

City takes on sign-posters

By KEVIN HARDEN
Of the Emerald

Eugene residents trying to make money this summer through garage sales, car washes or other special projects may get more than they bargained for, says Barbara McDonald, Eugene sign code inspector.

If they put signs advertising their intentions in the wrong place, they could be hit with a large fine, McDonald says.

Advertisements for all sorts of events that end up in the public right-of-way, on public property or stapled to telephone or sign poles will be removed, McDonald says, because they are in violation of the city's sign code.

Under the code, signs for garage sales and other special projects by private citizens or civic organizations can only be placed on private property. Any sign nailed to a telephone pole or stuck on city sign posts will be taken down by the police, with a warning issued to the guilty party, McDonald says.

After the first offense, the police have the authority to issue a citation to the group or person responsible for the sign in violation. That citation could carry a maximum fine, determined by the municipal court.

"Only one sign per sale is permitted," McDonald explains. "If the sale is to be more than temporary, you'll need to obtain a sign permit from city building officials."

Signs that are in the public right-of-way, on sidewalks, near



Emerald photo

Signs like these won't appear on city property any more, says Barbara McDonald, Eugene sign code inspector.

the curb or on buildings not only violate the sign code, but they may also create a hazard for motorists, McDonald says.

So far only a few signs have been removed from public areas. No complaints have been issued to the building inspection department because of the increased enforcement, McDonald says, but as the garage sales increase, so may the sign violations.

Places where signs cannot be placed include parking strips near buildings, the grassy area between the curbs and sidewalks, telephone poles, city sign posts, median strips and public buildings. When a sign violates the city code, the police will contact the owner and issue a warning, McDonald says. If the warning isn't enough, the violator can expect to hear from city hall.

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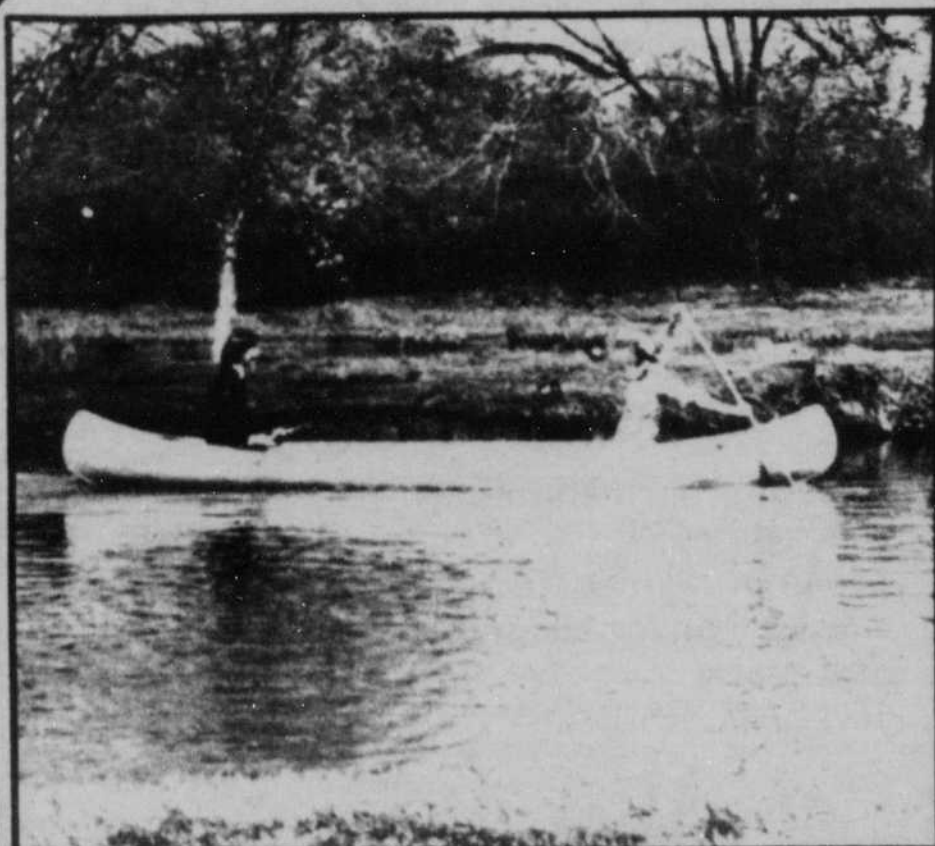
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