

Rogue River Courier

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GRANTS PASS, JOSEPHINE COUNTY, OREGON.

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NO. 19

G. SANDERS BUYS BIG DITCH DIGGER

TO BE USED TO EXTEND IRRIGATION SYSTEM.

COST LAID DOWN IS \$3950

Not Only Excavates But Will Pull All the Stumps Encountered Along the Ditch.

T. J. Patterson, representing Beall & Company of Portland, in Grants Pass, Saturday closed a deal with George E. Sanders, agent of the Chicago-Rogue River company, for a steam shovel which is to be used for digging the gravity ditch and the Applegate ditch.

This steam shovel will be shipped direct from the factory in Ohio and is to be delivered in Grants Pass by October. The steam shovel has a capacity of 300 cubic yards every ten hours and will cost f. o. b. Grants Pass, \$3,950. It has one main engine and three auxiliary engines and is the latest and best type. It will propel itself under its own power along the bottom of the ditch.

This machine will not only dig the ditch without any plowing, but will also pull any stumps that may be necessary to remove along the right-of-way. After the survey stakes are set all that has to be done with the right of way is to slash it and pull the big stumps with the engine, and all of the other, small stumps, brush and roots will be lifted out bodily. The shovel has power enough to dig ordinary shale, porphyry and decomposed granite without blasting. It will take out boulders bodily that measure a half cubic yard in size.

This machine can be operated just as well when rain is falling as when the sun shines, and can be run day and night, thus giving it a capacity of from 600 to 700 cubic yards per day.

The ditches to be dug will be eight feet wide on the bottom, twelve feet on the top and four feet deep, with the exception of the first part of the gravity ditch which will be twelve feet on the bottom and eighteen feet on the top, with a general depth of four feet, and with a depth of five feet between the Golden Drift dam and the east side of the city, which will give a greater pressure on the pipe line under such streets as are paved.

Work will start on the gravity ditch just west of the Golden Drift dam as soon as the shovel arrives.

To operate the shovel requires one engineer, one fireman and a roustabout to each shift, and a man with a team as a tender for both shifts. It will be a wood burner and much of the wood and water required can be obtained at points nearby as work progresses.

Between October 1 and May 15 there are 229 days and by working two shifts 600 yards a day can be excavated, which will be 203,400 cubic yards, which will extend both the gravity and the Applegate more than five miles below town.

Mr. Sanders says that if the Merlin people and the people on the Murphy divide will assure the company that they will take water in sufficient quantities to pay interest on the money expended, he will buy a second steam shovel by January 1, and enlarge the Grants Pass ditch to the size of the Applegate ditch and dig a ditch that will cover the Merlin basin, and also a shorter ditch that will cover the high lands between Grants Pass and Murphy, with the exception of hill tops. Farmers of Murphy and Merlin should get together and make arrangements to have their land come under a ditch the coming season.

Rev. C. T. Whittlesey of Eugene, who has been on a trip to various points in Connecticut, stopped in Grants Pass Tuesday to spend the day with Rev. Robert McLean. He left for the north this morning.

EASTERN STOCKHOLDER PLEASED WITH ALMEDA

Wednesday morning, Charles Ohmart of Springfield, Ohio, came in from the Galice mining district, where he had for some days been visiting the Almeda mine, of which corporation he is a prominent stockholder.

Mr. Ohmart is a business man and thoroughly posted along both commercial and industrial lines. He talked interestingly of the Almeda mine and smelter and, like other visitors to that great property, was abundantly satisfied with the large output of ore and the prospects of the smelter. While in Grants Pass, he visited the Golden Drift dam and investigated carefully the irrigation possibilities. He gave it as his opinion that the irrigation plant will prove to be a wonderful factor in the development of the agricultural interests of this part of Josephine county.

A friend took Mr. Ohmart for an auto ride over the city and country immediately adjacent thereto and the visitor came back with enlarged views regarding Grants Pass as a business center and the rich country which surrounds the city. This man from Ohio was charmed with Rogue river and the great fish which he saw in the stream, and expressed the hope that he, with his family, might at no distant day, become residents here.

In speaking of the Galice district in general and the Almeda mine in particular, Mr. Ohmart gave it as his opinion that the section mentioned was rich in gold and copper and would become famous in mineral productions. He spoke in glowing terms of the vast deposits of copper and gold in the Almeda, and he looked forward to the time when that mine would become one of the great producers of wealth in southern Oregon.

Mr. Ohmart said that his visit to this city and county gave him great satisfaction, as he had seen with his own eyes the rich products of the country and had had the pleasure to meet many pleasant people during his stay here. He left this afternoon on the south bound train to visit California and expected to reach his Ohio home in about two weeks.

RANCHER LLOYD SCOTT PLACED UNDER ARREST

Lloyd Scott, who has been residing on the Dillingham place, which he recently purchased, about two miles down Rogue river, was arrested Wednesday about 3 o'clock, on a warrant sworn out by his wife, and taken to the county jail by Sheriff Smith. Scott is held on a charge of larceny by bailie and the arrest was made as he drove into town in a buggy, containing a large trunk. He had stepped out of the buggy into the McLean garage when he was taken in charge by Sheriff Smith and his baggage was taken charge of by Justice Holman.

The trouble is the result of a family jar. Mrs. Scott alleges that they were married in Pittsburg in January of this year; that they were happy until letters began coming to Mr. Scott from his parents in Bloomington, Ills., asking him to leave her, and that after that a coldness grew between husband and wife.

Some jewelry and money in bank also figure in the trouble. The wife intimating that her husband wants to leave her and take this wealth.

Scott had little to say on his side of the case, and if matters are not amicably adjusted out of court he will present his side to the jury.

N. E. Townsend Goes East—

N. E. Townsend left Thursday morning for his home at Apollo, Pa., after spending some time at the Penn-Oregon ranch near this city. He will visit at Shasta Springs, Lake Tahoe and Los Angeles en route, and will arrive at his home about September 15. The Penn-Oregon ranch has been much improved under the supervision of Mr. Townsend and is making a splendid showing among the southern Oregon ranches.

NEW HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING IS WEAK

TIMBER FOR ROOF SUPPORTS FAR TOO FRAIL

ARCHITECT GETS BLAME

School Board Employs B. A. Fitzgerald to Put Structure in Shape.

That big, imposing new high school building is causing much concern as a result of weak timbers in its construction, and as a result of this D. A. Fitzgerald has been employed by the school board to get busy in a hurry to remedy serious trouble which has developed.

It is alleged that certain timbers are far too weak, and that the architect, a Portland man, is to blame. The contractor followed the architect's plans, and no blame, so far, has been placed against the contractor. The contractor was also an outside man.

Several hundred dollars still due the architect have been held up by the school board as a result of the trouble with the building.

The roof timbers are alleged to be too light to support the weight of the roof and they are beginning to "buckle" and some of them have sprung nearly six inches out of plumb. Upright timbers have been placed temporarily supporting the ceiling in the assembly room while workmen with jack screws are endeavoring to true up the truss timbers. This will probably be effected without serious difficulty, although it is a greater job than would have been required to do the work right in the first place. Plastering in a number of places is cracking and falling, due to shrinking of timbers. This is noticeable at one of the stairways leading from the first to the second floors, where lath and plaster were placed directly upon the face of the floor joist and the shrinking of the joist broke the plastering, leaving an unsightly spot.

Again, in the basement below the level of the ground the moisture has penetrated through to the inner face of the wall and the cement plastering is crumbling and falling in considerable quantities.

It is hoped to have the building in shape for the fall term of school.

DEVELOPMENT WORK SHOWS MUCH VALUABLE ORE

Dan Hearn, Pat Casey and J. R. Harvey left last Thursday for Selma, from which point the party took the trail for the valuable gold properties belonging to Hearn, Casey and associates in the Chetco region.

Casey stated that development work on the property is disclosing much valuable ore, and he stated that each day verifies first reports of ore of much richness.

Mr. Harvey goes to sample the ledge. This does not mean that a sale is on, as Hearn and Casey are in no hurry to sell the property; on the other hand they are indifferent regarding the matter, as they realize they have a property that needs no brass band to stir enthusiasm. At the time of the strike Mr. Harvey was promised the first chance at an option if any was ever given, and the owners are keeping faith with Harvey and by sampling the ledge at this time will put him in position to handle the property at any time it is agreeable to all concerned.

"Of course we would sell," said Casey to a representative of The Courier, "but we want to see the yellow gold with eagles stamped on it, and a load of it at that, as we have the yellow stuff in the rocks and it takes the yellow stuff in the banks to get an exchange."

It is believed Mr. Harvey has correspondents who desire to purchase the property.

DECLARES IRRIGATION DISTRICT NOT WANTED

By M. J. Anderson.

My recent communication to The Courier advising that, as the irrigation act was new, it should be fairly and openly discussed, before a district was voted under its terms has brought no public response. It stirred up some private personal abuse of myself; but that is no argument, and will have absolutely no effect on my opinion of the project or its champions. This is not a personal question and should not be judged according to our likes or dislikes of the people favoring or opposing.

Mr. Paul S. Seeley informed me personally that I was wrong in stating that the cost in case the district was defeated would be paid by him and his associates. He says he was engaged by the Josephine Irrigation & Power company as an "irrigation expert" to put this district through, and that all cost, past and future has been, and will be, paid by the above company, which has given a bond to secure such expense. I was surprised at the above information and cheerfully make the correction; also withdraw the intimation that Mr. Seeley was a "philanthropist" for he made it plain the deal was a strictly business affair with him, and the stockholders of the local irrigation company paid the freight.

Mr. Seeley also criticized my statement that he was "supposed" to own water fillings above the Ament dam; he says he does own such fillings so we will strike out the word "supposed". There were other small things in the article with which he found fault: "gumshoeing", for instance; but I do not care to make correction without a more suitable word to substitute, and the expression suits my idea of the methods followed.

Mr. Seeley, who seems to know what he is talking about, says the intention is "to organize and find out the best service of supply, which may be storage on Louse creek, the Applegate or higher on Rogue river for there is nothing to show the Ament dam is the best supply." Of course this is the intention. No one would be guilty of thinking business men such as the board of directors of the Josephine company would engage an irrigation expert and expend approximately \$1,000 to perfect an organization to the point of electing a board of five directors to "watch Sanders"; as is claimed by those who pretend there is no intention to complete the district and attempt to bond the land. If it were only necessary to have an antagonistic committee of some kind to watch Sanders, it looks like the present board could fill the bill, as it has had some experience in that line during the past year or two.

I claim there is no need of a district organization at this time; that the expenditure of money for that purpose after the sale to the Chicago company was not justifiable, whether there was authority to do so or not; but if there was such a need the law is a dangerous one and no landowner should vote without a thorough understanding of its terms. The provision allowing non-resident owners to vote would permit of any large landholder temporarily transferring small tracts to his non-resident friends for voting purposes and controlling elections, bond issues, assessments; it is un-American, unsafe and pronounced unconstitutional by every attorney who has investigated it.

In my opinion there was neither legal nor moral right to do what has been done. A bargain was made between the local irrigation board and the Chicago-Rogue River company by which the ditches, water rights, and all property, was sold to the latter and this sale was ratified unanimously on June 15. One of the terms of this sale, as I recollect it, was that the Chicago company issue notes of small denomination to be given to the stockholders to the full value of the stock held, and these notes were to be accepted by the Chicago company at their face value in payment for water to the extent of 50 per cent of each season's water rental. In other words: the stockholder sold his stock and took the note in payment, with the whole of the property sold,

WOODVILLE MAN IS STRUCK BY TRAIN

JERRY MCCOY NOW LIES AT THE POINT OF DEATH

ACCIDENT AT THE STATION

Walks Between Fast Moving Engine and Express Truck on the Platform.

Special to The Courier.

WOODVILLE, Aug. 7.—Jerry McCoy, the aged merchant of this place who was struck Saturday by a northbound Southern Pacific passenger train, was today told by his physicians that he had but a brief time to live. Mr. McCoy, therefore, arranged some business affairs and now awaits death's summons.

While he was mentally able to arrange the business matters yet he does not seem to remember anything of the accident which put him low. He is fatally injured internally, so the physicians have determined. In addition to other hurts one rib is broken and his head fearfully gashed.

It is not believed here that the aged merchant purposely sought his death when he went in reach of the locomotive; on the other hand opinion is that as a result of his illness of some days he was weak and confused and believed the northbound train was the southbound, the one he was to take for Ashland, where he intended to visit the mineral springs.

McCoy was at the station expecting to take a southbound train for Ashland. When the north bound train approached the station, McCoy took two grips in one hand and stood at the end of an express truck which was standing alongside the track and only about 18 inches from the rails. Just as the engine sped up at this point, McCoy walked in between the express truck, and the rails, was hit in the leg parts of the engine, knocked down by projecting parts on the engine, knocked down, rolled over on his back and lay gasping.

In addition to the wound on his back, McCoy's head is cut and one hand mangled. What his motive was in his peculiar action is not known as the train he expected to board was not due for three-quarters of an hour. However, it is known that McCoy was ill, his contemplated trip to Ashland being for the purpose of visiting mineral springs near that town, and his illness may have been cause of temporary confusion.

The victim has conducted a confectionery and billiard hall in Woodville for about two years, coming from Gold Hill, where he lived for a period of ten years.

and all future extension of ditches as security. That this was the understanding of the stockholder and of Mr. Sanders is very apparent for the latter is accepting half cash payments for water and crediting the other half on the stock held by the wateruser. This arrangement is much appreciated for it enables the stockholder to get full value for his stock that was not worth 5 cents on the dollar previous to the sale, and he is getting back the money he put into the ditches. Now, if the stockholder takes that note in payment for his stock, and uses the note to buy water, does he still own the stock to the extent that a board of directors representing that stock has a moral right to continue to incur indebtedness against it by paying the expenses of organizing an irrigation district? Don't look just right, does it?

The statement of the promoters that this district agitation is not detrimental to the success of the Chicago-Rogue River project is false and, in most instances, knowingly so; if it were not the promoters would have consulted with Mr. Sanders as to the effect of such a movement at a time when he was financing his system.

STEAM PLANT TO GO ON MINE NEAR KERBY

R. M. Wilson, owner and manager of the Alta mine and other properties located five miles west of Kerby, has returned from Portland, where he purchased a steam plant to be placed on the mine to furnish power for his 40-ton Lane slow speed Chile mill. This will enable Mr. Wilson to run continually. In winter he will use water power from Josephine creek.

The engine just purchased is 35 horse-power and the boiler 35 horse-power.

The Alta mine is a big low grade proposition and Mr. Wilson stated that he is mining in an open cut 150 feet above the mill and all ore is sent to the mill by gravity. He has opened a 20-foot or body and yet no wall on one side. Just what width the ore shoot is is yet unknown. He is handling this ore and milling it at a cost not exceeding 75 cents per ton, and estimates that he can continue to mine and mill for many months in future at a cost never to exceed one dollar a ton.

The slow speed Chile mill carries six rolls, each weighing 1,200 pounds, a crushing weight which totals 7,200 pounds. The mill is 10 feet in diameter, and has a receptacle on top which is loaded with 20,000 pounds of waste rock to add to the crushing weight. This top is two feet deep.

The advantage of the slow speed mill over the fast running mills is that the tremendous wear and tear and pounding and stopping is avoided. In addition, amalgamation is more satisfactory. Two Johnson concentrators are also operated.

Mr. Wilson hopes to have the steam plant in operation by August 15.

CLAUDE CHALLONER IS DEAD FROM POISON

Claude Challoner, known in Grants Pass, Wilderville, Wonder and other Josephine county towns is dead as the result of a self administered dose of laudanum. The tragedy occurred at Gold Hill. A dispatch from Gold Hill says:

"With but two pennies and a button picture of an old woman, presumably his wife, in his purse, Claude Challoner, aged about 65, swallowed the contents of a two-ounce bottle of laudanum in a room at the Gold Hill hotel some time after retiring at 10 o'clock Wednesday night, and died at Gold Hill hospital.

"Challoner is a stranger here. He came to the hotel shortly before 10 o'clock Wednesday night and asked for a room. He registered with difficulty, remarking that he could scarcely see. He paid for the room. He was found by Landlord Gale at about 10 o'clock yesterday morning lying on the bed in the room, with an empty bottle labeled "Laudanum" beside him.

"Many small pictures, apparently of relatives, were found in the man's pockets by Coroner Kellogg, and one, a postcard signed "Pearl and Mamma," apparently a picture of a daughter and granddaughter, was addressed "459 Montgomery street, Portland." The postmark was June 19, 1909. This is the only clue that the authorities here have as to Challoner's friends or relatives. It was apparent that Challoner had passed the summer of 1909 at Wilderville and Wonder, Josephine county. He came here from Medford, the laudanum bottle bearing the label of a Medford drug store."

SEEKING QUARTZ PROPERTIES.

Arthur S. Willy vice president of the Waldo Consolidated Gold Mines Company of Oregon, owner of the extensive placer holdings at Waldo, and J. T. Logan Saturday morning went to Portland together. Mr. Logan will be in Portland several days.

Mr. Willy stated to a representative of The Courier that he would return to Grants Pass, if possible, during the autumn. He is seeking a quartz property and stated that if the owners of quartz mines and prospects in Josephine county, who wanted to sell, would allow prospective purchasers more time to investigate and test a property that more would be sold and developed.