

The Saturday Market has been as mobile as many of the merchants who sell their wares there and at other fairs and craft shows around the West.

When the market began in 1969, it was located under the Arcade building, Moore said, then it moved to the corner of Eighth Avenue and Oak Street under the flagpoles in front of the Lane County Courthouse.

Before it was moved to its present location straddling Oak Street between Eighth and Ninth avenues, it was held in the parking lot directly across Oak Street from the courthouse.

Between 85 to 125 merchants set up shop at the market each weekend, said Margo Schaefer, the market's publicity and entertainment director. Over the course of a summer, as many as 500 different vendors will have set up a booth at the market at least once, she said.

The market has a definite impact on the economy of the downtown area, Moore said. An urban planning study done in the late 1970s showed that 60 percent of the people who visit the downtown area on a weekend come mainly for the market.

Another statistic cited by Schaefer from a recent study reveals that 22 percent of the people who visit Lane County will go to the market — not bad for an event that takes place only once a week, she said.

The Saturday Market Association is funded solely by a yearly membership fee each vendor must pay and the daily booth fee of \$5 plus 10 percent of the vendor's revenues, Schaefer said.

A membership costs \$7.50, and a booth can be reserved for \$15 per month. A stable location is something merchants value greatly because customers learn where merchants are and will return weekend after weekend, Schaefer said.

But while merchants enjoy the market's relaxed atmosphere, they agree that selling crafts at the market isn't always the easiest way to make ends meet. Most but not all rely on some other means of income for a living and use the market as a supplementary source of money.

Former market director Moore teaches math and business at Lane Community College but said he must both teach and sell his work at the market to make a living.

Dave Berggren, a potter who lives in Santa Clara and who got his start at the EMU Craft Center 10 years ago, said in addition to selling his pottery at the market, he has a full-time contract making ceramic bread pans with Planned Pottery, which is

located in the Fifth Street Public Market. Planned Pottery also got its start at the Saturday Market.

Aside from being one of only five or six professional slab-work potters in the state, Berggren said he is also a fledgling writer and is nearly finished with his first novel, a fiction piece on witchcraft.

Barbara Lifschutz, who comes to the market to sell her hand-spun wool, also teaches her trade at the EMU Craft Center.

She agrees that the market is not the place to try to make an easy living.

"Eugene is very lucky to have the market both for craftsmen and the people who come" to the market, Lifschutz said.

Claudia Brodsky, who migrated from New York City with her family seven years ago, runs Tillie's Blintzes, cooking her deep-fried knishes and crepelike blintzes for an eager

public. Brodsky is a bookkeeper during the week, a job she said she must have to care for her two children.

Peter, who withheld his last name, is a jewelry maker who plays a bamboo flute to amuse himself between customers. He makes jewelry full time in his home near Florence, and in addition to the Saturday Market, he travels to markets and craft fairs up and down the Oregon Coast to make enough money to support his wife and one-year-old son.

Before his son's birth, Peter said he traveled frequently to Southern California, where a flourishing economy generates a booming market for hand-made wares, drawing many craftspeople.

But because of Oregon's struggling economy, Oregonians tend to look more than they buy.

"There's a great appreciation for art in Oregon but no market," Peter said.

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