

Sunday bidders compete for top notch deals

Going, going . . . gone to the auctions!

By JULIE MORTON
Of the Emerald

opens its doors at 11 a.m., every Sunday at 4350 Highway 99, between Junction City and Eugene.

Bundles of wire, fresh vegetables, garden tools, appliances, sewing machines, boxes of toys, dishes, just about everything is auctioned off.

A few miles north, at 495 Highway 99, the Auction Center is selling its wares. "They have mostly furniture, more antiques, and there are more dealers to bargain with," says Sean Choquette, who recently moved to Eugene from Massachusetts.

"Back East, when school starts auction houses are filled with students. The stuff is cheaper here than it is anywhere," he says.

Auction dealers are easily recognized. They maintain an air of knowing what they want, and knowing how to bid — with a wink or a nodded head.

"I just stumbled into an auction about 15 or 20 years ago, bought a few items and I guess I just got caught up in it," says Walter Farris, auctioneer and part-owner of B and F Furniture Auction.

Auctioning died for awhile, Farris says but now it is coming back into its own.

Whether the auction is in a warehouse lighted by uncovered light bulbs, with folding chairs for seating, or in a wooden barn, lighted by uncovered light bulbs, with wooden benches for seating, each carries its own mood and each is accented with stacks and stacks of merchandise. The bargains are varied, the action often clownish and the mood contagious.

"I don't really know if this works," says one auctioneer of 14 years, holding up an electric mixer. Smiling, he adds the mixer to a crate of dishes — \$1. Do I hear \$2?

Will ya go eight, will ya go eight, go nine, go nine, now nine, do I hear ten, do I hear ten? Sold. To the man with the red hat on. A wooden desk — \$10.

They come for two reasons, one, to buy things cheaper, and two, to find things they wouldn't find anywhere else, says one regular consigner at the Meadow View Auction.

Laurie Hoover, of 1120 W. 26th

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St. has a third reason. "It's a nice atmosphere, a variety of people and something to do on a Sunday," she says.

The Meadow View Auction

Choquette has already acquainted himself with area auctions. An avid auctioneer in the East, he is surprised at the lack of students at auctions.

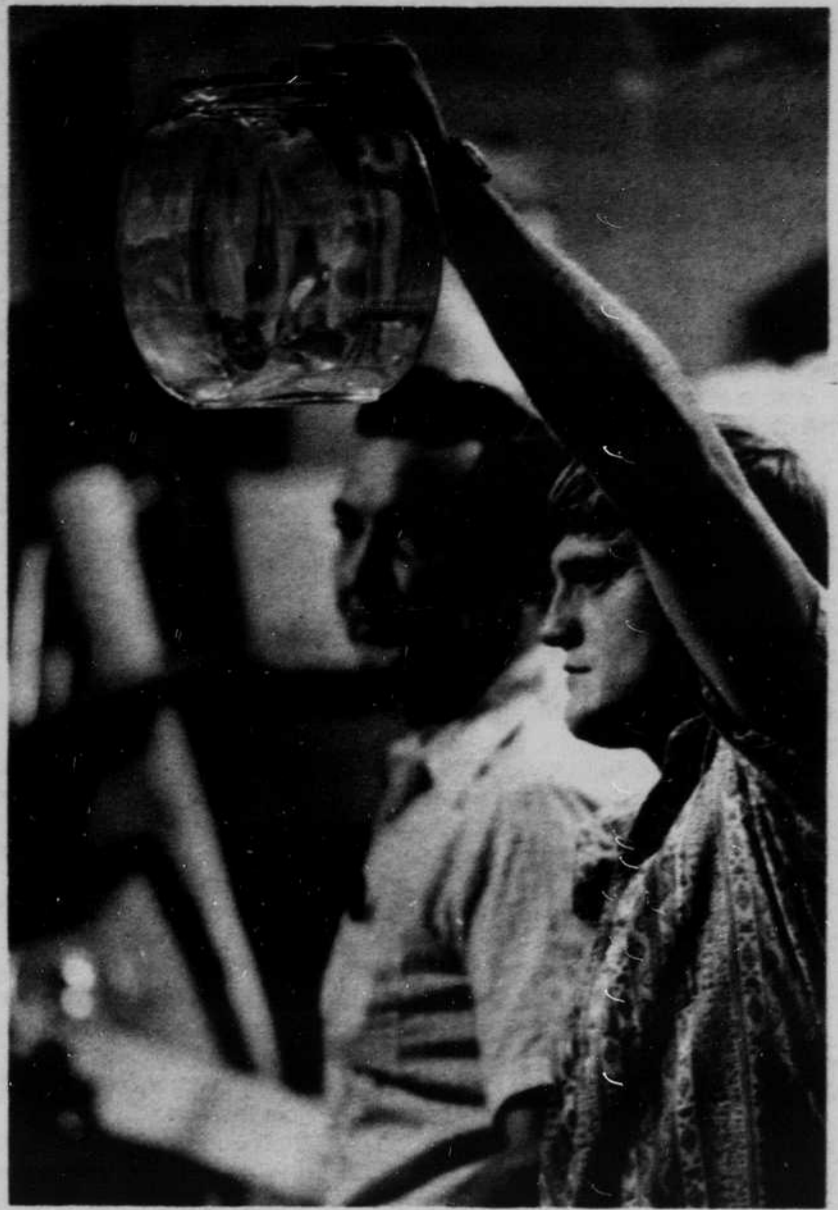


Photo by Tonia Houg

Area auctions provide items for the community or student consumer at a "bargainable" price. Even goldfish bowls are a commodity in demand for the right price.

Three-way candidates' debate...

Elliot's policies questioned

By STEVE ROSS
Of the Emerald

are paying \$25 or \$30,000 for people we need like a hole in the head," he said.

social services building, even if federal funds were provided for the project.

Democrat Frank Elliot's performance as county commissioner became a prime target for salvos fired during a three-way candidates' debate sponsored by AM radio station KUGN and the Eugene Register-Guard in Harris Hall Tuesday.

Andy Maxon, Republican candidate for commissioner, and Jerry Rust, an Independent, attacked Elliot for voting to raise commissioners' salaries to over \$30,000 a year. Rust and Maxon oppose Elliot in Position No. 3 of the county commissioner's race.

"Mr. Elliot has been at the trough long enough," said Rust, accusing the present commissioners of "lining their own pockets" while in office.

Elliot defended the commissioners' salaries, saying \$30,000 is less than salaries paid in private industry for similar high-level management positions.

Maxon disagreed. "You could line up all the businessmen on Wilamette Street who make over \$30,000 a year, shoot a cannon down the street, and you probably wouldn't hit anyone," he said.

Elliot suggested the county commissioners' good management had saved the county millions of dollars, and therefore people with sound management skills should be encouraged to serve.

Elliot pledged that if re-elected he would save the county money by eliminating many employees in mid-management positions. "We

When asked whether they would be willing to serve on a future 15-member county board at a part-time salary of under \$5,000 a year, both Maxon and Rust said they would. Elliot, however, replied negatively. "I owe my family something," he said.

Elliot added he opposes low salaries for commissioners on the grounds that in private industry "the boss must make more than the people who are working under him, or his credibility is destroyed."

At this point Rust sarcastically invited Elliot to re-enter the private sector. "We need people who are dedicated to public service," Rust said.

When questioned by a member of the audience, all three candidates stated they would vote "no" on the upcoming jail bond issue. Elliot called the present jail plan a "bad compromise." "Let's go back and build a new jail on the armory site," he added.

Rust agreed that the plan to renovate a "rotten old jail" is a poor one. He favored the construction of a new facility which would include a mental health unit and an honor farm.

Maxon objected to the expense involved in including a mental health unit in the jail, and said that for this reason he opposes the bond issue.

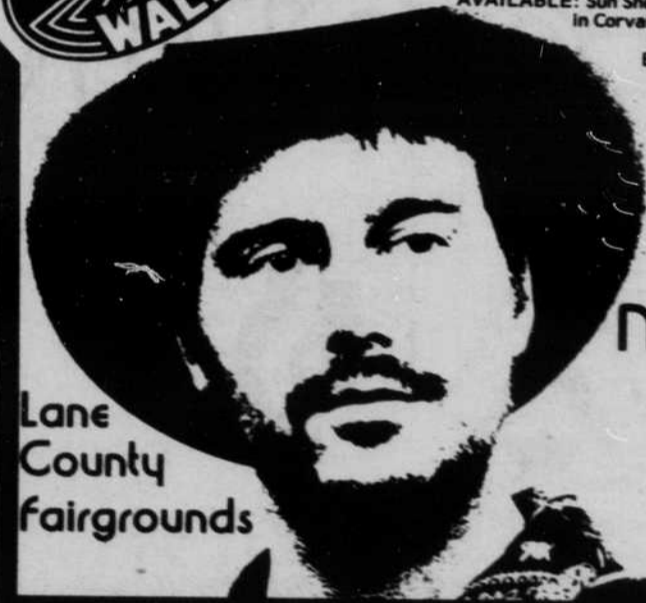
Maxon restated his opposition to continued public building programs in Eugene. He said he would not necessarily favor building a



with special guest:

VASSAR CLEMENS

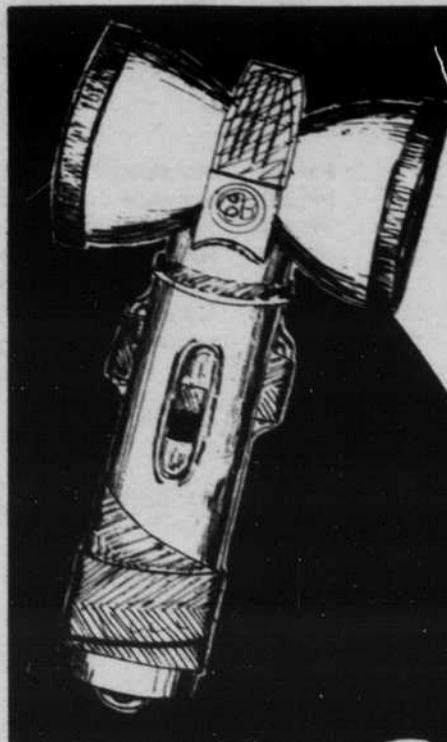
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Each of the three candidates denied being a "city boy," and insisted they would be able to represent rural residents.



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