

Rogue River Courier

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FREE TELEPHONING TO ALL PARTS OF JOSEPHINE COUNTY SECURED

The First County in Oregon to Secure This Evidence of a Progressive Community—All Sections to Be Connected by Telephones Within Six Months.

Pacific States Telephone & Telegraph Co. to Co-operate With Local Co. in this Service.

The movement undertaken some time ago by the Rogue River Courier to secure a complete system of telephones for Josephine county has met with such hearty support from the farmers, miners and the stockmen of the rural districts and of the business men of Grants Pass and the other towns that it is now certain that before the close of this year that every section of the county will be in telephonic connection with the county seat. And what is more Josephine county will enjoy the highly creditable distinction of being the first county in Oregon to have a complete system of telephone lines reaching every part of the county over which there will be free switching for every subscriber. This is the terms of the contract made by the Pacific States Telephone & Telegraph Company with the Applegate Valley Telephone Company, that all rural lines shall have free switching on the Grants Pass system and also these rural lines will be connected through the central office in Grants Pass so that they will have free switching one with another. This fine system will enable a Grants Pass business man to talk with his customers in any part of the county and a Williams Valley stockman to talk with an Illinois Valley stockman, and a Galice miner to call up a miner at Greenback, Granite Hill or Taklima. The Grants Pass High School, which is free to every boy and girl in the county has many students from other districts. These boys and girls will be more contented and more able to do good work in school if after studies hours they can call up the home folks and have a little visit. But the farmers will be the ones to secure the greatest benefit from these rural lines for it will save them many trips to town and to their neighbors and it will enable them to know what the state of the market is and to make a sale before he is at the expense of taking a load of produce to town. While the installation of a complete

system of telephones for the entire county will be of great advantage to every farm community, mining district and town in the county it will be of very great value to the citizens of Grants Pass, for it will make this city the center of one of the largest telephone systems in Oregon and add a most important factor in building it up to be the commercial metropolis of Southern Oregon. There is every reason to expect that within the near future that with the free switching and other favorable terms given by the Pacific States Telephone Company that there will be 1000 telephones on these rural lines centering in Grants Pass. The Pacific States Company will profit quite as much by this co-operation scheme as will the independent companies, for it will add fully \$500 a month to its telephone rentals, and its long distance business, now very small from the outlying districts of the county, will be developed so that it will yield a very large revenue. It will also make certain that no rival company will enter this field to compete for Grants Pass or Josephine county business and this Company will not have the hard fight to hold its territory as it is having in Salem, Portland and dozens of other towns on the Pacific Coast, where the Automatic Telephone Company has entered the field. With the reasonable rental for telephones and free switching for all rural lines that enter Grants Pass, the farmers will not be disposed to take up a strictly independent service, nor will the business men of Grants Pass encourage a new company to enter this field to necessitate them each to have two telephones. In order to lessen the expense and to insure a better service only four independent companies will be organized to cover the territory tributary to Grants Pass. The Applegate Valley and all territory south of Rogue river from Grants Pass will be handled by the Applegate Valley Telephone Company, now organized. All the territory west and north of Grants Pass embracing Lee district, Galice and down Rogue river to Mule Creek district, and Grave, Wolf, Jump-off-Joe, and Louse creek valleys will be

covered by a company to be organized. A meeting will be held at Lee school house on Saturday evening, April 7, and a second meeting will be held at Merlin on Saturday, April 14, at 2 p. m. at which Charles Meserve of the Courier, will be present to organize a company similar to one formed at Provoit for the Applegate district. It is expected that all who are interested in the establishment of a rural telephone system for that part of the county will be attend. G. O. Oium, manager for Josephine county for the Pacific States Telephone Company will be present at these meetings to give all information desired as to the cost of installing the telephone system and the details of the terms that his company has to make to these independent companies. The Illinois Valley will embrace the third district and during the latter part of April, Mr. Meserve will take up with the settlers of that valley the organizing of a company to install a telephone system to connect with the Grants Pass and the other county systems. After these three companies are in good working order a company will be organized for the territory along Rogue river above Grants Pass and including the Evans, Fooths and Birdseye creek valleys. The second meeting for perfecting the organization of the Applegate Valley Telephone Company was held last Tuesday afternoon at Provoit. There was a large number of farmers present, representing the various sections of the valley. Owing to the chairman, C. O. Biglow, being delayed in reaching the meeting E. Badger was made temporary chairman. Charles Meserve presented a copy of a constitution and regulations, which he had prepared, and they were read by the secretary R. F. Lewman. A short discussion was had on the terms outlined when a motion being made they were adopted. G. O. Oium, manager for Pacific States Telephone Company's business in Josephine county, then presented the proposition that General Manager J. H. Thatcher had to make for his Company. This agreement embraced the following conditions: The Pacific States Telephone & Telegraph Company to lease rent free for a period of five years to the Applegate Valley Telephone Company its telephone line from the central station in Grants Pass to its terminus of Williams, having a length of 20 miles. The Pacific States Company to keep in repair that section of the line from its central station to the bridge where it crosses Rogue river and to pay the taxes on the entire line. The Applegate Company to keep the line in repair from Rogue river bridge to its end at Williams and turn it over to the Pacific States Company at the end of the five year in as good condition as when they received it, the Pacific States Company to put the line in good repair before the lease goes into effect. The Applegate Company to have the right to string additional wires along this line. This lease to be conditioned on the Applegate Company renting not less than 50 telephones of the Pacific States Company. The Pacific States Company to rent telephones to the Applegate Company for 50 cents per month payable semi-yearly in advance, keep them in repair while in use and pay the taxes on them. The subscribers will pay for the batteries, when they have to be renewed. These batteries will cost about 20 cents each and will last from six to eight months. The subscribers will install their telephones, the connection with the wires being so simple that any person can do the job. These telephones are to be the latest improved, high power instruments and are to be delivered in Grants Pass freight paid and the rental will begin with their removal from the depot. These telephones will be sub-leased by the Applegate Company to its members. The Pacific States Company to sell switch boards and other telephone central office supplies at cost to the Applegate Company. The members of the Applegate Company to have free switching with the Grants Pass system and with all other rural lines that may be built into that city. The Applegate Company to have all the revenue derived from non-members using its lines and the Pacific States Company to have the revenue from the long distance business. This proposition from the Pacific States Company was compared with the advantage that might be had from a strictly independent system and after the merits of the two systems had been fully considered the Pacific States proposition was accepted on a motion made by Charles Meserve and second-

ed by E. N. Provoit. The question was then considered of incorporating the Applegate Valley Telephone Company. A vote being taken it was decided to incorporate and E. Badger, E. N. Provoit and C. O. Biglow were chosen as incorporators and Charles Meserve was authorized to arrange with an attorney to prepare the papers and to forward them to the secretary of state at Salem. To show the interest that the citizens of Grants Pass have in these rural telephone companies four of the prominent business men of that city accompanied Mr. Meserve and Manager Oium to Provoit. These gentlemen were Geo. R. Riddle, of Hair-Riddle Hardware Company, Lee Calvert of the Grants Pass Hardware Company, Roy Wilson of P. H. Harth & Company, and T. B. Coranil, lately in the grocery business. On being called on by Chairman Badger, each of them gave short addresses in which they commended the movement for rural telephones and the especially advantageous features of free switching for these country lines with Grants Pass. On a motion to that effect Chairman Badger appointed the following persons a committee to secure members. Henry Kubli, Upper Applegate; John Pernell, Applegate; R. F. Lewman, E. N. Provoit; C. O. Biglow and Morford John, Williams; Bert Sargent and Louis Sturgeon, Upper Williams; W. S. Bailey and William York, Missouri Flat; Fred Knox, Laurel Grove; J. W. Gilmore and H. L. Reed, Murphy; C. C. English, New Hope; Mr. Clements, Centennial district and South Grants Pass; W. I. Sweetland and Chas. Meserve, Grants Pass. The next meeting of the Applegate Valley Telephone Company will be held at Provoit on Saturday, March 31 at 2:30 p. m. sharp. It will be necessary for all who wish to join the company to be there to sign the stock book and place their order for a telephone and for wire and insulators. The wire and insulators will cost about \$8 per mile. Porcelain insulators will be used and the wire can be strung to trees and give as good service as to poles. No telephones will be allowed to be connected with the main line between Grants Pass and the various central stations, all telephones being connected to the latter by branch lines. The object of this is to keep the main line clear, otherwise it would be loaded up with 40 to 50 telephones and then no one could talk over it. A central will be established at Provoit and branch lines will be run up Williams Valley, up Applegate and Thompson Valleys and across to Missouri Flat and down to Laurel Grove district. A central will be put in at Murphy to accommodate the four or five branch lines that will cover the adjoining territory and a central will be put in at South Grants Pass for the residents of that section and of the Centennial district. The shares of stock will be \$5 each, but if 100 members are secured, as is expected, it will not require an assessment of more than \$2 a share to pay for installing the centrals and to meet the other expenses of putting the telephone system in working order. The persons keeping the central stations will be given free telephones and those handling a large number of lines will be paid a salary. Mr. Badger has offered to keep the Provoit office for \$15 per month for this year while the company is getting a start. No arrangements have yet been made at Murphy and South Grants Pass for operators. The cost of maintaining the central offices and such other expenses as will be incurred will be met by a telephone rental charge of probably 25 cents per month, which with the rent of 50 cents paid the Pacific States Company will make the telephones cost 75 cents per month. The rent in Grants Pass is \$1.25 per month for residence telephones and \$1.50 for office telephones. The articles of incorporation are being prepared by Hon. Geo. H. Durham and expects to have them signed up this Saturday when he will file them with the secretary of state. The filing fee and the corporation tax will be \$10 each that being the charges against incorporations having a capital of less than \$10,000. Mr. Durham makes no charges for his legal services, he contributing his fee, which would have been not less than \$25, to assist by that much the farmers in financing their telephone undertaking. He will also accompany Mr. Meserve to Provoit to attend the meeting next Saturday and see that the legal details of completing the organization of the Applegate Valley Telephone Company are fully complied with. While making it possible for the

people of the county to have a first-class telephone service at a reasonable cost the Pacific States Telephone & Telegraph Company are arranging to greatly improve the service in Grants Pass. It is expected to spend fully \$5000 in installing what is known as the central energy system. With this system there is but two telephones on a line and there is no bell to be rung to call central. The Company will increase their central station so that it can handle a thousand or more telephones and thus readily handle the large business that will come with the growth of Grants Pass and the installation of rural lines throughout the county. Their present quarters in the First National Bank building will be too small for the Company's use and the Bank Company will probably erect this Summer a brick building immediately back of the Bank block on ground now occupied by their wood house. This building will be 36x70 feet and will be entirely used by the Pacific States Company, the front part for central station and offices and the rear for a storage room. With these intended improvements that are to be made by the Pacific States Telephone Company and with the completion of the four big rural telephone systems that will cover all the territory tributary to Grants Pass this city will have by far the best telephone system of any city in Oregon, Portland not excepted. Subjoined is given in full the constitution and by laws of the Applegate Valley Telephone Company. This constitution has been carefully prepared and embodies the best features of the constitutions of a number of independent telephone companies and strictly conforms to the laws of Oregon. It fully safeguards every interest of the members and fully protects the company from being monopolized by a faction of its members or being absorbed by a rival company. At the meeting next Saturday at Provoit, rules and regulations will be adopted governing the use of the Company's telephones and of the maintenance of the central stations and the lines. The following is the constitution and by-laws: (Continued on Page Two.)

JUDGE HANNA ADJOURNS CIRCUIT COURT

County Sustained in Making Courier Official Paper—Jennings Case Appealed.

Judge H. K. Hanna will close this Friday evening an adjourned session of the January term of circuit court, which he has held for the last two weeks. He will return to his home in Jacksonville, where on next Monday he will convene the Spring term of circuit court for Jackson county. On Monday, April 16, he will return to Grants Pass and convene the Spring term of circuit court for Josephine. So large is the business in this judicial district that Judge Hanna seldom has an intermission in his terms of court and even then his time is fully occupied in reviewing testimony and making up his decisions. In fact none of the 18 circuit judges in Oregon have more work to do than has Judge Hanna. Last Saturday evening the jury in the case of August Fetsch vs. the Niagara Insurance Company brought in a verdict in favor of Mr. Fetsch for \$6800 insurance and credit of \$283.40. The insurance company had refused to pay the insurance on the brewery and ice plant owned by Mr. Fetsch on the ground that he did not own the land on which the buildings were located. R. G. Smith represented Mr. Fetsch and Colvig & Durham the insurance company. T. K. Anderson was given a verdict for \$2900 against the Galice Consolidated Mines Company for damages caused by the breaking of the Company's ditch. Gustav Poyer was given a judgment for \$229.25 against the Pacific Pine Needle Company, the property was ordered sold to pay the judgment and costs. The case of Dorothea and John P. Ranzau against W. B. Sherman and L. M. Williamson was settled and dismissed. Rolla S. Knapp was given a verdict for \$2332 and costs and attorneys fees of \$400 against E. T. Wallace and the Althouse Mining Company. In condemnation suits of the California & Oregon Coast Railroad for right-of-way John H. Robinson was awarded \$400 for the land taken and \$35 for damages, and Stephen Jewell was awarded \$105 for land taken. The supreme court having granted a stay of proceedings in the case of Jasper Jennings, sentenced to be hung for the murder of his father, his attorney, H. D. Norton, was given to March 25 to file his transcript of appeal to the supreme court, where he will ask for a new trial. The suit brought by F. W. Chausse and J. F. Galbraith, publishers of the Observer to restrain the county court from appointing the Rogue River Courier as the official paper was decided in favor of the Courier, on the ground that the proceedings of the county court had been regular and that the Courier was shown to have the largest circulation of any paper published in Josephine county.

(Continued on Page Two.)

A Fine Percheron Horse.

Fred Knox, who has had charge since last Fall of the fine Percheron horse, Avata, owned by the Grants Pass Breeders Association was in Grants Pass Wednesday from his Applegate ranch. Mr. Knox brought Avata in to have him shod and to let horsemen of this vicinity see the splendid condition this 2000-pound 3-year old is in. Beginning with April 1st H. L. Reed of Murphy will take charge of Avata, Mr. Knox not having time by reason of his farm work to care for the horse. Mr. Reed is one of the most experienced horsemen in Josephine county and this fine horse will be given the best of care and made a profitable investment to his owners and to the farmers of this county. Legal blanks at the Courier office.

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