

EDITORIALS

A New Courthouse For Coos

An entire citizenry must be gratified that Coos county has a spacious, attractive new courthouse that does credit to the progressive spirit of its people. But the people, in these days of tax consciousness, must be even more happy over the fact that the new courthouse is entirely paid for. And that is a record in these days of bond issues and public debt.

The courthouse is a tribute to the voters of 1896 who decided that a central location was desirable and voted to bring it from Empire. It is to the credit of those early residents that there was little battle over the moving, nothing that approached that of Lincoln county last fall.

For the first two years the courthouse records were kept in the bank building—now the West Coast Title company building—on Taylor street. In 1898 the courthouse building was built at a cost of \$37,000.

And Coos county started to grow. In 1951 under the leadership of County Judge Felsheim of Bandon, surplus money received from timber sales and O and C land sales was used to construct the East wing for a cost of \$177,968.

And the court, made up of Commissioners Fred Kruse and Fred True and later in 1952, Judge James Harrison, voted to continue the expansion program and to continue to hoard surplus funds to make Coos county proud of its courthouse.

The present West wing has now been completed. Offices are moved into it. And cost was \$258,000.

Total cost to Coos county from 1896 to 1954 for a courthouse is \$472,968.

This figure reflects judgment and integrity on the part of the Coos county courts, both

past and present. It shows a fine spirit of consideration for our taxpayers.

But more than this, the new modern courthouse that will be dedicated Saturday, January 23rd, proves that the vision of the early pioneers is still with us.

For the court did not work alone. The Coos-Curry Bar Association worked hard on a selling job for a modern, fireproof building. The citizens of the county were enthusiastic. They understood the problem.

Yes, the courthouse standing today is a tribute to Coos county, its people. There was no bickering over the location. We cannot but feel that only in Coos can we find this spirit of progress and public weal so well shown.

Coos county with a population fast approaching 55,000, according to latest public health records, will double in the next twenty years.

And Coos county's courthouse is ready to serve in the future even as it does so well now in the present.

Wrong Working Days

Said the little man with the pipe, the other day, as he viewed the job ahead of him in one of Coos county's finer mechanical shops, "the doggone capitalists have got us plain fouled up."

And he pointed to the sunshine glimmering down through the boss' plate glass window.

"Come Saturday," he mused, "it rains. You can't hold a hat on, and your coat tears right up the back. Come Monday, not a leaf moves. It's a wrong deal, that's what it is."

And so we earnestly report that Coos county, with its fishing beyond all compare, but its wet weekends, needs new consideration from the Republican congress when it studies revision of labor laws. Change Saturdays to Mondays, and visa versa.

A Wealth of Interest

A visit to your new courthouse is a trip through the years of the colorful past. It's nostalgic and a bit sad to read of the things that happened, but it is always inspiring.

You'll find records when this was Coos county, territory of Oregon, and Port Orford was a very lively part of Coos county.

You'll find the records of trials and tribulations, and you'll find the filings of successes and the early beginnings of those people who are now leaders in Coos county, state of Oregon, USA.

In the offices you will find a listing of past assessors, and they will bring to mind, even as they did to us, the sweetness and gentleness and integrity of such a man as the late Charles Stauff, good Rotarian he, who served a total of 18 years in his position of trust.

In the clerk's office you'll find a dutiful wall clock presented by late Jeweler Wilson, and the clock, as all good clocks like to do, still runs every day.

Visit your courthouse Saturday. See the things that happen. The school superintendent's office with its colorful books for our children; its film library. See the juvenile department, the health office, and the other places where your welfare is guarded. It will be an interesting afternoon. And you're an honored guest, too.

ELEPHANT BOY GETS TOUGH



Camp White will be presented conclusively to the Veterans Administration upon his return to Washington. I hope a substantial number of general medical hospital beds can be established at Camp White without it being necessary to resort to legislation. Accordingly, I have been assembling the necessary facts and have conferred with V.A. officials. I plan to take the matter before the Administrator soon.

In a future letter I will discuss the various bills I have pending in the House and make a progress report on each.

VETS' MAIL BAG

As a service to veterans in the community, this newspaper will publish a weekly column of news briefs from the Veterans Administration. For further information veterans should contact or write their nearest VA office.

VA Informs Survivors Of Veterans' Benefits

Veterans Administration is writing to the survivors of more than 3,500 deceased servicemen to inform them of benefits which may be available to them under law. The letters are going to survivors of servicemen who have been carried by the Armed Forces as "missing in action" in Korea for a year or more, and who have now been declared to be presumed dead.

All appropriate notices and forms needed in connection with applying for death compensation, Servicemen's Indemnity or insurance benefits are being mailed with letters of advice to beneficiaries. VA said that such letters are being mailed to all beneficiaries as rapidly as advice is received from the Armed Forces and that beneficiaries will save time if they await receipt of these letters rather than writing to VA concerning benefits.

In all these cases, the Army or the Air Force already have notified the next-of-kin of the presumption of death. For payment of compensation or pension, the date of December 31, 1953, set by the Services, will be accepted by VA as the date of death, because pay and allowances were continued by the Armed Forces through that date.

For the payments in connection with insurance or Servicemen's Indemnity, however, the date the serviceman was listed as "missing in action" will be accepted by VA as the date of death.

Because of the long time some of these servicemen have been carried as "missing in action", VA said, and the fact that interest is paid on unused insurance balances, VA pointed out it is important for insurance beneficiaries who have a right to elect optional methods of payment to consider carefully the option they elect.

Question of the Week:

Q. I understand that I'll need my original discharge paper, in order to get a G I home loan, I lost mine. What should I do?

A. Apply for a certificate in lieu of the discharge paper from the branch of service from which you were discharged. This is acceptable, in place of your original discharge.



OLDEST PILOT . . . Oldest living licensed air pilot, James W. "Dad" Montee, 91, takes wife and four generations of his family on flight to celebrate sixtieth wedding anniversary.

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Letter From Washington

Committees Busy In Legislative Halls Figuring Work Out For Rest Of Session

By Harris Ellsworth, M.C.
4th District, Oregon

It takes a while after a Congressional session convenes for legislation to reach the House floor for action. In other words, the first three weeks of January will probably not develop activity on the floor but the committees are busy. The reason for the slow start of a session is obvious. It is always the practice to bring up and act on nearly all bills that are ready for floor consideration before a session adjourns. We pretty well cleaned the slate in August so it takes some time for the committees to get some more bills ready for action.

Meanwhile what seems to be a lull certainly does not mean an easy life for the Congressman. I could not possibly be any busier than I am right now and have been since I arrived back in Washington, D.C. A member of Congress, particularly a member from the West, has much more to do than attend committee meetings and sessions of the House.

To list but a few of the many things which I and my office are concerned with now:

(1) The Willamette Valley flood control project is well along toward completion but is out of balance until two small but key dams can be constructed. These dams are known as Cougar on the McKenzie and Green Peter on the South Santiam. Legislation authorizing power for those dams must be passed. Planning money must be included in the appropriations bill.

(2) The south jetty at the mouth of the Coquille River (Port of Bandon) is so badly in need of repairs that it is ineffective. This condition has directly or indirectly been the cause of two ship wrecks recently. One wreck is even now on the submerged jetty rocks awaiting salvage. Money must be made available for that job this year.

(3) On the Oregon coast in addition to the problem at Bandon are harbor improvement projects in various stages from preliminary survey to being eligible for appropriations including the ports of Florence, Port of Umpqua at Reedsport, Win-

(5) The government (General Services Administration) is about to sell the war alcohol plant at Springfield. I have been keeping in close touch with that situation.

(6) One of the first public appearances I made in Oregon last year after the session of Congress adjourned was at Camp White in Medford. The occasion was to honor the new manager of the facility, Mr. Eugene K. Ricker, and his staff the evening of September 18th. I made a pledge to the veterans and to the community on that occasion which was reported in the Medford Mail-Tribune Sunday, September 20th, as follows: "The Allied Veterans Council of Jackson County received definite assurances Friday night from Congressman Harris Ellsworth that the needs of this district for a hospital center at Chester Bay, Coos Bay and Charleston, an approved project at Gold Beach, and a preliminary survey for shipping facilities in the Chetco Cove at Brookings. All of these require work on my part."

(4) The pear industry in the Rogue River Valley has a heavy surplus in winter pears. They need to participate in support government purchase programs. I have been having conferences with Department of Agriculture people on that problem.

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