

Judge Harrison Writes:

Needs Of Coos County Roads Told; Ballot Levy Measure Explained

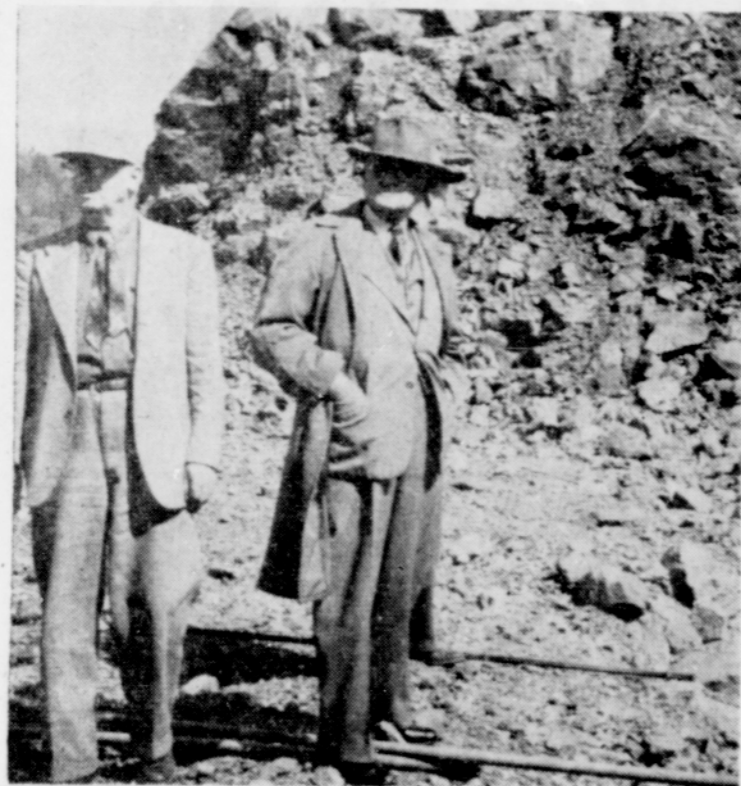
By JAMES W. HARRISON
Coos County Judge

Friends of Coos County, I am pleased to attempt an answer to the following question: "Why has the County Court asked the people of Coos County for a 9 1/2 mill levy to raise \$450,000.00 annually for roads—a levy to continue for five successive years?"

Primarily this request is being considered at this particular time because the present 5 mill levy terminates at the end of this fiscal year.

Knowing the status of county income, the County Court knew that the road budget would have to be curtailed if additional funds were not made available when the present levy runs out.

Secondly, there continues to be tremendous public sentiment all over the county for an improved road system with paving as the ultimate goal of all well-used roads. Such an improvement program requires more funds than have heretofore been available.



ROADS TAKE ROCK—This picture of County Engineer Floyd Robb, who is now recovering from a heart attack in the Hines Veterans Hospital in Illinois, and County Commissioner Fred True, shows the two men checking the county quarry on the Coquille river which has been a most successful producer of fine gravel and rock for county roads. This year Coos county roads have been given lots of rock and one reason is the operation of county quarries such as this one. (Sentinel Photo)

Voters May Determine Answer

Therefore, we felt that it was our obligation to the people of the county to inform them of our problem concerning roads, so that they, the voters, could determine whether we should move ahead on the road improvements which we have begun, or to curtail those improvements and perhaps even curtail our regular maintenance standards.

Thirdly, Coos County has approximately 650 miles of roads to maintain. It requires an expenditure of about one thousand to fifteen hundred dollars to maintain one mile throughout the year—depending upon the traffic, type of sub-soil, etc. That does not include money for right-of-way purposes, new grades and general improvement of roads. There are also a number of miles of new roads and extensions to the old roads that have to be made each year. We should figure approximately \$6,000.00 per mile for that work. Sometimes it runs much higher. To slight the work on new road construction is false economy. All new grades should be built to a high standard in order to handle the traffic of future years and to cut down on yearly maintenance.

All of this money must come from some source. Most of it is derived from the gas tax, P.U.C. funds, and other sources. Only about 10% comes from property taxes. I imagine that is a surprising fact to most of you. It was to me when I discovered it.

Income Drop Foreseen

In other words, out of a budget of \$900,000.00 for roads last year, only about \$100,000.00, or about 10%, was derived from taxation—that is for the money levied in addition to the 5 mill levy. Of course, the 5 mill levy was extra and was responsible for \$195,000.00. Our additional levy would raise that amount to \$450,000.00 which would be used exclusively for major road improvement and black-topping. Our annual income is nearly adequate at the present for maintenance purposes. It will not be if income should drop, and we believe a drop is inevitable within this next year because our receipts from timber sales and land sales are lower, and because the gasoline and P.U.C. fees are not holding up as they should. They are up a little over the same period last year, but not enough to make up for the increase in cost of road maintenance. Our traffic problems seem to grow rather than diminish, so we must make up in tax money what is not available through other sources.

It should be remembered that the total cost of this special levy would not exceed ten dollars (\$10.00) for each one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) of assessed valuation. One automobile or truck tire saved would more than make up for the difference in cost to you.

General Fund Used

Last year our road budget dipped into the general fund for about \$300,000.00. Most of this was made up of O & C Funds and County Timber Sales. We do not believe the general fund next year can stand that amount. Our road budget must be stabilized so that we can plan our road program at least a year in advance. That has been impossible in the past due to the uncertainty of the amount of funds which would be available from one year to the next.

We want to have good roads and we want to build them economically. That is why we are asking you for an additional levy or a total of 9 1/2 mills each year for the next five years. If you vote for this levy, you can help the county improve a road system which at present is about twenty years behind.

The economy of an area these days is no healthier than its road system. Decide for yourselves what kind of an area you desire and vote accordingly. The County Court will, of course, act according to your wishes.

JAMES W. HARRISON
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Rotarians Hear Music Wednesday

Music by vocalists and band members of the Coquille high school music department was presented Wednesday noon to the Coquille Rotary club. Judy Milne was the pianist for the group. Both Carroll Nickels and Waldemar Hollensted, music instructors, were present.

Audit Committee Named by Chamber

At Tuesday noon's Chamber of Commerce meeting president Ed Hughes appointed the following to an auditing committee: Jerry MacMurray, treasurer; John Purkey, chairman; and Sig Peterson. They will meet sometime within the near future with Clarence Osika, chamber secretary to audit the books.

Bond Sales Up

Sale of U. S. Savings Bonds in Coos county are running ahead of 1953, Lewis Wiltshire, Coos chairman, said today. Total sales so far amount to \$719,632 as compared to \$643,284 for the same period last year.

Residents Voting By Absentee Ballot Must Get Them Now

Residents of Coos County who want to vote in November's general election by absentee ballot must apply for them by October 22, according to Georgianna Vaughan, county clerk. The ballots must be returned to the courthouse by October 27.

Mrs. Vaughan has announced that any person not able to go to the polls November 2 may vote by absentee ballot, if he is a registered voter.

Health Specialists Conducting Survey On Yellow Jaundice

Dr. Gordon Grace and Mrs. Vivian Ronte, two public health specialists, arrived in Coos County last week to make a study of the spread of infectious hepatitis in this area. Dr. Grace is epidemic service intelligence officer of the U. S. Public Health Service and Mrs. Ronte is a member of the Oregon State Board of Health.

According to Dr. Harold Osterud, county health officer, the specialists' visit is part of a state-wide tour now underway to determine facts relative to the rapid spread of the disease. He stated that the objective is to try and find methods for controlling the disease and preventing its spread.

Dr. Grace and Mrs. Ronte will attempt to determine how the disease spreads and periods of communicability. They will also make lab studies of the acute cases.

Questionnaires are now being circulated to residents in the county who have had the disease. In this way, the specialists will be better able to determine how and where they got it, how sick they were and possibly how it is transmitted.

Children Voting In Regular Booth At Local Library

The Coquille Public Library has a regular voting booth—but it's for youngsters not adults, and the X's are marked not behind candidates names, but on the favorite books and authors of Coquille junior readers.

The books that win will be placed on a special Book Month exhibit shelf during National Book Week in November, Mrs. Mary Alice Watkins, librarian, nounced.



HEAR NEUBERGER—At the coffee hour arranged by Mrs. Mae Barton, Coos county Democratic chairman, local people met Mr. and Mrs. Richard L. Neuberger. Bottom photo shows Mrs. Neuberger with Mrs. Frances Holmstrom, Coquille poet-artist, and Sen. Neuberger. Neuberger explained his stand on the present administration and talked in favor of his candidacy for the U. S. senate seat held now by Sen. Guy C. Cordon. (Sentinel Photo)

Slash Burning Now Completed

Curtis Townsend, Powers forest ranger, reported that the Powers office of the Siskiyou National Forest has completed 200 acres of slash and burning operations. Detention crews have been dismissed. Next project at the Powers stations will be the planting of 75,000 seedlings in the burnt-over areas.

One Will Be Queen Friday



CRANBERRY ROYALTY—These charming Coos county girls make up the royal court of the annual Cranberry Festival at Bandon which celebrates the gallant red berry's history in Coos county each year. One will be named Queen Friday night in special coronation ceremonies at the Bandon school gymnasium. A full two-days program has been arranged at Bandon for the Cranberry Festival with a festival parade Saturday morning at 10:30; a Cranberry Fair at the V.F.W. hall Friday and

Saturday; a harvest ball at Tanglewood Saturday night following the football game. From left to right back row, Carolyn Moody, Randolph Community Club; Margaret Olson, Southwestern Oregon Cranberry Club; Joan Fellows, Parkersburg Community Club; Sally Gladfelder, American Legion; seated, Jeanette Thompson, Langlois civic clubs; Joyce Edwards, Bandon Civic Club; and Darlene Allen, Veterans of Foreign Wars.

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Grange Talent To Be Featured At Annual Meeting

First prize of a year's free electricity will go to the grange or community group putting on the prize-winning talent act at the Coos-Curry Electric cooperative annual meeting Saturday in the Sixes Grange hall. Winners of the contest will get \$25.00 for 1st prize; \$15.00 for second; and \$5.00 for third prize.

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Council Accepts R. Gallia's Bid

R. O. Gallia of North Bend submitted the lowest bid for construction of the city's new storage equipment building. The bid was accepted by the city council at their meeting Monday evening. Mr. Gallia's bid was for \$5,479 and he will start work on the building immediately.

Former Coos Judge Joins Cabinet

When Ervin L. Peterson leaves Salem for Washington to become assistant secretary of agriculture under Ezra T. Benson, it will be another case of "American farm boy makes good."

Girl Scouts Busy Completing Plans For Big Carnival

Coquille Girl Scouts are busy preparing for their Carnival which is scheduled for October 30 at the Community building. Featured at the event will be games, candy and other goodies. Each Troop is planning an interesting game or some food item. Although there will be no admission, there will be a nominal fee for tie games, most of which are especially planned for local children.

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150 Books Make Up Elrod Memorial

One of the finest Children's shelves of new books is being catalogued and placed in the Coquille Public library this week as the Iris Elrod Memorial library shelf, it was reported by Mrs. Mary Alice Watkins, librarian.

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ERVIN L. PETERSON, Oregon director of agriculture, who has been named assistant secretary of agriculture under Ezra T. Benson.

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Farmers For Cordon

Coos Men Named On Committee To Promote Senator's Campaign

W. M. Tate, Sublimity rancher and chairman of the state-wide "Farmers for Cordon" committee said today that an active group of Oregon farmers are backing the candidacy of the senior senator from Oregon.

Optimism was expressed by Tate on the Nov. 2 and outcome and said a fine group of Oregon farmers were active in his campaign.

Those named to the Coos County "Farmers for Cordon" committee are: Adam Donaldson, Coos Bay; Clifford Brunell, Coos Bay; Herman Brelage, North Bend; Everett Messerli, Coos Bay; Carl Peterson, Coos Bay; Cedric Cross, Riverton; J. D. Carl, Arago; W. J. Sweet, Bandon; John Caudle, Myrtle Point; J. E. Norton, Coquille; A. W. Sweet, Sixes; Frank Root, Jr., North Bend; William A. Donaldson, Coos Bay; Dr. George E. Dix, Coos Bay; C. F. McCulloch, North Bend; Leonard L. Rood, Coos Bay; Frank B. Rood, Coos Bay; George and Doris Yood, North Bend; George W. Rood, Coos Bay; Reuben Hendrickson, Coos Bay; W. H. O. Rogers, Coos Bay; N. Roger Barnes, Coos Bay; Leah E. Barnes, Coos Bay.

Demos Lead List Of County Voters

County Clerk Georgianna Vaughan has announced that registration of Coos county voters totals 22,617 with the Democrats leading the Republicans 12,589 to 9,560. She stated that the other 468 registered are independents or in minor parties. The registration lists are now closed in preparation for the November 2 general election.

The record registration of 23,101 was posted for the 1952 presidential election.

The Democrats led in all areas except Coos Bay where the Republicans totaled 1,918 to 1,650. Registration totals for cities in the county were as follows: Coquille, 2,206; Myrtle Point, 1,050; Bandon, 727; Powers, 494; Coos Bay, 3,633; North Bend, 3,539; Empire, 1,463; and Eastside, 653.

Kight Services Set For Friday At Two

Funeral services for Ancil Kight who died Wednesday at the Roseburg Veterans hospital, will be held at two o'clock Friday afternoon from the Coquille Schroeder Bros. Chapel with the Rev. Walter Naff conducting the rites.

Dr. Chase Dies In New York City

Word was received in Coquille this week that Dr. Genevieve Chase, New York City educator and psychologist, has passed away. An autopsy disclosed she had suffered from cancer of the lung. She was the daughter of the late Mrs. Inez Chase, pioneer Coquille teacher, and had taken her Ph.D. at Columbia university. She was the author of numerous books on education and was a recognized leader in her field.

This Week's First Classified Ad

FOR RENT — Furnished apartment with garage. See Gertrude (Ulett) Sandine or phone 6026. 413p

First paid classified advertisement to be brought into the Sentinel office Thursday morning will be re-printed in this space each week. Office opens at 8:30. Remember, Sentinel Want Ads always bring results!