

What's Happening

Arts, Events & Entertainment for Eugene/Springfield & Lane Co.

OREGON COUNTRY FAIR '83



Over 250 crafts booths, set up amongst the trees, help to create a sense of a living, working community.

It's **Oregon Country Fair** time again—and for thousands of folks from Lane County and from all over the West Coast, it is *the* high point of the summer. Now, some people have been attending the fair for years and years—and they know pretty much what to expect (although there are always a few surprises!) But for you folks who have never ventured out to this elaborate permanent fair site in the country west of Veneta, here's a brief rundown of the fair's offerings:

Three hundred booths featuring some of the best handcrafted items and most delicious food in the world; ongoing entertainment on the several stages which are scattered throughout the park, including musicians, jugglers, mimes, magicians, puppeteers, dancers, and more; **Community Village**, with booths and displays on such topics as health, human services, recycling, politics, information networking and environment, as well as workshops, live music, New Games, and much



One of the most impressive beings that roam the Fairgrounds every year is this stately giant—standing nearly 12 feet tall.



Clowns, balloons, and children are familiar sights around the Fair.

more (see related article, page 4); and **Energy Park**, a relatively new addition to the fair, featuring displays on alternative energy sources and methods in such areas as solar, micro-hydro, conservation, and agriculture. (Wash away the dust with a solar shower!)

Old vaudevillians don't die; they reincarnate and show up at the Oregon Country Fair each year. Among the most popular of this rare and unusual breed are the Flying Karamozov Brothers—perhaps the greatest juggler/comedians of all times. They've been in demand all over the world—most recently on Broadway—but have managed once again to make it to the Fair. I won't reveal anything more about this troupe, but I guarantee they'll blow your mind!

Other vaudeville-type entertainment will be provided by such Fair regulars as juggler Roberto Morganti, bubble magician/puppeteer Tom Noddy, the C'est Cheese Theatre, Dr. Atomic Medicine Show, sword swallower/fire breather Moz Wright, and many others. There are still walkers, story tellers, satiric and comedy shows, dancers, clowns, and a very unique Marching Band!

Musical entertainment goes on all day at the Fair and includes a wide range of sounds—folk, jazz, rock (amplified by photovoltaics), Celtic, Latin, and country. Many local musician/entertainers will be there: folk duo Laurie Brown & Rob McIntosh, the Cashiers, Arousing Spirit, Instant Brothers, Shumba, and the ever popular Calliope (an original, witty, exceptionally talented trio singing in the 30's and 40's swing style), to name a few.

A schedule of entertainment and a map of the Fair will be handed out at the entrance to help you find your way to the entertainment of your choice.

The Fair, by the way, is a haven for children. Aside from the entertainment which draws children of all ages, there is a special children's park staffed with qualified child care workers.

The Fair takes place Friday-Sunday, July 8-10, from 11 am-7 pm. Friday admission is \$4, Saturday and Sunday \$5. Traffic and parking can be a problem, so it's best to take the **free LTD bus** which leaves the downtown mall at frequent intervals, beginning at 10:30 am and takes you right to the Fair entrance. You can also park at the River Road Transit Station or at the Lane County Fairgrounds and ride the bus (for 50¢) to the downtown transfer station, and catch the Fair bus from there.

The Fair is often hot, dusty and crowded. To avoid the biggest crowds, go out on Friday. But then again, if you like to be in the thick of things. . . .

—S.U.

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