

# ST. HELENS MIST

FOUNDED 1881

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THE COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER

## MISUNDERSTANDING

No county in the state of Oregon was ever so badly torn up by sectional and factional strife as is Columbia County at the present time. It has all come about as a result of the determination of the people to build a system of roads in the county. Each locality has its own conception and idea of just how that road should be built, where it should run and how much money should be spent on its particular portion of the road. Any other section of the county that does not agree with it is wrong and some of the citizens of these certain localities even go so far as to call any other persons that does not agree with it, robbers, thieves and grafters.

Really the situation is a serious one. It is to be regretted by all good citizens. It can only be avoided one way and that is to take what the officers, selected by the people to perform the duty of looking after this matter, decide is best for the county as a whole. Unless this is done there will be no settlement of the affair and the difficulties now encountered by the citizenship of the county will be as nothing compared to that which will follow.

There are several angles from which to look at the situation and each side perhaps is sincere, although people who are actually sincere in this matter and are making an honest effort to do the right thing, will not rise up on each and every opportunity and call the other fellow a liar, a thief, rogue or grafter, just because there is a disagreement.

Such people are not sincere, honestly, and should be distrusted by everybody. The man from Rainier, Clatskanie, St. Helens, Scappoose, Houlton or Goble or any other place has just as much right to stand for his idea of the situation as has the man from any of the other places, and if the man from the other place says the other fellow is a liar, robber or grafter, it is pretty safe to put down the man making such a charge as a dangerous citizen and one to be mistrusted.

Happily there are not many of this class, but just enough to make an awful noise, stir up bitterness and do his cause much more injury than good. Nearly all of this class are spotted and are fast falling into disrepute. It is to be hoped for the good of the county as a whole, that this particular brand of citizens will be silenced by the actual and sincere citizen who is interested.

As to the differences existing now between certain portions of the county, the Mist has all along contended that it was largely through misunderstanding and lack of knowledge of the true state of affairs.

During the past week that contention has become more than ever firmly established. As proof of this statement one need only to read the article in the Clatskanie Chief of last week to see the actual misunderstanding. The Chief explained at length the situation from the standpoint of argument in that locality and the article was absolutely fair and candid from their point of view and yet the statement regarding the situation in the Southern portion of the county was not understood at all. It says that the "portion of road under construction between Columbia City and Warren parallels the best stretch of road in the county and is absolutely unnecessary."

That statement bears out the assertion that the situation in this portion of the county is not understood. As a matter of fact just the reverse of that statement is actually true. The road from Columbia City to Warren is already constructed, with the exception of one and one-quarter miles, and that is what the people of this section are fighting for; to keep this road upon which already thousands of dollars have been spent and save the expense of building a new road for a distance of eight or nine miles which would parallel it and at any place would not be more than a mile away and in most places not over a few hundred feet. It is true that there will be, under the plans of the Court, about 5500 feet of new road between St. Helens and Columbia City, but all the balance of the road for five or six miles is already constructed and only needs straightening and widening to make it the best road in the county. The money raised by taxation in this district, and which we are legally and morally entitled to, would place this road in excellent condition, while the money that would be required to put this road in shape would not secure the rights of way for the proposed parallel road across the track. The only possible objection that could be made with any degree of fairness would be

against the mile and a quarter of new road between Columbia City and St. Helens. There are people in this city, living within sight of the Court House, who are loud in their arguments against this road, while others are just as loud in its approval. To our way of thinking this portion of the road has just as well be left where it is for a time at least and the money it would take to build it, used on some other portion of the road. But there is a grade crossing on a bad curve and near a cut besides an over head bridge which will have to be built pretty soon on the old road while the new 5500 feet will eliminate both and will be cheaper in the long run, which is the stand apparently taken by the Court. However this is a difference of opinion, with many more people in favor of this 5500 feet of new road than of keeping the old road. And this little difference of opinion, 5500 feet of road that will not cost to exceed \$7000 or \$8000 is the one thing upon which all the misrepresentation and misunderstanding is based. Another statement in the Chief article which explains some of the misunderstanding is that the Engineer's estimate of the new proposed road from Columbia City to Warren was \$39,000. In this estimate nothing was said about bridges or rights of way, which two items alone would run away above that estimate. Perhaps that estimate is on a par with the State Highway Engineer's estimate that the survey would cost not to exceed \$80 a mile and the figures at the Court House show the actual cost to be more than \$300 a mile.

We mention these things just to show the condition of affairs. There can be no question about the fairness of the Chief in its article. It set forth the facts as they are being represented. But this makes it manifest that it should be the duty of every citizen to investigate the true situation before affixing a signature to any recall petition circulated by people who have very little, if any interest in the county, and who will not investigate, and in many cases would not believe the records anyway unless they suited their wants and fancies.

So the burden of this article up to this time is that the people of the county should make an investigation before plunging the county into unnecessary expense of an election, and that there is more than one side to every question.

The County Court is composed of three representative men of the county, each being a heavy tax payer and interested in the county. The standing of these men is well up above the average, their reputation being that of honest, upright and worthy citizens. They have occupied a position most unenviable in dealing with the various factions and sections of the county, but on every question have displayed a fairness and coolness not displayed by some of the more hot-headed and unfair citizens who have called upon them. It is an undisputed fact, except by a few assassins of character, that the individual members of the County Court are honorable, upright and just citizens. They need no defense by any one for their characters when assailed by people whose own reputations will not stand investigation, but that there are some misrepresentations being made by good people who have been misled by false reports this statement is made with the hope that before a reputable citizen makes charges based upon some imaginary wrong, an investigation will be made as to the true state of facts and the character of the men.

The County Court has made mistakes. If any three men on earth occupying the position they have the past six months, would perform the duties of the office without making mistakes, their mission on earth would be fulfilled and they would be entitled to their just reward in the world to come, without any further effort on their part. But such a conjecture is going beyond the possibilities of human accomplishment. The Court has made mistakes. To our way of looking at it the first and greatest mistake they made was in banking on the statements of an untried and strange State Highway Engineer, whose course has without doubt led to the entire troubles of the county over the road question at this time. Another mistake we would point out, was the plowing up of the West Lahe near Scappoose at the particular time it was done. Still another mistake we think the Court is making now is the building of the 5500 feet of road between St. Helens and Columbia City. Another mistake, almost the equal in importance to the first one enumerated herein, was the fact that of the entire \$260,000 bonds voted by the people of the county with which to build a permanent road starting from Multnomah County line, through Scappoose, Warren, St. Helens, Deer Island, Goble, Rainier, Mayer, Quincy, Clatskanie and Marshland, has all been contracted for on that portion of the road from Tide Creek to the Clatsop County line and that portion of the county from Tide Creek to Multnomah, about 25 miles, has not received one cent of the entire \$260,000. But with all these

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## COLUMBIA COUNTY FIRE WARDENS

Twenty regularly employed wardens are guarding the timber resources of Columbia and Northern Washington counties. In case of any fires in or near the timber, people should notify the warden most easily reached by telephone or otherwise. Before doing any burning this unusually dry weather, consult a fire warden. Burning without permit is prohibited by law!

The names and addresses of fire wardens follows:

- A. G. Pearson, Supervising Warden ..... Deer Island
- John McDonald, Asst. Supervising Warden ..... Vernonia
- Odin Anderson ..... Clatskanie
- Frank Ball ..... Vernonia
- Fred Ellison ..... Timber
- W. F. Huth ..... Mist
- John Kane ..... Trenholm
- H. C. Kyle ..... Marshland
- Guy Mills ..... Rainier
- R. D. Montague ..... Buxton
- H. F. Paige ..... Scappoose
- Wm. Pringle ..... Trenholm
- Bob Redjeski ..... Houlton
- Gus Schmidlin ..... Buxton
- Henry Sharkey ..... Vernonia
- F. W. Floeter ..... Aplary
- Nels Rogers ..... Mist
- D. M. Urquhart ..... Scappoose
- Leo Martin ..... Trenholm
- Jack Root ..... St. Helens

Pendleton, Aug.—One of the attractive features provided for the entertainment of the visitors during the Roundup, September 24, 25 and 26, will be the frontier town, where there will be gambling halls, dance halls, saloons, banks, and all other frontier business houses, which town will be raided by cowboys, the Marshal shot, and a horse-thief or two strung up to a tree. The saloons, gambling halls and dance halls will be open to the public, just as in the old-time days, the only difference being that stage money will be used in buying the tiger and buying the drinks. No announcement will be made as to what the drinks will consist of, but it will be a deep and abiding plenty. Any one who takes one drink will be congratulating himself that he didn't live in the old days of '49.

Watch for special voting deals at McDonald's Pool Hall.

## Does Prohibition Fulfill Its Promises?

Thinking people of every religious creed and political belief should give earnest heed to the expressions of opinion from eminent divines, educators, editors, governors, judges, legislators, and others prominent in every walk of life, who have publicly voiced their sentiments concerning prohibition in words similar to these:

"Prohibition drives underground the mischief which it seeks to cure, making it more difficult to deal with the evil and impossible to regulate the trade." Bishop Hall, Vermont.

"Prohibition has been disastrous to the cause of temperance." Bishop Clark, Rhode Island.

These men are sincere and conscientious. They deplore drunkenness and cry against it as a great evil. Who, indeed, does not? Yet they know from observation and experience, that prohibition does not put a check upon intemperance but that, on the contrary, it gives rise to evils even greater than intemperance itself.

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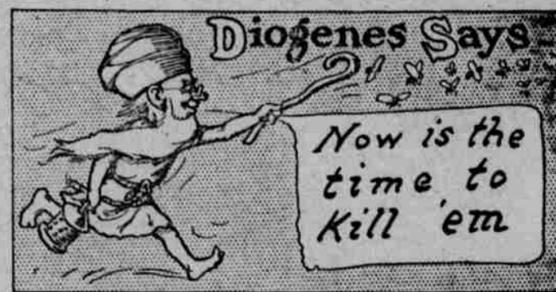
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