

## Permit granted to drill well in Whitney

By **NECIA P. SEAMONS**  
Citizen editor

The Idaho Water Resources Board has approved a permit for the Whitney/Nashville Water system to drill a well, said secretary Claire Thomas.

Pending its arrival Elray Westlake of Montpelier can apply for a well-driller permit which takes about five days to acquire, before he actually begins drilling, said Willis Moser, board member.

The well will be drilled on the bench east of 2400 East and 1400 South. Although the board can now move ahead to drill the well, no plans have been made to build a reservoir at the present time, said Thomas.

An engineer is required to design the reservoir project, said Moser. If water is tapped, it will probably be tapped until lines can be laid and the water can be utilized this spring, he said.

The paperwork for this permit began in September, said Moser.

## Water use draws city to court

By **NECIA P. SEAMONS**  
Citizen editor

The city of Preston is planning on defending the city's water supply in court because the Preston/Whitney Irrigation company has threatened to cut the city's water supply, said Mayor Walter Ross.

To do so the City has retained the services of water rights attorney Jo Beaman, Boise, and is considering retaining another. Beaman has already spent two years researching the city's historical water rights. The other attorney would be hired to represent the city in the courtroom if necessary, said Mayor Ross.

"Carl Swainston, president of the Preston/Whitney Irrigation Com-

pany, said the city had gotten too aggressive so we're going to court," said Mayor Ross.

However, Swainston did not want to comment any more than to say "We're not far enough into the problem to put anything in to the paper. We'll solve things as we sit down together," said Swainston.

The city has operated on 4.5 second feet of water shares in the winter for 50 years, said Mayor Ross. The Preston/Whitney Irrigation Company recently told the city that it only had 1.6 second feet of water, and was therefore going to cut the city's water supply.

The city contended the irrigation company could not do so and was going to get a court injunction. How-

ever the water master was only authorized to regulate the water in the summer, invalidating the irrigation company's order to turn the water off.

To insure the residents of Preston that the culinary water they need will be available, regardless of the outcome of any litigation over rights, contracts and historical usage of water by the city, the city purchased additional water shares at premium prices this fall.

However, the City is concerned that the canal company's refusal to transfer the stock as it has done in the past is placing the seller of the stock and the city in a precarious position, said Mayor Ross.