

# New recycling center opening today

By HEIDI SWILLINGER  
Of the Emerald

People who hate to throw away a broken toaster or a shirt that no longer fits can take heart — the Lane Economic Development Council is opening The Company Store, a new center for the collection and resale of recyclables.

The center, which opens today, will accept bundled newspapers, flattened cardboard and tin cans, bottles, metals, motor oil, and "anything which could be sold for reuse, such as furniture, appliances, and clothing," according to project coordinator Bill Wooten.

"Our goals are to improve economic conditions for the benefit of economically disadvantaged people of Lane Coun-

ty," Wooten says.

The Lane Economic Development Council is a non-profit corporation that began in 1977.

The council's objectives are to develop local resources, to employ local people and to offer technical assistance to businesses that are "labor intensive instead of capital intensive," Wooten says.

In addition, Wooten says, "We look for under-utilized resources, such as slash, which can be converted to chips and firewood."

"We've concentrated in the last year on recycling."

In 1979, the development council requested and received a \$10,000 grant from the Department of Energy to conduct recycling experiments in

rural areas, where Wooten claims "nobody recycles." The money was used to fund a center in Marcola, where workers experimented with "high grading," a method of separating metals according to type and grade to maximize potential value.

The following year, the council received a \$100,000 CETA grant, which enabled it to staff five more collection sites in Veneta, Franklin, Dexter, Creswell and Cottage Grove.

The Company Store on Polk Street will be used not only as a

collection site, but also as a "retail sales" outlet, Wooten says. He estimates that workers will gather "a boxcar load a week" of recyclable materials that might otherwise end up at the county landfill.

"Since there is such a volume of stuff, things are priced very low," he says.

The center accepts and sells everything from furniture and clothes to books and appliances. Wooten says the store has repair facilities and will accept broken or damaged articles.

Although Wooten says the project is operating in the red, he's looking ahead to the time it will have to break even. The CETA grant is due to expire in September.

"We're working to become self-supporting," he says.

Wooten admits the new store will compete with other local recycling companies, but he says, "That's not our primary objective."

"There's room for competition. Nobody is doing more than scratching the surface of the recycling potential."



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Photos by Erich Boekelheide




## Frisbees fly at fest

More than 100 men and women from around the country demonstrated the higher art of catching a Frisbee at the Northwest Frisbee Festival.

The Open Self-Caught Flight competition was won by Jeff Zabel of Gainesville, Fla. while Judy Horwitz of New York City won the women's category.

The California team of John Kirkland, Kevin Givens and John Jewell took first place in the Open Freestyle event. Gee Rose, Mugsy Curtis and Gee Kirkland, all three from Sonoma, Calif. won the women's freestyle event.



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