

1,050-campsite park to open

Area's beauty is preserved

by PHIL CHRISTENSEN
Correspondent

A 217-acre recreational vehicle park that will eventually have 750 RV hook-ups and an additional 300 campsites will open in May in Brightwood.

Located on the Salmon River off Highway 26, R.V. Wonderland Preserve will provide nearly 100 jobs.

It will ultimately include a swimming pool, sauna, restaurants, recreational vehicle product sales and a service center.

An equestrian area, a hotel for horses, ball fields, and 9,000 square feet of retail space will also be available soon.

Crews began working on the project last fall. "Power is in, the sewer is in, and now water and fire hydrants are almost done," said Mike Hannigan, security chief.

When the park opens, Hannigan will be managing the RV service center and will be head of the protective services division.

"We will have a partial opening May 1," Hannigan said, "but our grand opening will be June 13." The delay is a modest one considering the scope of the undertaking.

"There has never been a park like this in the Northwest," Hannigan continued, "and it took extensive planning with the state."

"It's really like a small city," said Project Engineer Charlie McCord, taking a few moments away from the dozens of blueprints on his desk. Ken Bennett, a Falls City, Wash., contractor, has also been brought on board as construction superintendent.

"If this had been a city of 2,500 to 3,000 people, the task might have taken years, but with a lot of hard work and good planning, we've done it in a few months instead."

McCord was brought into the picture at the end of February to "engineer it into a viable project."

There are not a lot of completed buildings, but foundations with electrical hook-ups, water and sewer lines are everywhere.

"People come in here and think



There are a lot of uncompleted buildings, but they are expected to go up rapidly.

we're way behind because they don't see buildings," Hannigan said, "but the underground basics had to be done before we could erect buildings. Those will go up quickly. There will be 17 restroom/shower facilities scattered around the park. You will never be more than a stone's throw away from one of them."

Several changes were made to keep the project as ecologically harmless as possible.

They are using solar power to enhance the water heating, according to McCord.

He added that on one occasion an entire area of development was scrapped to preserve a natural beaver dam. Hannigan said there would probably be an observation point there instead.

Pointing to another area with a secluded, picturesque pond, Hannigan said, "We're staying completely away from that. The natural beauty here is one of the biggest attractions. We don't want to change or damage anything."

Some projects, including a bridge across the river, are on the drawing board. "It will probably be three years before this entire project is done," said Hannigan. He said they

would rather take the time to keep the quality consistent rather than rush into things.

Hannigan is pleased with the security team being put together. "Every man on the force is an E.M.T. (Emergency Medical Technician). They are being trained in every area. They are like firemen, security guards and policemen rolled into one. They've even been trained in crowd control. In a setting like this, you have to be prepared for anything."

Hannigan said he hopes they are prepared for any kind of natural disaster.

"We're completely self-sufficient. We will have generators that kick in if the electricity is knocked out. Very little would slow us down here."

The recreational vehicle preserve has gained notoriety among locals. "Someone gave us the nickname Wally World. There are T-shirts and caps turning up in the area with Wally World on them; I think it's pretty funny and it's free advertising, too," Hannigan joked.

"I'm pleased with the way we've been able to get along with the authorities and the community.



Mike Hannigan

We've worked very hard to do everything right."

The park will employ roughly 100 people, according to Hannigan. "That will be year-round, and at a wage scale that will attract talented people. All the employees we possibly can get from the community, we will. We want our people to live up here."

The park was the idea of Frank and Dottie Hannigan of Gresham, who are building it along with investors. Mike is Frank's son.

Vanport Manufacturing Inc. receives chamber award

Vanport Manufacturing Inc. of Boring was recognized recently by the Portland Chamber of Commerce's forest products committee as marketing firm of the year for firms with less than 500 employees. The award was received by President Adolph Hertrich. Vanport

Manufacturing cuts its lumber to metric sizes, grades it according to Japanese standards and packages it to Japanese specifications. No other West Coast firm performs all these functions, according to information provided by the forest products committee.



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Obituaries

Russell Snyder Iola Snyder

Funeral services for Russell and Iola Snyder were held April 22 at the Hood View Seventh-day Adventist Church in Boring. Interment will follow at Cliffs Cemetery in Sandy.

Mr. and Mrs. Snyder died in an automobile accident near Gresham on April 18.

Russell David Snyder was born on Silver Creek in Nebraska on June 21, 1917. He and his family came to Oregon when Russell was 15. They settled in the Silverton area where he completed his education and worked with his father farming.

Mrs. Snyder dedicated her time as a homemaker. She enjoyed crocheting, baking and corresponding with her friends.

They are survived by their four children: Doris Driver, Russell David Snyder Jr., Kathleen Astorga and Dale Snyder; and eight grandchildren.

Russell is the brother of Blanche Fryberger, Madeline Weigel, Ethel Carson, Mary Johnson and William,

After moving to Boring, Russell began working in a sawmill as well as continuing to farm. When he was 62, he retired from Vanport Manufacturing, but continued with his farming, which he enjoyed.

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Daniel and James Snyder.

Iola is the sister of Nellie Smith and Albert, Paul and Donald Johnson.

The family suggests that in lieu of flowers, memorial contributions be made to the Hood View Seventh-day Adventist Church Dorcas Society.

Sandy Funeral Home was in care of the arrangements.

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