



Adding to skyline

Portland General Electric's Carty coal-fired power plant nears the half-way point in completion. The plant, which is expected to fire-up in July 1980, is being constructed at a cost of more than \$500-million. The 654-foot stack dwarfs the main generating building—320 feet tall—and massive coal handling machinery in the lower right portion of photo.

Carty power plant 48% complete; power producing by July 1980

By Rick Steelhammer

Construction of the new Carty coal-fired power plant near Boardman is now 48 per cent complete, and proceeding on schedule towards its tentative fire-up date of July 1, 1980.

To the casual observer, it's hard to believe that 52 per cent of the plant remains incomplete. The plant's 654-foot chimney towers above the north Morrow plains, imposing even from a distance of 20 miles. The main generating building, a massive structure standing 320 feet tall, looks nearly complete, from the outside, anyway.

Persons attending a meeting of the East Central Oregon Association of Counties last week were given a tour of the Carty site, and a progress report on its development by Portland General Electric representative Bus Clough.

Not quite half done, the complex currently accounts for nearly half of Morrow County's taxable value. The most recent estimates show the power plant to be worth some \$200 million—compared with \$450 million set for the worth of the county as a whole.

When the facility is completed, it is expected to be valued at more than \$500 million, and generate more than \$2 million per cent in local property taxes.

Clough told the ECOAC members taking part in the tour that the plant will provide permanent jobs for about 150 workers, after construction is final. PGE, as operator of the plant, hopes to hire at least half of that number from the local area, Clough said.

To exemplify how rapidly the structure is nearing completion, Clough said PGE plans to begin stockpiling coal this fall. Permanent coal handlers will begin to be hired at that point.

Coal will be brought to the Carty site by rail from the Gillette, Wyo., area. A newly completed 15-mile rail spur will bring the power source to a 210 acre coal handling area at Carty from the Union Pacific mainline along the Columbia. The low sulphur, relatively clean-burning coal will be purchased under the terms of a 20-year contract with the AMAX Corp., one of

the nation's largest coal operators.

A coal handling site of more than 200 acres may at first blush seem excessive, but not when you consider how much coal will be burned at Carty. Plans call for a 78-car train to unload 8,000 tons of coal every 2½ days at Carty. But that amount is only sufficient to power the plant's 500,000 kilowatt generator for two days.

The plant will use some 300 tons of coal per hour, which will in the same length of time produce about 21 tons of ash. About 20 per cent of the ash will fall to the bottom of the furnace, with the remaining 80 per cent rising with hot exhaust gases up the chimney. Electrostatic precipitating gear to be installed at the plant is expected to remove more than 99 per cent of the ash from the flue gas.

Most of the ash will be used to fill in countours in the dryland surrounding the plant, and will be buried with topsoil for use in agriculture—probably as grazing land.

Flue emissions will be

monitored constantly in order to adhere to state and federal air quality standards. Meteorological stations for performing such monitoring are already in use.

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Presenting the **Fire Islander** In Peach & Blue

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'You Can't Take It With You' performances at HHS May 3-4

Don't miss the three-act comedy "You Can't Take It With You" to be presented by the Heppner High Drama group at 8 p.m. in the cafeteria May 3 and 4.

Since its first appearance on Broadway in the 30's this play has been an audience pleaser.

With its fireworks (Joe Mollahan and Greg Sweeney) and its music and ballet dancing (Perry Cooper and Patti Toombs) and its philosophical

Grandpa Martin Vanderhoff (Bob Miller) and worried, ulcernagged businessman (Bill Kenny), this play has something to please all ages and tastes.

The lovers (Susan Johnson and Lionel Wood), the middle-aged mother who is also a playwright and painter (Marie Yocom), two Russians who escaped the Revolution (Jeff Fortenberry and Alice Abrams), an inebriated act-

ress (Lea Rush), an irate IRA man (Scott McEwen) and G-men (Richard Schmidt and Jim Ackley) all add to the excitement and fun. Even the servants (Lisa Nix and Brian Thompson) are important entertainment in this play.

Helping backstage for some special effects are Polly Fortenberry, Lynn Dee and Dawna Devin, Elizabeth Zita, Patti Devine, Tina Miller, and Heather Winter. The director is Mrs. Rawlins.

Hospital funding required

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With a new doctor on the PMH staff, attracting new patients and additional revenues for the hospital, the additional physician would likely generate at least double the money it would cost taxpayers to bring him or her to Heppner. If the additional doctor arrives fairly soon, Byrnes said he was optimistic that some of the tax money sought in the proposed budget could be carried over. "We ought to be in a heckuva lot better shape next year," he said.

The proposed budget is an "attempt to create an environment for economic viability," said Byrnes. "The long range return to the taxpayer will be good...If you don't go forward, you're regressing. And you can only go back so far."

The largest single item on the budget is \$621,252 for employee salaries and benefits. Capital improvements and replacement of worn or outdated equipment would require nearly \$80,000.

The budget—based on an occupancy rate of 28 per cent, which should increase markedly with the addition of another doctor—anticipates that daily service charges during the coming year will

bring in nearly \$206,000, and ancillary service charges will generate \$251,195 in income. The nursing home facility is expected to bring in more than

\$282,000. Further information on the proposed hospital budget will be published during the weeks prior to the May 22 vote.

HHS entering Freshmen registration set for Apr. 26

Registration and orientation for prospective Heppner High School freshmen and their parents will be held Thursday, April 26 at 7 p.m. in the high school cafeteria.

All eighth graders intending to enroll at Heppner High next school year are urged to attend, with their parents.

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