

Area recyclers offer varied services

By Hank Trotter
Of the Emerald

Eugene residents dump enough garbage daily to bury the entire Autzen Stadium football field, including endzones, under twenty feet of trash.

That 1,000 tons of garbage is the lifeblood of fifteen companies, cooperatives and charities in the area, all working to recycle much of that tonnage before it hits the landfill.

Everything, from old clothes and furniture to wine bottles and cardboard boxes, can be given or sold to local recyclers.

Northwest Resource Recycling, for example, buys all scrap paper, metals and glass. Much of the University's waste paper is handled by the company.

Northwest claims that paper made of completely recycled fiber uses 70 percent less energy to produce and creates 60 percent less pollution than paper made of virgin wood.

Northwest sells recycled paper, "Oregon's Tree Saver Paper," wholesale and retail from Northwest's 830 W. Second St. office.

Smith and Hill Systems Ltd., 2405 Cross St., also pays for all recyclables and will even take plastic, a service unique in the Eugene area.

Northwest Paper Fibers, 2070 Cross St., purchases cardboard, computer print outs and newspaper.

Paper prices are currently depressed, so unless you literally have one ton of paper, which will net about twenty dollars, you may want to use the Eugene Mission's red newspaper drop boxes.

From these boxes the Mission receives 50 percent of its revenues for providing meals and housing for Eugene's poor and destitute.

Eugene's most comprehensive recycling service is BRING, Begin Recycling in Neighbor-

hood Groups. This non-profit organization does not pay for recyclables but relies on donations at its thirteen permanent and four mobile recycling sites. BRING is an off-shoot of the University's Earth Day 1970 activities.

Aluminum, scrap metal, bottles, cans, paper, brown bags, cardboard, car batteries and used motor oil are all accepted by BRING.

In the University community BRING is located at 15th Avenue and Agate Street near the University Food-Op and in the Amazon and Westmoreland housing complexes.

Many of Eugene's garbage services also offer to pick up recyclables.

Garbagio's, a consumer-owned cooperative disposal service, is based on and supported in part by recycling.

Garbagio's customers are asked to separate glass, paper, metal and food scraps from the



Photo by Dave Kao

Garbagio's is one of 15 recycling groups in the Eugene-Springfield area.

"garbage." Recyclables are picked up on alternating weeks and stored in a warehouse to be sold later. A one dollar membership fee is charged along with the normal garbage service fee.

The Lane County Hauler's Association, a group of seven

disposal services, also offers to pick up recyclables for free. Emerald, A-1, Ken's, Apex, Lane and Danebo provide recycling services with regular garbage service. Sani-Pac, also a member of the Hauler's Association, will only pick up

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north of Main Street. They are a quiet, unpretentious people who keep to themselves and enjoy Springfield for being exactly what Eugene isn't.

It's the young people who make the most noise. Trapped in a city with little to do and little hope for improving their situation, the young seem edgy, restless.

At night, their attention focuses on the "Lost Dutchman Lounge," a night club on Main Street with live entertainment — on stage and off.

On any given Friday, a line of Harley-Davidsons holds vigil in front. Inside, a giant bouncer checks everyone's age. The bikers covet the large tables in the middle, but stay off the dance floor.

Toward early morning, the music stops, the patrons spill onto the sidewalk, not yet ready to go home. A half-hearted fight breaks out near the bikes. The weary leftovers amble next door to Larry and Kathy's 24-hour

greasy spoon where they sober up on cigarettes and coffee.

This is Springfield, where the downtown bingo parlor packs them in Thursday nights; where high schoolers search for unpaved streets so they can spit gravel beneath their loud, powerful cars; where Saturday afternoon softball is sacred.

Someone built a monument to Springfield. At the city's west entrance, past the used car lots, auto parts stores and hock shops that line Franklin Boulevard coming from Eugene, stands a white horseman. The horse and rider have been sculpted from an anonymous material which, from the road, resembles a cross between plastic and chalk.

The shape of the sculpture is bulky. The faceless, featureless rider awkwardly straddles an ill-proportioned horse. Trees and weeds all but obscure the 25-foot statue from view.

The sculpture stands as a testament to the flawed, depressed, dying city it guards.

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