

Irrigon One of Oldest Towns By Columbia

Irrigon is a small, active town located in the northeast section of Morrow County. It is one of the oldest towns along the Columbia River, and in the early 1900's was a very busy place.

It was called Stokes until 1905, when the name was changed to Irrigon by using the first four letters of "Irrigation" and the last three letters of "Oregon." Some of the main irrigation problems were discussed, plan-

Oregon Trail" and on the banks of the Columbia, that would provide the atmosphere.

Irrigon urges business of all types to establish here and become a part of our growing town. Donald Adams is our mayor, and Donald Oimscheid is the school superintendent. Besides the city council, we have a Chamber of Commerce, Grange, Home Extension, P. T. A. and three churches — Assembly of God,



A. C. HOUGHTON School at Irrigon is one of the impressive buildings in that area and provides modern schooling for children there. (G-T Photo)

There's
GOOD FISHING
here!

ned and settled there. Settlers moved in when given water rights, and progress began. A ferry was put into operation between our Oregon shore and Washington in 1906 — it was operated by Charley Johnson. Wooden sidewalks bordered the several business houses, one being the business district which was run by Mr. Walpole. The general store, which also housed the post office, was owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Wadsworth for many years. The first postmaster was Addison Bennett. He started a newspaper called the "Irrigon Irrigator."

Baptist and Seventh-day Adventist. We have many 4-H clubs, and a Boy Scout troop. Irrigon is a very busy little community, and civic minded. Our aim is to promote the growth and welfare of our town, county, and state to a higher level, and as we all work and cooperate together, we will meet the challenge that is before us.

Approximately 35 years ago, Irrigon organized the "Harmony Club" for the purpose of promoting the general welfare of the town. We remember the signs on each side of Irrigon that read, "Live in Irrigon—earliest crops in Oregon." Famous for its watermelons, Irrigon was once noted as the melon capital of the nation.

Irrigon has gone through many disasters, such as businesses being destroyed by fire, but has never given up or become entirely discouraged. Now, an unsurpassed future and excellent opportunities lie before us.

We will enjoy being situated on a lake frontage when the John Day dam is completed and the water level rises.

Even now, boating, water skiing, and fishing are favorite sports available on the banks of the Columbia, where we have erected a nice boat landing.

Another vast improvement to our town will be the new state highway, presently under construction, which is scheduled to go through Irrigon. This will offer opportunity for more tourist businesses here. The main bus lines go through Irrigon, and it is only 14 miles to the Union Pacific station at Hinkle, so transportation facilities are excellent.

We are only three hours from Portland, and only two hours from the Tolgate Mountain resort and mountain lakes; hence, we have immediate access to the advantages of larger towns without being a part of the hustle and bustle that usually accompanies these bigger places.

Morrow county is favored with ideal weather. Also, our taxes are comparably low, and we have plenty of room to build and expand. We would like to see someone establish a tourist attraction similar to the Knott's Berry Farm in California. Since we are located near the "Old



PRESENTING a neat and trim appearance is this concrete block building, the lone city hall. (G-T Photo)

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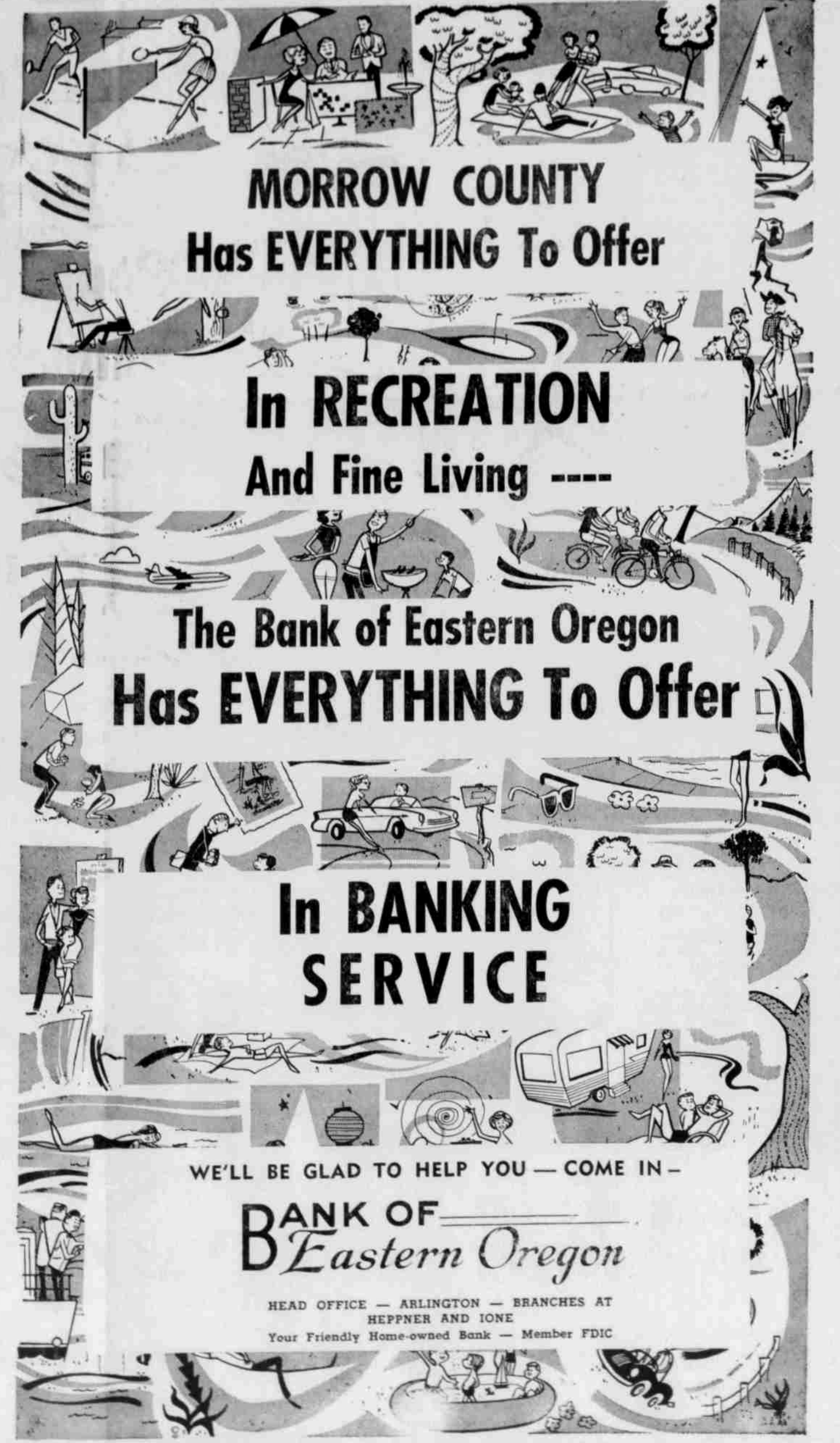
'WORLD'S FINEST Steelhead Fishing,' declares this sign at the edge of Boardman. The Columbia River is being developed there as a great recreation center, providing water skiing, boating, fishing and other water sports. (G-T- Photo)



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