

# Industrial Development & Port of Morrow

## Columbia River Heritage Trail



### Power, energy industries; agriculture and transportation helped develop the Columbia Basin.

Beginning in the 1880s, wheat and wool were shipped out of Morrow County using river and rail transportation. Finished goods returned for sale to farmers by a network of rails. By the 1940s, hydroelectric dams provided dependable irrigation water for agricultural uses. With large amounts of water for irrigation available, orchards and vineyards sprang up along the river.

In 1958, interested citizens petitioned for the establishment of a Morrow County Port Commission. Approved in a general election, the new port district joined other Oregon and Washington port districts taking advantage of electric power generated by the waters of the Columbia.

*Source: "Yesterdays of Morrow," p. 21*

The old Boardman Union Pacific Depot, built in 1922, served as the first Port of Morrow Office. *"Three hundred people celebrated the opening of the new depot with a jollification Friday evening, September 1st."*

September 8, 1922, Boardman Mirror



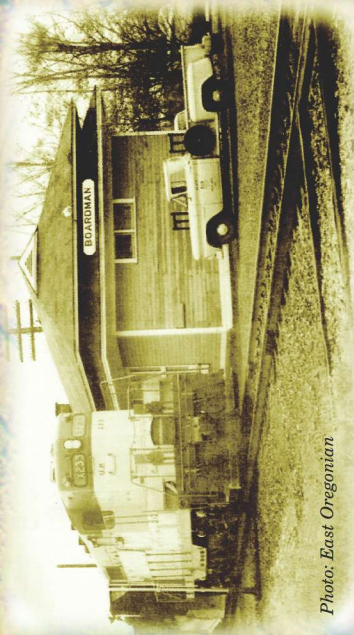
*Photo: Boardman Chamber of Commerce*

Port of Morrow industrial facilities include more than 7,000 acres, (1,400 irrigated acres). Two and one-half miles of Columbia River waterfront property are utilized for industrial development. Container and general cargo docks, grain, wood chip and log handling facilities join the Riverfront Center with an office complex, conference center, restaurant and lodging.



Columbia River Processing produces an output of more than 120 million pounds of cheese. This processing plant doubles the output of the Tillamook Co., Oregon, cheese factory. Cheese produced in Boardman travels to Tillamook for final aging and packaging. Early food processing activities were affected by lack of transportation systems and electrical power. *"The Boardman Cheese Factory is increasing its output and faces the necessity of enlarging its facility. The product is now ready for market and if it can be distributed rapidly enough to keep up with its production, success is assured."*

*Source: January 13, 1922 Boardman Mirror. The Swiss Cheese Factory was out of business by 1930.*



*Photo: East Oregonian*