

# Coquille Valley Sentinel

AND THE COQUILLE HERALD

VOL. LVI, NO. 10

COQUILLE, COOS COUNTY, OREGON, FRIDAY, MAY 21, 1926.

1926 THE YEAR.

## THE WATER TEST

### Rink Creek Fine But Best Not —What Council Will Do To Help

Dr. James Richmond, health officer, sent samples of the water of the three creeks from which we obtain our city supply and also of the Coquille river to the state board of health for analysis, and has received the following report from the Dr. Hoberg:

Dear Doctor—The examination of the samples of water submitted by you showed as follows:

Walker Creek—500 bacteria per cubic centimeter, 75% gas formation upon 72 hours incubation; color 1000.

Coquille River—75 bacteria per cubic centimeter, 75% gas formation upon 72 hours incubation; color 1000.

South Fork Dutch John Creek—100 bacteria per cubic centimeter, 75% gas formation upon 72 hours incubation; color 1000.

North Fork Dutch John Creek—100 bacteria per cubic centimeter, 75% gas formation upon 72 hours incubation; color 1000.

These waters, in their present condition are unfit for domestic use.

Rink Creek—75 bacteria per cubic centimeter, neither gas nor color formed upon 72 hours incubation—a very good water.

Your very truly, David N. Hoberg, State Health Officer.

It is gratifying to get so good a report as to Rink creek but disappointing to learn that color, bacteria and gas are present in the water of the other creeks from which our drinking water comes.

In order to obtain full information before taking any further steps towards increasing our water supply, samples of water from Cunningham creek and the North Fork of the Coquille river should be obtained from our supply could be obtained from Cunningham creek is desirable.

### Council Meeting Wednesday

Lack of a quorum Monday evening caused the postponement of the regular semi-monthly meeting of the council until Wednesday evening at which time Mayor Johnson and Councilmen Lamb, Barrow, Skeels and McLeod were present.

Very little business was transacted, but the water committee was authorized to lay pipe up Walker creek to a point where the intake would be above the possibility of contamination. Mr. Lamb reported that the mayor, the water superintendent and himself had been up there that afternoon investigating conditions and they found enough pipe, with what the city has here in town, to extend the line up the main branch far enough to make sure the intake could not pollute the water at the intake. They found the city's property at the present intake securely fenced but a bog just above the intake where the cattle could and did go to drink, seemed to be the cause of the state board of health's unfavorable report on the Walker creek supply. By piping through this bog and bringing the water from farther up stream the supply from this stream will be as pure as the report shows Rink creek to be.

As to what can be done with Dutch John it has not been determined, but the only recourse seems to be to treat it with purifying chemicals. Steps will be taken to prevent the location of a slaughter house on the banks of one of its branches which would permanently render its water unfit for domestic use.

Nothing was started toward securing a larger supply from other sources than those now being used.

Mayor Johnson said that he intended to have an expert examine the T bridge and if found unsafe, as it appears to be, it would be closed to all traffic except pedestrians, and the road around by the Odd Fellows' cemetery graded to connect with the county road near the Burkholder place.

The appointment of A. T. Bolden as street cleaner, with the powers of a deputy marshal was confirmed, and his salary fixed at \$100 a month.

The salaries of the marshal and water superintendent were raised to \$125 per month, and the marshal will hereafter be on duty at night instead of in the daytime.

Call on us for Stationery.

## HAROLD HOWELL AT HOME AND ABROAD

### Two Pictures of 15-Year Old Boy Who, on His Third Trial for Murder of Lillian Leuthold Is Declared Not Guilty

#### As Painted at Portland

The following editorial which we clip from Tuesday's Oregonian shows how the Howell case appears to one so far away from the scene of the tragedy as not to be able to appreciate some of the essential facts. Evidently the writer of this editorial wouldn't recognize a motive if he met it in the road:

The candor exhibited from the outset by Harold Howell, who was acquitted last Sunday at Coquille of the grave charge that he murdered a girl of about his own age, undoubtedly aided in the end in winning freedom. The case has been remarkable in many respects. The peculiarly marked bullet with which the girl was killed and the coincidence of the colored rifle owned by the boy were the strong points of the prosecution. The community in which the child actors in the tragedy lived is relatively sparsely populated, so that the fact probably assumed greater relative significance than it would have done under other conditions. It deeply impressed a number of the serious-minded men who were called on at one time and another to sit in judgment on the case. We think that these men were moved by whole-hearted desire to see justice done. Yet other circumstances have strongly fortified the factor of reasonable doubt, the basis of which is enjoyed by every defendant accused under our laws, and these have finally prevailed. The Howell boy is not only free, but in the eyes of the law he is innocent. He stands before the public precisely as if the crime, so far as he is concerned, had never happened.

## JURY FOR THE JUNE TERM

The following is the jury panel drawn yesterday to serve at the June term of the Circuit Court:

F. E. Allen, Salesman, Marshfield.  
H. J. Packler, Real Estate, North Bend.

Frank Mohr, Mill Man, Bandon.  
E. O. Kottelberg, Laborer, Bandon.

E. P. B. Abernathy, Farmer, Dora.  
J. A. Hobson, Farmer, Myrtle Point.  
F. E. Glasgow, Printer, North Bend.  
J. A. Morrison, Farmer, Bullards.

Alex. B. Conwell, Salesman, Coquille.  
E. T. Welverton, Real Estate, Bandon.  
Alva Dell, Real Estate, Marshfield.  
Shannon Mitchell, Salesman, North Bend.

G. G. Shelton, Farmer, Summit.  
W. L. Lamb, Attorney, Coquille.

John Johnson, Farmer, Coquille.  
Frank P. Newton, Merchant, Marshfield.  
S. C. Braden, Laborer, Myrtle Point.

F. A. Spencer, Merchant, Myrtle Pt.  
H. A. DeLong, Farmer, Bandon.  
Geo. A. Robinson, Merchant, Coquille.  
W. H. Smith, Farmer, Coos River.  
Geo. P. Moulton, Com. Merchant, Coquille.

C. E. Hoiler, Farmer, Bridge.  
S. L. Williams, Bookkeeper, Bandon.  
K. A. Cribbins, Farmer, Bridge.

E. C. Strang, Retired, Coquille.  
Roy Garret, Farmer, Myrtle Point.  
Alex. H. Austin, Contractor, Sitkum.

E. E. Johnson, Lumberman, Coquille.  
F. M. Hufford, Tallyman, Coquille.  
H. W. Houghton, Farmer, Norway.

### School Commencement

The baccalaureate sermon to the high school here will be preached by Rev. W. E. Couper at the Federated church next Sunday evening, May 23. It will be a Union service of all the churches and everybody is invited.

The commencement exercises of the Coquille High School will take place at Gould's Hall on Thursday evening, May 27.

Prof. James D. Matthews, of Willamette University, will deliver the commencement address.

The graduating class consists of seventeen members as follows: Pauline Chase, Olive Taylor, Samuel Arnold, Jessie Mae Beckham, Nina R. Benjamin, Lundy M. Church, Rosa A. Fredenburg, Fred L. Harlocker, Marjorie Hazard, Camilla Lorenz, George E. Martin, Maxine McGilvery, Alvin H. Neely, Ida F. Oerding, Fred A. Wimer, Reta Lucille Lane and William A. Oerding.

### First Night Train Ditched

Night service on the Coos Bay line had rather an un auspicious start last Monday. The train left Portland on schedule at 8 o'clock Sunday night, but instead of reaching Marshfield at 7:30 in the morning came sleepily in at 8:15 in the afternoon. It was the old story of a tree across the track. The tender went off the track, not only delaying the night train, but the day one that followed as well, so that our mail came in three hours late on Monday afternoon.

See the great Kentucky horse race, with scores of riders galloping madly over the course, and a girl jockey winning by a nose. It's a real race and just as intensely exciting. "In Old Kentucky" at Liberty Theatre May 25 and 26.

### As Seen in Coquille Valley

In view of the disposition of the leading Portland papers to make a sort of super boy out of Harold Howell to portray him a hero and almost to canonize him, as indicated by the article elsewhere reproduced from the editorial columns of the Oregonian the Sentinel has an unpleasant duty to perform in commenting on this case.

When the jury came into court at 11 o'clock last Saturday morning and asked to be discharged on the ground that they could not possibly agree, their foreman said that they stood seven for conviction. Just what adequate reason there could be that those seven should change that opinion and before the cold gray dawn of Sunday morning agree to a verdict of "not guilty," we cannot understand. But, notwithstanding, this verdict of a jury, of whom eleven had expressed the opinion in the jury room that Howell was guilty, the opinion of the people who know the most about this case—especially of the citizens of Bandon—have not changed at all and probably never will.

While the silent testimony of the bullet found embedded in Lillian Leuthold's head and the marking corresponding with the bore of Harold Howell's rifle seem to be conclusive as to the fact that that rifle was the weapon with which she was murdered, there would be no such practically unanimous belief that he was guilty on the part his townspeople, if they had not known what sort of a boy Harold was. From his neighbors came facts to show that he was a cruel and wicked boy—an abnormal one. Had he been a normal boy he would not have been suspected of this murder and there is little probability that he would have been held to the grand jury at the preliminary.

The laws that prevented the state from introducing testimony as to the character of a defendant in a case of this kind does not function in aid of justice; but courts and rules of evidence and juror's qualifications are all man made and subject to human imperfections.

Perhaps there is not another fourteen or fifteen year old boy in Bandon who if accused of such a crime as the murder of Lillian Leuthold would have been deemed guilty by his townspeople but they were practically unanimous in the opinion that Harold Howell was the sort of boy, if there was any in that neighborhood, who could have been expected to be guilty of such a crime—who had a reputation for cruelty and secretiveness sufficient to make it probable that he was guilty.

The verdict of "not guilty" which has freed young Howell from custody and rendered it impossible that he shall ever suffer the punishment the law prescribes for the crime with which he stood charged has made no difference in the belief of those who have heard the testimony in the case and knew the sort of character the boy bore, as to his guilt.

But it has done a good deal to affect public opinion very decidedly as to the workings of our state's legal system—not at all, either, in the way of increasing respect for law.

It is not pleasant to write these plain and bitter truths, but it seems to us to be our duty to do so.

One jurymen at a former trial is reported to have said, "Of course, the boy was guilty, but I wanted to give him another chance." That was the exact sentiment, if not the exact form of the statement. Another chance to do what, we ask? To kill another sweet, innocent girl who would choose death in preference to dishonor?

We dislike to think of or talk about the effect that allowing Harold Howell to go free will have upon those who are tempted to attack a young girl, or any woman, for that matter. And we hate, too, to think of the effect it will have on heretofore law-abiding citizens if another crime of the sort committed by Lillian Leuthold's assailant should happen.

Is the killing of a girl, who refuses to surrender the crown jewel of her chastity esteemed so light a thing that any man should want to give the guilty "another chance." May poor Lillian's blood cry from the earth against any such

### Scott Makes Many Friends

John M. Scott, general passenger agent of the Southern Pacific, was a new bunch of friends at Nekoma Monday morning when the wreck tied up the train for several hours. There was no diner on the train and the passengers had to go hungry. There was a special car, carrying a U. S. Valuation Commission, which had a buffet. The management did not think they had food for all and did not extend a general invitation but did invite Mr. Scott, Mr. Penn and some other officials. "Feed these men and women first and if there is anything left then we will come in," Mr. Scott replied to the invitation. As a result, the passengers got a light breakfast and the commissary of the car had to be replenished at Marshfield, says the Coos Bay Times.

## GAS GETTING VERY SCARCE

The supply of gasoline is exhausted in the local plant of the Standard Oil Co. after conserving some for the past two weeks in order to meet the requirements of essential industries. Up to the present time there has been no serious interference with business depending upon this fuel, but there is likely to be considerable inconvenience for the next three or four days as a tank car due here on the 14th was delayed on account of repairs and will probably not arrive before Monday.

Special Agent A. E. Campbell of the local Standard Oil station, has received advice that car is enroute and immediately upon arrival will supply essential business first and pleasure concerns will be supplied to await the arrival of additional stock on or about June 3rd. Much depends upon gasoline in this section at this time as farmers are operating tractors to capacity, milking machines, milk and logging trucks must be kept in motion, delivery and freight trucks as well as launches in freight, passenger and towing business. Doctors must be kept supplied for all emergencies. The boiling point test gasoline as used in other states will relieve the situation quite materially and this product will sell for 1 1/2 cent per gallon less, effective today.

With the arrival of additional stocks in June pleasure operators will possibly be able to secure 80% of the usual requirements, though this depends upon conservation by all in general toward eliminating of all possible waste.

### 30 Days in Jail and \$100

F. J. Webb has been brought over here from Marshfield to serve a sentence of 30 days in the jail here. He was given that sentence and fined \$100 in Justice Penneck's court at Marshfield for adding a still to the equipment of his soft drink parlor and pool hall there, and engaging in the manufacture of intoxicating liquor. Webb gives his place of birth as Winfield, Kansas, and ought to have been better taught in that prohibition state of forty years standing.

### Will Write in Rosa's Name

There are three port commissioners to elect in this port district today with only two candidates, E. E. Johnson and J. E. Norton on the ballot. They are the outgoing members, along with Col. R. H. Rosa, of Bandon, who is away at present and did not file for re-election. His Bandon friends are writing his name in, however, and he will no doubt get votes enough to keep him on the commission.

### Buys Lots for Laundry

Mr. Simpson informs us that the Coquille Laundry has bought the two lots in the next block north of the one in which Neoler's grocery is located, the last on this side of the gulch, opposite the Chase Barn. The price paid was \$450, and the intention is to erect a laundry building there some time in the future.

Anita Stewart in her master production, the greatest and most sensational drama of the time, to be shown at the Liberty Theatre May 25 and 26.

## THE CHAUTAUQUA

### It Will Be Held in the Liberty Theatre Here on June 9, 10 and 11.

The Chautauqua, which comes this year on June 9, 10 and 11—Wednesday, Thursday and Friday—will be held in the Liberty Theatre. Arrangements were made yesterday with Manager Gage for the use of the theatre for the occasion, and while it will cost more than would the use of the Radcliffe people's tent, the saving of time and temper in putting up and taking down the canvas, the building of a platform and the moving of seats, will be worth a good deal. Coquille citizens have been willing and generous the past two years to perform that work, but it has never happened that a sufficient number turned out to make the job an easy one, and those who do feel it incumbent on them to assist will breathe a sigh of relief that that arduous feature of the Chautauqua will be eliminated this year.

### Adult Session Tickets Will Be Sold for \$2.00 and Those for Children for \$1.00.

The ticket selling campaign is to be started today, Prof. H. B. Tuttle having been given charge of that end of the event. His plan has been adopted for giving school children a season ticket for selling two \$2.00 season tickets. This will serve a double purpose. With all the pupils boasting and talking for the Chautauqua, it will be much better advertised than heretofore, and it will also insure the attendance of a great many children who would not otherwise attend and the benefits to the younger generation is one of the primary reasons for holding a Chautauqua.

Adult session tickets will be sold for \$2.00 and those for children for \$1.00. There will be two sessions each of the three days, each program consisting of music and lectures. Next week we will publish the program.

Posters and bills are to be distributed immediately, and if everyone will get in and boost for the Chautauqua we can have the best one this year we have ever had.

### Fine House Torn Down

The demolition this week of the former Hawkins house across the street from the Sentinel office seems especially regrettable in view of the scarcity of residences and the general disinclination to build owing to the high cost of material and labor now. The structure, although far from a new one, was for all practical purposes as good as new, and except for the probable deterioration of the roof perfectly preserved. Of course, we must expect to see residences in the business district make way for other structures in a growing town, and with the cost of moving this house well up towards a thousand dollars—including the interference with light and phone wires, there seemed to be no other way open except to tear the building down, even though much of the lumber used in its construction would now command prices that would once have seemed fabulous.

### Memorial Sermon in Theatre

Memorial Sunday, May 23, will be observed at the Liberty Theatre next Sunday. Rev. A. B. Barry will deliver the address. Special music. Everybody invited to attend, especially all veterans of all wars and Boy Scouts. Services at 11 o'clock a. m. Decoration day will be observed May 31, full program of which will appear in next week's Sentinel. By order W. R. C.

### For Another Jersey Sale

J. L. Smith returned last Friday from a two weeks' trip to Portland and the Willamette valley where he made arrangements for bringing in about twenty head of St. Mawes heifers for another sale the county Jersey Breeders' Association expects to hold soon. The date will be announced later.

### Another in Just a Month

No sooner is one election over here in Coquille than another looms on the horizon. In this issue the annual school meeting and the election to decide on the increase in school tax asked in the budget are advertised. The date will be June 21st, one month from today.

Masked night riders chase an outlaw over the rugged mountains until he is hurled over a cliff by his horse. "In Old Kentucky" at Liberty Theatre May 25 and 26.