

Ray Mosbrucker Begins Term as Commissioner

By Barbara Patterson

Klickitat PUD's newly elected commissioner, Ray Mosbrucker, comes on board this month.

He replaces Harold Hill, who retired in December.

Ray will serve with commissioners Randy Knowles and Dan Gunkel.

Ray, a strong supporter of public power, comes to the job with excellent qualifications.

Owner of the Simcoe Metal and Electric Company in Goldendale, he brings a broad knowledge of the electrical and construction business.

Ray is particularly interested in assisting in the development of KPUD water systems. He has installed many systems during the years, and says he believes he can help the projects progress smoothly and efficiently.

Economic development in Klickitat County is another area of expertise Ray brings to the job. He was founding chairman of the county economic development committee, now an advisory group to the county commission.

"If we don't have affordable rates," Ray says, "economic development will suffer."

To keep affordable rates, Ray says KPUD should continue to develop small power sources, such as the Roosevelt landfill gas power plant and the McNary Dam hydro plant.

"In Klickitat County, you learn to become diversified," Ray says. "It's like in my business. You don't put all your eggs in one basket. The less dependent we are on BPA for power, the better."

Ray looks to wind power development as an avenue to diversifica-



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tion and to more independence from the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)—a program to which KPUD is already committed.

"We have an excellent renewable source right here in this county," Ray, a strong advocate of green power, says. "It's called wind!"

"During my term, I would like to work with the state legislature to help form rules and regulations which affect PUDs. It's our responsibility as commissioners to inform the legislature of the facts regarding public utility needs and requirements."

A lifelong resident of Klickitat County, Ray was born in White Salmon and raised in Snowden, where his family owned a cattle ranch. In 1959, the family moved to the Goldendale area.

After graduating from Goldendale High School, Ray served four years in the Air Force.

At Portland Community Col-

lege, he became qualified as a sheet metal journeyman.

Ray and his wife, Jan, raised three children in Goldendale. Their son, Tony, manages the family business, because Ray says he is "semi-retired."

Daughter Angela Hoffman is a local certified public accountant, and daughter Gina McCabe runs the Touch of Class dance studio. Gina also manages the FarVue Motel in Goldendale, which the family owns.

The Mosbruckers keep busy with their 10 grandchildren, often getting involved with 4-H activities.

Ray looks forward to serving as KPUD's new commissioner.

"The community has been good to us," he says. "Now it's time to give something back." ■

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