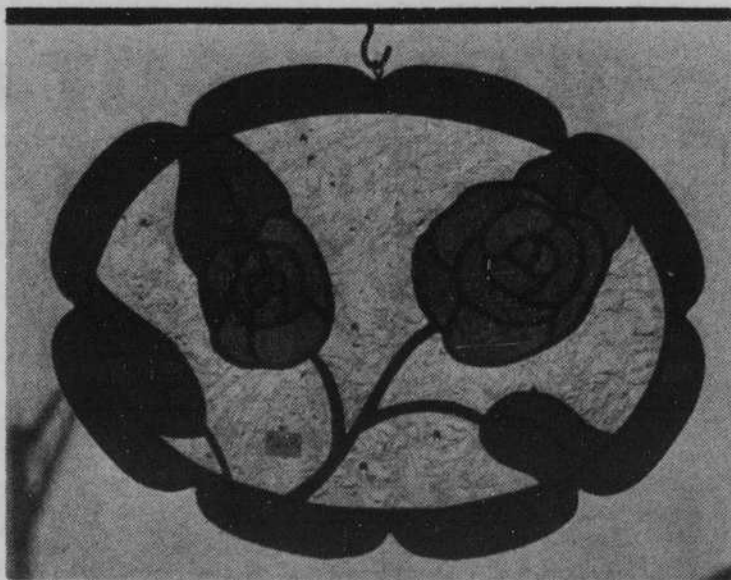


CRAFTS



Photos by Greg Gawlowski



Visitors find Eugene to be a crafty city

By KEVIN HARDEN
Of the Emerald

There had been nothing like it since the Old Farmers' Market closed in the 1950s. Downtown Eugene was a bustle of activity. People could be found browsing through the small stalls, sampling fresh produce and handling hand-made crafts that filled nearly every inch of the parking plaza across from the Lane County Courthouse.

Once little more than an idea, this gathering place for young and old, artisans and craftspeople in downtown Eugene has become an institution which attracts crowds every Saturday from May till December, rain or shine.

In its eighth year, the Eugene Saturday Market has been considered the largest outlet for area craftworkers who fill its 225 eight-foot square vendor stalls week after week with handmade, home grown and often unique products.

The market began in May, 1970 with 29 vendors and rainy weather. Three main factors brought the market into existence: a large number of artisans and a lively interest in buying and using local crafts (as shown by the success of annual Christmas craft sales), an abundance of local produce and no downtown outlet since the closure of an old Farmers' Market in the 1950s and a dying downtown in need of revitalizing.

Today, however, Eugene is brimming with outlets for local craftspeople. Besides the Satur-

day Market, three other Markets specializing in home-grown and handcrafted products have made Eugene a craftperson's paradise.

The Fifth Street Public Market, a three-year-old venture located just north of downtown, offers an indoor shopping plaza complete with restaurant, dozens of vending booths selling everything from macrame to original scenic photography and constant entertainment by local musicians and singers.

The Jefferson Elevator, a grain elevator-turned marketplace at third Avenue and Jefferson Street which began almost two years ago, offers shoppers many of the same products, from tie-dyed baby clothing and old-fashioned photography to an ice cream parlor, while providing another outlet for area craft work.

The newest craft center, Made In Oregon (located across from the Fifth Street Public Market), opened a year ago April and provides a marketplace for some 60 local craftspeople who specialize in handmade furniture and fixtures. According to Pat Cross, co-owner of the shop, Made In Oregon began because of a need for a large retail space for handcrafted furniture.

Cross and her husband had been selling tables, chairs and accessories in a stall at the Saturday Market for about six years but found that to be inadequate. The craftspeople working out of their own shops sell furniture through the store. Made In Oregon is still in the building stages and craftspeople from all over the

state have been invited to take advantage of the selling space, Cross said.

While established craft workers use the various retail outlets to sell their wares, Eugene citizens with a crafty itch will have dozens of summer arts and crafts classes from which to choose.

Maude I. Kerns Art Center is a non-profit, educational, membership institution which provides area residents with arts and crafts classes, exhibitions, workshops, community projects and special events. The center opens its summer term and eight-week arts and crafts classes this week with 25 courses offered in one session running through the second week in August.

The art center's summer session, beginning June 19 through July 25, offers classes in painting, printmaking and pottery.

Jewelry courses will include cast sculpture classes which will teach the basic skills and techniques of lost wax casting, with an emphasis on the personal creation of an original wax sculpture.

Two weaving classes will introduce students to floor loom weaving and basketry.

The Eugene Parks and Recreation Department, in cooperation with the four city community centers and several community

schools, has scheduled nearly 30 adult, teenage and children's arts and crafts classes. Many of the classes will begin the last week of June and continue through August.

The 15 adult craft classes include a Bargello needlepoint workshop held at Sheldon Community Center, a basketry class at the Amazon Center with fiber working macrame, needlepoint, stained glass and warm weather quilting classes also held at Westmoreland and Peterson Barn Centers.

Other classes include calligraphy, crocheting, painting, pottery, basketry for children and ceramics and photography for teenagers.

Lane Community College, located south of Eugene on 30th Avenue, has scheduled several summer adult arts and crafts classes. The courses, which begin this week, will include backstrap weaving, basketry, creative stitchery, Japanese cultural embroidery, macrame, pottery and stained glass. Many of the classes will meet for two or three hours each Tuesday and Wednesday evening.

Besides the classes offered by summer recreation programs,

several city craft shops hold continuous classes in macrame, tile painting and embroidery. Those offering instruction include American Handicrafts and Custom Art Wall Plaques in the Oakway Mall, Husfliden Gallerise Ltd. on West 11th Avenue and the Brush and Thimble on River Avenue.

On the University campus, the EMU Craft Center, located on the ground floor of the EMU, operates on a regular schedule for the summer term and will provide classes and workshops in such craft work as textiles, stained glass and photography.



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