

Grigsby, McFadden field questions

Boeing operation explained to CC

By GLENN MORRISON

Some myths, rumors and misunderstandings were buried Monday at the Morrow County Chamber of Commerce when Denver Grigsby, president and general manager of Boeing Agri-Industrial Co. at Boardman, and Jack L. McFadden, vice-president and assistant general manager, answered questions about Boeing's operation of leased land in north Morrow County.

Grigsby gave answers to questions being circulated concerning Boeing's past and future in Morrow County.

He spoke of the proposed Carty reservoir for PGE's planned nuclear plant, since Boeing is indirectly involved. Questions have been raised as to the availability of water for irrigation from the reservoir, and Grigsby noted that the reservoir could provide water to irrigate about 11,000 acres. An extension could be added to the top of the dam to expand the capacity. This in turn would make the plant more efficient to operate.

The main use of the reservoir is to cool the heated water used to power the steam turbines which create electric

power. The water is re-circulated after it is used, but a certain loss exists because of evaporation and seepage.

It was pointed out that Boeing does pay taxes in Morrow County, a sum of over \$60,000, or nearly 2 per cent of the county's total taxes.

Grigsby said the development of Boeing's land will span a 17-year period, which will best suit market conditions and Boeing's financial future.

One of the hottest subjects involving Boeing concerns the company's future plans in dealing with the Navy bombing range which adjoins the Boeing property. The lease which Boeing currently has from the State of Oregon has a clause which would allow Boeing to obtain any land adjoining its present site if the accompanying land were state-owned. This clause also stipulates that this land would be leased at the original lease price, one which many feel would be a "steal."

Grigsby said he knew of several types of plans for the use of the bombing range land, now that it is apparently "up for grabs." One of the more popular ideas for the land

concerns its purchase by the Port of Morrow County, which would in turn split the land into small family-sized plots of approximately 160-acre size, which would be sold to veterans on a lease-purchase agreement. In this plan the port commission would sell bonds to raise monies for the land purchase.

Of this plan Grigsby said, "If that can be shown to be a feasible plan for implementing the use of the land, then we are perfectly willing to drop any hold that we may have on the property."

He added that Boeing would not allow competition in corporate farming on the land. "We don't intend to let another corporation come in," he said.

Having come from another meeting concerning the bombing range earlier in the day, Grigsby said that U.S. Rep. Al Ullman had noted at the meeting that even if things went smoothly, "the earliest we could force the Navy out would be about in 1978." To complicate matters Grigsby also explained that certain government agencies such as BLM and Veterans Administration had jurisdiction over parts of the land. In summary,

he said that Boeing would accept any plan "shown feasible."

Grigsby opened the floor for questions.

Most of the questions came from O.W. Cutsforth, who has been involved with many of the issues involved in corporate farming in the Boardman area.

In asking how Boeing's land is assessed, Cutsforth noted once a refund of Morrow County tax money had to be refunded to Boeing.

Grigsby denied this, saying that the Boeing Company had not received any refund of taxes. He noted that the Department of Veterans Affairs had filed a suit concerning over-payment of taxes, and had received monies which it had previously over-paid.

McFadden of Boeing told how land is now assessed as to its yearly income and not just the cost of the land. Grigsby went on to say, "We think we're being assessed fairly, if we didn't we would be up here doing something about it."

Cutsforth asked a question concerning where the taxable income of Boeing's operations is being spent, in relation to

the costs to the county of maintaining Boeing. Grigsby said, "We don't think we're causing any problems for the county." He noted that Boeing had built nearly 32 miles of roads on its property and maintains them without cost to the county.

In reference to a statement that Boeing is not doing its share to maintain schools because of the extra burden it will be placing on them, McFadden said the work force for Boeing represents only one-fourth of one per cent of the county's population although it is paying over 2 per cent of the county's taxes. He also pointed out that employees are not allowed to live on company property.

A question was raised as to the assessment of the sprinkler systems used by Boeing. Grigsby said there was no "mass purchase discount" for the units, that each unit cost the same and was assessed as such.

Grigsby told the chamber that approximately 6300 acres of the leased land is presently being farmed, 2900 of which is maintained pasture land. Nearly 2300 acres of the land is in corn which will eventually

be used for feeder silage. The remaining 1100 acres of land is planted to wheat, although it will not be harvested for grain, but rather as hay for feed. He said the wheat is being used as a cover crop to aid in soil conservation. After the wheat reaches the milk stage it is harvested as hay, and corn is drilled directly through the stubble, creating a bedding for the seed. By keeping the ground "covered" in this way Boeing hopes to solve any "blow" problems which occur in the area.

He also said that the company is currently running about 4,000 head of cattle on the land.

Cutsforth said that he was under the impression that Sabre Farm's land was appraised at about \$125 per acre. The Boeing representatives disagreed with this figure, and said the figure for the developed land is more realistically around \$650 per acre, and that this figure will rise to about \$700 per acre next year.

It is Boeing's hope, Grigsby said, that "presentations of this kind will put an end to some of the rumors which seem to always be circulating and replace them with facts."



DENVER GRIGSBY

Results of special council meeting

At a special meeting of the Heppner Common Council Thursday night Councilman Warren Plocharsky withdrew a building permit application which he had previously filed for, and which was approved at the April 1 meeting of the council.

The original application had listed him as owner of record of the property adjoining the Lott-Rasmussen Addition on which he planned to build an \$18,000 residence. The new application lists the true owner of record, Randy Lott and Frank Rasmussen, with Plocharsky as builder instead of owner. He told the council he plans to purchase the property and build the residence for himself if the council approved the permit. The permit was approved.

Ken Belcher, manager of the First National Bank, Heppner branch, was present to deliver a letter to the council waiving any objection to the Bank of Eastern Oregon's previous bid for the purchase of the \$450,000 water

improvement bonds. The council accepted the waiver and awarded the bid to the Bank of Eastern Oregon. The bonds will draw interest of 5.8471 per cent for a period of 20 years.

An addition to the Morrow County Museum and Library was approved pending results of the final hearing on May 6.

The council set a time limit of 45 days within which time construction must begin on any issued building permit. Mayor Jerry Sweeney pointed out that a permit costs only \$1 and is good for a year. Many applications are approved by the council in good faith, but construction is not begun. "All this does is tie up additional permits," Sweeney said, which, in view of existing water conditions, could be depriving someone of one of the few permits that can be issued until the water system is modernized and expanded.

Effective immediately, construction must begin within 45 days following approval of a building permit or be

subject to revocation by the city.

The council appointed Bert Corbin as building inspector, to begin his duties July 1. Corbin will inspect all construction in the city with the exception of plumbing and electrical work for the city. The state will provide necessary inspection for electrical and plumbing work.

Should Corbin elect to take over the inspector duties on a permanent basis he must be certified by the state by July 1, 1977.

Del Piper of Lexington submitted a request for city water supply for a new supermarket he proposes to construct outside the city limits on the east side of Heppner-Lexington highway. The proposed site is approximately 1,200 feet from the existing water main at the Union Oil bulk plant.

An executive meeting to discuss salaries for city employees was held at the beginning of the session.

Evergreen Terrace

Council approves multiple units

A conditional use permit was granted Allen Nistad of Kinzua Corporation Monday night by the Heppner Common Council on a 4-1 vote with one abstention.

The permit for Evergreen Terrace subdivision covers construction of six fourplex houses, and had nothing to do with 22 other single-dwelling homes also scheduled to be built in the subdivision for employees of Kinzua Corporation.

The planning commission had previously approved the conditional use permit, and an appeal had been filed by a group of property owners led

by Larry Mills. The council's action at the special hearing Monday night should clear the way for Nistad's posting of a performance bond and for an immediate construction start.

More than 40 persons were present at the special hearing to voice their opinion on the proposed subdivision. Although they did not oppose the subdivision or the multiple units, some expressed opposition to the method of access proposed by the developer, Allen Nistad of Kinzua Corporation.

Objections had previously been raised concerning the increased traffic in the Pio-

neer Memorial Hospital area, as well as the hazards of traveling along Gilmore Street to reach the proposed subdivision.

The main objection was the proposed widening of Gilmore Street. Protestors who reside in the area felt that any widening of the street could result in their loss of property along the roadway.

Steve Anderson, city engineer, was present to answer questions. He told the council, "After careful studies of all of possible routes to the proposed subdivision, the most feasible route is the one planned by the developer, with the widening

of Gilmore Street. Gilmore Street has needed widening for many years and this will afford the city the opportunity to make the necessary changes."

Anderson told the council he proposed to widen Gilmore Street, with a 20-foot oiled mat, a four-foot shoulder on the downhill side and allow parking on the uphill side only, on the utility strip.

"The development will create additional traffic along Gilmore, yet it is the only feasible route," said Anderson.

Asked the cost of widening Gilmore, Anderson replied,

"According to my estimates, it will cost the city about \$6,500 to complete the project."

He told the council that according to his plans no houses, roofs, garages, power poles or fire hydrants would have to be moved to complete the required widening of the street.

Rita Hedman made the motion to grant the conditional use permit. It was seconded by Councilman Bob Jones. Voting in favor were councilman Hedman, Jones, Hollomon and Allstott. Opposed was councilman Ray

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June Crowell is bank manager

June M. Crowell, assistant cashier at the Bank of Eastern Oregon, Ione branch, will assume the duties of bank manager May 1.

Mrs. Crowell has been in the banking business for the past 24 years, and has been with the Ione branch for the past seven years.

She resides in Ione with her husband Howard and their daughter, Sharon, 9. June has two other children, a daughter, Karen Connor, who is married and lives in Hermiston, and a son, Gene, who is in the United States Army, stationed at the Yakima

Firing Center, Yakima, Wn.

She will replace Larry Prock who has been vice-president and general manager of the Ione branch. Prock is resigning to go into a farming type business in Ione.

He has been in the banking business for the past 14 years and has been manager and assistant vice-president for the past seven years. He and his wife Linda have two children, Lori, 9, and Mark, 7.



JUNE M. CROWELL

Car wash Saturday

Armed with buckets, sponges, hoses, chamois and an "aim to please," the National Honor Society of Heppner High School will stage a car wash Saturday, April 20.

Operating hours will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Cal's Arco, corner of Main and Center Streets. For a clean car, inside and out, students will charge \$2.50; \$1.50 for one or the other.

Proceeds will help finance Honor Society activities.

Morrow County School Board

22 teacher jobs to be filled

By LIZ CURTIS

Twenty-two teaching positions must be filled in the Morrow County School District for the coming year.

The school board at its Monday evening meeting approved contracts for 11 of these positions. Contracts for Heppner Schools were offered to Mike Anderson of Payette, Idaho, for kindergarten; Kathryn Cox of Miridian, Idaho, as 1st grade teacher; Kathleen Wilson, graduating from EOC, for girls' physical education; Judy Nichols, who has been teaching in Colorado, as 2nd grade teacher; Marion Abrams of Heppner as high school librarian.

Linda Williamson, who has taught several years in Washington and moved to Heppner last fall when her husband was transferred by the Forest Service to the Heppner Ranger District, has been hired to teach language arts at Ione. A husband and wife team from Nebraska with nine years of teaching experience each have been offered contracts to teach at Ione. Don Shimp was approved to teach 5th grade and Johnna Shimp to teach 3rd grade. Cynthia Jackson, graduating from College of Idaho, is being hired for the 5th grade position at A.C. Houghton and John Dawson from EOC for the 6th grade. Kathy Potter graduating from EOC, was approved for the

language arts position at Riverside High School. Two transfers were approved in the Heppner Elementary School, at the request of the teachers involved. Inez Meador is being transferred from 7th and 8th grade science position to 4th grade. 2nd grade teacher Sue Jones will become the librarian at Heppner Elementary.

Rose Hoosier, 5th grade teacher at A.C. Houghton, will retire at the end of the current school year. Ron Riley, language arts teacher at Heppner High; Linda Riley, 1st grade teacher at Heppner and Robert Nash, social studies and Spanish teacher at Heppner High, submitted resignations. In addition, Bob Jespersen, vocal music teacher at Heppner, Dorcas Stewart, librarian at Heppner Elementary, and Janey Molahan, language arts teacher at Riverside, will not be returning next year.

Ron Daniels reported to the board that he has met with Portland General Electric officials about the influx of students in the north end of the county and some possible funding. He stated that growth in the Boardman-Irrigon area will be a prime concern of the board in the future. Three area long-range planning committees have been dealing with this and other problems during the past five months. Their reports have been submitted to the County

School Long Range Planning Committee.

The long range committee, which has been in existence since 1969 to plan for building needs of the county's schools, will meet with the school board at 8 p.m., Monday, May 13, at the district office in Lexington. It will review recommendations made by the three area committees.

Board member Irvin Rauch asked what steps were being taken to do some advance buying as a means of dealing with inflation. Daniels reported that next year's paper supplies have already been purchased. At the end of the school year fuel oil tanks and gas tanks will be filled rather than left empty as has been a past practice.

Effects on the last legislative session on school districts were under discussion. Under a new law, school districts are billed directly for those students from the district who have been placed in special education programs by the court, such as a boys' ranch. Currently, three students from the county are in such programs. This number could increase as more people move into the county. The cost per student, per year, to the school district is \$1008. This year Morrow County school district has paid out about \$1695.

The board took no action on SB 622 which means the district will not participate in

the program at this time. The bill permits retiring employees, in those districts which participate, to use half of their unused sick leave to increase their retirement benefit fund, resulting in high monthly benefits. The board did not adopt the plan because it felt the legislature left too many uncertainties in the bill as to how the program would be financed.

Pauline Winter and Jack Sumner reported their views concerning Ballot Measures 1 and 3, which concern establishment of school tax bases and funding formulas for the distribution of tax monies to school districts. They did not favor the measures because Morrow County would be hurt under either plan. Mrs. Winter, who is a member of the state School Boards' Legisla-

tive Committee, reported that committee has come out questioning the usefulness of the two ballot measures.

Daniels reported that Heppner Elementary and A.C. Houghton schools are participating in a weekly floride mouth-rinse program. The program is being carried out with the approval of the State Health Department and Morrow County Health Department. The program, which takes about five minutes once a week, is being conducted in the kindergarten through the 6th grades. Children participate only upon written approval from their parents. Don Cole, principal of Heppner Elementary, reported that of the 13 classrooms involved, only eight students are not taking part. Participation at

Cutting contest time!

The Wrangler's will host their 15th annual Cow Cutting contest, April 20-21, at the Morrow County Fairgrounds.

The youth class has been eliminated from this year's contest. However, a \$250 novice-novice class has been added. This class is for any novice rider and a horse that has not earned \$250 during the year.

The Cow Cutting will consist

of two go-rounds, the first one starting at 5 p.m. Saturday and the second go-round beginning at 9 a.m. Sunday.

Don Waugh, Pasco, will act as the judge for the Wranglers, during the events. Horses are expected to be entered from Oregon, Washington, Idaho and California. In past years there has been as many as 60 entrants.

Admission to the events is free.

Heppner Moonlight Sale April 26, 7-9 p.m.