



Photos by Steve Van Brasch

# Music and food at a country market

The seventh annual Renaissance Faire, somewhat reduced in size, somewhat expanded in its role as a "temporary alternative community" and good-time site, gets under way Friday at its accustomed location outside Elmira.

The three-day event will feature the expected array of craft and food booths, exhibits, minstrels and programs of unamplified music. But there will be changes, too, many of them designed to enlarge upon the spirit of the occasion by controlling persistent past hassles involving traffic, littering, and other irritants.

The changes come in response to pressure from several quarters. For example, last year's Faire saw an influx of out-of-state craftsmen which pushed the number of booths to 350 or so, and competition became so fierce that many tradesmen wound up showing small gain for large efforts. This year, booths have been limited to 250-25 of which are reserved for non-Oregonians. "We wanted this to be an Oregon Faire," explains Faire organizer Cindy Wooten. "We've always considered it to be essentially a local happening."

There have been complaints from residents of Elmira and Veneta to be dealt with too, most pertaining to impatient Faire-bound motorists who in the past have jammed most available parking spaces and some private driveways in the two towns, rather than wait in line a few minutes for a space in one of the Faire's ample parking lots. Some of these complaints, Wooten explains, are a result of confusion precipitated by last summer's Grateful Dead concert, which was held at the Faire site and created one of the most hellish area traffic jams in recent memory.

But there have been numerous incidents of this type during all past Faires, Wooten says, and Faire organizers are moving to meet the situation on two fronts: a get-tough policy which employs six off-duty Sheriff's Department officers to police motorists, and which enlists a tow truck to impound all vagrant vehicles; and a program of

free busing to and from the Faire site from Lane Transit stops at Oakway Mall and 10th and Willamette.

To further reduce the possibility of polluting the Faire's immediate environment, dogs are forbidden for the first time (after numerous complaints by fairgoers last year) and alcoholic beverages are also prohibited. Litter problems will be handled by BRING as a model project for recycling.

"What we're trying to approximate here is a country market place," says Wooten, "something which can communicate an appreciation of art, politics and nature, and allow a time for reconsideration and reassessment." The new measures, she hopes, will strengthen the example of an alternative community which the Faire is designed to encourage. "I see the Faire as a kind of social compass which enables us to discover one another and determine our cultural bearings."

The drawing cards for cultural navigation—crafts and entertainment—offer the same variety which has characterized past Faires. A small unamplified stage at riverside has been added to the well-used large one to accommodate a large musical slate including David Lannan, Wheatfield, Willie and the Egyptians, Kathy Smith, Steve Peaceful, harp wonder Lenny Russell, Diane Adams and various madrigal singers.

Fifty food booths offer items or courses which span Mexican, Oriental and Scandinavian cookery as well as American standards, from hot dishes to pastry to beverages. A number of craft demonstrations by blacksmiths, glass blowers, weavers, potters, metalsmiths, jewelers and leatherworkers are slated, as is a demonstration of "taichi," a form of self-defense similar to kung-fu, performed at noon on all three days. House and garden plant exhibitions are also on tap.

Faire hours are 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. Admission is \$1, with children under 12 admitted free. Free programs listing each day's events are available at the site.

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