

Rogue River Courier.

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GRANTS PASS, JOSEPHINE COUNTY, OREGON, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1910.

No. 48.

LIBEL SUIT IS ALREADY FAMOUS

PUBLISHER AND EDITOR TO AP-
PEAR BEFORE GRAND JURY

JEWELL IS STAR WITNESS

The Silly Proceedings Inaugurated
May Prove a Boomerang to
the Inaugurator.

The usually quiet city of Grants Pass experienced a period of excitement just before 2 o'clock on Monday afternoon last by the arrest of the proprietor and likewise the editor of the Courier on a charge of libel sworn to by Judge Jewell. The judge, who is of a serious turn of mind, ever refuses to see a joke and the result was that the article published on February 2 regarding the gravel episode was taken in earnest and, as he explained to friends, it was intended to defeat his re-election as judge of this county. As the paper did not know that he was a candidate for re-election, the intent theory lacked foundation, but that is a matter to be settled in the future.

Sheriff Russell and Deputy Cheshire visited the office of the Courier and read the warrants to the accused and soon the two prisoners were on their way to the office of Justice James Holman. The whole street seemed to have been appraised of the coming event and Sixth street from the Courier office to E was a crowded thoroughfare; the boys having their own fun at the expense of the luckless individuals on their way to court. Here and there a friend shouted: "I will go on your bonds, others said they would be up to the jail with such delinquents from their own tables as might be left," and numerous other "joshes" were made, and everyone seemed to take it as a joke.

Arriving at the office of the justice, the defendants were greeted pleasantly by the judge, who said that every consideration would be extended to the accused and it was soon agreed the hearing should take place on Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock, and the prisoners were allowed to go on their own recognizance. The complaint is as follows:

In the Justice Court for the Grants Pass Justice District for Josephine County, Oregon.

State of Oregon, plaintiff, vs. A. E. Voorhies and C. G. Coutant, defendants.

A. E. Voorhies and C. G. Coutant, and each of them, are accused by Stephen Jewell, under oath and by this information, of the crime of libel, committed as follows, to-wit:

The said A. E. Voorhies and C. G. Coutant, and each of them, on the 11th day of February, A. D. 1910, in Josephine County, Oregon, then and there being, did then and there wilfully and maliciously publish in a newspaper called the "Rogue River Courier," the following false and scandalous matter concerning Stephen Jewell, to-wit:

"Charged with Theft of Gravel."

"The county judge has men at work filling up the deepest holes in the road south of the bridge. They have been taking gravel from private property for the purpose and Wednesday the owner chanced to run across the men when they were going after a load and there was an explanation demanded, claiming that they were entering upon his property and taking away gravel, without his knowledge or consent. The men, said that they were working for the county and had been directed by Judge Jewell to get the gravel and assured the indignant taxpayer that they had nothing to do with the theft except as above stated. There was some more talk and it ended by the owner of the gravel saying that the judge would be made to settle and intimidated that entering upon a man's property and stealing gravel was very small business for a county."

With the intent then and there had by the said A. E. Voorhies and C. G. Coutant, and each of them, to then

and there injure and defame the said Stephen Jewell, contrary to the statutes in such cases made and provided and against the peace and dignity of the State of Oregon.

STEPHEN JEWELL,
County of Josephine)
State of Oregon,) ss.

I, Stephen Jewell, being first duly sworn, depose and say that the facts stated in the foregoing information are true as I verily believe.

STEPHEN JEWELL,
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 21st day of February, 1910.

JAMES HOLMAN,
Justice of the Peace.

Wednesday Morning at Court.

The newspaper people were prompt in their attendance at Justice Holman's court on Wednesday morning and soon came Assistant Attorney Johnston, Deputy Sheriff Cheshire, and last of the interested parties came Judge Jewell, looking pale and exhausted. He was told by the justice that the gentlemen had decided to waive an examination and before further explanation could be made he had disappeared from the court and Deputy Cheshire was sent after him to verify the newspaper article and identify the defendants so as to make the proceedings regular. The judge placed in evidence a copy of the Courier containing the offending article, and this move necessitated the placing the newspaper men under bond, accordingly their bail was placed at the minimum of \$100 each, and they are out on bail, to appear before the grand jury at the next term of circuit court.

Much has been said about the growing coldness which, it is claimed, has existed for some time between Judge Jewell and the Courier. This is all speculation on the part of the

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BUY HALF INTEREST IN NOTED ORCHARD

Elmer Shank Takes Two Partners in
His Fruit Farm Down Rogue
River.

The famous Elmer Shank orchard, formerly known as the Eismann property, one of the best orchards in the lower Rogue River valley, has attracted the attention of two gentlemen of means and business ability of Grass Valley, this state. They are Samuel H. Baker and Charles A. Buckley. The former is the cashier of the Citizens' bank and the other vice-president of the same institution at that place. They have purchased from Mr. Shank a half interest in the property which consists of 85 acres, 35 acres of which is in bearing and 20 acres more which will be in bearing the coming season; thus making 55 acres of choice apples. The old orchard the past season produced a \$12,000 crop and it was the worst year in the history of fruit growing in this valley. The price paid for the half interest was \$35,000, a figure seemingly below the real value. The purchasers of this half interest are friends of S. E. Williams, who formerly lived in Grass Valley, and it was through him they came on a visit to this section. The sale was made by J. W. Lucas, who has been associated with Mr. Shank in the real estate business since last summer. Mr. Lucas is an energetic young business man and has proved himself a valuable addition to Grants Pass boosters.

The Military Girl a Triumph.

That the cast in the "Military Girl" should be congratulated on their success last night at the Opera house is putting it mildly. Never in the history of local talent shows has anything made the hit that this little extravaganza has done. There was one loud, long laugh from the excellent comedy, and the beauty of the girls in their dainty costumes would put professionals to shame. Encores were very numerous and from first to last the performers each won especial praise.

There was a dash about the performance which actually bewildered the audience—not a dull moment in either act.

The Ladies' Auxiliary had great foresight in advertising two nights as the house is sure to be filled to its capacity tonight. Mr. Carlisle is to be congratulated on the manner in which his corps of actors and actresses carried out his instructions.

ANNUAL MEETING OF IRRIGATION COMPANY

Official Report of Proceedings—Board of Directors Is Re-elected Without a Dissenting Voice—Resume Work at Once.

The Josephine County Irrigation and Power company held its annual meeting on Saturday afternoon last at the Commercial Club. There were over a hundred stockholders present and practically all the stock was represented. The large gathering and the deep interest manifested in the proceedings was evidence that irrigation is the one popular undertaking in this section. From first to last there seemed to be an earnest desire on the part of everybody to help accomplish the great work that has been undertaken by the irrigation company.

The proceedings were listened to with close attention and the men who had furnished the money to carry forward the ditch construction showed their approval of the work done by the irrigation board of directors when they unanimously re-elected the entire directorate.

During the past year there have been many difficult problems to solve, all of which have been given careful attention either by the entire board or by a committee chosen because of their ability to do the work in hand.

Minutes of Meeting.

The meeting was called to order by the president and secretary requested to read the call. Minutes of last stockholders' meeting were read and approved. The secretary then read his report, which will appear in next week's issue. President Gilkey read his report which follows. After the president's report, C. C. Presley moved that the meeting show by a rising vote its appreciation of the work done by the officers and directors. M. J. Anderson seconded the motion and also put it to a vote which was carried unanimously and enthusiastically.

The auditing committee, consisting of H. L. Andrews and G. W. Donnell, reported that they had examined the books and found everything correct. The report was accepted.

The meeting was then opened for general discussion, and it was asked whether in the opinion of the president the Golden Drift Mining Co. would be prepared to furnish water for the present season's irrigation. Mr. Gilkey stated that he could not answer, but as Elias Ruud, engineer in charge of the re-construction work, was present, he was called upon. Mr. Ruud stated that he could see no reason why the dam should not be fully repaired and put in condition to furnish water before June 1st of this year. He dwelt at considerable length upon the work that was to be done and spoke very highly of the work that has been done by the Josephine County Irrigation and Power Co.

The election being the next thing in order it was moved and carried that a nominating committee be appointed. The president appointed M. J. Anderson, H. L. Edwards, Roy Lathrop, E. V. Smith and Albert Hood as this committee. They reported the following names as candidates for directors: H. L. Gilkey, J. G. Riggs, R. Thomas, G. H. Carner, E. E. Blanchard, Geo. Hamilton, H. C. Kinney and C. G. Coutant, who were elected unanimously.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

President's Report.

"In presenting to you the first annual report as president of this organization, I will have to treat on most subjects in a very general manner. The history of this organization is familiar to most of you, but for the benefit of those who have identified themselves with the company since its organization a brief review of the first steps of the organization might not be out of place.

"More than eighteen months ago a few of the more determined citizens decided that irrigation was an absolute necessity and that it was use-

less to wait longer for outside capital to bring relief. An organization was perfected for the purpose of employing a competent engineer, who was instructed to investigate the possibilities of irrigation in this immediate vicinity and report at the earliest possible date.

"Fred N. Cummings, of Medford, was employed to do this preliminary work and after some weeks of investigation he rendered his report upon five different projects, any of which were possible sources of supply for water for this district.

"After a thorough discussion by your directors, it was unanimously decided that the most practical source of supply was from the Golden Drift dam. Negotiations for the contract were immediately begun and after considerable delay all the different problems were solved and a contract finally entered into.

"The capital stock of the original company was increased from \$10,000 to \$75,000, subscription books opened and active work of assembling material and the construction of ditches was begun.

"During the period from February to July, 1909, about twelve miles of ditch were practically completed, about four and one-half miles of which were used last year, bringing water to several hundred acres of land. The demonstration of the benefits of water was far beyond our expectations.

"Work was then suspended during the hot months, as it was not economical to construct ditches during the dry months.

"In October a change in engineers was made, the company securing the services of Horace Hall, a man of large experience, coming with the best of recommendations from Colorado. Considerable of our work was checked over and lines run on the gravity ditch to the lower part of the valley.

"The rainy season then came on and brought with it an extraordinary high water, which damaged the Golden Drift dam, the source of supply, very materially, taking away the pump house and the large pump, besides carrying away the head of the flume of our gravity ditch. In addition to this the stockholders of the Golden Drift Mining company became involved in litigation, resulting in a receiver being appointed for that company.

"Since that time there has been a great deal of uncertainty as to the immediate future of our project. While litigation is going on very little is being accomplished towards the damages to the plant. Your officers have consulted with the receiver, as well as others who are interested in the Golden Drift Mining company, and have been assured time and again that the repairs referred to will be complete and they will be ready to furnish us water at the beginning of the irrigation season, according to contract.

"The irrigation company has on hand twelve head of horses, two road graders and smaller tools, ready for the spring work on the ditches. At the recent meeting of the board of directors it was decided the best policy for the company to pursue would be to proceed with the construction of the gravity ditch, beginning, however, below the city limits of Grants Pass, and thus avoid some expensive work which would have to be done on the streets to pass through the city. This lower section of the ditch would be supplied with water from the 200-foot level, that ditch being extended to intersect Gilbert creek, which would convey the water to the lower level, where a dam would be constructed to divert the water into said gravity ditch.

"As an alternative, in the event that repairs should not be made on the Golden Drift dam in time to

furnish water for the coming season, we believe arrangements can be made with some other concern to pump the water into our ditches. This is the present policy of your officers and will be carried out providing they have your financial and moral support.

"During the past year and a half your officers have served without salary or other compensation, some of them having been to very great expense in addition to the actual time and energy given to the enterprise."

"A full detailed report as to finances, etc., will be rendered by your secretary.

"H. L. GILKEY, President."

C. E. Whisler to Speak Here.

It has been arranged to hold a big fruit growers meeting in this city on February 26, at 10:30 a. m., at which the noted fruit grower, Charles E. Whisler, of Jackson county, will make an address on fruit growing generally and the opportunity in Rogue River valley in particular. Mr. Whisler is a pleasing and eloquent speaker and knows the fruit business from the very beginning to the end. It is thought the announcement that Mr. Whisler will speak here on this occasion will draw a large crowd from all parts of the county.

Caught with the Goods.

Two hobos were arrested in this city Thursday afternoon at the "hobo camp" near Gilbert creek. The men had broken into a store at Glendale last week and purloined quite a variety of goods, some of which were in their possession when arrested. They had also disposed of some of the articles at second hand stores here and were trying to sell others. They said they came from the south but the sack in which they had their wares was labeled Glendale, with the name of the store from which the articles were taken. The men are being held here until the arrival of the Douglas county sheriff.

INSTITUTE I. O. O. F. LODGE AT WOODVILLE

Grants Pass Degree Team Assists in
the Ceremonies—250 in the
Chaingang.

Probably the greatest event in the history of our neighboring town of Woodville occurred on last Saturday night, the occasion being the institution of a lodge of Odd Fellows there. Golden Rule Lodge No. 78, of Grants Pass, sent a representation of about 35, including a degree team of 20, which put on the third degree.

It was a merry crowd of three-liners that got off the train there about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, and when the special arrived from the south about 6 o'clock with an additional crowd of 160, there was a hilarious demonstration on the station campus. At different parts of the little town a brilliant welcome was manifested in the shape of sky-rockets and Roman candles.

The "old boys" from Gold Hill, Medford, Ashland, Jacksonville, Grants Pass and from the by-ways between Jericho and the Jordan, vied with the dashing young goat busters in showing how such an occasion should be celebrated in true "Odd" Fellow style.

The Woodville members had a commissary department that had doubtless learned the art of providing in a queen's castle, for the tables were kept weighted from supper to breakfast with everything that the hungry visitors could wish.

Deputy Grand Master Vawter was the instituting officer, who, after the completion of his part of the work, turned the floor over to the degree team of the Jacksonville lodge, who put the fifteen candidates over the barrel for a touchdown, making the score in the initiatory in one hour and 35 minutes.

Following this the Gold Hill degree team showed their splendid ability to handle the first degree, while Medford in the second degree and Grants Pass in the third degree created repeated applause from all.

The instituting officer was W. I. Vawter, Past Grand Master, and acting Deputy Grand Master, assisted by the following appointees: Deputy G. S. J. E. Day, P. G.; Deputy Grand Warden, Jos. Moss, P. G.; Deputy Grand Treasurer, Geo. Lyman, P. G.;

DEBATING TEAM IS AGAIN VICTOR

HIGH SCHOOL TEAM DEFEATS
ROSEBURG HIGH

JUDGES ARE UNANIMOUS

Now Champion of Southern Oregon
District—Debate Bandon
Next.

The efforts of the Grants Pass high school debating team have again been crowned with victory, they having defeated, in this city, last Friday night, the Roseburg high school debating team, the vote of the judges being unanimously in favor of the local team. The question under discussion was: "Resolved, That a system of postal savings banks should be established by the federal government," Grants Pass taking the affirmative, the team being composed of Miss Ierne Ahern, Errol Gilkey and Roubalx Ritchie, the same members who defeated Klamath Falls earlier in the month. The Roseburg team was composed of Miss Grace Clayton, Alvin Tippon and Ervin Street. The judges were Superintendent U. G. Smith, of Medford, Judge F. M. Calkins, of Ashland, and Nelson McDuff, of this city, acting in the absence of District Attorney B. F. Mulkey, who was unable to reach Grants Pass the night of the debate.

The winning on this occasion gives our team the championship of Southern Oregon for 1910.

The next debate will occur in Grants Pass within five or six weeks, between the local team and a team from the Bandon high school and the subject will be the "Guarantee of Bank Deposits." The winner of this debate will meet with the winner of the Willamette Valley district and the victor at that time will meet the victor of the Eastern Oregon district, thus it will be seen that it will be necessary for Grants Pass to win three more debates in order to be declared the winner of the state for 1910, which will carry with it the ownership of the silver cup which was won last year.

We have confidence that the team will win on each occasion.

Bogus Checks Passed.

On last Sunday evening a man giving the name of J. W. Rowland was in this city with two checks, each for the amount of \$25, to which it is alleged, he had forged the name of Merchant J. P. Kenny, of Hugo. One of these checks was cashed by F. W. Russell, of the Russell Confectionery, and the other by Hull & Sargeant. After passing the checks the man has made himself scarce in these parts. Immediately upon finding that the checks were bogus, F. W. Russell swore out a warrant for his arrest. Sheriff Joe Russell followed him to Eugene and other northern points, but the man had a good start and had succeeded in getting into Washington and up to the present time he has not been apprehended.

Deputy Grand Conductor, G. W. Trefren, P. G.; Deputy Grand O. G. Chris Ulrich, P. G.; Deputy Grand I. G. Joshua Patterson, P. G.; Deputy Grand Marshal, J. T. Burke, P. G.

The charter members of the new lodge are Geo. M. Starr, Syd F. Potter, E. V. O'Hara, H. D. Sanborn, John Thrasher, W. C. Horton, Geo. Loud, and the following were initiated Saturday night as members: Martin Burkhart, H. C. Breeding, C. E. Palmer, H. E. Bedford, Frank F. Wertz, Robt. E. Breeding, Grant E. Hall, L. J. Hees, J. E. Robbins, Wm. Moxley, W. M. Hiatt, Robt. Burkhart, James M. Whipple and M. M. Scott.

The officers installed in what was termed Oregon's baby lodge were: Noble Grand, Geo. N. Starr; Vice-Grand, Geo. Loud; Secretary, Sidney F. Potter; Treasurer, W. C. Horton. Officers appointed were: Warden, H. D. Sanborn; Inside Guardian, J. Thresher.