

Rogue River Courier.

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NO. 45

SIXTH STREET IN BAD CONDITION

It Must Be Paved With-
out Delay.

UP TO PROPERTY OWNERS

Let There be Prompt Action so as to
Commence Paving on Com-
pletion of Bridge

The city fathers are reminded that Sixth street stands very much in need of paving as it is surely disgraceful beyond measure to have the principal thoroughfare of this important city of the far famed Rogue River Valley in the condition it is. Nearly or quite three-quarters of the grade that comes to us from the outside of town passes over the bridge and up Sixth street. Two-thirds of the length of this street is so abominably bad that many farmers refuse to come to town oftener than they are absolutely obliged to. If there is an important street in any other town in the country in as bad condition as our Sixth street, it has not been heard of up to the present time. There is much that might be said regarding the efforts in the past to have this popular street paved, suffice it to say that it has not been the fault of the property holders. They have been willing and even anxious to have the pavement laid and have voted for it and they will vote for it again if that is necessary. The whole trouble in the past has been in the council but we hope that this administration will neither delay, linger or wait before taking the necessary steps to put through this most important matter. This improvement should be taken in hand at once and as soon as the Sixth street steel bridge is completed everything should be in readiness to lay the pavement. The mayor and council, we are certain, understand the importance of paving this business street and it will in our opinion, hardly be necessary to go further into the matter at this time. The people, it may be stated, want the street paved before the hot weather sets in. It is even too long to wait for the bridge to be completed, but we suppose this must be done but please, gentlemen, do not add another week to that time. While on this ripe subject it is not out of place for us to mention the fact that four blocks on either side of the railroad track is by no means the limit of this needed improvement. Something must be done in the way of improving the streets all the way down to the bridge. During the past six months the work which has been done in the way of repairs has fallen short of doing any particular good. It is possible that from M street to the bridge a macadamized road properly constructed will answer the purpose but right here is the difficulty. It requires experience to

build a good road and money spent for this purpose by some one lacking this important essential is money wasted.

There is too much material on the street now to permit the making of a good road. It has cost a large amount of money to make the hills, hollows, and mud holes which now cause it to be well nigh impassable for loaded or even light teams.

Far be it from us to claim that the intent was not good, yet one of our great reformers and church fathers has said that "Hell is paved with good intentions." It might be pointed out that we need a reform in street construction, and when it shall be undertaken, let it be under the direction of a street committee thoroughly informed regarding modern road making.

Since writing the above we have been fortunate enough to have a most satisfactory interview with the mayor, who says neither the council nor himself can do anything in regard to paving Sixth street until the property owners make the request to have the work done and he further says that there is absolutely nothing in the way of paving this important street if the owners of the property so desire, so it is up to them to take the necessary steps to secure the paving of the street.

CITY COUNCIL ALLOWS TELEPHONE FRANCHISE

Regular Session of City Council
Thursday was a
Lively one

The Council met in regular session Thursday night with Mayor Kinney in the chair and the following councilmen present: Burkhalter, Cheshire, Cramer, Cronk, Fetsch and Riggs. Absent, Myers and Tufts. A large amount of routine business was transacted. A communication was received from the Alaska-Yukon Exposition offering the city of Grants Pass, July 16th as Grants Pass day at the Exposition. The offer was accepted and the recorder instructed to thank the Exposition people for their courtesy in the matter.

The ordinance for the granting of a franchise to the Citizens Telephone Co., was read the second time. Councilman Burkhalter moved that there be inserted a clause that would prevent the transfer of the franchise to another company, which was carried.

Under its proper head the Citizens Telephone Co. Ordinance was read a third time and put on its final passage. The vote was five for the ordinance and one against.

A large number of friends of both the old and the new telephone companies were present and took an active part in the discussion of the subject.

The city property committee recommended purchase of five acres adjoining the city park. This was referred back to the committee for further action.

The council instructed the marshal to notify owners of property to take down liquor signs on buildings.

SOME BIG REAL ESTATE DEALS BY LOCAL FIRMS

The Immediate Outlook Would Indicate Coming
Activity in Orchard Propositions and
in Desirable Fruit Lands in This
Valley and County.

During the last few days there has been numerous deals in real estate and some of them have run up into the thousands. It cannot be said that the busy season has arrived, but it is believed that the sales already made are an indication that the coming months will bring with them a large amount of business. Real estate men claim that everyone is looking for an official announcement that work will commence on the irrigation canals at a definite time and that this will be the signal for many transactions of moment. There is said to be considerable money in readiness not only in Grants Pass but in Montana, South Dakota, Wyoming and other states. Below will be found some of the sales that have been closed since our last issue.

Churchill-Riggs Land Company.

One of the largest real estate transactions of the past 12 months has been closed by the Churchill-Riggs land Co. and Joseph Moss the agent of Miller Bros., the owners of the property in question and was made to S. H. Riggs of this city. The sale comprises the Miller ranch of 920 acres at the confluence of the Applegate and Rogue Rivers. The price paid was \$40,000. The property comprises 720 acres of choice bottom land under a complete system of irrigation and cultivation and choicest quality. The water right is one of the earliest filed on the Applegate River and the ranch is without doubt one of the very finest holdings in Josephine county. For many years it has been under a high state of cultivation and holds the record of having produced heavy yields of grain of all kinds, hay and other crops. Old settlers tell us that the biggest yield of corn ever harvested in Southern Oregon, grew on the ranch. There is a good bearing orchard of about 25 acres of well selected fruit, and it is Mr. Riggs' intention to add to the orchard each year until fully one-half of the entire place will be planted with the choicest varieties of apples, pears and other fruits. The land will be laid out in 20-acre orchard tracts, each one to be placed under a high state of cultivation by the most careful management and when ready will be placed on the market as model fruit farms of the most productive kind. This season the acreage of alfalfa will be largely increased so as to meet the demands of the Grants Pass market. There has already been raised on the place as high as 1500 tons of this forage in a single season, grain crops will each year occupy a considerable space until the orchards are developed. S. H. Riggs is a thoroughly practical business man and has handled large farms successfully in the past. He was one of the pioneers in South Dakota and remained there long enough to see the state developed into one of the great commonwealths of the middle west, when he left that rigorous climate to locate in the Rogue River Valley where the conditions were more favorable to those in search of health and financial opportunities. The choice of this city and county for a location by a man of Mr. Riggs' large experience is in itself a commendation of this section. Last year he purchased a number of fine properties quite near to Grants Pass, all of which he has improved and is now one of the largest land owners in the county and it can be said that he belongs to that class who have made the west by the development of its broad acres and showing its fertility.

Shank and Hall

The R. A. N. Reyrer place just below town, so well known to the public was sold by Shank & Hall this week to C. E. Mason and W. S. Maxwell, both of Butler, Ind. The farm consists of 75 acres, mostly

fine, deep bottom land. There are 15 acres in bearing orchard from eight acres of which 6000 boxes of apples were picked the fall of 1906. Besides this orchard there are 15 acres planted to two-year-old apple trees which give great promise for the future. There are 10 acres in alfalfa and clover. The remaining land is on the bench and part in brush. The place has a practical irrigation plant and orchard outfit. The improvements on the property are valuable and the whole place is in every way first-class.

We are glad to welcome Messrs. Mason and Maxwell, both being desirable citizens. They come to us bearing the highest recommendations and they will be a great help to this part of Josephine county. This sale, together with the Eismann property sale made a short time ago by the same firm shows the value of improved propositions in this section. Messrs. Shank & Hall have made several other sales since our last issue but we have no data in regard to them.

W. B. Sherman.

A large sale of timber lands, was made during the week by W. B. Sherman for O. C. Sether to the Grants Pass Timber Co. The property consists of 1000 acres in sections 5, 6, 7, and 8 in township 33 south, range 6 west, the consideration being \$25,000. This will make 10,000 acres of timber lands sold by Mr. Sherman to this same company, which is one of the strongest business organizations in the country. It is composed of seven men from seven different states, all wealthy and representing \$30,000,000. Their principal timber holdings are on Evans creek. Mr. Sherman is always at home when he undertakes to carry through a big deal. He came in from the south Thursday morning and went on through to Portland, where he expects to secure another body of timber.

Sales by Joseph Moss.

Joseph Moss sold 40 acres this week four miles south of Merlin, belonging to Henry H. McGrath to W. A. Donaldson, consideration, \$1000. Also a property of Mrs. Will Jackson on E street, back of the R. L. Coe & Co. store to Arthur Conklin, consideration \$1000.

Mr. Moss also sold for John H. Williams and others to William H. Shaul, lot 8, in block 51 Railroad addition. Price not named.

THE QUESTION OF GRANTING FRANCHISES

Should These Valuable Assets be
Given Away Without
Competition?

Another valuable franchise of the people has been given away by the city for the nominal sum of asking. This time the application has been for a telephone system, having for its object the installation of a new plant. The grantees were given permission to operate within corporate limits for a period of 35 years without paying one cent to the city treasurer. It looks like the common interest of the community had been over-looked when it appears that no bond was required to comply with the terms of the franchise, thus leaving the grantees to do as they please, without a forfeiture of money or damages. All that is required is that work must be begun within three months and a days and the etoishdelatofreatos written acceptance filed within 10 days and the performance of the grantee has been completed so far as the city is concerned, and the grantee is ready to begin selling stock to the public, which perhaps is

sufficient assurance that it is not well to reason any further in the matter.

Notwithstanding a valuable franchise was being handed out, but one councilman saw fit to vote against it and that was T. P. Cramer. Those who were in favor, were Riggs, Cheshire, Burkhalter, Cronk and Fetsch. Absent Tufts and Myers. It is not known who is back of the company or what their assets are or whether it has any or not. At any rate many business men are not in favor of a divided telephone service as it would force every business man in town to have two phones where in the present instance one is all that is required. Whether or not this protest coming before the council had any effect is better told in the manner in which each councilman voted. These are they who entered a protest and desired to have but one telephone system up-to-date which would be installed within 11 months by the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company:

H. Horning, James Holman, D. B. Russell, Grants Pass Banking & Trust Company, Dr. W. H. Flanagan, C. B. Fowler, J. V. Schmidt, Mashburn & Company, C. F. Dixon, A. J. McKinney, H. L. Andrews, M. Clemens, J. F. Galbraith, J. L. Calvert, Jewell Hardware Co., B. I. Plummer, Western Hotel, P. H. Harth, Bert Barnes, C. C. Presley, Robert G. Smith, Cold Storage, Kinney & Truax, Jno. D. Fry, F. Eismann, Geo. S. Calhoun, B. F. Banks, R. H. O'Neill, J. Pardee, J. O. Gibson, R. W. Clarke, Dr. F. W. Van Dyke, J. A. Slover, C. H. Clements, Dr. H. C. Dixon, Dr. B. F. Devore, R. L. Bartlett, R. L. Coe & Co., Ed. Listr, Dr. F. W. Stricker, M. C. Ament, C. E. Harmon, H. C. Bobzien, M. J. Goodnow, A. Willard, Amy Booth Holmes, C. H. Demaray, Dr. W. Booth, J. E. Peterson, Claus Schmidt, T. E. McKoin, Grants Pass Steam Laundry, John Minor Booth, A. Giger, Dr. D. P. Love, J. J. Hanson, C. H. Eismann, E. S. VanDyke, B. M. Hall, W. S. Barrie

It is also worth while to consider the rates as are provided in the franchise to the new telephone company, which are as follows: Individual business one party line, \$3 per month. Two party business line, \$2.50 per month, which is the minimum to business houses.

Dwellings—Individual one party line service, \$2 per month. Two party line \$1.50 per month. Four party line \$1.25.

TEACHERS' EXAMINATIONS.

Notice is hereby given that the County Superintendent of Josephine County will hold the regular examination of applicants for state and county papers at Grants Pass, as follows:

For State Papers.

Commencing Wednesday, February 10, 1909 at 9 o'clock a. m., and continuing until Saturday, February 13, 1909 at 4 p. m.

Wednesday—Penmanship, history, spelling, physical geography, reading, psychology.

Thursday—Written arithmetic, theory of teaching grammar, book-keeping, physics, civil government.

Friday—Physiology, geography, composition, algebra, English literature, school law.

Saturday—Botany, plain geometry, general history.

For County Papers.

Commencing Wednesday, February 10, 1909, at 9 o'clock a. m. and continuing until Friday, February 12, 1909, at 4 p. m.

Wednesday—Penmanship, History, Orthography, Reading, Physical Geography.

Thursday—Written Arithmetic, Theory of Teaching, Grammar, Physiology.

Friday—Geography, School Law, Civil Government, English Literature.

LINCOLN SAVAGE,
County Superintendent,
Grants Pass, Ore., Jan. 23, 1909.

Ladies Auxiliary Meeting.

The regular meeting of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Commercial Club will be held at the club rooms Monday afternoon, February 8, at 3 o'clock. A full attendance is desired, as business of importance is to come up.

Mrs. C. L. Clevenger, Pres.

A man's sympathy is like his bank account. It is best not to draw too heavily upon it if you wish to retain his friendship.

LINCOLN'S BIRTH- DAY CELEBRATED

A Program in All the
Schools.

A WORLD CHARACTER

Takes a Leading Place In the His-
tory of the Nineteenth
Century.

Prof. Turner has made arrangements for Lincoln's birthday to be celebrated in all the public schools of the city on Friday of next week. The exercises will be with a view to giving the pupils in each of the rooms an opportunity to grasp a little of the spirit of the man whose birthday they celebrate and to some extent they will go into the history of his times. Each school and grade will have a distinct program suited to the occasion. The people of Grants Pass are deeply interested in this subject and will take pride in having the schools of their city take up this study in the thorough manner in which it is planned.

Such a program will be of great advantage to each and every child participating in the patriotic exercises. The state of California leads in the celebration of Lincoln's birthday. The legislature has provided especially for these exercises and they are under the direction of the state authorities. Oregon should at least make the birthday of Lincoln the one great day to be kept in remembrance by all public schools of the state. Lincoln was never a politician but always a patriot. The newspapers of the whole country are giving more and more space each year to this subject, and as they lead let the legislatures and officials of every grade follow their example. In a few words the history of Lincoln can be told and if this is done in the schools it will lead to the reading of history, and this in turn will bring about a broader knowledge of the great men of our nation.

Next Friday will mark the century birthday of one who lived, labored and finally gave his life for his countrymen. His name will go down in history as one of the greatest of world characters; a man without spot or blemish, who conquered his foes by love, saving a nation in its entirety by his wisdom, and laying the foundation for a great republic which should lead the world in all the arts of peace. This man was Abraham Lincoln, who was born February 12, 1809. He was born of humble parentage, too poor to give the son even an ordinary education. Thomas Lincoln, his father was a man without ambition, but his mother, whose maiden name was Nancy Hanks, possessed more than ordinary ability and laid the foundation in the education of her son that resulted in his final success by his own efforts. Mrs. Lincoln died when Abraham was only nine years old, and yet her influence guarded him through life. He said, after honors and reputation had come to him, "All that I now am, and all that I expect to be, I attribute to my mother's love and training." This tribute to his mother proved his high manhood and accounts for his simplicity and honesty of character. Up to Abraham Lincoln's time popular government by the people was in its infancy, and really untried. He made a nation out of independent states, and taught men to put away selfishness in the interest of the whole people. When the enemies of the nation laid down their arms, his plans were already made to help them to establish their broken homes and to build up their local governments on a broader plain than before. The hand of an assassin most unfortunately interrupted this great work and caused not only this nation but the world to mourn the loss of one of the noblest of earth, a man who stands as a type of the best of the human race. It is well

(Continued on page four.)

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