

Furb Emery Again Proud Of His Town—Elgin

A letter from F. S. Emery from Elgin, Oregon, enclosing several clippings, shows that that community went over the top in fine shape in the current Red Cross Drive and that the employees of the Ponderosa Pine Lumber Co., of which he is manager, all contributed a day's pay to the drive. He also stated that it was snowing up there.

Surgical Dressing Class To Resume Night Sessions

Mrs. J. R. Bunch announces that the surgical dressing night class will resume its sessions in the First National Bank building next Tuesday, April 4, and all those interested are invited and urged to attend.

Coos Coal Committee Named At Marshfield Meeting Thursday

Steps toward thorough investigation of the prospects for development of the coal industry in southwestern Oregon were taken at a meeting called by the Marshfield Chamber of Commerce last Thursday evening at the Chandler Hotel.

Charles Robinson, acting in place of Chamber President Coe who was out of town, named the following committee to meet at a later date and make a careful survey of the situation: Al Pierce, chairman; L. A. Cutlip, Henry Kern, R. J. Hillstrom and James Flanagan.

The committee was to meet this week with the engineers who have been making the recent survey of the coal resources in Coos county for the county and state. They are to make a comprehensive estimate of the cost of mining, the availability of the coal deposits, the prospects for marketing and determine whether it is advisable to form an organization to develop this industry.

Mr. T. O. Toon, of the Northwest Development Co. of Portland, was present and gave a very clear outline of the situation and guaranteed the marketing of the output of coal, provided a local organization could be formed to facilitate continued production.

He stated that the present conditions, with the vital need to conserve transportation on the trans-continental railways, was made to order for the development of Coos county's coal industry. He further stated that, with the superior quality in b.t.u. units and lesser moisture content, the coal would easily continue to hold its markets after the war emergency was over.

Mr. Toon also said that if the proper local interest and participation were developed that it would be an easy matter to obtain government money to aid in the work. He also advised that used equipment could be obtained from the Black Diamond mines in Washington which had been worked out.

Mr. Toon made the further announcement of the resignation of Solid Fuels Coordinator Hill of Seattle effective March 25. Mr. Hill is interested financially in coal mines in Colorado, Utah, Wyoming and Alberta and has not been at all helpful in seeing that Coos county got her share of contracts for the army.

Wayne Morse To Be Here Friday



Wayne Morse, candidate for the Republican nomination at the May primary, contesting with Rufus Holman for a six-year term seat in the U. S. senate, will be a Coquille visitor tomorrow (Friday) and a luncheon in his honor has been arranged by local friends. It will be in the Coquille Hotel Coffee Shop at noon and so far as the capacity of the dining room will permit, those interested in his candidacy will be welcomed to attend. It is to be non-political, just an opportunity for Coquille residents to meet a prominent Oregonian.

April Fool Dance By Lions Saturday Night

Don't be fooled by the Lions club advertising that Rotarians are too old to attend the Lions April Fool dance in the Community Building here Saturday night. There will be plenty of them there and nearly all of them can cut as neat a pigeon's wing as can members of the dance-sponsoring group.

This dance is attracting a lot of attention and those missing it are only fooling themselves.