

The Corvallis Gazette Times

CORVALLIS, OREGON

APRIL 15, 1960

Electric Heat Eyed For Jail

Plans to install electric heat in the Benton county jail to save the cost of having to fire up the courthouse furnace on week ends and holidays is being considered by the county court.

Commissioner Walter Schmidt said the court expects to call for bids soon on the installation. He said the electric heat would be used only on days the courthouse janitor does not have to come to work. As it is now the janitor has to come on week ends to fire up the furnace in the courthouse, which also heats the nearby jail.

The county has been paying \$30 a month additional for the service and estimates the cost of the heat at \$15. Schmidt said it was believed the electric heat would not cost more than \$15 and the \$30 that is saved would pay off the cost of the installation within a few years.

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CORVALLIS, OREGON

OCTOBER 6, 1960



When Indian (American) kept parking Cadillac in her spot at courthouse parking lot, Jeanette Swygard, secy of county court, finally got up nerve enough to leave note on vehicle . . . She didn't want to appear to have been timid so she told court her note had warned the culprit to "Stay off my reservation or I'll have your scalp . . .


Well, a day or two later she found this note on her own windshield . . . "How! Buck heep sorry park fire wagon in young squaw campground. Spirit tell Buck Great White Father give smoke signal when go home. Buck want sit down by camp fire with squaw and smoke peace pipe. Tonto . . .

They have more fun over there . . .

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CORVALLIS, OREGON

SEPTEMBER 28, 1961

Off The Beat	
By MIKE BRADLEY	

ASTUTE observers who ride courthouse elevator wonder if they're breaking the law . . . Elevator permit expired over a year ago . . . You'd think that when county court pays \$93.88 a month for maintenance of elevator they would be given an up-to-date permit for the taxpayers' money . . .

Corvallis Gazette-Times

CORVALLIS, OREGON

AUGUST 25, 1966



PATRIOTIC young lady imbued with respect for Old Glory was somewhat shattered the other evening as she passed the courthouse as the flag was being lowered . . . She and at least one other passerby paused respectfully as the flag came down — and then were horrified to see it flung onto the ground while the halyard was fastened to the pole . . . It so disconcerted the young lady that she called the courthouse to complain . . .

Corvallis Gazette-Times

CORVALLIS, OREGON

NOVEMBER 28, 1967

Who Fixed The Clock?

Not A Phantom, Just Couple Of Guys Working At Noons

By GENE KILLEBREW

Actually, there probably is no one who really believes there is a "phantom" in the Benton County courthouse tower. But for awhile last week there was some speculation on the subject.

Suddenly, last Wednesday noon the huge, four-sided clock atop the courthouse tower started to run and keep accurate time. Courthouse workers were amazed for they were aware that the clock was "busted" and hadn't run for several weeks.

Three weeks ago the big clock which has four faces, each about six feet in diameter, just quit running. Commissioner A. L. Strand in a motion at the next county court meeting "resolved" that the clock be fixed and put again in working order.

Strand said he would contact "reliable workmen" to investigate the workings of the clock and repair it. His undertaking turned out to be more than he had bargained for. Where do you find so-

meone who can fix a four-faced clock six feet in diameter?

Joe Busy

Strand knew that Joe St. Louis, city shop employe, was a person of reputable mechanical ability and tried to contact him by telephone several times. He was never able to reach St. Louis personally, but did tell other city shop employes of the problem with the clock.

St. Louis at the time was busy. He had a vacation coming up and was trying to catch up on all his city shop work before leaving. The only spare time he had was during his lunch hour.

When courthouse workers were on their noon break, St. Louis went to the clock tower at the courthouse and began working on the clock. He cleaned and lubricated its mechanism without anyone at the courthouse knowing he was even in the building.

He had the job almost finished, except for the small electric motor which runs the

clock's intricate works. He took the motor to the city shops to clean and overhaul.

Glenn Does It

St. Louis left on his vacation before he had time to replace the motor on the clock but he did tell coworker Glenn Pyle all that was needed to get the clock going was to install the motor.

Pyle, also on his noon lunch time, took the motor back to the courthouse, hooked it up and started the clock. This happened about 10 minutes after county court members passed another resolution to get the clock fixed.

Members of the county court and courthouse employes left the building for lunch. When they came back the big, old clock was ticking away and keeping perfect time.

There were no "phantoms" involved — just a couple of guys from the city shops who went ahead and did a job and "neglected" to tell anyone about it.

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CORVALLIS, OREGON

NOVEMBER 30, 1967

Flue Again Clean

The fire department made what was described as its "semi-annual trek" to the Benton County courthouse yesterday at 3:42 p.m.

The flue was on fire again. Men and equipment returned to quarters within a relatively short time. It was the only alarm listed during the past 24 hours.

Corvallis Gazette-Times

CORVALLIS, OREGON

MARCH 15, 1968

Courthouse Sawdust Burner To Be Junked

This year the Benton County courthouse will have a new oil-fired boiler connected to its heating system.

The county court will call for bids on the new heating unit about June 1 and it will probably be installed sometime in July.

The present furnace-boiler has been in use nearly 40 years and is fired by sawdust. Last fall the county court had the engineering consultant firm of Cornell, Howland, Hayes and Merryfield (CH2M), Corvallis, do a survey study on the heating plant.

In the study CH2M explored the possibilities of installing a gas or electricity-fired boiler. It was their decision that the oil-fired boiler would be more feasible and economical.

The survey was made by CH2M at a cost of \$600 and

it was their estimate that a new boiler unit would cost in the neighborhood of \$12,000.

The present furnace-boiler at one time burned four-foot cord wood and later slab wood. It was converted several years ago to be fired by blown sawdust.

According to county court members, the old heating unit has served well over the years and has cost little in upkeep in replacing boiler tubes and firebox brick.

Some oldtimers around the courthouse recall that before 1920 each office in the building had its own stove and stovepipe leading to the outside.

When the new oil-fired boiler is installed, there will no doubt be some who will miss the billowing of smoke from the stack atop the courthouse and the tangy smell of the burning sawdust.