

Store founder, Idaho governor help mark Albertson's opening

by ROBIN FRANZEN
of The Outlook staff

Albertson's new 551,000-square-foot distribution center in Gresham was dedicated officially Sunday, with the Boise-based grocery chain's leading man calling it "another milestone in the company's continued growth."

Warren E. McCain, chairman of the board and chief executive officer of Albertson's Inc., said following an afternoon of special tours, exhibits and a luncheon that he expects to see the company's overall net earnings double to \$12.4 billion within the next five years.

"We aren't hoping — we are planning," McCain said. "Our stockholders like to hear that."

McCain said in this fiscal year he anticipates a 14 percent increase in sales and a 27 percent increase in earnings, totaling \$6.7 billion. This year the company will build its 500th retail store, making it the sixth largest food and drug retailer in the United States, McCain added.

Idaho Gov. Cecil Andrus, store founder Joseph Albertson, 82, and Gresham Mayor Gussie McRobert were among an estimated 1,700 people who attended the dedication. Oregon Gov. Neil Goldschmidt was invited to attend the celebration, but he had a prior commitment.

The new Gresham facility is Albertson's largest and most modern distribution center, costing \$50 million to build and another \$20 million to stock. It began making shipments in August 1988 and was fully operational on Oct. 16. The Gresham distribution center will serve more than 100 stores in Albertson's Northwest region.

It is in the Banfield Corporate Park near the intersection of Interstate 84 and Northeast 181st Ave. Approximately 370 people are employed there.

"This shows our faith in the region and the future of the area," McCain said, adding that the company is committed to an aggressive sales and marketing cam-

paign.

Albertson's is pursuing a plan to update, expand or replace many of its 38 Oregon stores, McCain said, noting the company's desire for 40,000- to 60,000-square-foot facilities. "Twenty-seven of the 38 will be state-of-the-art stores."

Andrus predicted that Albertson's would be "a good corporate citizen" and "good neighbor" in Gresham, while McRobert lauded the center as a non-polluter and a provider of well-paying jobs.

"If I can't have it (the distribution center) in Idaho . . . It might as well be in Oregon," Andrus said. "You are a lot better because of it — and we'll get even with you some how."

"It's good to have them here," McRobert said following her tour.

McCain reported that Albertson's is in the process of building two other distribution centers in Brea, Calif., and Fort Worth, Texas, that will surpass the Gresham center in size.

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Gresham to get Albertson's offices

Boise-based Albertson's Inc. will move its retail division headquarters from Beaverton to Gresham as part of a consolidation plan.

The headquarters will be moved to a 200,000-square-foot facility at the site of the new \$70 million distribution center in Gresham, Al Smith, vice president for the Oregon Division, said Tuesday.

The distribution warehouse is at the Banfield Corporate Park near the intersection of Interstate 4 and Northeast 181st Avenue.

Smith said it makes sense to place the merchandising and warehouse staffs close together for better communication and efficiency. Supervising management for all 41 Albertson's stores in Oregon will work out of the retail division headquarters.

About 30 employees at the Beaverton head-

quarters will make the move to Gresham, Smith said. He estimated the cost of the project at \$500,000.

Announcement of the move came following a talk on Monday given by Smith and Frank Riddle, general manager of the distribution center, at the Gresham Area Chamber of Commerce. The topic at the meeting was the economic impact of the 500,000-square-foot distribution center.

Already, about 250 employees have been hired to work at the center, Riddle said, with about 200 of them from the local area. An estimated 350 will be employed at the center once it is fully operational.

The warehouse made its first produce shipment last week.

"This is going to be a showplace both for Albertson's and the industry," Riddle said of the facility,

which will hold its grand opening Jan. 29.

Despite the arrival of discount food wholesale operations such as Food Connection, Food 4 Less and CUB, Smith assured his audience that Albertson's would more than hold its own against the competition.

"Albertson's looks at them like any other grocery store to compete with. . . . We are going to spend a lot of money in this distribution center. . . . We are going to be around," he said.

As part of their talk, Smith and Riddle also described expansion plans the grocery chain has for the state, including adding two new stores of about 43,000 square feet and expanding smaller ones to more than 30,000 square feet.

They also named the Albertson's at Northeast 181st Avenue and Glisan Street in Rockwood the store with the highest sales in the state.



GRAND OPENING for the newest Albertsons food store is Wednesday at the Gresham Mall, Main and Burnside. The store opened for business Monday with Roy Wallace, formerly of the 181st and Glisan store, as manager. (Outlook Photo)

Albertsons Grand Opening In Gresham This Weekend

Albertson's newest super market at Burnside and Main in Gresham opened its doors for the first time Monday morning.

The Grand Opening Celebration is scheduled for this weekend with special events throughout the new store.

Albertson's is the first store to be opened in the new Gresham Mall. Roy Wallace, manager of the new store, comes to

this assignment from Albertson's at NE 181st and Glisan in Portland. He is a veteran of eight years with the firm and has managed several stores in the greater Portland area.

Dave McCall, assistant manager, was last with Albertson's in The Dalles where he was also assistant manager.

Ilgin Cornelson will manage the meat department and supervise the work of the meat cutters

and wrappers. He was with Albertson's on NE Cully Blvd. in Portland. Albertson's stores guarantee the meat they sell. All beef is graded U.S.D.A. Choice, all meat is personally selected to insure consistent high quality. Benno Sittrop, an experienced and knowledgeable produce manager, will head the produce department of the new facility. Sittrop has been with Albertson's three years and comes to Gresham from the store at 909 N. Killingsworth in Portland.

Rounding out the management team will be Bob Crawford who has been named manager of the store's bakery. Crawford is an 18 year resident of Gresham and was at Albertson's at 174th and SE Division. He will be responsible for the entire operation of the modern on-premises bakery that offers a complete baking service to the residents of the Gresham



ROD GRADIN family in Boring made a big haul of groceries at Albertsons, Gresham Mall, last Friday. Mrs. Gradin won the right to gather all the groceries she could in two minutes. The check-out totaled

\$77.38. It was part of the anniversary celebration at the Mall. Children, from left, are Linda, Danny, David and Melodee. George Moudy is Albertsons grocery department manager. (Outlook photo)

College Square Albertson's prepares to m

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FLINT CARLTON - THE OUTLOOK

Todd Dederich, left, and Dan Friberg install leak detectors for underground fuel tanks at the Albertson's Express convenience store at Troutdale Commons.

BY ANNE ENDICOTT
of The Outlook staff

How do you move a grocery store? According to employees and managers at the College Square Albertson's — slowly.

"We decreased our ordering after Christmas and then cut back again after New Year's," said Dathan Kuzmic, assistant grocery manager for the store. "Our best sellers and sale items are about all that's on the shelves now."

The 17-year-old store at Southeast Stark Street and Hogan Road will close its doors at 6 p.m. Monday, Feb. 5, and reopen at 8 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 7, in Troutdale Commons, a half-mile east on Southeast Stark Street.

It is moving from the south side of Stark Street which is in Gresham, to the north side of Stark Street which is in Troutdale.

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rental and a drop-off dry cleaning service.

"This way, customers can hit the dry cleaners, hit Starbucks, get gas. It's all in one place," Gossett said.

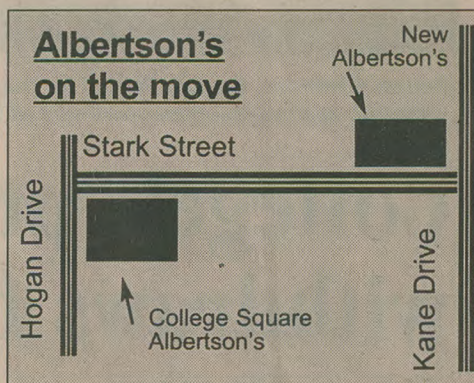
Gas?

Betting that one-stop shopping will include a trip to the gas pump, Albertson's will introduce its express fuel center and convenience store to east Multnomah County during grand opening festivities next week.

Another four-pump fuel center has been in operation at an Albertson's store in northeast Portland since early 2000. Company officials said that the Portland fuel center is "doing well" due to little neighborhood competition from other gas stations. Expectations are that the Troutdale facility will hold its own and be competitive with east county gas prices.

An additional 50 people have been hired by Albertson's, primarily to staff the fuel center and convenience store, which will make the Troutdale Commons Albertson's the second largest in Oregon, company officials said.

Longtime Albertson's customers wove their way through aisles with temporary employees boxing up unnecessary stock recently. Some



shelves were already empty, a glaring reminder that the store's days are numbered.

"I think this is a good thing," said Nancy Inglehart, a two-year Albertson's shopper. "It's a good move for them, there's a lot of competition out here. I'll still shop at the store because it's closer to my home."

Jan Farr has shopped at the College Square store since it opened in 1983. Like a familiar route to work, Farr knows the store's layout without looking at aisle signage.

"Now, I'll have to learn the aisles all over again," she said. "but I'll go to the new store."

Kuzmic said not all customers were as flexible about the store's transition and slowly emptying shelves.

"A lot of people didn't know we were closing," Kuzmic said. "We've been telling customers as they check out that we were closing for over a month. They've also been upset about the empty shelves. I took 100 complaints (Sunday) alone! But the new store will be awesome. It's been exciting to see it come together and it's all open and bright. I'm excited."

Grand opening ceremonies kick off with a ribbon cutting at 8 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 7, followed by a give-away of 500 Oregon Lottery scratch tickets to the first 500 shoppers through the doors. Door prize drawings and performances by bands from Corbett, Gresham and Sam Barlow high schools will round out the events.

The Troutdale Commons Albertson's is at 25691 S.E. Stark St., east of the Home Depot.

Reporter Anne Endicott can be reached at aendicott@theoutlookonline.com or by calling 503-492-5116.

ve across street, city limits

"Our big sellers and sale items are about all that's on the shelves now."

DATHAN KUZMIC
Albertson's assistant
grocery manager

Other than a new look, new location and new concept, shoppers won't notice many changes.

"(Troutdale Commons) is a replacement store," said Lisa Gossett, store director, "so all the employees will be moving to the new store. We probably won't have enough people!"

More than 80 employees will shuffle down the street with remaining store stock

over the next week and find themselves working in a larger, brighter work environment.

The new store features 58,000 square feet of space, an increase of approximately 15,000 square feet, which has made room for a cafe-style eatery next to the service deli and glassed-in departments where customers can see what goes on behind the scenes.

"You'll be able to see the bakers in the bakery," said Kuzmic, "and watch them cut meat on the butcher block in the meat department."

Shoppers will find an expanded service deli, stocked with gourmet meats, cheese and salads, as well as a Starbucks coffee bar, one-hour photo developing, video

TURN TO STORE,
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BALLET IN EAST COUNTY.



Albertson's Food Center opened in the new Gresham Mall, the newest ultra-modern shopping center at East Burnside and Main, Dec. 16, 1968, offering the finest in foods, large selection of sundries and non foods. They also have the best in-store bakery for your convenience. For special occasion bakery goods, they are as near as your phone, order ahead 665-8159. Farm fresh produce, 165 feet of top quality fruits and vegetables. One of the best meat cutters in the Northwest is here to help you in any selection you might choose. Come see the large variety of meats available. "Albertson's Food Center features the friendliest most efficient service we possibly can render", says Roy Wallace, manager, "it's our policy". Roy, with 22 years grocery experience, will always see the customer gets not only the service desired but the products. Shop soon. Ample free parking. Hours 9 to 9 everyday.