

Homegrown wines

Bike the back roads to Lane County vineyards

By **HARRY ESTEVE**
Of the Emerald

Bicycle touring is considered chic these days, and here is one trip that shows especially good taste.

On Saturday, Steve Mustoe of the Eugene Parks and Recreation department will lead between 20 and 25 cyclists on a "pretty easy" 50-mile ride along the back roads of Lane County, pausing at two local wineries for a tour of their winemaking facilities and vineyards.

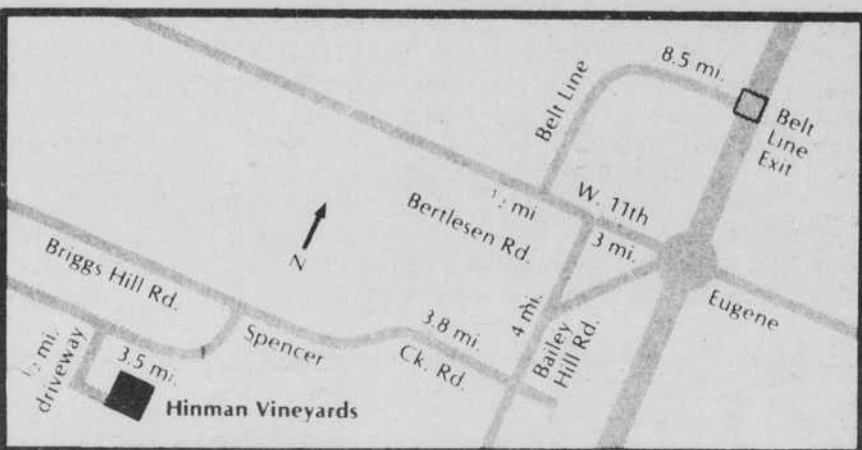
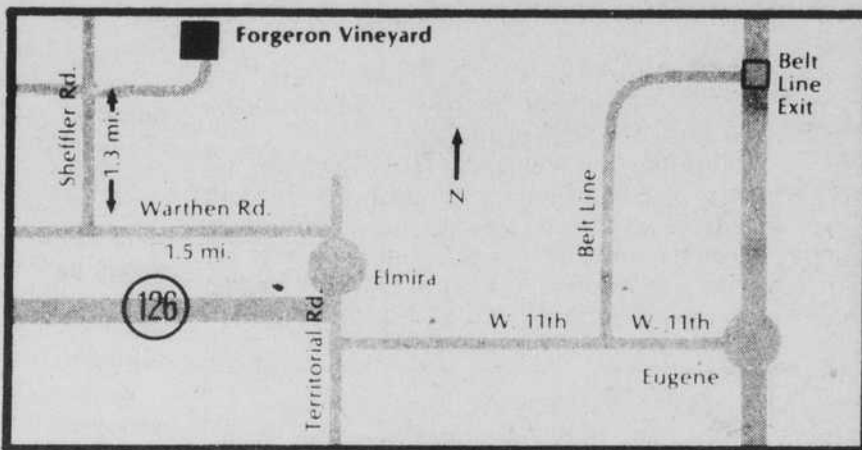
Each of the tours will culminate in a wine tasting and sampling session, so riders are asked to bring along cheese, crackers, or something appropriate to accompany a few glasses of good wine.

Riders will meet at 9 a.m. outside the River House, 301 N. Adams St., but Mustoe warns he will only lead the first 25 who show up. He recommends arriving about a half-hour early to insure a place with the tour.

The two wineries Mustoe plans to tour are the Forgeron Vineyard in Elmira and the Hinman Vineyard located southwest of Eugene.

Mustoe's route to Forgeron Vineyard begins near downtown Eugene. Find the nearest bike route to 29th Street and turn right. A mildly steep, mile-and-a-half climb to the top of Lorane Highway gets you out of Eugene and drops you into the country.

Some hilly meandering in the west Eugene countryside and a decent county road map will get



you to Territorial Road. Take a right turn here and pedal through the minute villa of Elmira to Warthen Road. A left here, another mile and a half to Sheffler Road, a right turn and a climb up one last hill gets you to the winery.

Finding Hinman Vineyard should be just as easy, depending of course on the amount of tasting and sampling that has gone on in the meantime.

Retrace your tire tracks and

locate Briggs Hill Road on your map. Where it forks to the right at Spencer Creek Road, turn right and pedal the curvy five miles to the vineyard.

A helmet is required to accompany Mustoe on his tour and will be provided to those who don't have their own. Others, who take the tours on their own, might consider the wisdom of extra protection.

Especially for those last miles home.

Rabbit bus line still hops

By **RICHARD WAGONER**
Of the Emerald

What's big as a bus, carries people where they want to go and is named after a speedy animal?

The Greyhound, right?

Wrong.

It's the Grey Rabbit, and folks who ride it say its informal atmosphere and leisurely trips up and down the West Coast are the only way to travel — at least by bus.

The Grey Rabbit is an alternative bus line that helps people get from Seattle to San Francisco and various points in between.

Started by Lester Rabbit about 11 years ago, the bus system has enjoyed "low-profile" success among people

looking for a more comfortable, less expensive substitute to the other commercial bus lines.

The only catch is the Grey Rabbit doesn't stop in every small town along Interstate 5. So if a rider is headed for an out-of-the-way location, he or she should call first and see if the Rabbit will stop there.

And if the rider is in a big hurry, he or she should first realize that the Grey Rabbit and most of its passengers aren't concerned about speed. The bus takes its time, frequently stopping at waterfalls and parks along the way for swimming and sandwiches — sometimes for an hour or more at a time.

Unlike most buses that pack riders into tightly cramped seats, the Grey Rabbit has bunks lining the walls behind

the driver and dinette tables in the rear.

Riders are urged to share with other travelers whatever they have brought along for the trip, which may include blankets, wine, food, marijuana or just conversation.

Currently the bus stops in Eugene headed for San Francisco on Friday nights. It stops again in Eugene, this time headed north, on Monday mornings.

Beginning in June, the Grey Rabbit will stop in Eugene going south both Tuesday and Friday nights, and will pick up riders going north Monday and Friday mornings.

Call the Grey Rabbit Ride Center at 683-5628 for more scheduling information and to make reservations.

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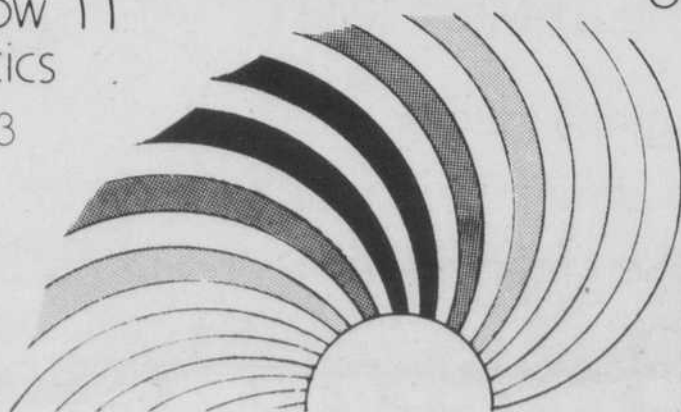
Better yet take a dozen. Bagels are great for cycling, hiking, camping, boating, and all outdoor activities. They're durable, lightweight, water-repellent, nutritionally sound.

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