

Coquille Valley Sentinel

COQUILLE, OREGON

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Dedicated to the Development of Coquille Valley

An Independent Paper

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Oregon's Vanishing Wildlife

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A legislative interim committee has been holding meetings with sportsmen around the state in the attempt to sift the wheat from the chaff and to draw up recommendations for changes in the laws to improve Oregon's fish and game resources. The one complaint on which almost all agree is that game law enforcement is inadequate.

But these meetings are bringing out rather clearly a widespread belief that the basic commission system of handling fish and game problems needs reorganization or replacement.

The primary reason for the accelerated decline of the game resource in the last decade was available to the interim committee before it left Portland. That is the unprecedented increase in the number of hunters and anglers. The commission sold 344,200 licenses in 1946, and the figure probably reached 375,000 in 1947—more than double the prewar figure.

Instead of a breathing spell of the fish, game birds and game animals during the war—when young men were in the armed services, gasoline was rationed and shells were hard to get—the hunting and angling pressure increased steadily, and propagation and enforcement lagged. Much more than the commission's latest policy of advising hunters and anglers to restrain their natural desires to take limit bags will be needed, obviously, to provide the great number of licenses with even fair hunting and angling.

Game law enforcement was taken away from the game commission and given to the state police when that body was organized. It would be difficult to find an outdoorsman who honestly would contend that the necking-station, highway-patrol type of enforcement provided by the state police has been efficient in discouraging the law violators who seem to have increased in proportionately greater numbers than the total of licenses.

Three alternatives to the present system have been suggested: (1) Strengthening the existing game division of the state police and separating its members from other police work; (2) returning to the old warden system, under the game commission; (3) establishment of a separate enforcement-conservation agency, whose supervisor would have its offices at game headquarters and would work closely with the game department, but whose authority would be independent of either the game commission or the state police.

More and more sportsmen seem to be coming around to the view that the third proposal may be the more desirable—a separate conservation force which should work co-operatively with sportsmen in predator control and other phases of game improvement, as well as being in position to enforce the game laws without being handcuffed by nongame duties or becoming involved in game department politics.

The game commission now collects about \$2,500,000 biennially, mostly from license fees, and is paying \$584,000 of it into the state police fund for enforcement that is inadequate. Sportsmen's funds also are tithed for about \$90,000 biennially, money which goes into the state general fund, when the state itself should be helping to bring back and maintain out of general taxes a resource which brings wealth to all.

So far as the commission system itself is concerned, the greatest need seems to be for more authority and hence responsibility for the supervisor. There is a certain value in advisory assistance of five commissioners geographically selected who know the local problems of their areas. This value is lost when the commission attempts to execute as well as to propose or adopt policies. The suggestion has been made that commissioners should be elected—but this page does not believe that vote-getting ability is necessarily a good measure of knowledge and sound judgment in wildlife affairs.

A skilled supervisor with adequate authority to run the fish and game show, responsible solely to the governor who in turn is responsible to voters, and an advisory commission, may be the answer.

These and other problems have been discussed with sportsmen at meetings in Roseburg, Tillamook, Portland, Klamath Falls, Bend, Burns, Ontario, La Grande, Baker, Pendleton and The Dalles. Meetings will be held in February in Medford, Coos Bay, Waldport, Corvallis, Eugene, Albany and Salem. The interim committee's chairman is Senator Lew Wallace. Other members are Representatives William Niskanen of Bend and Carl Hill of Days Creek; John Ebinger of Klamath Falls, representing the Isaak Walton league, and James Loder of Salem, representing the Wildlife federation.

Hunters and anglers keenly aware of the disheartening decline in a state which should have the best shooting and fishing in the nation are hoping that the report of this interim committee, with 375,000 sportsmen behind it, will start a new deal in Oregon wildlife.

"Test in the West" is more than just a catch by-line, for many national manufacturers are now, and are planning, tests of their new products in the Western states. Reports from Advertising Age and other magazines show that the West is a good barometer on how a new product will either catch on, or get kicked in the face.

The Twin Falls News-Times pays editorial attention to the 10,000 unemployed in the State of Idaho. Says the News-Times: this is a serious situation which means that every Idahoan must begin to study ways of making employment higher and steady if Idaho is to grow and continue to prosper.

Efficiency measures by various large companies in the Northwest wherein they have cut ten per cent of their staff mean that more output will be the watchword of 1948.

General reaction to the in-the-air A. F. of L. strike is that the average working man in Coos county is pretty disgruntled over a walkout if one should come. With high costs still getting higher, and the task of paying bills an onerous one, county mill-workers don't want to leave their jobs to help out their brothers in Washington State.

PARAGRAPHS OF THE PAST

From The Sentinel Files of 20 Years Ago

(Taken from The Sentinel of Friday, January 27, 1928)

Fourteen dairymen were present at the annual election of officers of the Coquille Cow Testing association, held at the city hall here Wednesday. Those chosen were W. E. Cross, Coquille; Guy Porterfield, Myrtle Point; Alton Kay, Riverfront; directors, Hills Perkins, New Lake; Martin Schmidt, Norway; P. F. Bartlett, Catching Creek; L. P. Trigg, Broadbent. Robert L. Kestley was re-engaged as tester for the association.

The most serious wreck to happen near Coquille in many months was Kern, Hattie Coy, Zoa Smith, A. L.

that at eleven o'clock Wednesday morning when a Chevrolet sedan, driven by Isaac Best, crashed through the railing of the bridge on the Fairview road at the old Watson place, just north of the city limits and plunged to the ground below. Mrs. Sarah L. Smith, 79 years of age, was instantly killed; her stepson, E. V. Smith, 64, received internal injuries.

The following is a list of the judges and clerks appointed last Friday by the county court to serve at elections this year in the Coquille precincts: Elizabeth Lane, Maud Bean, Edna

Nosler, Altabelle Elwood, Esta Ellis, Ann Dunger, Lundy Peart.
P. E. Drane, Violet Lorenz, Ida K. Owen, Virginia Lamb, Dorothy Tuttle, Gusie Johnson, Lee Goodman, Harriet Greenough, Gertrude Lorenz, Sarah L. DeLong.
A. T. Morrison, Catherine Ruble, Beatrice I. Getz, Mary Staninger, Mattie Gaslin, Eva S. Currie, L. A. Schroeder, Effie F. Miller, Amy Asse, Ella Osmundson.

We find the names of many present day resident in a copy of the Coquille Bulletin, handed us by Fred Von Pegert, which was published 24 years ago—Jan. 22. In the paper appeared an obituary notice for J. C. Laird, father of Mrs. Von Pegert and James W. Laird of this city, [also of George P. Laird, then of Bandon]. Among the advertisers of the Bulletin of a quarter of a century ago appear the names of Arthur Ellingson, J. A. Lamb, T. H. Mehl, W. T. Kerr, who now lives in California, W. H. Mansell, and M. McDonald. "Josh's Place," billiard parlor, was advertised by George O. Leach, now head official in the county tax department. One half of the directors of the First National Bank then are still serving on that board, A. J. Sherwood, L. H. Hazard, and R. C. Dement. The other three, L. Harlocker and I. Hacker have gone from this life, and R. E. Shine has been a resident of California for 15 or 16 years.

W. C. Bradley, who was in Coquille Wednesday from Fairview, says that his fish hatchery is working in good shape now and that he has around 200,000 in the ponds, ranging from eight and a half inches in length down. He is raising them strictly for commercial fishing. Late Compton of Coquille Hotel has had several orders filled there.

Leo J. Cary lost a scow load of about 75,000 feet of lumber Wednesday night. He had purchased it from M. O. Hawkins, receiver of the E. E. Johnson mill, to take down to his lumber camp on Lampa creek. The load proved too much for the scow and it sank at the mill dock. Most of it can be salvaged. It was worth about \$1,000.

Those who expected to see Coquille High trampled on by the Myrtle Point high school basketball quintet last Friday evening were very pleasantly surprised. Myrtle Point won the game, 15-11, but it was anyone's game until the last five minutes of play. Coquille's squad was composed of Agostino, Hickam, Detlefsen, Call, Lorenz, Harding, Seeley, Fish, Myrtle Point's, Forest, Druliner, Carter, Smith, Sinko, Laird, Anderson.

Coos county's bonded indebtedness for roads now amounts to \$863,600.



By The Hon. Harris Ellsworth
U. S. Representative

The unbridled enthusiasm, like unto a frenzy and shading on hysteria, of the all-out Marshall Plan boosters is making difficult a serious and realistic consideration by Congress of the request for aid made by the 16 co-operating European nations. The intolerant "all or nothing" complex of the boosters tends to create an atmosphere which hampers the serious and responsible committee members who are endeavoring to prepare the legislation for action by Congress.

Few people are willing to deny that we have assumed a position of leadership in world affairs and that we therefore have a responsibility. Bulking as a large part of this responsibility is the necessity to help our free neighbors on the other side of the Atlantic get on a self-supporting basis. But it will not be fair to them and certainly it would be most unfair to our people and our own economy if we ignore our limitations and our own slightly precarious financial situation. We cannot just let go on a sort of "rah rah" basis and ship Europe food, dollars and everything else they happen to ask for.

The above outburst was touched off by a letter I just received from the "Committee for the Marshall Plan" signed by former Secretary of War, Robert Patterson. The letter urges support of the plan and is too long to quote here. However, the following sentence stands on its own without need for reference to the rest of the letter—and it really "stopped" me: "Enough of our aid should be in the form of grants so that Europe will not be saddled with a hopeless load of debt!"

The United States right now is "saddled" with the heaviest debt load of any government on earth. Our per capita debt is almost \$2000—every family of four is obligated for \$8000! This debt demands staggering annual interest payments, and we have other continuing obligations from the war such as veterans' payments. These requirements are causing us to eat our economic heart out with taxation. High prices, high incomes (call it inflation) are now required to bring in a large total tax income or this government would become bankrupt. Then we couldn't help anybody.

Yes, we can survive but only by reducing unnecessary government expenses, by taking some of the tax load off the necks of our people, and by a systematic reduction of the debt. While doing all this we can help our neighbors, too—as a part of our own system of defense. But both we and they must be made to realize that there is a limit to our ability and that our help must be parcelled out carefully and in a manner that will be the most effective in a permanent future way as well as immediately helpful.

The question, not only as to how much we shall aid Europe but the manner in which it shall be done, is the most vital problem before us this year. It requires searching inquiry and most serious handling. The present "Hurray" technique of administration leaders and self-appointed Marshall Plan "boosters" is both disturbing and destructive.

Letter to the Editor

Writer Asks Why City Manager?

Sanford Hights
Coquille, Oregon
Jan. 26, 1948

Editor, The Sentinel

Dear Sir:
I would like to know why it is considered so essential to enlist and pay a sizable salary for a City Manager as an addition to a Mayor and Councilmen?

Everyone is familiar with the needs of the City, therefore, of what necessity is it to hire someone to tell us what is obvious?

The Mayor and Councilmen are capable of running the city, that is what they are there for, and that extra salary money can be diverted to more useful channels.

Sincerely,
RAY WILLIAMS

Letter to the Editor

Coquille Generosity Praised By Writer

To the Editor:

The Sentinel carried an article last week about Bob Byers who burned out, losing everything but what they had on their backs. But the half was

not told. The people of Coquille have shown that they have a heart and that it is in the right place.

I raised \$186 by subscription. The unions gave \$115. The men and

women who work at the mill gave \$303, making a total of \$589 in cash. And they have been given furniture, two stoves and quantities of clothing, dishes, in fact everything that one needs to start housekeeping. But where is there a house at present? They are saying with his brother, Clay Byers and there are twelve children in the two families and four grownups in a five room house. It is pitiful.

Many things have been given me from Coos Bay. Things are still coming. It seems like it was almost worth the fire to know you lived among such big-hearted people.

Now if anyone knows of a house, call Clay Byer phone 328-R.
—S. S. Hardenbrook

Lumbermen To Meet

The annual meeting of the West Coast Lumbermen's association will be held Thursday, and Friday, Jan. 29 and 30, in the Hotel Multnomah, Portland. It was announced today.

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ANSWER:

Cleopatra was NOT an Egyptian (Cleopatra was Greek by ancestry and Egyptian only by birth). So far as is known she did not have a single drop of Egyptian blood in her veins. The Ptolemies, it is supposed, remained pure Macedonian Greeks, and their capital, Alexandria, was the center of Greek rather than Egyptian culture.—Popular Questions Answered, by George W. Stimpson, 1932, pp. 161-162.)

WE PROVE ALL OUR STATEMENTS