

Generational change, new technology and acquisitions marked postwar era

Editor’s Note: In 2018, EO Media Group published an historical book by author William F. Willingham, “Grit and Ink: An Oregon Family’s Adventures in Newspapering, 1908-2018” (<http://books.eomediagroup.com/grit-ink/>) Since its publication, the family-owned media company that owns and operates the East Oregonian has doubled in size, having recently acquired newspapers in La Grande, Baker City, Bend and Redmond. The following story is excerpted from this book and is part six of a seven-part weekly series.

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PENDLETON — The kind of grit that was essential to survival in the early twentieth century — the era of Jackson, Aldrich and Chessman — gave way to a new grit that was needed to survive in the postwar era. The dominant names of this period included J.W. Forrester, Eleanor Forrester and Amy Aldrich Bedford. As the century ended, their children — the third generation of family ownership — would rise, and the fourth generation would make its initial appearance. The deaths of Merle Chessman in 1947 and E.B. Aldrich in 1950 announced the generational change that

mark the postwar era for the East Oregonian Publishing Company. Aldrich was succeeded by his son-in-law, J.W. Forrester, Jr. His daughter, Eleanor, would run the newspaper’s business operation. And daughter, Amy Aldrich Bedford, would run commercial printing. In Astoria, Merle’s son, Robert, became publisher of the Astorian-Budget. The larger transition, which ensued in the 1950s, was the Aldrich family’s purchase of the Chessman family’s stock in the publishing enterprise. For the first time, the editor of the EO was not a Democrat. Forrester declared himself an Independent with a liberal, internationalist slant. As Forrester put it in his first editorial, “Your editor is a registered Independent. His editorial viewpoint is independent. Political candidates will be judged by their educational backgrounds, intellectual integrities and beliefs on the important issues of the day.” Forrester moved the East Oregonian’s technology into a new era by installing the first photo-offset printing press west of the Mississippi. The newspaper also moved away from Pendleton’s Main Street, to a new building on the Umatilla River. To reverse the financial decline at the Astori-



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When the East Oregonian supported Charles A. Sprague for governor in 1938, The Oregonian in Portland ran this editorial cartoon. It was the first time Aldrich had given editorial support to a Republican.

an-Budget, the family hired a veteran newspaper publisher out of Alaska. Morgan Coe’s major accomplishment was to assemble property for a new building that would house a photo-offset press.

PacifiCorp to cut coal-fired power

Parent company of Pacific Power to reduce use of coal by two-thirds

By MEAD GRUVER
Associated Press

CHEYENNE, Wyo. — A major Western utility said Thursday it plans to speed up its move away from coal-fired power and get more juice from the sun and wind. Citing financial incentives, Portland-based PacifiCorp said it wants to reduce coal-fired generation by two-thirds by 2030 while pursuing a build-out of wind and solar energy. Federal tax incentives make those renewables less expensive for PacifiCorp’s 1.9 million customers in California, Idaho, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming, the utility said. PacifiCorp is the parent company of Pacific Power, which provides electricity to areas around Bend, Redmond, Madras and Prineville. “We are set to manage this transition in a way that keeps costs as affordable as possible for our customers and also maintain system reliability,” said Rick Link, PacifiCorp’s vice president for resource planning. The plan quickly met criticism from coal-industry supporters who said it goes too far, while environmental groups complained that it doesn’t go far enough. “Clearly the early closure of coal-fired power units and the associated mines is a blow to the people of Wyoming,” said Gov. Mark Gordon, whose state sup-



AP Photo/Matt Young, File
This 2013 photo shows a wind turbine farm owned by PacifiCorp near Glenrock, Wyo. Western U.S. electrical utility PacifiCorp plans to move faster away from coal-fired power while getting more juice from the sun and wind.

plies about 40 percent of the nation’s coal and has three of the affected coal-fired plants. Sierra Club spokesman Thomas Young pushed for even deeper cuts in coal-fired energy. He said PacifiCorp could save customers more money and emit less greenhouse gas by pursuing more aggressive downsizing of the resource. The utility isn’t alone in stepping away from coal-fired electricity. U.S. utilities have announced the retirement of over 546 coal-fired power generators since 2010, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. The decline is largely responsible for a 30 percent drop in U.S. coal production during that time. The proposal by PacifiCorp would hasten closure of the Colstrip power plant in eastern Montana. Two of the plant’s four generating units are scheduled to close this year; the remaining

two may now close in 2027 instead of 2046. It also would hasten the shutdown of coal-fired generators at the Jim Bridger and Naughton power plants in Wyoming and the Craig power plant in Colorado. PacifiCorp was already pursuing partial or full closure of three other coal-fired power plants near Joseph City, Arizona; Hayden, Colorado; and Glenrock, Wyoming by 2030. The changes announced Thursday would see PacifiCorp dropping 4,500 megawatts of coal-fired power and adding 4,600 megawatts of wind power and 6,300 megawatts of solar power by 2038. A megawatt of solar can power 150-210 homes, according to the Solar Energy Industries Association. PacifiCorp has been studying the change for a year and expects to send a final plan to state regulators for review in coming weeks.

Good Shepherd welcomes new geriatrician

HERMISTON — Good Shepherd Health Care System has hired geriatrician and internal medicine physician Nu Nwe Tun, MD. Tun is the third internist to join Good Shepherd’s Medical Group division, with two more hires planned for the near future. She is from Myanmar, a country in southeast Asia “I grew up with my godmother, a family medicine physician, who ran a clinic out of her home,” she said in a news release. “I learned much from her knowledge and experience which ultimately inspired me to pursue internal medicine. The experience also instilled a passion in me for geriatric care and being a strong advocate for this age group.” She recently completed her geriatrics fellowship in New York City. She said she emphasizes caring for the whole patient and preventative care, with experience in treating patients from a variety of cultural and ethnic backgrounds. She is comfortable treating conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, gastrointestinal issues, hypertension, cholesterol problems and lung issues in geriatric patients. To schedule an appointment with Tun, call 541-567-5305. Good Shepherd also announced this week that it has been named one of Oregon’s top workplaces for the third year in a row by *The Oregonian*. There were 99 companies on the list, based

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on a third-party survey that measured employees’ feelings about things like workplace culture and flexibility.

Tourism industry launches leadership academy

WILSONVILLE — A new learning program is being launched for public and private sector tourism professionals. The program is designed to assist leaders in polishing their skills and assist in making positive and lasting contributions to the state’s tourism industry. Interested participants should have supervisory, managerial, or executive responsibilities in either the private or public sector. The Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association announced that the launch of the Oregon Tourism Leadership Academy was developed in partnership with the Oregon Destination Association and Travel Oregon. The program will be led by the industry’s top experts. The program is accepting applications for participants, who will begin meeting in the spring of 2020. The experiential learning sessions will include visits to Eastern Oregon, the Columbia Gorge, the greater Portland area and the Oregon coast. Participants will qualify for four credits of the Hospital-

the deaths of Amy Bedford and Eleanor Forrester marked the second major transition. The fourth generation of the family entered the company when Kathryn Brown joined the board of directors in 1997. During the first decades of the new century, the company underwent major management changes, dealt with the worst economic recession since the Great Depression, absorbed new acquisitions, financed major press and building upgrades, weathered declining print circulation and advertising, tried to figure out how best to use the internet, and managed succession to the next generation. All of this happened within the context of communities along Oregon’s northwest coast and eastern region that struggled to find secure footing as their natural resource-based economies contracted. The timber industry of Wallowa and Grant counties declined because of environmental and supply pressures, while the communities of northwest Oregon and southwest Washington grew evermore dependent on seasonal tourism and retirees. Agriculture provided a solid base for Umatilla County, but it was not an economic growth activity, except for food processing in the county’s west end.

East Oregonians encouraged to apply for BOLI position

SALEM — According to a press release from Rep. Greg Barreto, the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries has extended the recruitment for the new Eastern Oregon Employer Assistance and Apprenticeship Coordinator position. A number of applications have been received, but BOLI would like to see more candidates who live and have worked east of the Cascades. The right candidate is someone who can work with local businesses in providing feedback and technical assistance and who can work to expand apprenticeship opportunities in Eastern Oregon. Once filled, this will be the first time in more than two decades BOLI has had a staff person based in Eastern Oregon. For more information, go to www.oregon.gov/BOLI, e-mail DCBS.Recruiting@oregon.gov or call 503-378-3200. — *East Oregonian staff*

THANK YOU!
To the St. Anthony Hospital Foundation for the purchase of a Portable Mammographic Specimen Imager for our Diagnostic Imaging Department.

Pictured are Foundation Board Members Mark Hales, Chris Cockburn, and Colleen Hunt along with Mammography Technologist Shana Lieuallen



CHI St. Anthony Hospital



2801 St. Anthony Way – Pendleton – 541-276-5121

THANK YOU

The family of Clinton Patrick “SKIP” Walchli would like to thank everyone for the support shown to us during our loss. We appreciate all the beautiful flowers, cards, food and memorial contributions made in his memory. We appreciated everyone’s thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,
Sherry Walchli & families

