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Recycled clothes from A to Z

There is money to be made and money to be saved at Eugene's 15 used-clothing stores. Styles from the practical to the bizzare to the downright funky provide a wide range of choices for the money-conscious clothes shopper who is interested in unique clothing as well as inexpensive prices.

And for the woman or man with an overflowing closet, used-clothing stores offer cash, trade-ins or consignment for unwanted attire.

Many of these stores begin as an owner's hobby. "I was a junkie as far as collecting old stuff goes, so opening a store seemed like a good outlet for keeping my fever of buying down," says Alice Strong, owner of Boogie Blues.

Vikki Chapman, owner of Starting Over, opened shop to supplement her husband's income. Now she says, "Business is doing better than I ever expected. My husband helps me now, cleaning the shop and doing some of the buying."

Listed below are 11 of Eugene's used-clothing stores and what they have to offer the student and community consumer.

BOOGIE BLUES, 8th Avenue and Lincoln Street, has been operating for five years and is geared to low incomes, says owner Alice Strong. She says she feels a second-hand clothing store should offer "good quality cloth" at prices affordable to the poor. "I want to stay buying cheap and selling cheap."

Strong looks for "quality cloth" and doesn't sell synthetics or polyester.

BRASS HANGER, 50 E. 25th Ave., is a women's resale shop, specializing in clothes for "working women, professional-type clothing," says owner Christina Friberg. Friberg says she looks for current styles — no vintage

or dated material. **HALL CLOSET**, 35 Coburg Road, has been operating for 11 years, but has been owned by Lee Holycross for five years. A lot of elderly people and "working girls" shop at her store, she says.

She sells and buys "good condition, contemporary clothing, not over two years old," for ladies only.

MINERVA'S, 17th Avenue and Willamette Street, is a five-month-old shop that deals in vintage clothing only.

Owner Minerva Boutell says she looks for clothing from the late 1800s to the 1950s and shoes and accessories from the same periods to match. Most of her shopping is done out of Eugene but she says she might also buy from people who bring special items into her shop.

MONA & BYFIELDS, 492 E. 13th Ave., buys, sells, trades and consigns women's contemporary "every day" clothing that is in good shape, says owner Mona Byfields.

Byfields says she opened the store one year ago to "do something other than what I had been doing for 14 years" — working in a certified public accountant's office.

OLD FRIENDS moved to 671 E. 13th Ave. and now is owned by four women partners.

This shop looks for vintage and contemporary men's and women's clothing, the vintage from the 1920s to the 1940s. Co-owner Chrystal Zachary says they carry a lot of art deco items, "like out of old Fred Astaire movies."

The store also has one room of men's clothing described by Zachary as "funky suits with big lapels and also embroidered shirts."

Old Friends buys, sells and trades used clothes.

PUTTIN' ON THE RITZ, 1639 E. 19th Ave., has been operating for three years says owner

Colleen Lillard. Puttin' on the Ritz also carries men's and women's clothing. Lillard says the men's clothing often is "hard to find and experiences a great turnover."

She says she buys from elderly people out of town, and sometimes from people who come into the store. She looks for vintage clothing.

RAGS TO RICHES, 360 E. 11th Ave., buys vintage items dated before the 1950s, says owner Gayle Hutchinson. She says she likes "real current clothing made within the last couple years," but avoids polyester.

Hutchinson buys from people who bring their clothing into the store and also consigns and trades. She likes the "practical and stylish — no punk or real funky stuff."

SATIN ROSES, 347 W. 5th Ave., is newly owned by Adina Rosenthal. She says "people can't afford to pay sixty bucks for new Gunne Sax dresses" and she wants to offer work pants, shirts and socks.

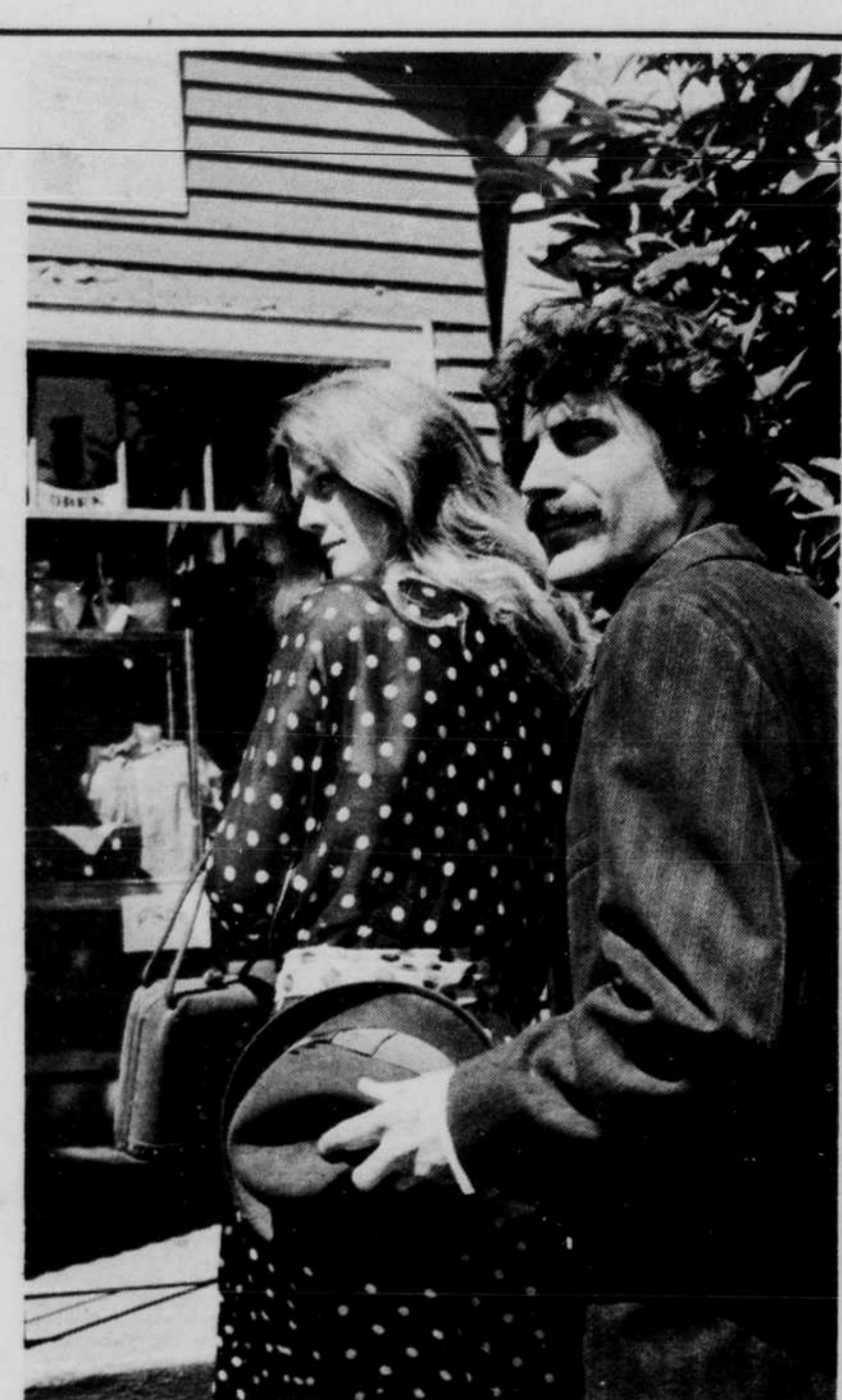
Rosenthal says she prefers to buy outright, and "might do some consignment." She looks for "cotton, no polyester, some rayons are OK, and silk is wonderful."

STREET MERCHANT, 675 1/2 E. 13th Ave., is a "new wave antique store," according to its owner. It was opened by Day Rogers about six months ago because "no one would give me a job," she says.

"I buy according to color. I like good quality fabrics and style. There are no limits on what I will buy, including anything from a scuba-diving outfit to an inaugural gown. I just cram it in. Pretty soon I'll start nailing it onto the ceiling."

Rogers buys, sells, rents, trades and consigns men's and women's clothing.

Story by Ginger Barnes
Photos by Bill Wack



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U-pick farms offer inexpensive produce

By TOM VISOKY
Of the Emerald

In most places April showers bring May flowers. But in the Willamette Valley eight months of drizzle bring a summer harvest of fruits, nuts, berries and veggies to delight even the most morose masticator.

And for people who can't afford to pay the high supermarket prices, the Eugene-Springfield area offers more than 40 U-pick-'em farms where fresh produce can be had for about half the store price.

For example, U-pick cherries, which are currently in season, range from 25 to 35 cents per pound for pie cherries and Royal Annes, and 35 to 45 cents per pound for Lamberts and Bings. Store prices for fresh cherries start at 75 cents per pound.

Besides the lower prices, U-pickers have the advantage of practicing their own quality control.

"You grade 'em while you pick 'em," says U-pick farmer Joe Flynn.

But Flynn, who owns a 40-acre farm on Seavey Loop Road, says that only about 10 percent of his customers pick fruit for immediate consumption. Most of his fruit is used for canning or making jam and pies, he says.

Flynn says cherry season should end this week. But fear not — there still are many fruits and vegetables yet to come.

Peas, carrots, beets, onions, squash and pickling



cucumbers are just some of the vegetables now coming into season.

Also, peach season starts at the beginning of August

and continues through the middle of September. Apple, pear and plum season should start at the end of August, and tomatoes, cucumbers and corn will be ready for picking within a couple of weeks, Flynn says.

According to Flynn, there is little variation in harvest times from farm to farm.

"This whole valley comes in about the same time," he says.

In addition to the numerous U-pick fruit and vegetable farms in the area, there also are a number of U-pick strawberry, blueberry, raspberry and marionberry farms. Strawberry season ended three weeks ago, but the other three berries still are growing strong.

Prices for berries range from 40 cents per pound for marionberries to 60-65 cents per pound for blueberries and raspberries.

Many of the local U-pick farms sell produce that already has been picked for prices that are slightly higher than U-pick produce. Picked berries, for example, average about 20 cents more per pound than U-pick berries. However, U-pickers must provide their own containers.

Most of the local U-pick farms are located in the River Road, Seavey Loop Road and Coburg Road areas. Those farther afield tend to be located in either Junction City or east Springfield.

To find the location of a nearby farm that offers a particular fruit, vegetable or berry, check the classified advertisements in the local newspaper.

Sprays combat scourges

Fruit and vegetable farms in the Willamette Valley — like all farms — are subject to invasions by numerous pests and plagues. Aphids, mites, worms, leaf wilt and assorted fungi are just some of the things that can wreak havoc in local orchards and vegetable gardens.

To combat these scourges most of the local U-pick farmers use chemical sprays, says farmer Joe Flynn. But Flynn adds that farmers don't spray for all of the possible critters and blights because it's too expensive.

"The sprays are so darn expensive that farmers would go broke if they tried to spray for everything."

Farmers just spray for the most common blights, or whatever new pest is threatening at the moment, he says.

Flynn says that farmers are required by law to follow strict spray schedules that disallow the application of certain sprays for anywhere from one to 20 days before the harvest. The length of the grace period is determined by either the toxicity or longevity of the spray being used, and should allow enough time for the effects of the spray to wear off.

Nevertheless, it is a good idea to wash all fruits and vegetables after picking to eliminate any spray residues that may remain. Simply wash the produce in lightly soapy water and then rinse it thoroughly.

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