

## New Bank To Open

Columbia Community Bank expects to open in a temporary storefront at the Hermiston Plaza Shopping Center by the end of April, according to Jim Pratt, president and chief executive officer of the new locally owned bank.

Pratt said a vacant area between T-Shirts Plus and the Stereo Bird will be used by the bank until a permanent facility can be built on an empty lot next to Shari's Restaurant (also a plaza business).

The 1,400 square foot storefront will be equipped with two tellers' counters, a new accounts desk, a loan officer's desk and a conference room. Pratt expects that a "good portion" of the staff will be hired by the middle of next month.

The bank is presently selling off the last of the \$1.25 million in stock required by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. Pratt expects the bank will be "fully subscribed" by the end of the month.



Jim Pratt (left) and Stephen Golden - New bank for Hermiston. (Herald photo)

Columbia Community Bank is currently operating under "conditional approval" from the state. The state's okay is contingent on FDIC approval and this won't happen until the stock requirement is met, Pratt explained. Stock subscription funds are now being deposited in an escrow account at the People's National Bank of Seattle.

Pratt isn't tipping his hand ahead of time but he says the new bank "will be trying some different things" when it opens. Pratt has 14 years experience in the banking business. He was manager of The Oregon Bank in Pendleton for about 1 1/2 years before accepting the Hermiston job. He was also a loan officer for

two years at The Oregon Bank in Portland.

Stephen H. Golden was recently named vice president of Columbia Community Bank. He was an assistant vice president in the commercial lending division of Pendleton Banking Co. and was with First National Bank for 16 years.

## Williams Names Manager

A new manager has taken over the helm at the Williams 1870 store in the Hermiston Plaza Shopping Center.

Cecil Berry, a former buyer of men's and women's clothing for Burnham's Department Store, began his new duties Monday, replacing Lee Vetter.

Berry is a native eastern Oregonian. He was born and raised in Heppner and attended Blue Mountain Community College. He started his retail career with the J.C. Penney chain, working at stores in Pendleton, the Tri-Cities and Ellensburg.

He was involved in the company's management and training program and at 26 became Penney's youngest manager at its store in Molalla. He left the company after declining a transfer out of the Northwest and went into the CB business. New federal regulations forced him to abandon this career and he eventually went to work for Burnham's.

He and his family presently live in Stanfield.

Berry's assistant manager is Kirk Olsen, a Brigham Young University graduate, who managed a jewelry store in Pendleton before coming to Williams last year.

Williams 1870 opened last September in a spacious, 14,000 square foot facility that accentuated its contemporary styles in clothing and accessories.

Separate departments offer customers a wide selection in men's and women's clothing, youthful fashions, children's ware, shoes, lingerie and accessories (luggage, purses, jewelry, etc.).

The store recently expanded its services to include tuxedo rentals.

The store's history parallels the development of Eastern Oregon when gold prospectors journeyed to the hinterlands in search of their fortunes. The first



Assistant Manager Kirk Olsen fills in for new Williams Manager. (Herald photo)

Williams store appeared at The Dalles in 1869. Its founders were Don Williams, president, and Bill Sugg, vice president. Both are headquartered at The Dalles. Don was Merchant of the Year in 1977 and a recent winner of The Dalles' Community Service Award.

The first Williams store sold general merchandise and supplies to prospectors on their way to the Dalles First National Bank.

## Children's Clothes Sold

The Children's Den, originally located in the Creamery Annex and now in the Hermiston Plaza, has been in business for a little more than two years.

Owned by Tom and Sara Kingston, the Children's Den has become popular with the mothers, the almost mothers and especially the grandmothers.

The Children's Den offers Hermiston shoppers something that has not been available before, a mother shop.

"We have an extensive inventory in baby and children accessories, night lights, nursery lamps, jewelry, silver cups and spoons and banks, stuffed animals and toddlers. So my favorite dream was to open an exclusive children's shop," Sara Kingston stated. "We have a wide array of gifts and certificates and the convenience of lay-a-way are all at the Children's Den where a big happy lion and other items that will keep the baby or children happy while mother shops."

When we arrived in this area I found it difficult to shop for our babies and toddlers. So my favorite dream was to open an exclusive children's shop," Sara Kingston stated. "We have a wide array of gifts and certificates and the convenience of lay-a-way are all at the Children's Den where a big happy lion and other items that will keep the baby or children happy while mother shops."

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## Shoe Store Boasts Quality For Less

Payless Shoe Source's selling point is that, as one of 621 stores that make up Volume Shoe Corporation of Topeka, Kan., it can sell quality shoes for less money.

And there's not a customer in the world that doesn't like that kind of deal.

"We're real pleased with the way the community has accepted our shoes," commented assistant manager Bonnie Ferguson.

Payless Shoe Source, which opened in the middle of November in the Hermiston Plaza, is managed by Georgetta Risinger.

Mrs. Risinger managed the Payless Shoe Source in Spokane prior to coming to Hermiston. Her husband had been transferred by Union Pacific from

Spokane to Hermiston during the summer.

Mrs. Ferguson's husband had been transferred from Milton-Freewater to Hermiston by the National Marine Fisheries Service. Before moving to Hermiston, Mrs. Ferguson was employed at Griggs Stalene Shopping Center in Milton-Freewater.

Ferguson said Payless Shoe Source offers a "complete family set up" when it comes to shoes. Their line includes shoes and boots for casual and dress plus athletic wear.

Sizes range from 0 in infants to 13 for men and 11 for women.

Shoe care items are available, as is women's billfolds and purses.



Georgetta Risinger (Herald photo)

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# GRAND OPENING

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# GRAND OPENING

of  
**the CHILDREN'S DEN**

Visit With  
**Raggedy Ann**  
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March 31                      April 1

10:00-12:00 & 2:00-5:00      Sunday 1:00-5:00

Come In and Browse  
Free Balloons for all the Kiddies!

Match Your Lucky Number  
For One of These Prizes...

1. Weber's Barbeque Grill
2. \$25.00 Gift Certificate
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Hey Kids!  
Enter Our  
Name the Lion  
Contest  
and win a  
LION!