

New Town of Boardman Blossoms

Photo Story

By SPIKE PARDEE

To the casual tourist the drive from Portland to Pendleton is a long and tiring one. Just about the time he is ready to give up and head back to Portland to take the train, up pops the blossoming new town of Boardman!

What a welcome sight! Good lodging, gas . . . and refreshment, too!

So what if the sand is blowing. Inside it's warm or air conditioned as the weather requires.

In contrast with the original town that was pretty well clumped together, New Boardman is spread out—planned for spaciousness—and has plenty of room to grow.

To visit new Boardman is truly a pleasure. There aren't any of the older run down buildings that one so often finds in any town or city.

The complete absence of wires for power and telephone lines gives one the feeling of the wide open spaces that surround the town on three sides. The utilities are all in underground systems.

The old downtown looks as if a tornado just hit. Buildings are scattered here and there like toothpicks. Some of the structures are completely gone, as if some giant force had plucked them from the face of the earth.

The abandoned railroad depot stands tall and noble, waiting for the wreckers to come and strip it of its pride and glory.

There is the old inn (Verla's Tavern) that years ago was barged up the river from somewhere at a time that is only a memory to the earliest pioneers. Standing in a state of half destruction, one can't help but choke a little at the fate of such a historic place.

Churches that baptized and married—and sometimes buried—the sons and daughters of Boardman stand empty and hollow with only the memories of times past.

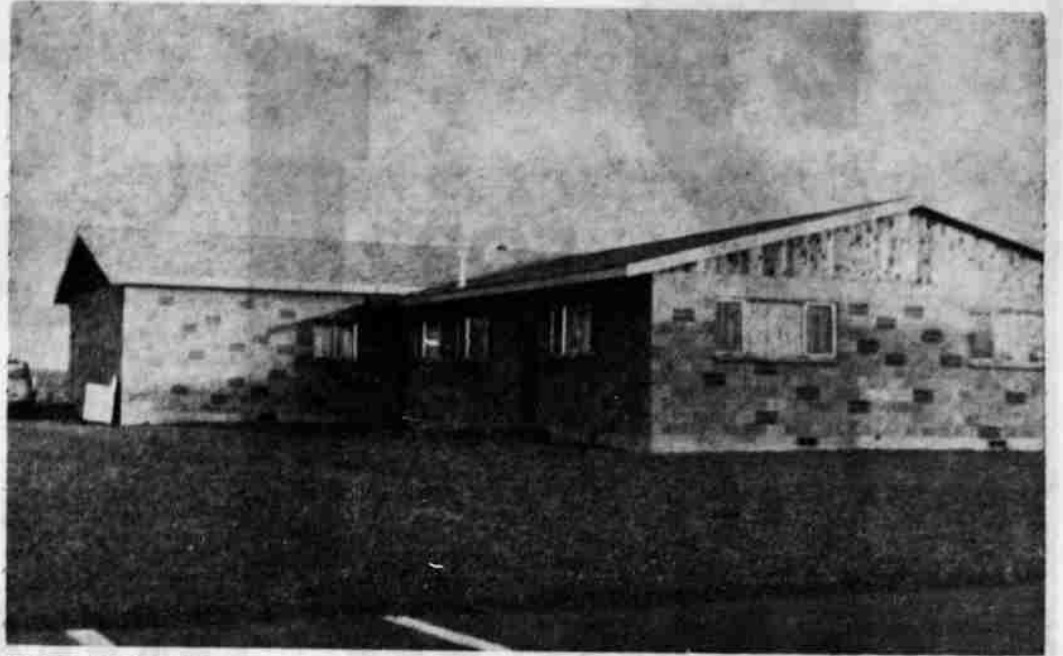
But annihilation of the old town has brought forth the sparkling new town with a new and invigorating spirit in the people. Their fathers and grandfathers didn't hesitate to tackle the impossible, but neither did they hesitate to tackle the tremendous job of adjustment involved in razing an old town and building a new one.

It is this spirit that won the west, and it is this spirit that is reclaiming the sand from the jackrabbit.

Have you ever moved? Well, just try to imagine what it is like to pick up and move house and all! Many of the residents of Boardman have done just that.



DEWEY WEST, now in his fifth year as mayor of Boardman, points out features of the New Town of Boardman on a topographical design map that was prepared by the League of Oregon Cities.



ONE OF THE FINE new community buildings in Boardman is the new Greenfield Grange building, spacious and modern. The structure is fully paid for and the story of its construction is one of cooperation and enterprise of its membership.



NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION is Joe Tatone's Dodge City, which will be an ultra-modern restaurant motel. The facilities will accommodate up to 300 in the restaurant, which is shown here. The motel section, yet to be constructed, will be located out of the picture at the right.



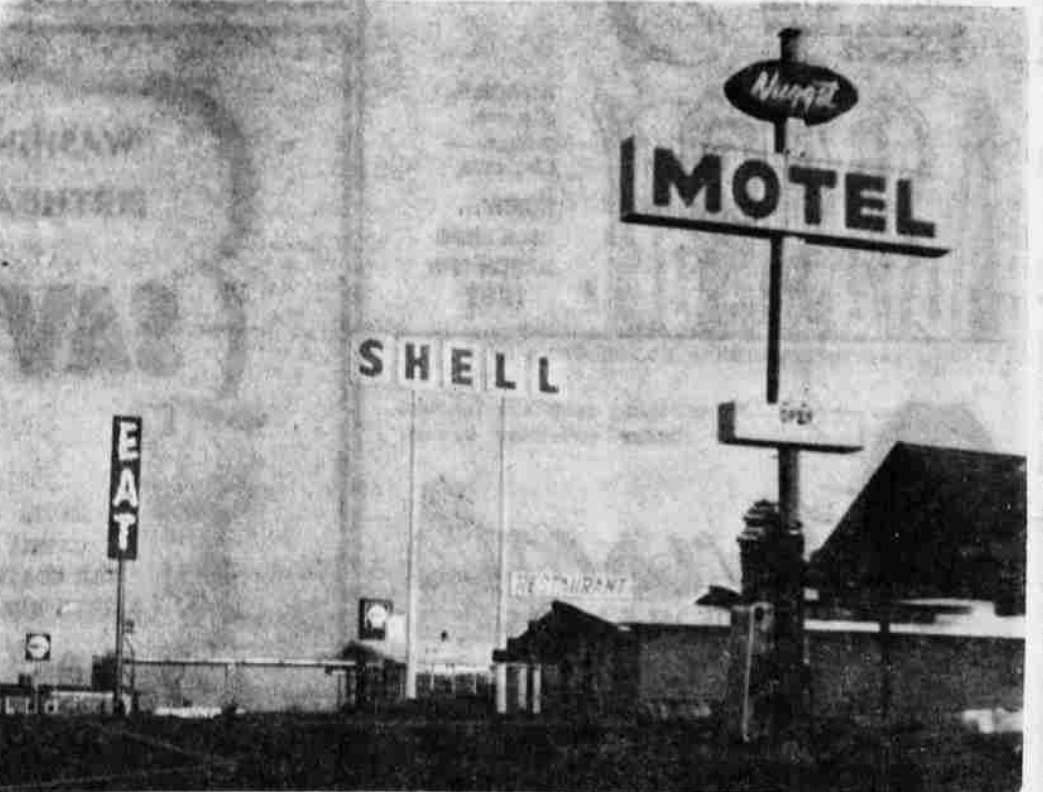
C & D DRIVE-IN, flanked by the Standard service station, stands at the corner of Main and Boardman. The C & D stands for Carroll (Donovan) and Dewey (West). Donovan is brother-in-law of Mayor West. However, Mrs. West and Mrs. Donovan operate the drive-in. Donovan operates the service station, owned by West.



ONE OF TWO fine motels already open to the public at Boardman in its new location is the Riverview Motel. Eventually, the three motels will have 100 rooms to furnish accommodations. The town will be able to handle small conventions.



TRAVELERS can get 24-hour service at Boardman, as the sign in front of the Texaco station, one of five service stations operating, shows. Dean King operates this station under lease from Arthur Allen.



VIEW LOOKING east on the south side of Highway Interstate 80 shows this lineup of bright new business buildings with their signs lofted high to be visible for miles to highway travelers. Included are the Nugget Motel, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Don Linnell and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Bill Baker; the Nomad restaurant, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Harold Baker; the Shell Station, Vernon Russell; and Union Station, Ed and Wayne Kuhn.



LOOKING west at dusk along the strip on the south side of Highway Interstate 80-N, a person sees this view of Boardman. The Hitchin' Post is operated by Mr. and Mrs. Jake Alexanian. The Char Broiler, built by Emmett McKenzie, is operated by Bob Reid and Les Moen. Jerry Peck has the Richfield Station.