Saturday Market Re-opens

On Saturday, March 30, Saturday Market will begin its 16th season. *What's Happening* talked with potter Gil Harrison, who has been there since the beginning of the market.

"Saturday Market is really a wonderful place, a wonderful experience," said Gil. Because he was able to sell enough at that original Saturday Market to support himself all year, Gil could quit his full-time job and become a full-time potter. He now exhibits in galleries, sells at regional stores and even one in Maryland.

Gil gets excited when he talks about the quality of crafts at the Saturday Market. He himself takes many of his best pieces there, and many others do too, he said. "You can find works at the Market that are as fine as any in many galleries. And the prices are so affordable." The principle of the Market is that the artists sell their own products. This is one thing that gives it its unique character.

Photograph by David Stein

This large platter by local potter **Gil Harrison** is an example of the fine crafts available at Saturday Market weekly.

And besides the crafts, there is entertainment every Saturday. Often there are local groups, but sometimes regionally famous acts are scheduled. Opening day features Big Sue, Uncle T and Johnny. Shumba will play their marimba music at 2:00, and Stefie the clown will entertain children.

We can look forward to the same delicious food as always. A new treat this year will be Chinese food by Tom of Tom's Teahouse. And there will be blintzes, as well as new dishes by some of the returning vendors.

Rain or shine, Saturday Market will be there every Saturday from now through Christmas. Welcome back!

—Lucia McKelvey

East and West Parks Fountains Renewed

by Lois Wadsworth

A couple of years ago Alan Boner, an engineer, and his neighbor Jim Ulrich, an artist, began kicking around the idea of creating aesthetically pleasing fountains using what Boner calls "appropriately guided technology." After a summer in the backyard running water through hoses into bottles with corks, they built a prototype, and formed a partnership (Pacific Fountains). They began casting about for a suitable pilot project, which they found in the County's problem-plagued fountains in the East and West Parks downtown at 8th and Oak.

Working with Jack Miller from Lane County Maintenance, Boner and Ulrich proposed to address the perceived problems of filtration, flow balance between the two fountains (they were run by one pump), and system reliability. This $500 public project is surely a bargain for a small staff that's spread pretty thin maintaining county equipment from the coast to the Cascades. The retrofit package includes an additional pump, improved filtration, and new spray heads on each fountain. If one pump is out for repairs, the integrated circulation system allows either pump to feed both fountains.

The new fountains' major visible features are the decorative spray heads from which the water falls in the form of a water bell, a misty umbrella which changes shape whenever the wind blows. But the working components are not visible; the pump system below ground circulates (and recirculates) the water to the fountain. This process reminds me of old woodcuts which depict underground creatures feeding fantastic mechanical devices designed to create paradise above ground.

As designers, Ulrich and Boner believe the aesthetic appeal of fountains rests on the illusion that the water is continually renewed. The challenge of the project lies in creatively sustaining this illusion while meeting the concrete demands of engineering a fluid flow system. To stay within budget, the pair bought recycled brass from Sesslers and machined the metal into spray head fittings at LCC in Jon Niemand's shop class. Four months of hard work pay off this Saturday when the new fountains begin operation.

In addition to the pleasant shape of the spray, the falling water makes a wide range of gentle sounds, forming a constant background which masks some of the noise from the busy street. Negative ions from waterfalls, thunderstorms, modern room ionizers, and fountains alike are reputed to give us a sense of well being. Check it out for yourself on Saturday.

Weekly Eye Opener

by Larry Deckman

(Taken from *The Cosmic Mind-Boggling Book* by Neil McAleer): "If you could hold a square mile of sunlight in your hand, it would weigh three pounds."

(If you have a good anecdote or fact that you'd like to see as a Weekly Eye Opener, *send it along with its source and author to:* Weekly Eye Opener, *2406 Lawrence St., Eugene, OR 97405. If your submission is used, it will be credited to you.)*

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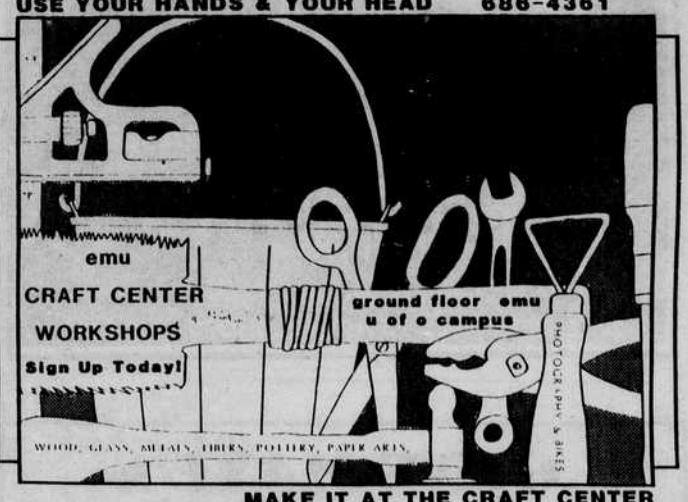

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