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S.E. Corner

Old-fashioned festivals spice summer diet

Small towns celebrate the season

By TOM WOLFE
Of the Emerald

About once a year small-town America struggles to its feet, dusts itself off and puts on a show.

Quebec can have a snowfest in December and Louisiana can have a Mardi Gras in February, but in Oregon there's only one time to celebrate — SUMMER.

Besides giving people a reason to kick back and close up shop, frontier town festivals served as a stage for intense competitions to attract settlers, businesses and railroads.

Citizens got caught up in the mania, and, in a spirit of one-upmanship, made the festivals longer and more imaginative every year.

What remains in the Eugene area is a hodge-podge of rodeos, fairs and festivals honoring everything from the ugliest dog in town to the spawning of smelt:

July 2-3: Yoncalla's 32nd **Amateur Rodeo** is free and open to the public. Events are scheduled Monday and Tuesday at Scotts Valley Road grounds south of town. Dances are scheduled Sunday and Monday nights and a parade and queen selection is planned Tuesday.

July 4: In addition to their own festivals, most towns have something special planned for Independence Day. The Eugene Active 20/30 Club will again sponsor a fireworks display at Autzen Stadium. Admission is free but donations are solicited to help pay for the group's child welfare projects.

Harrisburg, about 15 miles north of Eugene, will celebrate an **Old-Fashioned July Fourth** with a dance the night before, dog and pony acts on the holiday and fireworks over the Willamette River in the evening.

July 8: Yachats will sponsor a **Smelt Fry** — all the golden-brown crisp fried smelt you can eat, plus trimmings, at the Yachats Grade School. About 1,000 smelt dinners are served by the Yachats Chamber of Commerce. The smelt spawn on the coarse black beach sand near the town in early summer.

July 13-16: Cottage Grove spends this week with two concurrent festivals, **Bohemia Mining Days** and the **Cottage Grove Amateur Rodeo**. Home of the ugly dog contest, Cottage Grove will have two parades, a childrens' parade Friday and a second, larger one Saturday.

Bluegrass and gospel music bands are also scheduled, as is a 13-mile footrace, a photo contest, a muzzle-loading shooting competition and booths and show at the abandoned mill south of town on Highway 101, in Main Street city park and other locations.

The rodeo, July 14 and 15, will include bull-riding, saddle bronc-riding, calf and team roping at the rodeo grounds south of Cottage Grove on Highway 99.

July 16: **The Creswell Air Fair** is a revival of the event discontinued in 1971. It features aerobatics, antique aircraft displays, skydiving, gyrocopter flights, military and agricultural fly-bys, spot landings, flour sack bombing, model airplane demonstrations and other aviation activities. The fair is located north of Creswell and east of Interstate 5. Admission is charged.

August 4-6: Elmira and Veneta cooperate to sponsor the **Applegate Trail Days** to honor the Applegate Trail into the Willamette Valley opened by Jesse Applegate in 1846. The program features pioneer activities such as a black powder shoot and threshing demonstrations.

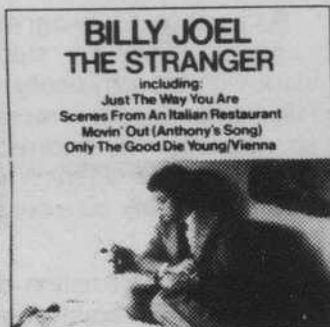
August 10-13: Junction City residents celebrate the heritage of many of the town's settlers who came from Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland, during its **Scandinavian Festival**.

Four days are devoted to the food, dancing, music and costumes of the homeland nations. Free bus tours, craft booths, art exhibits, a traditional dinner and a beer garden will highlight each day.

August 25-27: Cottage Grove gets back into the festival spirit this week for its **Western Oregon Exposition**, featuring a livestock auction, log-bucking, arm-wrestling and all types of agricultural exhibits, crafts, booths, games, rides and horses next to the Riverside Speedway, just north of Cottage Grove on Highway 99. Admission is free.

August 25-27: This week the small metropolis of Coburg celebrates its **Golden Days** of 1906 when the town officially became a city. Since that time Coburg has added only 240 residents but still finds reason to enjoy horse shoe pitching, a beer garden and the crowning of a senior citizen as "Golden Lady" who headlines the town's parade.

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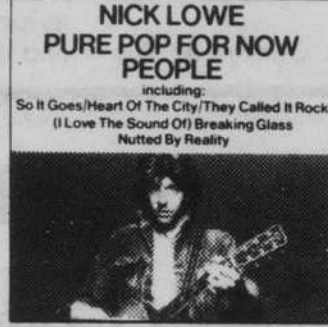
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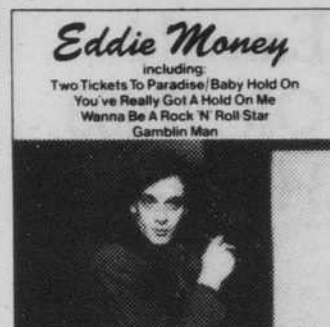
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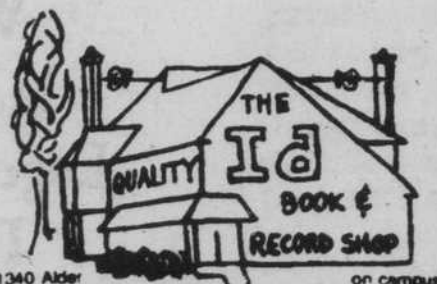
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