# Boring Burger drawing crowds

## *Opening organized in 4 days*

by SUSAN ROMANITIS
Staff writer

BORING — Business is booming at Boring Burger.

Ray Linkous opened the "slow fast-food" restaurant May 28 and life has been anything but boring at the corner of Southeast 282nd Avenue and Highway 212 since then.

"This place has been packed ever since I opened it up," Linkous said last week.

Linkous, who is building a shopping complex at that corner, originally planned — and still hopes — to sell the restaurant. He opened the restaurant late last month because he did not want to leave his $350,000 investment sitting still any longer.

A Damascus resident, Linkous said he decided to open the eatery himself just four days before he actually did it.

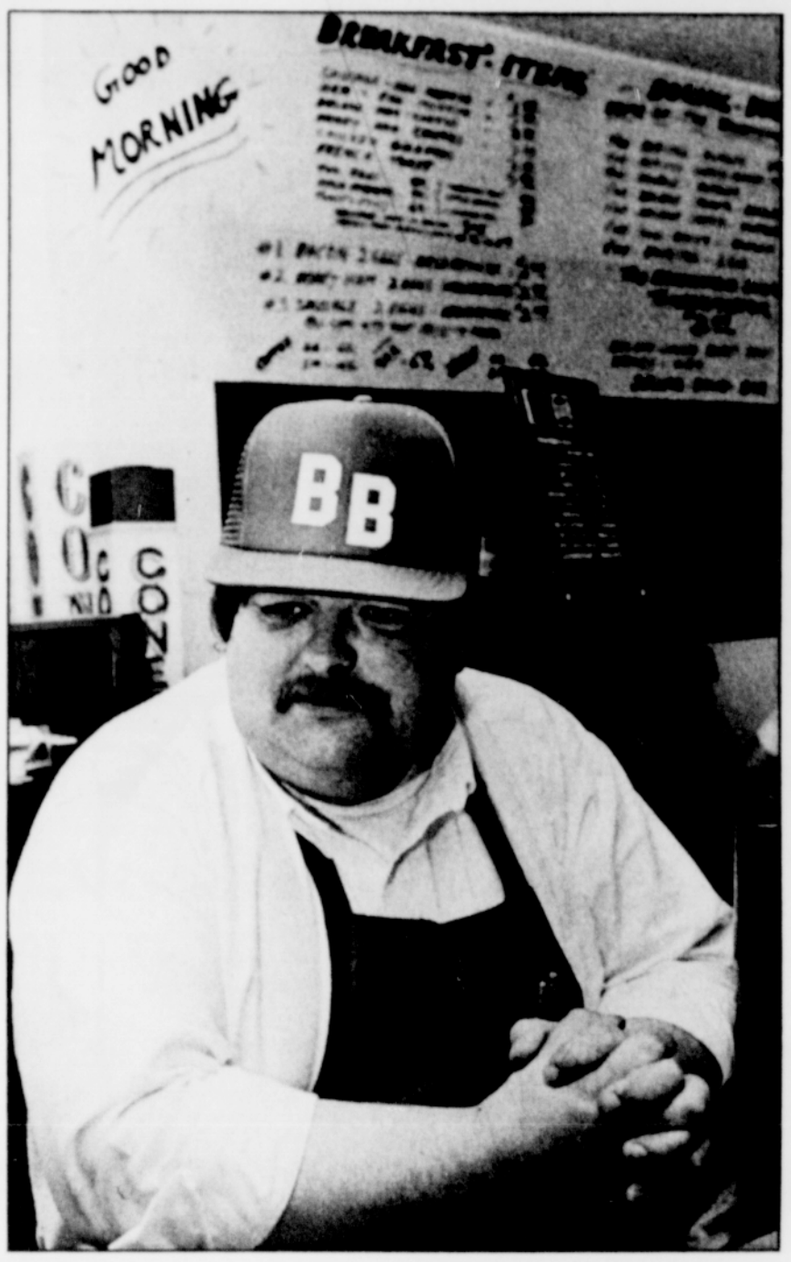
Linkous said he worked around the clock for three days straight, spending most of the time reviewing the 500-plus job applications he received and telephoning prospective employees.

Linkous remembered thinking: "If just the people applying for jobs buy a hamburger, we're going to do well."

The restaurant, which serves breakfast, opened at 6 a.m. May 28 without fanfare or any announcement, Linkous said. He "never told a soul" he was opening the restaurant; he just placed some signs in the window and opened the doors, he said.

By 8:30 a.m. that Thursday, the restaurant had not had one customer and Linkous said he went home "mad." The restaurant seats 118 people inside and 22 outside in a patio area.

But by noon, Linkous said the establishment was jammed with customers and workers were swamped with food orders.



Ray Linkous decided to operate restaurant just four days before the opening.

"The first dollar came in and I wasn't even here," he said.

When the restaurant first opened, the work crew was "green" and "we had some problems getting organized," Linkous said.

For the first few days, customers were waiting too long to receive their food orders, which also were getting mixed up, he said.

Linkous recalled using humor to try to console customers, serving "Yuban Boring-style" at times. That's a coffee pot filled with beer, he said.

Although the building is finished, Linkous said he rebuilt the kitchen after the restaurant opened. Workers — overwhelmed with "sheer volume" — were "tripping over things," Linkous said, so he moved the cooking line to make the operation more efficient.

Linkous said he is not surprised the place has "taken off," noting that Boring is centrally located in a highly traveled area. Customers were lined "clear out the door" on the restaurant's second day of operation, he said.

"I knew it would do well," Linkous said. "Nobody thought it would do this well."

Earlier this month, a Franz Bakery official showed up at the restaurant to present Linkous with a plaque congratulating him on making his first dollar at the restaurant. Franz officials wanted to "find out what was happening" at the restaurant that was "buying as much bread as Burger King in Gresham," Linkous said.

The food selection is extensive and inexpensive at Boring Burger, one of the few restaurants of its kind with three varieties of beer on tap, he said.

In addition to hamburgers, the restaurant features Mexican dishes such as taco salads and burritos; chicken; roast beef; fish; and a salad bar.

Boring Burger offers a mix of best sellers — items that have proven popular at other restaurants, Linkous said.

Specialities include the Bodacious Boring Timbermaster, a half-pound ground beef burger on a 12-inch French roll. The burger, which has two kinds of cheese, a special sauce and all the trimmings on it, sells for $3.49.

The restaurant employs 30 full- and part-time workers, Linkous said.

Linkous, builder turned burgermaster, helps out in the kitchen when necessary. "But don't tell anybody," he said.

# Academic awards given

Eight Bull Run School students earned Presidential Academic Fitness Awards for the 1986-87 school year.

To earn the award students must achieve a grade point average of a B-plus or better, and score at the 80th percentile for both verbal and mathematical skills on the California Achievement Test.

Students who earned the award were: Karyn Leas, Damon Hodge, Heather Knight, Kevin Titsworth, Mandi Cox, Aaron Manley, Amanda Moore and Annie deCarteret.

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# Voters in Boring face levy request

Voters in the Boring School District will not be asked to approve an operating levy to balance the 1987-88 budget, but they will be asked to pass a three-year serial levy in November.

The school board adopted a $1,735,754 general-fund budget last week, using a larger-than-expected cash carry-over to reinstate some items, including a librarian position, that were cut from the budget earlier.

The adopted 1987-88 budget, in the total sum of $2,202,534, includes $112,360 for maintenance and capital improvement projects. The board decided Tuesday night to seek voter approval of a three-year serial levy in November.

The tax rate would go up by an estimated $1.04 if the serial levy passes, deputy clerk Nancy Brown said. The current tax rate is $10.49 per $1,000 of assessed value.

If the levy is approved, the estimated tax rate for 1987-88 would be $12.11 per $1,000 of assessed value, Brown said. That reflects the allowable 6 percent increase in the tax base, an estimated $1,000 increase in debt service and the serial levy, she said.

The district would use the $112,360 the levy would provide each year for three years to do repair and remodeling work, fix roofs, do paving work, buy a new bus and make a down payment on another, put up a metal building and install an alarm system.

The total amount of the three-year serial levy is $337,080.

The larger-than-expected cash carry-over allows the district to operate schools within its $1,060,277 tax base next year and to reinstate three positions trimmed from the budget in an effort to reduce costs.

The district will have approximately $140,000 to carry into the next fiscal year — $98,000 more than district officials had anticipated.

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