

SWAT THE TOLL

Is The Telephone Company's Agreement A Scrap Of Paper

The periodical application of the local telephone company to be allowed to charge a toll between Coquille and Myrtle Point and for an increase of the tariff on certain of the farmers' lines in this vicinity, is set for hearing at Marshfield on next Tuesday at two o'clock P. M.

The common councils of Coquille and Myrtle Point have each filed answers and objections to the application; City Attorney Stanley will represent Coquille, and Claud H. Giles, City Attorney for Myrtle Point, will represent the town at the hearing.

It is planned to have a goodly delegation of representative business men from both towns to attend the hearing; the telephone company has made several applications for like increases and the Public Service Commission has denied their applications in each instance, and it is to be hoped the present hearing will result in a repetition of the former findings.

Prior to 1908 there was but one telephone plant in this valley as, at the present time; a toll rate was exacted between Coquille and Myrtle Point, the farmers were charged what they believed to be an exorbitant rate and many of them could not obtain service at any price. In February of that year the farmers' line was organized to obviate these ices; the new company was composed of farmers and business men of Coquille and vicinity, a central office was established in Coquille and one at Myrtle Point and patrons were given free toll between the two towns and all local lines of this company connected with either town. Of course the old line company had to meet this competition in service and prices. This was a great improvement over the former system, but the inconveniences of having two telephones in each business house and in many residences caused more or less confusion and was an additional expense, besides reducing the net returns of both companies.

At the urgent request of the Public Service Commission that the two systems be merged, the stockholders of the farmers' line sold their stock to the other company, and the present company now holds this stock. This transfer was made with the distinct understanding that all the patrons should be given the same service at the same rates they had been paying, with promised betterment of the service.

Possibly the company now seeking to make the change in the rates has forgotten this promise. If the application is granted, it would not be strange if another local line were again established.

At a hearing for a similar advance in rates held at Coquille in September, 1917, the petition was denied and the company promised to make certain improvements in its service, by order of the Commission, one of which was to correct the defects in the lines running out to the County Farm and Fairview; but today the same defects exist. Possibly the company now seeking to make the change in the rates has forgotten this order.

After the fire here on St. Patrick's day, 1918, the Telephone company installed a dinkey little old switchboard (someone told us it was one which had been discarded from the Myrtle Point exchange many years ago as inadequate and out of date, but we cannot vouch for the truth of this,) with the promise that a new and up-to-date board would be placed just as soon as it could be obtained from the factory. However, we are still enduring the inconvenience of the antiquated device miscalled a switchboard with no prospect of anything better. And yet the company desires an increase in rates for such service. Perhaps the company now seeking to make the change in rates has forgotten those fine promises.

We are wondering how much further a long suffering public will permit themselves to be thus victimized. If a vigorous protest will get results, Coquille citizens and farmers should turn out en masse at the hearing at Marshfield next Tuesday and make a showing that could not be overlooked by the Commission nor by the telephone company.

The business interests of Coquille and Myrtle Point are so closely interwoven that the freest possible communication is required between these towns. A toll rate here after the sort of trade relationship that has

grown up during our years of free telephone service would be almost intolerable. The upper Coquille Valley is just like one big family and unrestricted communication among its people is demanded by existing conditions.

Why this demand for the privilege of charging tolls here should keep coming up after the Commission has decided all the questions at issue we cannot understand. We are entitled to free service between the two towns and with the surrounding country on the basis of the agreement under which our two companies were consolidated and we ought to stand firmly for our rights.

Four Valley Canneries Combine

A. Rupert & Co. Canning company, which is figuring on erecting canning plants both here and at Marshfield if a sufficient acreage of berries can be secured, has just increased its capital stock from \$25,000 to \$1,000,000. This will pave the way for the consolidation of the following four plants: the Lebanon Canning company of Lebanon; the Falls City Canning company at Falls City and the Rupert plant at Gresham. The four plants have a capacity of about 10,000 cases of fruits, vegetables and preserves, and do a business in excess of \$2,000,000 annually.

DENIO WEDS HELLO CHIEF

Another June wedding occurred here last Monday when Miss Kathleen Mulvihill, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Mulvihill, became the bride of Lon E. Denio. The ceremony was performed by Rev. W. E. Couper at his residence at 2:30 p. m. The witnesses were Miss Georgia Mulvihill, sister of the bride, and Walter F. Dierling. The happy couple are now at the Brewster House but expect to leave Sunday for Gold Beach, where Lon has a home already prepared for occupancy.

These young people are well and favorably known in Coos county, both having been employees of the Coos & Curry Telephone Co. Miss Mulvihill as chief operator at the local central, and Mr. Denio being in charge of the company's lines between Port Orford and Crescent City. Lon came to this coast five years ago from Helena, New York, and has spent a considerable portion of that time in and around Coquille.

They are receiving the congratulations and best wishes of a host of friends, with whom the Sentinel joins, for a long and happy life.

Skull Crushed by Falling Tree

A sad accident happened at Crane's Camp Saturday, June 28, when Herman Berien, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Berien, of Ceres, California, was caught by a falling tree at nine o'clock and died at four. He came to Coquille two weeks ago from his home at Ceres to spend the summer with his aunt, Mrs. L. Crandall. He was only twenty years old and leaves a mother, father, two sisters and three brothers to mourn his loss.

His remains were shipped to Modesto, California, Sunday morning, Mrs. L. Crandall accompanying them.

Young Berien, whose skull was crushed, was taken to the Bandon hospital after the accident but died before reaching there.

\$100,000 a Month for Cheese

Fred True, who is sales agent for the Coos-Curry Cheese association, says he sold a carload of cheese to San Francisco jobbers last week for 31 1/2 cents a pound, and received one cheese check amounting to \$29,600. The monthly sales are averaging \$100,000 and his sales payments Saturday amounted to \$35,000. Production has been decreased a little owing to the burning of the Coos Bay Creamery and the Coquille Valley is now getting nearly all of that \$100,000. Cheese brings a steady income here and helps wonderfully in stabilizing financial conditions.

Lots More to Hear From

Only 46 of the 89 district clerks have yet made the required returns of warrants outstanding, cash on hand, etc., on turning over the paying part of their duties to the county treasurer.

Tuesday California voted seven to one for a \$40,000,000 road bond issue. The more good roads they get down there, the more they want.

ENFORCE THE LAW FOR A REST ROOM

Woman's Club Says No More Cigarettes Should Be Sold To Minors

The Woman's Club met in regular session at the city hall Tuesday evening with a fair attendance. Several matters of public welfare were up for discussion, among which was the much needed "Clean Up day" for Coquille. We all realize the necessity of this campaign and in the very near future the ladies hope to begin active warfare on the many unsightly spots in our beautiful little city; and in this no small undertaking they earnestly solicit the help, suggestions and encouragement of everyone.

The question of cigarette smoking by minors was discussed at some length, the opinion generally expressed being that our officials were grossly ignoring the law on the subject and that it was time some action was taken in the matter. This resulted in a motion as follows:

"Moved that the Woman's Club of Coquille place on record their earnest desire that the law prohibiting the gift or sale of cigarettes to minors (under 21 years) or the smoking of cigarettes by minors be enforced."

In order that we may all know whereof we speak we herewith publish a part of the law:

"It shall be unlawful for any corporation or person, by himself or as clerk, servant, employee or agent, or as the servant, or agent of any other person, directly or indirectly, or by any pretense or by any device, to sell, offer for sale or keep for sale, exchange, barter, dispose of, or give away to any minor any cigarette or cigarettes in the State of Oregon. Having cigarettes in a place of business where minors may take them or help themselves, shall be held to be prima facie evidence of an intent to sell to minors. Any one violating any of the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be punished in the manner hereinafter provided. (Sec. 1, Chapter 244, Laws of Oregon, 1917.)

"Section 4, of the same act prescribes a penalty of a fine of not more than \$100.00 for the first offense; not more than \$500.00 nor less than \$25.00 for second offense, or by imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding thirty days, or both such fine and imprisonment. For the third or any subsequent offense, a jail sentence of not to exceed thirty days must be imposed in addition to any fine."

Other subjects of interest were discussed which are not yet ready for publication.

We are pleased to announce that our roll of membership is increasing, but we want it to continue to increase until every woman in Coquille, who has the improvement of our community at heart, is enrolled on our list. Surely we all want to help in making our own home town better and more beautiful.—Com.

There Was No Remonstrance

We are glad to learn that remonstrance against the grading of the fill from the Bledsoe house north didn't materialize; and that at the meeting next Monday night the city council will be ready to advertise for bids for that \$6,000 job. We expect to see dirt flying there this summer. The other missing link in the county highway at the Tuttle House corner is being prepared for the improvement, the old bridge having been torn out to make way for a new one.

Jeubs Buy Lund Confectionery

Last Friday afternoon Mr. and Mrs. Ray Jeub made a deal with P. O. Lund by which they become the proprietors of Lund's Confectionery which now becomes Jeub's Confectionery. For the present Mrs. Jeub will conduct the business with Ray assisting evenings and Sundays, and he will retain his position in the county clerk's office. Mr. Lund has made no announcement of his plans for the future.

Is Second Class Postoffice

Coquille has attained the rank of a second class postoffice, Postmaster Leneve receiving notice on Monday that the change would take effect the next day. What would be the increase in his salary on that account he was not informed.

The Commercial Club In Favor Of Making One at The Liberty Temple

A slimly attended session of the Commercial Club was held Wednesday evening. A committee from the Woman's Club, consisting of Mrs. C. W. Endicott, Mrs. J. A. Lamb and Miss Minnie Kalbus, presented a request from that body that the Commercial Club rescind their action of two weeks ago, in which they recommended the sale and removal of the Liberty Temple. The ladies desire to complete the building and fit it up for a rest room, and as the Honor Guard girls made that request in donating their funds to the Woman's Club, it is probable that with some help from Coquille citizens, the old debt against the temple can be paid and that it will be fitted up for the purpose mentioned. The Commercial Club took action as requested and approved the idea of turning it into a rest room.

Bills totalling \$24.92 for the berry broker of a week ago were allowed and ordered paid.

L. H. Hazard, S. M. Nosler and C. W. Endicott were named as a committee to appear before the council to ask that the city general fund pay the \$100 levied on Coquille as her share of the expense of the delegation sent to Washington in the interest of the Roosevelt Highway.

J. J. Stanley, who will represent the city of Coquille at the Public Service Commission in Marshfield next Tuesday when the telephone company will endeavor to show cause why they should be permitted to charge toll between Coquille and Myrtle Point, was also appointed to represent the Commercial Club at that hearing.

The absolutely unsatisfactory service of the Western Union was commented on pretty strongly by some of the members and an attempt will be made to secure better service when the present strike is over and private ownership has had an opportunity to put the telegraph and telephone lines on an efficient basis again.

The club is considering the matter of getting out a new edition of pamphlets to advertise the Coquille valley and the matter will come up at next week's meeting.

Gothro Loses that \$5,000

That jury which sat up all night over the Gothro suit against the Southern Oregon for \$5,000 commission on the sale of \$100,000 worth of timber to McDonald & Vaughn, finally brought in a verdict for the defense. And as a real estate man on the jury said that was the only verdict possible, we only wonder why it took them so long to get together. Although Gothro had taken up the matter of the sale of that timber with McDonald & Vaughn, he didn't induce them to "sign on the dotted line;" and more than that Manager Armstrong says he had no right to make the contract he did with Gothro.

Funeral of O. J. Seeley

The funeral of the late O. J. Seeley took place at the Undertaking Parlors here at 2 o'clock last Friday afternoon and was conducted by Rev. W. E. Couper. There was a large attendance and the stores were closed during the services. There were many beautiful floral offerings in tribute to the memory of the deceased. The interment was in the Masonic cemetery and the services there were in charge of the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias.

Can't Exchange Stamps

Postmaster Leneve informs us that the statement that three cent stamps can be exchanged for twos is incorrect. Stamped envelopes, however, with three stamps, will be redeemed this month at the invoice price and three-fourths of their cost will be paid for the old two-cent postal cards. Postmasters are not allowed to exchange stamps of any kind, probably because of the great confusion and liability to mistakes that would occur.

No Action on Site Question

The Board of Education met Saturday night and gave further consideration to the school house site question but came to no conclusion. They will meet again this week or early next to decide upon this matter.

Call on us for stationery.

Work Begins on Cunningham

Moon & Co. last week began cutting down the hill on the Marshfield road in front of Burns' ranch and making the fill across the Cunningham bottoms. The cut in front of the house on Mr. Burns' ranch is 9 feet. A wooden bridge will be the crossing of the Cunningham and where the turn was formerly a hair pin curve across that creek the new road will make a right angled turn. The grading by the county will extend to the Burkholder place at this end, and from there into town the city expects to have the fill and cutting through of the hogback completed this fall.

He Saw the Last of the War

Lester O. Norton, a son of William Norton, of Sumner, who enlisted here April 26th of last year, has just returned home having been demobilized at Camp Lewis on Monday. He was in Company L, 321st Infantry and saw service at the front in France for three months last year. He went first to the St. Die sector and on Nov. 9 was sent to the Meuse-Argonne front but had been there only two days when the end came. Although he saw men falling all around him during those fateful days he came through without a scratch.

LYCEUM FOR NEXT YEAR

A. T. Hulburd, of Castle Rock, was here Monday as the representative of the Ellison-White Lyceum course and met our Commercial Club committee, consisting of J. J. Stanley, Raymond E. Baker and C. W. Endicott, who signed up with him for another year for a course of five entertainments for the season of 1919-20.

Mrs. W. C. Chase circulated the guarantee pledge and secured 25 signatures. The talent costs \$650 if we have five entertainments or \$450 if we have only four.

The following are the numbers selected:

1. "Old Fashioned Girls," a chorus of ladies, who appear in the balloon skirts of the Civil War days.
 2. Thomas Skeyhill, a lecturer, who was in the British army at Gallipoli, and so severely wounded that all the English surgeons pronounced him hopelessly blind, and he began to travel as "the blind lecturer." Coming to America in three months his sight was restored at the Garfield Institute.
 3. A Serbian Male Quartette.
 4. Prof. Kessinger, a lecturer.
 5. De Mille's Male Quartette.
- It, of course, depends upon the receipts whether we have the last number.

Very Prolific Currants

Mrs. J. H. Aker brought in Wednesday some samples of the white currants on her place. We never saw or even imagined anything as densely covered with fruit—and this too even after the birds had taken a toll. The climate here seems to be absolutely ideal for both currants and gooseberries and there is no reason why they should not be grown here by the hundreds of tons.

The River Bridge Here

Wednesday a delegation of Coquille business men called on the County Court in interest of the river bridge here and the court instructed Roadmaster Sawyer to make a preliminary report on the proposed bridge site. At one o'clock Thursday afternoon the court also went down with the members of the City Council to see how the land lay, where it is proposed to build the bridge.

Not All Gone Yet?

The estate of the late Joseph W. Coach is supposed to be good picking yet. At any rate John Herron has presented a claim against it in the Probate Court to the amount of \$4,800 for two years' service at \$200 per month at the time Detective Mitchell was on the case and the fight with the late G. T. Treadgold was at its height.

Home Talent For Road Work

A delegation from Bridge was down here Wednesday to interview the county court about the special tax money in their road district. They want to have it expended under the direction of their own people with Dwight Culver as supervisor in the Big Creek work and E. E. Weekly on the Myrtle Point-Rock Creek road.

HOME ECONOMICS

Shall We Retain the Leader Who Has Been Working Here This Year?

Whether Miss Minnie Kalbus shall remain in Coos county to continue the work of instruction in home economics in which she has been engaged for the past six months will soon be decided by the O. A. C. authorities. Her work has been carried on thus far at Uncle Sam's charges but instead of appropriating four and a half millions next year for the extension work of the department of agriculture Congress cut the figure to a million and a half. So Oregon's share in that fund is only \$90,000 and only those counties that will bear at least a part of the expense of the home economics, as well as the county agent and industrial club work will be furnished with leaders from Corvallis.

Mrs. McComb, who is at the head of this part of the College activities, says that there is a lack of workers in this line and that there are three counties to which they would like to send Miss Kalbus, and that she would be withdrawn from the field here at once if they knew this county had no intention of providing for the payment of a portion of the expense of the home economics work. All that they desire to know is that provision will be made for it in next year's budget. In that case Miss Kalbus would finish the present year here at the expense of the state; otherwise, she will be sent to some other field.

The County Court, of course, wants to comply with the wishes of the people in this respect, but they still remain to be heard from.

There is no question about the need or the value of the work Miss Kalbus has been doing in the towns and country districts as well. And if the women who know and appreciate what is being done will make their feelings in the matter manifest, there is no doubt about what the result would be. But if no steps of this kind are taken and nothing done by the women interested, the court would very likely conclude that there was no such demand for instruction in home economics as would warrant them in making an appropriation in the 1919 budget.

Had the war continued the need for conservation and efficiency in the home would have been so urgent that this instruction would probably have been continued at government expense. As it is, in view of the vast expense due to the war and the heavy taxation involved, the lawmakers appear to be inclined to retrench wherever possible.

Tax Roll Goes to Capital

The Southern Oregon tax roll goes forward from Portland this week to the General Land office at Washington. After it has been checked up there a warrant will be issued to Coos county to pay that half million of taxes, penalties and interest. It is expected it will be a matter of two or three months before the returns are received here as they take their time about such things at the national capital.

Red Cross Takes Vacation

The very last shipment of garments from our local Red Cross was sent out last week, which included 304 garments made in the work room here and 53 garments from the McKinley auxiliary. There were all clothes for children. The chairman, Mrs. Virginia Lamb, has been notified that we will be expected to begin sewing again in the fall—for somebody, somewhere.

Like First Line Trenches

The torn up condition of First and Hall street renders travel impossible there now and Gardner's garage is only accessible by a detour of several blocks. The excavation for a sewer nine feet deep along the middle of First street requires a small army of men and to the boys who were soldiers in France it must give that locality the aspect of a first line trench.

Mills Close Until Monday

The mills here will both close for the Fourth—in fact the Sitka shut down on Wednesday—and will remain closed until Monday. Coquille is going to be a very quiet town for the week end and lots of our people will go to Myrtle Point and Marshfield to celebrate.