

**The Corvallis Times.**  
**CORVALLIS, OREGON**  
**SEPTEMBER 6, 1902**

**THE WINDMILL**

For Court House Park—Discussed by  
the Court—Also by Water Company.

For the immediate present no windmill will flop its arms in Court House park. A month ago the county judge was authorized by the court to investigate the cost of a suitable windmill for supplying water at the court house. There is a well with an abundant flow of water on the grounds, and the purpose was to cut off the expense of \$113 per year that it has for years cost for water.

County Judge Watters had on hand an ample report setting forth the cost of the mill. The Corvallis Water Company however was on hand with an offer of better rates that resulted in continuation until the next term, of the windmill plan. The company offered hereafter to supply water for all purposes at the court house for \$75 per year. It also offered to put in a meter and to give the benefit of ordinary meter rates. Either offer, especially that of the meter arrangement is a much better proposition than former terms. The matter will be finally considered at the October term.

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# The Corvallis Times.

CORVALLIS, OREGON

SEPTEMBER 6, 1902

## HAS BOUGHT IT

The Machine That Crawls Over Books  
County Clerk Moses now Owns it.

The record type writing machine continues to crawl backward and forward over the heavy record books in the clerks office and to leave as it passes an indelible but beautifully printed record of the doings of the various courts of Benton County. Its operations are a marvel to all who see them, and its work an object of universal admiration; it prints so plainly that an Arkansas democrat who isn't supposed to read at all, can easily spell out the words. As it moves backward and forward over the books it looks more like a thing that is alive and breathes than a mere machine built by the hand of man. Many farmers and others have called at the office to see the machine work, where the general county clerk and his amiable deputy never hesitate to display its wonders.

A test of what the machine would do was made by Clerk Moses the other day. The test was with the delinquent tax sale of Coast Land & Livestock lands now running in the TIMES, a copy of which had to be placed on record. The copy was made with the machine and at the same time a portion was copied on paper in ordinary handwriting and a comparison made. It turned out that five times as much

could be put on the page with the machine as could be placed there with pen and ink. This means that with the machine in use only one-fifth as many record books will have to be purchased by the county as would be necessary if the records were kept in handwriting. A further advantage is the indelible character of the machine record. At Eugene, some time ago the county clerk there made on paper a copy with the machine and one with pen and ink. Both were hung on the south side of the court house where they were exposed to wind and sunshine. In eight or nine months, of the handwriting, only a few letters here and there could be distinguished, while the machine record was as plain as the day it was written.

County Clerk Moses has purchased at his own expense the machine now in the clerks office, and will continue to use it on all the records in his care. Its cost was \$175. It will result in a considerable saving to the county, both in time and expense for record books. In most counties in which they are in use the machines are purchased by the county, but Clerk Moses did not ask Benton taxpayers to buy it for him.

# CORVALLIS GAZETTE

CORVALLIS, BENTON COUNTY, OREGON

MARCH 5, 1909

## BOLD ROBBERY AT COURT HOUSE

Thieves Loot County  
Treasurer's Office.

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THE SAFE WAS BLOWN OPEN

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Several Hundred Dollars and  
Valuable Jewellery Secured  
by the Burglars.

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Burglars broke into the Benton County court house Wednesday night, forced an entrance to the treasurer's office, blew open the vault and got away with several hundred dollars and some valuable jewelry which Treasurer Buchanan had left overnight in the safe.

The robbery, which occurred some time after midnight, was a bold one and the thieves were evidently old hands at the business. They effected an entrance into the court house by breaking the lock on the front door and used a skeleton key to open the door to the treasurer's office. The vault was forced by drilling a hole above the combination lock and then blown open with dynamite,

the explosion having been heard by parties living in the vicinity between one and two o'clock, but no special significance was then attached to the noise.

After gaining an entrance to the vault the robbers overhauled its entire contents, scattering the papers and other effects in every direction in their search for money. They succeeded in getting away with about \$200, belonging to the Woodmen of the World; \$100, which a Mr. Maxfield had left there for safekeeping; some other valuables that various parties had left for the same purpose; some \$15 or \$20 belonging to Mr. Buchanan, and a handsome gold watch and

chain of his wife's. None of the county funds were in the vault nor were there any negotiable papers kept there, so that the loss will fall on private individuals, Mr. Buchanan being the heaviest loser, as he may be required to reimburse the Woodmen.

The burglars succeeded in making good their escape without leaving any clue, though Sheriff Gellatly is making every effort to trace them. The only clue seems to be that the launch belonging to the Occidental mill was stolen during the same night and it is supposed that the robbers took the boat and made their way down the river in it.

# Benton County Republican

CORVALLIS, OREGON

**MARCH 11, 1909**

## **Local News.**

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G. O. Bassett's boat, that is supposed to have been taken by the burglars who robbed the county treasurer's vault, was found adrift near Albany.

# CORVALLIS GAZETTE

CORVALLIS, BENTON COUNTY, OREGON

MARCH 16, 1909

## GOOD DETECTIVE WORK

### Chief Wells Nabs the Court- house Robbers.

Frank Clayton and George Davis, the two thieves who burglarized the vault in the treasurer's office at the courthouse here on the night of March 4, are now safely lodged in the county jail as the result of persistent and efficient work on the part of Chief of Police Wells.

When the burglary was committed it was thought that no trace had been left by the robbers, but Chief Wells, to whom Sheriff Gellatly handed over the case, found a slight clue and this he followed like a born sleuth for nearly two weeks, finally nabbing his men on the streets of Portland Saturday night and bringing them up here in irons Sunday.

Chief Wells deserves the highest praise for the really capable

manner in which he handled this case and he is deservedly gratified at its successful conclusion. With only the faintest possible clue he traced the thieves from the scene of the crime to their making off in the Occidental Mill launch and then to Woodburn where they boarded the train for Portland and then tightened the net around them there until he had them in custody.

When searched the men had in their possession two watches belonging to Mr. Berry, at Peoria, thus proving that they were the same gang who robbed the store at that place some time ago. About \$60 in money was also recovered and Chief Wells is in hopes of finding more of the plunder.

# Benton County Republican

CORVALLIS, OREGON

MARCH 18, 1909

## SAFE CRACKERS IN CUSTODY

Good Work Done by Chief of Police Wells.

### PARTIES HELD ON TWO COUNTS

Suspects Now on Trial Here for Blowing Court House Safe, Also implicated in Robbery at Peoria, Linn County, Oregon.

Two men, Frank Clayton and Geo. Davis, were brought up from Portland Saturday by Chief of Police J. D. Wells. These men are believed to be the ones implicated in the safe-cracking job in County Treasurer Buchanan's office at the court house on the night of March 3rd.

After the officers were convinced the men had made their escape from Corvallis by the river route to Albany, they sought for clues likely to locate the robbers and that would lead to their early discovery and arrest.

In the course of the work to uncover the safe-blowers whereabouts, Chief of Police Wells has been the most active and his success in apprehending the men now in custody and believed to be the men wanted, is little less than marvelous. At an unusual place where it was discovered parties had been sleeping, were found pawn tickets on a Portland broker's establishment. On inquiry it was found that jewelry had been stolen

from the store of U. G. Berry of Peoria, Linn County, Ore., some days prior to the safe cracking here and these pawn tickets on investigation proved to have to do with some of the articles taken from the Peoria jewelry concern.

Subsequently it developed that the men now in the custody of Corvallis and Benton County officials, were connected with these pawn tickets, and that if they were not the "crooks" who did the "blowing" of the court house safe here, they were at least under suspicion of belonging to the criminal class. In further proof of this watches and other kinds of jewelry, found on the person of Clayton, have been identified as belonging to Mr. Berry.

The men Clayton and Davis are between the ages of 35 and 39 and in bearing would hardly be taken as "crooks," but the evidence in Chief of Police Wells' hands strongly points to them being such.

# Benton County Republican

CORVALLIS, OREGON

MARCH 25, 1909

## SENTENCED TO FIVE YEARS

Such Is Penalty Meted Out to Safe-  
Crackers.

### CLAYTON AND DAVIS THE MEN

They Plead Guilty to Peoria Jewelry Store Rob-  
bery and Safe-Blowing at Court House—  
Jewelry Recovered and Returned to Owner.

Frank Clayton and George Davis, the two men brought up from Portland some ten days ago on the charge of the robbery of Treasurer Buchanan's safe, plead guilty to the charge, as they also did to the burglarizing of U. G. Berry's jewelry store at Peoria, Linn county.

The men appeared before Judge Hamilton in the Circuit Court Friday, and were sentenced to five years each in the penitentiary.

The hiding place of the articles taken from the Peoria jewelry store was divulged by the men, and Clayton

accompanied Sheriff Gellatly and Chief of Police Wells to the Linn county Oak Grove church, the building under which the stolen goods had been secreted since the time the burglary was committed last December. The property was returned to Mr. Berry. Of the money and valuables taken from the safe at the court house here, little has been recovered. The men had blowed in the money but the watch was in their possession and was a link in the chain that assisted in identifying and connecting of Clayton and Davis with the court house safe cracking.

# Benton County Republican

CORVALLIS, OREGON

APRIL 15, 1909

## PERTAINING TO COUNTY COURT

The Work of the Members of this  
Body in Brief.

### CLAIMANTS FOR ROBBERY REWARD

Road Supervisors' Bonds Approved—Adjustment of Rebate Taxes Due to Error—Petition for New Road Granted.

In the matter of the approval of Miller's addition to Corvallis, Ore. Now comes Marshall C. Miller and presents for the examination and approval of the county court of Benton County, State of Oregon, "Miller's addition to Corvallis Oregon;" and it appearing to the court that the streets are laid out so as to conform adjoining plats, and that the names thereof are proper so as to comply with the statutes of the State of Oregon; it is hereby ordered that said Miller's addition to Corvallis, Oregon, be and the same hereby is approved.

In the matter of the arrest and conviction of Frank Clayton and George Davis for larceny. It appearing that one N. Solomon, of Portland, has filed with this court his notice that he lays claim to the reward of \$200 heretofore offered for the arrest and conviction of the party or parties breaking into the office of the County Treasurer of Benton County, March 3rd, 1909; and it also appearing that J. D. Wells, Chief of Police, of Corvallis, has filed his claim for such reward with the clerk of this court; it is ordered that said matter be continued until May

5, 1909 at 2 o'clock p. m., and that the clerk of this court notify said N. Solomon or his attorney, Julius Silverstone as to the time fixed for determining the claims filed in said matter.

In the matter of the report of Sheriff on collections, etc., of tax roll for year, 1907. Now comes W. A. Gellatley Sheriff of Benton Co., and files and makes his return to the County Court under and pursuant to the laws 1907, page 464, of his collections, charges, credits, etc., upon the tax rolls for the year 1907, and it is ordered that the report be continued for further consideration.

In the matter of the approval of the undertakings of Road Supervisors, Districts Nos. 4 and 20. It is ordered that the official undertaking of O. L. Davis, Road Supervisor of Road District No. 4, and the undertaking of B. W. Harris of Road District No. 20, Benton Co., now on file with the clerk of this court be and they are each hereby approved.

In the matter of the application of John Smith for tax rebate. It appearing to the court from the affidavit of John Smith, on file herein, that he has been assessed in School District No. 33

with a special tax of 5 mills on the dollar, which amounts to \$19.23; and that same has been duly paid to the sheriff, upon the tax roll for year 1908; that said John Smith owns property within said School Dist., and on Mar. 1, 1908, the date of said assessment consisting of 234 acres of land; that said land was assessed at \$3 per acre making \$720; that a 5-mill tax on the same would amount to \$3.51; that said assessment of such tax of \$15.72, thereof, being the balance paid in said school District 33 fund, was on error made by the assessor and should be refunded in said sum of \$15.72 so erroneously made and paid has been paid over to the Co. treasurer and is now in the Treasurer's hands; it is ordered that a warrant be drawn on the County Treasurer in favor of John Smith for the sum of \$15.72; it is further ordered that that the Treasurer transfer the sum of \$15.72 from Dist. No. 33 fund, over and into the general fund of the County, in payment of the county, in payment of such warrant.

In the matter of the petition of Bird Rickard, J. M. Herron, J. H. Herron, and others for a country road, beginning



in Sec. 7 T 14 S. R. 4 W and terminating in Sec. 12, T. 14 S. R. 5 W.

Application for a country road: at this time came on to be heard the petition of Bird Rickard, James M. Herron and J. H. Herron and nine other freeholders residing within the road district, through which the said proposed road is to be located, praying this court for the viewing, laying out and establishment of the following proposed country road, in Benton County, Oregon, to-wit: Beginning at a point on the west bank of the Willamette River at oak stake marked "R" southeast of the northwest corner of the southeast quarter of southwest quarter of Sec. 7, township 14 south range 4 west, and run thence west about 240 rods to the southeast corner of the west half of northwest quarter of the southeast quarter of section 12, township 14 south range 5 west, then north 45 degrees west to a point in north line of said west half of northwest quarter of southeast quarter, thence west in a straight line to a point in east line of county road running from Zierolf's to Junction City, Oregon.

And it appearing to the satisfaction of this court, that said petition is signed by 12 Freeholders of said Benton County, residing in the road district in which said proposed road is to be established; and that said petition states the beginning point, the intermediate and terminating points of said proposed road, and said petition being accompanied with satisfactory proof, notice has been given by advertisement posted at place of holding court and also in three public places in the vicinity of said proposed road for thirty days prior to the presentation of said petition to the court, notifying all persons concerned that application by petition would be made to the county court of Benton county, Ore., at the April term, 1909, to wit; on April 7, 1909, for the viewing, laying out and establishment of said road, and the court requiring a bond in the sum of \$100 as in such cases required by law, and such bond having been filed and approved by the court.

It is therefore ordered that the Board of County Road Viewers be and they are hereby instructed, and directed to proceed to lay out said road, and that Marion Wilkes, Co. Surveyor, and E. M. Dodele, and J. O. Wilson, consisting of the said Board of County Road Viewers, meet at the residence

of J. H. Herron, in said Benton Co., on Wednesday, April 21st, A. D. 1909, at 11 o'clock a. m. of on said day, or within five days thereafter, and after taking an oath to faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of such trust, shall take to their assistance such persons as they deem necessary, and proceed to survey, view and lay out, said proposed road as prayed for in said petition, and return their proceedings together with the plat and survey of said road, in a report in writing to this Court, on or before May 5, 1909, the same being the 1st day of May 1909 term of this court.

In the matter of school exhibit from Benton Co., at the Seattle Fair. At this time appeared before the Court County School Supt. H. L. Mack, and A. N. Fulkerson, City Supt. of Schools, and asked this Court to make an appropriation for school exhibits of Benton County at the Seattle Fair, and the Court now being advised considered the same, and hereby refers said matter to Commissioner Geo. W. Smith with power to act.

In the matter of the Semi-Annual Report of County Clerk, on Financial condition of Benton County, April 1st, 1909.

Now at this time comes Victor P. Moses, County Clerk, and as law requires files and presents his semi-annual report of the expenses of Benton Co. and also the financial condition of Benton Co., on April 1st, 1909, and it is ordered that the same be recorded in full in the Court journal.

Semi-annual statement of the County officers, of Benton County, State of Oregon for the six months ending March 31st, A. D. 1909:

COUNTY TREASURER.		
Bal. on hand last report	Gen Fund	School Fund
	\$ 302 73	\$15820 00
Rec'd of Sheriff Taxes 1907-8	56453 59	20104 95
Library fund.....		425 20
School Districts.....		12239 01
Road Districts.....	7737 33	
Corvallis.....	5910 35	
Philomath.....	920 22	
Rec'd of Sheriff fees.....	9 60	
" " Recorder.....	974 90	
" Indemnity fund.....	9 00	
" School Supt Institute fund.....		92 00
" the Secretary of State Road fund.....	478 76	
" of A. W. Hawley for bridge lumber.....	25 00	
" Justices' of the Peace fines.....	41 70	
" G. W. Smith, gravel ferry.....	21 25	
" Other sources.....	19 17	

" County Clerk fees.....	722 90	
" " redemption delinquent taxes.....	12 24	
" " School No. 9.....		2 07
" Co. Clerk redemption delinquent taxes Cor.....	3 26	
Bal. on hand Library fund		684 89
" " Institute		158 12
" " School Districts		69 58
" " City of Corvallis	70	
" " Road fund.....	3 31	
" " Districts	3908 74	
" " Indemnity fund	24 95	
	77579 70	49577 09
Amount paid out, and on hand, from October 1st, 1908 to March 31, 1909, both inclusive:		
Gen Fund School Fund		
Paid on County Warrants.....	\$10507 30	
" Interest on ".....	150 17	
" State Treasurer for violation game laws.....	15 00	
Bal. on hand Co fund.....	49910 61	
Paid School orders.....		14946 82
Bal on hand school fund.....		20980 19
Pd on Library Books.....		540 31
Bal on hand " fund.....		569 85
Paid Institute fund.....		170 05
Bal on hand ".....		60 97
" " Indemnity fund.....	38 95	
Paid on School Districts.....		6074 44
Bal on hand ".....		6235 36
Paid City of Corvallis.....	3702 40	
Bal on hand ".....	2211 91	
Paid City of Philomath.....	348 57	
Bal on hand ".....	571 65	
Paid on road fund orders.....	292 31	
Bal on hand " " ".....	189 76	
Paid road district warrants.....	4670 93	
Bal on hand " funds.....	6975 14	
	77579 70	49577 09

State of Oregon, County of Benton, I. W. A. Buchanan hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct statement of all monies received, the balances on hand and the amounts paid out by me as County Treasurer, for the six months ending March 31, 1909.

W. A. BUCHANAN,  
County Treasurer, Benton County.  
Other reports in next issue.

MAY 7, 1909

## Genteel Row at C. H.

Portlanders After \$200 Reward Stir up  
Natives, With all but Fatal Results.

The County Court's time on Wednesday was taken up by a bunch of Portlanders who came down to beat Chief J. D. Wells out of the \$200 offered for the capture of the court house robbers, Clayton and Davis. But they failed to cut the ice—at least just at that time. The County Court listened to the heated argument and again took the matter under advisement. Just what their decision will be is a matter of conjecture, of course, but if they study one minute or ten days while their judicial apparatus is working just right they will conclude that the entire bunch from Portland should have been captured at the time Clayton and Davis were landed and convicted at the same time.

Wednesday's session was a warm number—364 in the shade. Those who contributed to the extraordinary rise in temperature were one N. Solomon, pawn-

broker, his attorney J. Silverstone, Detectives Hyde and Reed and Chief Beatty, all of Portland, and Attorney Denman, Chief Wells, Sheriff Gellatly and Victor P. Moses, of Corvallis. Just before the session ended the fire department was called out to protect the court house.

Solomon is a high-headed jassack who imagines he has all the wisdom of the Biblical character of that name, and he has deluded himself into the belief that a pawnbroker's business is more legitimate than that of the midnight marauder whose goods are not infrequently handled by the three-ball men. Solomon is the man who wants the \$200 reward offered by the court, for "peaching" on Clayton and Davis, who did business with him. He is one of the loud-mouthed kind. His attorney, Silverstone, was one of like-kind, and he came down prepared to bluff the local attorneys off the map. However,

he met a Tartar in Attorney Denman. Though with less than an hour to prepare his case, Mr. Denman bolted into the game with perfect assurance, and called the Portland man at every turn. It took less than ten minutes to kick up a row that was one of the most picturesque ever pulled off in the local court house. Silverstone is a first-class "bulldozer," but Denman shone like a star of the first magnitude and what he failed to tell that kinky-headed aggregation wasn't worth telling. Finally Mr. Moses was brought into the case; the Portland attorney questioned his statement, or attitude, and then there was a variety of verbal pyrotechnics. The whole bunch kept this up for two hours and when all were exhausted the court took the matter under advisement.

Briefly, Solomon testified that he had spent four hours in his effort to locate the robbers. He

## Genteel Row at C. H.

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saw them on the street and pointed them out to the detectives, who confessed they had done little and accomplished less. Solomon wanted the \$200 reward.

Wells spent five or six days on the trail of the robbers, gave the first description of them, made a deal with Solomon to identify the men, located the men's rooms in Portland after the officials had failed, finally located and secured the Peoria jewelry and Treasurer Buchanan's watch,

this after the officers had looked through and returned to the robbers the very papers that gave Wells his clue. He also was largely instrumental in getting Davis and Clayton to confess.

### Other Matters.

Messrs. M. S. Woodcock, A. J. Johnson and J. M. Nolan appeared before the court and asked for a \$600 contribution to the boost fund recently subscribed for the advertisement of Benton

county. This matter was taken under advisement.

The matter of opening the Herron road at Irish Bend was referred to District Attorney Bryson before taking final action.

The plat of Park Terrace, the Allen-McAlexander addition to Corvallis on the west, was filed and approved.

A supplementary plat of the Pleasant View Fruit Farm, filed by Virgil Watters, was approved.

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The Corvallis Times.

CORVALLIS, OREGON

MAY 28 1909

# House- Breakers

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The county court house was visited by would-be burglars or safe-crackers Thursday night. The front door lock was broken and the wood-work about the lock badly splintered. This morning the back door of the court house was found open, and about 11 o'clock last night Treasurer Buchanan found the front doors on the basement floor standing wide open. The front door gave evidence of having been attacked with a chisel.

The court house officials are confident that someone with burglarious intent made an at-

tempt to enter the building, and before 11 o'clock. It is their opinion that the visitor was scared away before giving evidence of what he really intended to do. The officials can not understand why anyone would desire to break into the court house for, as no money is ever kept there. Treasurer Buchanan was at the court house until 11 o'clock and it was just before he left that he found the basement doors open. He also noted that the front door was in bad condition, but neither circumstance suggested burglarly to him. Mr. Buchanan merely thought some-

one had been careless in leaving the doors open. He shut the basement door and after an effort managed to lock the front door, but this morning investigation left no doubt that the court house had been broken into. They were probably after Mr. Buchanan's watch (the one returned) or mayhap it was someone who thought he could steal that \$200 reward the county court has not yet turned over to Chief Wells, or Solomon of Portland. If a light or night watch is not kept about the court house some fellow will go over and steal the foundation or the wall-paper.

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# The Corvallis Times.

CORVALLIS, OREGON

JUNE 1, 1909

## Another Tune

N. Solomon, the Portland pawnbroker claiming the \$200 reward offered by the county for the capture of safe-crackers Davis and Clayton, is now singing another tune. In the hearing before the County Court four weeks ago Mr. Solomon and his attorneys made the plea that Chief Wells was not entitled to any portion of the reward, but now they write Chief Wells that if he will divide the reward with them they will drop the case. However, Mr. Wells is now in a scrapping mood and refuses to hearken to the proposition. Through his attorney, Geo. W. Denman, he has told the Portland bunch he will give them \$50, all they were ever entitled to, and more than they should have now that they have raised such a row. And the public here will readily agree with Mr. Wells' attitude, and will support the County Court in turning that reward to Chief Wells who so certainly earned it. The Portland bunch did nothing that the law does not compel them to do on request, but Wells offered to pay them for their time and trouble. But for Wells the robbers would not have been located, and but for his carefulness and first-class detective work in finding the proper evidence, these men would not have confessed and could hardly have been convicted. Up to date no encouragement has been offered the officials, who in this instance are represented by Wells.

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