

around the county

Bowman's aims toward year-round exposure

Bud Gavino has been on the job as general manager of the Red Lion resort at Bowman's for approximately one year, time enough to give him a feel for the community and for the customers he serves.

"I love living up here," he said. "And my wife loves it. It's beautiful here no matter what the season — even when it's raining."

Gavino is no newcomer to resort management, however. He has "20-plus" years experience in the field, including stints at the Inn of the Seventh Mountain near Bend and the Inn at Otter Crest on the Oregon coast.

Even compared with those two picturesque settings, he said Welches has "incredible beauty" — and its proximity to the Portland metropolitan area is a plus to him and his wife.

"We go into Portland from time to time to see a play or catch some other entertainment," he said. "Even though this area is beautiful and unspoiled, you don't feel as isolated as some other places we've lived."

But Gavino's philosophy of resort management may eliminate some of those trips to the city. He would like to schedule entertainment events on the mountain which match the quality of what is available downtown.

"I'm really looking forward to enjoying good entertainment without having to drive all the way to Portland," he said.

Gavino has scheduled the first nationally-known entertainer to appear at the resort next Wednesday night. Folksinger Glenn Yarbrough will give a dinner performance in the Red Lion lounge.

"We've heard Yarbrough several times and he always gives an excellent concert," Gavino said. The tenor was a popular live



performer and recording star during the late 1950's and the 1960's.

Yarbrough has spent the intervening years on the sea, cruising the Caribbean and the Bahamas. He crossed the Atlantic and toured the Mediterranean in one of his recent jaunts.

Two years ago, the singer returned to the live performance circuit and released an album recorded with the Denver Symphony, "Just a Little Love." Gavino said that his Wednesday night performance would begin at 8:30 p.m., after dinner is served at 6:30 p.m.

Gavino said the resort's philosophy of entertainment is "hard to describe, but it doesn't take us very long to determine whether a group is successful up here."

"Every entertainer we have, we get feedback from our customers," he continued. "Some will say he's absolutely terrific, others will say he's just terrible. We try to hit the happy medium."

The manager said the resort's general philosophy has changed little since it was purchased two years ago from the Bowman family. The American Guaranty

Financial Corporation now owns both the Rippling River development and Bowman's resort. The company contracts with the Thunderbird-Red Lion chain to manage the property, Gavino said.

One change in direction since the change of ownership is that "we're now trying to implement a year-round resort property," Gavino said.

The resort set up ski tourism packages, and advertised extensively in the other 43 hotels in the chain. "This is the first year we've gone after the winter market," he explained, and said the lack of snowfall didn't lessen his enthusiasm for the idea.

"We're going to make a hard run at it again next year," he said. The level of reservation for spring and summer "looks good — better than last year."

The resort schedules more than 200 conventions per year, and hires a minimum of 40 people. Staff levels go up to between 80 and 110 employees during peak periods, Gavino said.

The resort's payroll is between \$2,000 and \$3,000 per day, "and considerably more in the summer," the manager

pointed out. The entire staff lives on the mountain, with the exception of one employee who commutes from Boring.

Gavino said that the resort's economic impact on the mountain doesn't end with the payroll. "Our guests shop at the grocery stores, and at the drug stores," he said.

Most of the resort's 200 rooms have kitchens, and guests will wait to stock them until arriving in Welches, he said. In addition, the resort's customers patronize other Hoodland restaurants.

"Most of our guests stay here from three to four days," he said. "During that time, they will eat two or three meals in our dining room; the rest they purchase elsewhere. Not all the money brought by our guests is dropped on our door."

The resort is expanding with new condominiums across Welches Road from the main resort, and the registration lobby has been transferred to the new site. Gavino said that 132 units are under construction there.

In addition, preliminary work has been done for a conference room, restaurant and lounge to be built behind the new registration lobby. He said the new facility will take from nine to 11 months to complete after approval has been granted by county planning boards.

Gavino's wife Diane is creating pictorial stained glass windows for many of the units in the new complex. Each set of windows consists of four panels done in blues and golds depicting stylized mountain scenes.

Gavino is enthusiastic that with increased exposure the resort's popularity will spiral. "I think we're the best-kept secret in Oregon," he said.

Chamber meeting set

The Hoodland Chamber of Commerce's February forum will be held Tuesday, Feb. 24 at the Red Lion Inn at Bowman's.

The meeting will begin at 7

a.m. Sandy High School superintendent Jack Peters and principal John McMahan will speak and hold a question and answer period.

Help sought by group

Clackamas County Children's Services Division is seeking persons who are willing to work with children on an individual or group basis.

Opportunities include be-

ing a big brother or sister to a child needing an adult companion or helping handicapped children.

For more information, contact Daelene Shen at 653-3140.

Block grant meeting set

The citizens advisory committee for the Clackamas County's Community Development Block Grant Program will hold its monthly meeting at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 18, at Denny's Restaurant, 16251 S.E. McLoughlin Blvd., Oak Grove.

The meeting is open to the public and all interested citizens are invited to attend.

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Hoodland happenings:

Christian school slates rummage sale Saturday

Thursday, Feb. 19
Welches Community School Council will meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Hoodland Women's Club on Salmon River Road. Persons who are willing to share their skills, make suggestions for activities or help the community council plan for spring term should attend.

A senior citizens lunch sponsored by Loaves and Fishes will be served at 11:30 a.m. in the Welches School library. Transportation to the lunch can be arranged by calling the senior center at 622-3331.

At 3:45 p.m. the Welches School girls basketball team will play Cottrell at the Welches gym.

The Mt. Hood Pre-School will hold its monthly parents meeting tonight at 7 p.m. in the Hoodland Women's Club building. Guest speaker will be auctioneer Tom Cox.

The Mountain Music Society will meet at 7:30 p.m. to discuss plans for upcoming programs and activities. Call chairman Will Frank, 622-3130, for location of meeting or further information.

Saturday, Feb. 21
The Hoodland Christian School will hold a rummage sale from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Lions Club building in Wemme on Highway 26. Proceeds will go toward the purchase of playground equipment.

Monday, Feb. 23
A senior citizens lunch sponsored by Loaves and Fishes will be served at 11:30 a.m. in the Welches School library. Transportation to the lunch can be arranged by calling the senior center at 622-3331.

Block grant to be studied by commissioners

A public hearing will be held during the next regular meeting of the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners to review and adopt the proposed application for the third year of the county's Community Development Block Grant program.

The meeting will be held Thursday, March 5, in the second floor hearing room of the Clackamas County Courthouse Annex. It will begin at 10 a.m.

All interested persons are invited to attend. For more information, contact the Clackamas County Community Development Division at 655-8591.

One Night Only



GLENN YARBROUGH Dinner Show

Wednesday, Feb. 25
Dinner—6:30 p.m.
Showtime—8:00 p.m.

Take a musical journey with nationally-known master of melody, Glenn Yarbrough.

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FOR RESERVATIONS CALL
Welches Phone: (503) 622-3101
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