

Saturday Market sets up shop this weekend

By NICK GALLO
Of the Emerald

Once little more than an idea, it has now become an institution, Eugene's paramount outlet for area craftspersons. And Saturday, rain or shine, Saturday Market will open again with few changes since last year.

The Saturday Market, a non-profit corporation which derives all its operating expenses from vendor's fees, started in May 1970 with 29 vendors and rainy weather. Faced with vociferous opposition from some downtown businesses which feared the market's clientele and perhaps its competition, Saturday Market settled on its present site—a parking plaza across from the County Courthouse at Seventh Avenue and Oak Street.

Since then the market has become a success story, with overflow crowds browsing, buying, trading, exchanging information, eating lunch, listening to and playing music.

Along with success came some organizational changes to handle the potential chaos. The market instituted a lottery for the large number of vendors who wanted to sell to the packed crowds. When the market was certified as a restaurant, it came into compliance with state food laws, such as prohibition of dogs, proper cooking equipment and government-inspected sources of food.

The spirit of the market is still alive and well however, says Ronna Friend, public relations manager on the market staff.

Craftspersons can work at home, live outside of town, work their own hours and opt for lifestyles of their choice, says Friend. But as

factors, says Friend. One concerns Senate Bill 430, nicknamed the "phony partnership" bill, which is before the Oregon Legislature.

It would extend the workmen's compensation program to persons "using the tools of a recognized trade craft or industrial occupation," which could include most self-employed workers.

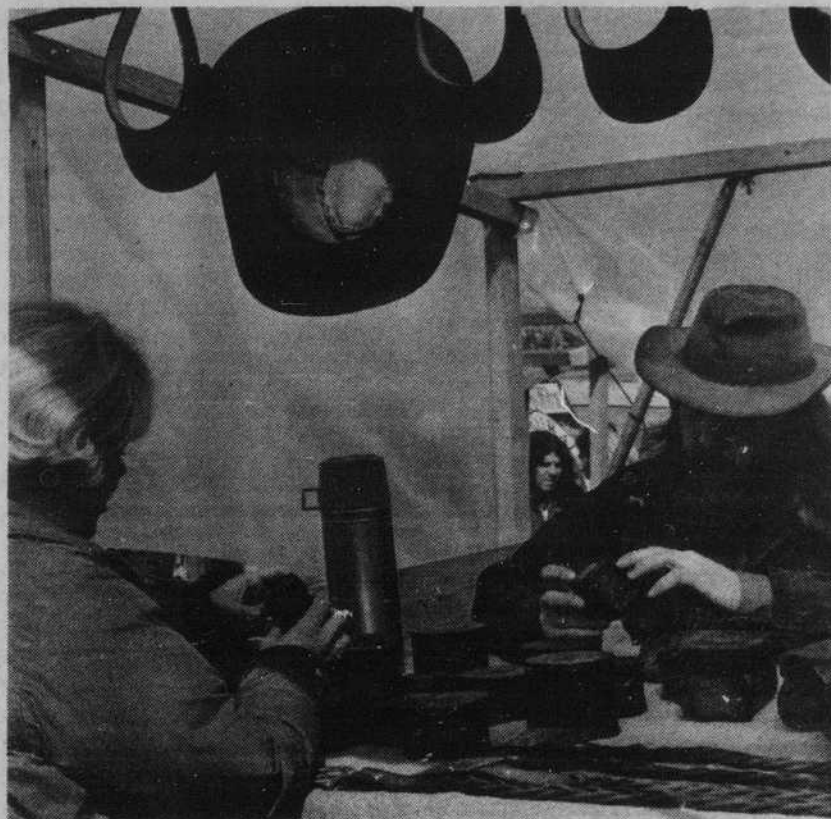
"This bill is so poorly written that some legitimate groups are going to get pulled in under the umbrella," says Friend. "The amounts (of workmen's comp rates) would vary among the different craftspeople but most Saturday Market people are not financially at a lucrative level. The effect of the bill could drive people out of the business."

Saturday Market, too, faces some problems from competition in the form of the Fifth Street Pub-

lic Market, the Jefferson Elevator and other daily outlets for crafts.

"I don't want to believe that the Fifth Street Market and the Saturday Market have to be in competition with one another," says Friend, "I want to hope people will shop at both, but it (the Public Market) took a little spirit out of the Saturday Market last year," she admits.

Still, the Saturday Market seems like to ride through its problems with largely the same formula it has had since its beginnings. Good food, music, high-quality crafts, a dance of young and old, the market thrives in its open air.



Emerald Photo

Rain or shine, Saturday Market returns this weekend. But a bill before the Oregon Legislature threatens to make life harder for area craftspersons.

romantic as that all sounds, and despite the fact that the market has produced several Horatio Alger stories, Friend reminds us that an abundance of vendors live on the subsistence level.

This marginal economic existence is further clouded by two

Drug info center (Continued from Page 1)

of several counties who help fund the center.

Drug technology has gotten out of hand says Miller who now chairs the center's board of advisers. There are 1,000 new drugs coming on the market each year and the average person is exposed to about 600 chemical drugs in a month, through food, cosmetics, cleaners and medication.

Miller says there are currently 100,000 over-the-counter drugs on the market and 20,000 prescription drugs. The bulk of these have come into use in the last 20 years, he notes.

The outcome has been that we misuse drugs because we never teach people how to use them. "This is where the center fits in," Miller explains.

Its war on drug ignorance and misinformation has been acclaimed nationally by a HEW award for new and innovative public service and supported increasingly by the University, community and state.

Staff from the center speak locally to community groups or schools at a rate of more than one a day. They help educate Eugene police in identification of drugs currently being used and how to give emergency attention to people misusing them.

"We haven't found arsenic or poison in drugs since we started," says Miller, "but we have come across other problems." One of these was a drug fraud going on soon after the center started.

Retirement-age people were going to Mexico with hopes of obtaining so-called "miracle drugs" not available in the United States. Several analyses through the center's free drug analysis service showed the wonder drugs were actually disguised U.S. prescription drugs.

Since that time the center has been able to warn of several other harmful or fraudulent drug sales, and Miller believes has "kept a lot of people from being ripped off or ending up in the hospital."

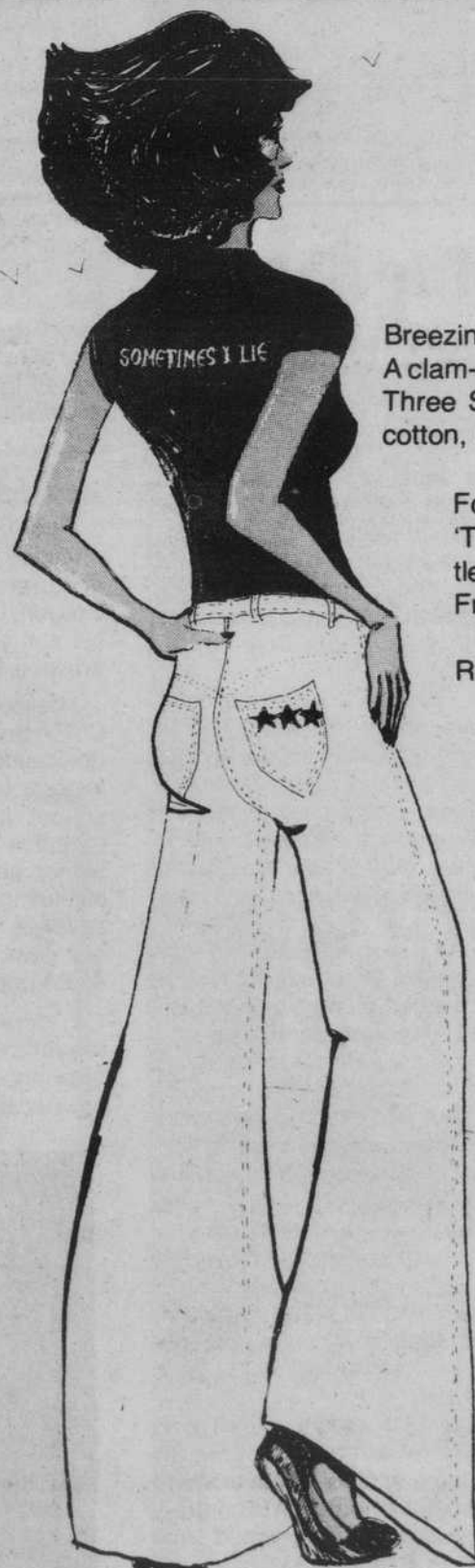
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