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University Housing

JOB OPPORTUNITY SENIOR DESK ASSISTANT

Carson/Earl/Walton Area Desk
 Hamilton/Bean Area Desk
 University Inn Area Desk

JOB OPENING: Fall Term 1990, continuing through Spring Term 1991. Applicants must be able to commit to working the entire 1990-91 academic year. Training will begin Spring Term 1990. Job descriptions are attached to applications.

COMPENSATION: Campus single room and board credit and a cash stipend of \$1,465 (9 equal payments). An hourly rate of \$4.55 will be paid during the training period.

QUALIFICATIONS: Preference will be given to individuals with U. of O. Housing experience. The Senior Desk Assistant works an average of 20 hours per week, divided between desk and supervisory duties. The Senior Desk Assistant must live in the U. of O. residence halls and be registered for a minimum of 8 undergraduate or 1 graduate credit hour(s). Candidates must have an accumulative GPA of 2.25, and received at least a 2.25 last term.

APPLICATIONS: Applications are available at all Area Desks and are due back to any Area Desk no later than 5:00 p.m., February 21, 1990. Only completed applications will be given consideration.

University Housing is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action Institution.

Community



Photo by Andre Ranieri

University student Howard Brotine spends an hour per day sorting out reusable materials at the Glass Station recycling center.

Glass Station recycling center continues despite complaints

By Pam Miller
 Emerald Contributor

A 20-month battle over the location of the Glass Station, a recycling center at 24th Avenue and Hilyard Street, concluded two weeks ago with the city allowing the operation to continue.

The battle began over an alleged violation of the city code, resulting from a neighbor's complaints about mess at the collection center.

"The 'mess' is created by people who care enough about the environment and take the trouble to bring clean jars to be reused," said Alice Soderwall, 76, Glass Station founder.

In a volley of correspondence, Mike McKerrow, Eugene land use inspector, wrote Soderwall informing her that she needed a conditional use permit, and he finally notified her that operations should cease by Feb. 1.

But the Glass Station got a reprieve two weeks ago. McKerrow wrote that the city decided to postpone enforcement while a task force looks at zoning of recycling centers, which are not specifically mentioned in zoning codes.

"The city supports recycling and recognized the need to address the issue on a city-wide basis," McKerrow said.

For more than 15 years, Soderwall has been passionate about glass recycling, and the Glass Station has been her pet project.

"Jars were made to last forever," Soderwall said.

Her unique recycling project washes jars for reuse, unlike typical recyclers that collect glass for remanufacturing.

Besides reducing landfill waste and saving energy, Soderwall said she meets a need by selling jars. She sells more than 1,000 jars a month to natural food stores, local cooperatives such as Genesis Juice, and other small businesses.

Her customers throughout Oregon, and as far away as Yosemite, Calif., cannot afford to

buy normal wholesale quantities, such as 10,000 jars.

In 1971, as a charter member of B.R.I.N.G. Recycling (Begin Recycling in Neighborhood Groups), Soderwall decided she wanted to do something about so many reusable jars being thrown away or crushed at the center.

"I reasoned if I could do it, a block could do it, then a city could," she said.

Her neighbors began hauling jars to her garage by wheelbarrow.

During a canning jar shortage in 1974, the Glass Station took off. Soderwall formed the Amazon Neighbors, a non-profit association that still backs the project.

Soderwall moved the project to an old gas station at the current location in 1978, until it

the station. He sorts out the reusable material and crushes the rest to send to BRING.

"I set an example," Brotine said, "when I'm out there crushing glass." He said his presence makes others think about their waste.

"The Glass Station is a model for what I think should be going on across the country," Brotine said.

Despite all her efforts to reuse as many jars as possible, Soderwall still delivers eight tons of non-reusable glass a month to BRING Recycling, said Bruce Philbrick, general manager. Of the 20 tons they process per month, the Glass Station contributes more than any of the other 11 collection sites in Eugene.

"She's really providing a great recycle service for the

'I reasoned if I could do it, a block could do it, then a city could.'

— Alice Soderwall

was torn down ten years later. During the last year there, she sold more than 60,000 jars. Visitors from as far as Sweden and Japan came to buy bottles, Soderwall said.

When the gas station was torn down, she temporarily moved the collection bins for green, brown and clear glass, a small shed, and a trailer to the edge of the Dairy Mart parking lot.

Since the building was torn down, Soderwall said the project is more difficult.

"Only about one-tenth of the work is actually done at the station, now," said Soderwall.

Hundreds of volunteers over the years have helped Soderwall sort jars by height and size, stack them in boxes, peel off labels, wash them in dishwashers, inspect them, put on new lids and distribute them.

Howard Brotine, a University junior, spends an hour a day at

community," Philbrick said. "She contributes greatly to keeping glass out of the landfill."

Philbrick said using recycled glass instead of raw materials to make a jar "saves enough energy to power a 100-watt light bulb for one hour."

But Soderwall points out that reusing jars saves even more, since the transportation and blast furnace steps are avoided.

Soderwall dreams of a new Glass Station north of the Amazon Park swimming pool parking lot. She said the Amazon Neighbors will put in a request to the city asking permission to use the site.

"We aren't asking for any tax money," she said. If allowed to use the site, they will seek foundation grants matched by citizen contributions.

But for now, the Glass Station will continue collecting glass at 24th and Hilyard.

Wednesday, February 14, 1990