

Santa Claus comes to town



The eyes of the children were large as saucers when Santa made a stop in Irrigon to give them a treat at the annual Irrigon Christmas Tree Lighting party recently.

Craig Gribble, 5, was invited to help himself from Santa's basket full of candy canes.

Photo by Joyce Hensley

Boardman • Irrigon News

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Miller leaves with a feather in his cap

By Joyce Hensley

Bob Miller will resign as manager of the port of Morrow with a feather in his cap.

The recent decision by the Clark County Commissioners to ship solid waste materials to the proposed Boardman landfill could possibly boost the Port's revenue to an excess of \$800,000, according to Miller.

Two years ago, in 1986, when Miller became General Manager of the Port, the dock was struggling.

Miller had several definite projects in mind, but the plight of the Port's docking facility was high on his list of priorities.

"I wanted to bring the dock into a profit picture where it was no longer a financial drain on the Port," said Miller. "We had some real problems then, getting containers to the shippers, and we had no regular scheduled barge stops."

Now an additional 500 containers loaded with Clark County's garbage will possibly be barged into the Port's dock by Tidewater Barge Lines of Vancouver, Washington, then trucked to the proposed Finley Butte landfill site.

Even before the new contract agreement with Tidewater by Clark County, Miller had realized his goal of bringing the docks to a profit making entity by more than doubling the barge traffic.

"Now we have two regular barges stopping and a third stops on demand," said Miller. "We have an average of 500 containers per month going through our facilities."

The solid waste materials coming into the docks from Clark County will add heaps of frosting to the cake.

Miller will resign in January to become assistant director of the deep water Port of Astoria.

"One of the reasons I'm going to the Astoria Port is the ocean going ships which call there," Miller said. "I'd like to have the experience of working with deep water ships."

"The ships are loaded and unloaded by longshoremen," he said, "and that is also an area where I'd like to pick up a little experience. I'm looking forward to working with them." Miller's duties at the Port of Morrow involve running the large facility system; which includes running the dock operations, actively developing the Port's economics, marketing, selling, leasing and bringing potential clients in to look at the land.

"One of my jobs is to attract clients to the area by showing them the advantages of moving to Morrow County," said Miller.

Miller's duties will be similar as assistant director of the Port of Astoria.

"I will be dealing with the same kind of issues on zoning laws, land conservation development, and commission rules and regulations on developing which I do in Morrow County," he said, "except Astoria has a lot more wet-land."

Wet-land is protected by the Corps of Engineers.

"Any place a cattail will grow is classified as wet-land and can't be disturbed," said Miller.

This type of land is saved in its natural state to preserve the duck and geese routes, nest areas, and fly-ways.

Miller is looking forward to moving to the coastal area.

"I'm pretty excited about Astoria. It is historically the oldest area in Oregon and consequently has a very interesting history," he said. "I particularly like the arts and crafts you find up and down the Oregon Coast."

"I may even find new roads to explore with my motorcycle," he added.

Miller has been dedicated to the Port since becoming a manager.

"My major hobby since I've been in Morrow County has been the Port," he said. "I really haven't had much time for anything else."

Miller has taken time to enjoy and participate in mixed summer league slow-pitch softball. The Port sponsors two teams.

Miller will miss the people he has worked with.

"Morrow County has a high percentage of progressive, intelligent, and aggressive people," he said, "and I'll miss them more than anything."

"For instance, the farms are the most progressive in the nation and even though I'm leaving the area, I'll keep a close eye on programs developing here," he said.

"I believe they are going to produce new crops and additional processing of those crops," he added.

Miller came to Morrow County in 1982 from Portland to serve as project manager and inspector of a bridge and road the company of Seton, Johnson & Odell were building for the Port.



Bob Miller

He then went on to become Port Manager.

Civil engineering and land surveying have always been Miller's fields. He has been involved in economic development of the land since 1968. He is licensed by the Oregon State Board of Engineers examiners.

Miller is on the Board of Directors for the Oregon Public Ports Association, Board of Directors for the Columbia Snake River Marketing Group, Inc. and is chairman of the Professional Land Surveyors of Oregon.

He and his wife Judy, have four daughters, Tami, 27, Wilsonville, a policy analyst for the legislative committee on trade and economic development; Lauri, 26, a housewife in Forest Grove; Holy, 17, a senior at Riverside High School; and Jody, a sixth grader at A.C. Houghton Elementary.

CJHS students compete in Knowledge Master Open

A team of ten students at Columbia Junior High School competed in a grueling academic test on December 7 in the Knowledge Master Open, an academic competition involving thousands of schools across the nation.

The local team scored 1046 of 2,000 possible points on a test covering all middle school disciplines. Questions included these areas: American and World History, Government, Current Events, Economics and law, Literature, Math, Physical and Earth Science, Biology, Health, Arts and Music.

The contest was run on Apple II computers at schools in all 50 states, Canada and the Pacific Basin. The computers tallied the students' scores based on speed and accuracy.

This is only the second time Columbia Junior High School has entered the Knowledge Master competition. Academic coach, Sally Edinger, described the event as stimulating and exciting. Those students participating were Amy Daulton, Mandi Marchek, Brandy Duff, Jason Smythe, Tyson Pratt, Seth Smythe, Betsy Hernandez, Christ Tallman, Jason Sheadel, Lisa Bowling and Michelle Brown.

The Knowledge Master Open was developed to provide all schools the opportunity to compete in a national academic contest without the expense of traveling to a central site and to stimulate interest and recognition for academic accomplishments.

Port of Morrow meeting Dec. 14

There will be a Port of Morrow Commission work session held on December 14, Wednesday, from 12-3 p.m. at the Dodge City Inn in

Boardman. A regular meeting will follow at 3 p.m. at the Port of Morrow office.

EMT classes taught in Irrigon

Evening EMT I classes are being offered at Riverside High School in Boardman. The Monday and Wednesday classes run from 7 to 10 p.m. and are taught by Tim McCreary. Cost for the Blue Mountain Community College sponsored course is \$110. Registration will be held at the December 14 class.

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Wait! There's more!

Free door prizes and refreshments!

Thursday, December 15th 4 -7 p.m.
Morrow County Fairgrounds Pavillion - Pilot Rock Hwy. - Heppner

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COMMUNICATIONS

FIRST ANNUAL HEPPNER ALUMNI BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

**Fun
Excitement
Entertainment
December
16, 17 & 18**

(Winners' Bracket)

Friday 7:30 p.m. 72-79
Loser to A (1)

Friday 9:00 p.m. 86-88
Loser to B (2)

Saturday 9:00 a.m. 64-67
Loser to C (3)

Saturday 10:30 a.m. 83-85
Loser to D (4)

Saturday 68-71
Loser to E (5)

Saturday 80-82
Loser to F (6)

Saturday 76-79
Loser to G (7)

Pre-64
Loser to H (8)

(Losers' Bracket)

Saturday 3:00 (7) A
Loser 1

Saturday 4:30 (8) B
Loser 2

Saturday 6:00 (9) C
Loser 3

Saturday 7:30 (10) D
Loser 4

Saturday 11:00 (11) E
Loser 5

Sunday 1:00 (12) F
Loser 6

Sunday 2:30 (13) G
Loser 7

Sunday 4:00 (14) H
Loser 8

**CHAMPIONSHIP GAME (14)
4:00 SUNDAY**

8 Teams!

FRIDAY
5 p.m. - Social Hour (Elks)
5 - 7 - No-Host Buffet (Elks)
6 p.m. - Pre-game Program (Elks)
7:30 p.m. - First Game (High School Gym)

SATURDAY
1st Game - 9 a.m.
Coming Home Dance at Elks (After 9 p.m. Game)

SUNDAY
Finals & Championship beginning at 1 p.m. (High School Gym)

ADULTS: \$2.00 - STUDENTS - \$1.00
Proceeds to benefit local youth athletic programs.
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