

# The Coquille Valley Sentinel

THE PAPER THAT'S LIKE A LETTER FROM HOME

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\$2.00 THE YEAR

## NAVY PLANE CRASH KILLS THREE FLYERS -- INJURES THREE CIVILIANS HERE SUNDAY



Looking north on Coulter street. The shattered pole, against the background of the apartment house, was the point at which the plane began to go to pieces. The crowd a little further up the street is looking at a large piece of equipment or plane.

The worst tragedy in Coquille history was that at 3:55 p. m. last Sunday when an airplane from the Navy base on Coos Bay plunged to earth in the north end of town, a couple of blocks south of the ball park, killing the three Navy men in it instantly and damaging nine buildings out there, one of which burned to the ground except for one frame wall still standing.

Three Coquille residents were also injured but all are now recovering.

The dead are Ensign Loyal Thomas, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Thomas of Coquille; Aviation Ordnance man third class Burton James Schroeder of Mevils, Minn., and Seaman first class Jack Eugene McCoy, of Denver, Colo.

The injured are Clarence Oelka, Mrs. J. A. Hannon and Dan C. Rodgers. The latter was holding a grandchild as he lay on his sofa at home and the baby was considerably cut about the face by flying glass, but not seriously.

The flyers, with Loyal Thomas presumably at the controls, had flown in a northeasterly direction the first time over Coquille, quite low as they passed over the Thomas home at 437 North Henry street. Circling and reaching the city limits to the southeast, the plane which was a Gruman Avenger, the newest type of torpedo bomber at the time the Salpan battle occurred in the Pacific, was turned and again headed over the city. It was barely above the Folsom Apartment House as it passed there, and at the R. L. Medley home on Eighth street, between Henry and Coulter, it tore the top out of a tree, cut a hole in the comb of the Medley house and knocked off a chimney.

This, of course, threw the plane out of control and it next hit a power line pole and wire just south of the Hollingstad Apartment, (the old Knife Apt. House.) The plane had begun to go to pieces before hitting the power lines but it continued north above Coulter street, tearing down two telephone poles as it came nearer the ground.

The first house to suffer damage was that of Elmer Hook, the second house south of Tenth street where a front window was blown in by the force of the driven air.

Next, to the north of that was the R. T. Newton home where the front wall was torn off the bedroom on the Coulter street side and the porch railings were sheared off.

One man who saw the flight says that from the time the plane hit the tree it seemed to ricochet up and down. Across the street from Newton's the plane struck and obliterated about 15 feet of the front end of E. P. Standley store.

The fuselage and motor apparently parted company there for the motor plunged through the Dan Rodgers home and landed between that house and the next where Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Hall reside.

The fuselage and tank jumped the Rodgers home and landed on top of J. A. Hannon's house, where the tank exploded, set the house on fire, and threw instruments and parts of the plane for hundreds of feet.

The bodies of the three occupants were literally blown to bits, pieces of human bodies being found over a wide area, an arm not being found till Monday, out in the ball park.

H. E. Wood, who had seen the plunging plane told Mrs. Wood to call the fire department even before the explosion. The response by the fire boys was most prompt and they

**PILOT**

Oh, draw us back into the blue, our God!  
These wings were never made to fly so low  
Above familiar streets where once I trod  
And felt the breeze of autumn lightly blow.

But I have flown where eagles fear to fly,  
Nor can I long forget I loved it there;  
One time, when soaring very, very high,  
I felt an alien of the earth--nor heir.

We pilots of the trackless, central blue  
Have heard the music of the singing stars;  
Their magic songs are in our hearts, and drew  
Us ever up . . . beyond . . . all earthly bars.

—By a friend

did a very effective job in preventing the flames' spread to other property.

Next north of the Hannon home is that of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Morgan. A bomb from the exploding plane went through an upper corner of their house and another flying piece cut a chunk out of the roof comb.

Clarence Oelka was the first civilian injured, although the whole tragedy took but seconds to culminate. He was standing on his front walk, holding his baby, and saw a large piece of the plane's wing coming toward him with such force that it would have cut him in two had he not dropped flat on the ground, shoving the baby as far toward the house as he could. The piece struck his leg, causing a compound fracture, but he is reported as doing very well in the Belle Knife Hospital, where he was taken.

Another piece of wing fell across the street in the R. L. Stewart yard, not 20 feet from where he was working. A brick from the Medley chimney also crashed through C. M. Gray's car and another went through the wall of the Hollingstad Apt.

The front of the Standley store was just wiped out, there's no other way to describe it and their two cars standing in front of it were damaged beyond repair. The Standleys were sitting at a window of their home back of the store and were not injured.

Mr. Rodgers, an employe at the State Highway shops, was taken to the Knife hospital and, for a time, it was feared he had suffered internal injuries, but Dr. Richmond said yesterday he was convinced now that

he had not and that he is improving, his chief injury being shock and concussion.

Mrs. J. C. Hall was in her home when the plane flew through it but she was uninjured. Mr. Hall was in the garage to one side and the plane's fuselage clipped the roof of the building not three feet above his head. He put out the fire which had started on his own house and that on the wall of Mrs. Burch's home next north. The latter sits back farther from the street and was not hit.

J. A. Hannon, who had been working that day had decided to go home and had just reached his back door when the explosion occurred. His son had arrived home the night before on leave from the service and was sitting with his mother in the house as the plane approached. He reached the back door safely to

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### Loyal Thomas A C.H.S. Grad In '43

Services were held at 2:00 p. m. Wednesday afternoon for Ensign Loyal Thomas, one of the victims of Sunday's tragedy, at the Mills-Theurwacher Funeral Home in Marshfield.

He was born in Portland April 27, 1923, and was a graduate of Coquille High School in May last year. The records show that he stood well up in his classes, and he was that kind of a young man whom everyone liked and admired.



The wrecked front of the E. P. Standley store from which point the plane's fuselage and tank jumped over two houses and landed on the J. A. Hannon house where the tank exploded.

## B.P.W. Club Hears Judge Dal King On Monday Evening

The Coquille Hotel banquet room was the scene of a pleasant gathering last Monday evening when the Coquille Federation of Business and Professional Women celebrated their twenty-fifth anniversary with a banquet held at eight o'clock. The tables were colorful with the use of quantities of autumn red vine maple. The diners numbered about thirty-five. Florence Barton, first vice-president and chairman of the Social committee, was in charge.

Special guest speaker was Judge Dal King, Coos circuit judge and resident of Myrtle Point. "Toward Victory and Beyond," the club's 1944-45 slogan, was the subject on which Judge King discoursed. In opening his address he paid a fine tribute to the organization of busy women who take time for national and international matters and also do something about it. He referred to Mrs. Jas. Richmond's good talk before the Rotary Club on the subject, "Are We Part Time Citizens?"

Stating that Americans take Democracy too much for granted, the speaker traced the condition of this nation from before Pearl Harbor and up to the time thereafter when war preparations were stepped up to meet impossible-sounding goals and the world beheld Democracy at work. Supplying the allies with lend-lease during the interim required to build up the army and navy was a feat never known in world history. "Victory cannot be denied such patriotism," he said, "A long hard fight is ahead but it will be accomplished."

Additional thoughts were voiced by Judge King as follows:

After victory, which is sure to come in reasonable time, we shall have the great problem of reconversion, the return of ten million service men and women, who do not want either the dole nor the W. P. A.

We can't continue with one person in every seven or eight, as it is now, working for the government which

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## War Fund Response Is Not Satisfactory

Geo. H. Chaney, chairman of the committee which is soliciting in Coquille for the United War Fund drive, reported yesterday, that less than half of the Coquille quota of \$4,800 has been raised, the amount being \$2211.74.

This is not a record of which Coquille can be proud, and it is going to require greater exertions of committeees and larger response by contributors if this city meets its quota.

To help achieve the desired end, the date for the conclusion of the drive has been advanced to next Saturday evening, Oct. 21.

## Lions Fish Derby Set For Sunday

The Coquille Lions Club annual Fish Derby is set for this coming Sunday, Oct. 22, and is to be held on the Coquille river near the mouth of Bear creek.

In order to get the fishing boats down there, for those who do not wish to use their own for transportation to the spot, the Smith Wood-Products tug will leave the city dock Friday noon and tow the boats to the Henry Miller dock at Parkersburg. The tug will return them here on Monday.

Lions President Jack Moore says that the accumulated prize for the first catch of a female Jack salmon is now up to \$1400, \$500 being added each year!

The Lions have invited the Rotary Club and other guests to participate in the derby, and the club will furnish the meal which will be eaten at noon in the Parkersburg neighborhood.

## Junior Women's Club To Give Dance Saturday Evening

The public and dancers in particular are again reminded of the dance to be given Saturday evening, Oct. 21, in the Coquille Community Building, sponsored by the Coquille Junior Women's Club. The music will be furnished by Baumgarten's Orchestra and admission will be 60 cents per person.

## Mrs. Harlocker To Be Buried Here Friday

A pioneer resident of Coquille, a lady who has lived in Portland for many years, Mrs. Fannie J. Harlocker, who had lain helpless in the Good Samaritan Hospital there for the past five years, passed away Wednesday morning, and the funeral services are to be held in Coquille, at the Schroeder Bros. Chapel, at 2:00 p. m. on Friday, Oct. 20. Interment will be in the Masonic cemetery.

She was the widow of L. Harlocker, prominent in the life of Coquille and Coos county for years and who served as Coos county judge more than 30 years ago after filling various other elective offices.

Mrs. Harlocker was very close to 85 years of age and had lived in Portland most of the time since the death of her husband more than 25 years ago.

Information for a suitable obituary notice was not obtainable here yesterday nor will it be until her children arrive from Portland this evening or tomorrow morning.

Her surviving children are Mrs. Emily McKenna and Miss Edna Harlocker, both of Portland, and four sons, Chas. H., also of Portland; Frank H., who has resided in Honolulu for more than a quarter of a century; Hugh, who resides at Long Beach, Calif., and Fred, who lives in Hilo, Hawaii.

She is also survived by two brothers, Judge John S. Coke, who resides in Portland, and Judge James Coke, whose home is in Honolulu.

## "Ladies Night" Meeting Of Rotary

The Coquille Rotary Club held its annual Ladies Night meeting in L.O.O.F. hall Wednesday evening, with an excellent 6:30 o'clock dinner furnished by the Rebekahs.

Congressman Harris Ellsworth, of Roseburg, was present as a guest and gave an intensely interesting account of his very recent visit to England and the invasion front of France. His visit, with a number of other congressmen, was at the invitation of Great Britain to get a brief glimpse of the functioning of the British government in the interests of better understanding between the two countries and he stated that while the government of that country was democratic the same as ours, that it differed in many ways, one of which he mentioned as a sense of class distinction which is absent in this country.

Mr. Harris gave a vivid description of the results of the bombing of London, both by the air blitz of 1940 and the more recent destruction by the robots. He said many parts of the city seemed practically untouched, yet frequently one would notice a vacant lot where a building had previously stood.

His description of the invasion beaches and his visit to Cherbourg, was very interesting. His conclusion, as to the success of that invasion, was that we accomplished this impossible or what the Germans considered impossible, and that we were continuing to do so in the millions of tons of supplies that are kept flowing into France to supply our armies.

His party had lunch with General Eisenhower and he spoke in glowing terms of the personality of the General.

At the close of his talk Miss Jeannie Griggs sang two numbers in a very pleasing manner. She was accompanied at the piano by Mrs. M. O. Hawkins.

After the presentation of attendance pins to numerous ones of the members, James T. Hodges, president of the Adhesive Products Co. of Seattle, a guest of Larry Lundquist, was introduced and gave a talk on the chemical research and manufacturing of the various types of glue used in the making of plywood. Lack of space this week prevents a detailed account of his talk which was filled with interesting data on the subject.

George H. Chaney, chairman of the Associated War Fund drive, gave a brief talk on the progress of the drive.

## Junior Women's Club To Meet Monday, Oct. 23, 7:00 P. M.

The next meeting of the Junior Women's Club will be a potluck dinner next Monday night at 7:00 p. m., in the Guild Hall. All young women who are eligible for the club are urged to attend. Dorothy Harris is chairman of the committee in charge.

## Ralph Moore Reports On Saturday's Railroad Meeting

Ralph T. Moore, representative for Coos county in the state legislature and a candidate for reelection next month on the republican ticket, attended the Coquille Chamber of Commerce meeting in the Coffee Shop Tuesday noon, and at the request of Pres. Geo. E. Oerding he gave a report on the railroad meeting held in Myrtle Point last Saturday afternoon.

Mr. Oerding said that at the meeting two representatives from each county were appointed to work with the interested railroad company, which wishes to build a new road and that Mr. Moore had been appointed as the representative from southern Coos county. The delegate from the north half of the county is Chas. Ronson, of Marshfield. Don Farr accompanied Mr. Oerding to the meeting.

Mr. Moore stated the railroad company behind the move was not mentioned by name, but he said that all reports indicated it was very serious in its purpose to have a connecting line from its northern position which would enable it to build down through Oregon counties—southern Lane, Douglas, Coos and Curry—and on down the California coast to San Francisco.

The Roseburg Chamber of Commerce was the body which called the meeting and besides that body and the railroad representatives Coos county chambers were represented as was also the Port Orford chamber, where it is felt a rail connection and its harbor would develop a new impetus to the Curry county livestock and mining industries.

The general plan in which the counties can help just now is the preparing for submission to the

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## Those Going For Exams, Induction

The following men reported at Portland, Oregon, for their preinduction physical examination on Wednesday of this week, their instructions coming from the Coquille Selective Service Board:

Robert A. Smith, Bandon.  
Calvin C. Fuhs, Coquille.  
Leo C. Call, Coquille.  
Roy E. Porter, Coquille.  
Donald E. Sell, Coquille.  
Phillip A. Clausen, Riverton.  
Eddie Padgett, Coquille.  
James A. White, Coquille.  
Donald L. Ocheltree, Coquille.  
Carl Nelson, Lebanon.  
John D. Ward, Lebanon.  
Clyde W. St. Clair, Coquille.

The following group will be inducted into the service within the next few days:

Lyle A. Wood, Myrtle Point.  
Elbert M. Griffin, Myrtle Point.  
Ralph R. Thrift, Coquille.  
Albert M. Menning, Coquille.  
Merrill H. Perkins, Langlois.  
Harold Z. Hayes, Coquille.

## Pheasant Smashes Car Windshield

The windshield of J. W. Bracelin's car looked as though it might have been to war, when he arrived here from Myrtle Point Thursday afternoon, except that there was a great quantity of feathers still clinging to the shattered glass. A Chinese pheasant flew against the windshield, breaking all the glass on the right side and cracking that in the left. Bracelin didn't say whether he had a hunting license for pheasants or not!

## Report On Two Bucks Killed

Arlan, six-year old son of Walter Shutt who lives on the Fairview route, acted as hunting dog for his father on their home place recently. He went thrashing around in the brush and scared out a buck which Mr. Shutt killed.

A larger buck than the 182-pounder the Sentinel reported last week was the one weighing 191 pounds which Geo. Hurst killed on the upper North Fork last week. It was a nice, very fat one.

This week's Red Devils football game is a practice game with the Bandon High team at the local ball park at two o'clock Saturday afternoon.