

CELEBRATION

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erine Heising and John Higgins, both University students.

New this year was the International Fair focusing on Eugene's four sister cities and the diverse ethnic make-up of the community. The Fair featured ethnic dances and exhibits giving Eugonians the chance to taste new cultures and experience new traditions.

With the apparent success of the \$100,000 celebration, the organizers, the Eugene Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Division, has something to smile about.

"With each year's celebration, our plans for a bigger and better party matures," Vollmer said. "Every year we try and come up with a new and different twist. What really helped too was the great enthusiasm from everybody."

The fact that a rain cloud didn't dampen things this year was a big plus for the celebration. Last year's wet spell brought about 110,000 visitors. This year's bright and sunny celebration was expected to net in close to 140,000 participants.

Booth vendors also said they believed this year's celebration was a lot more crowded and active. Linda Bell, a member of the Holt International Children's Services, a child support and adoption agency and a first time participant in the celebration, said she believed the mood was definitely more engaging than last year's celebration.

"If future celebrations are going to be just as encouraging, we hope to be involved again," Bell said.

And what does the average Eugonian have to say about the biggest festival in the state's second largest city? "We're much more involved in the spirit of things this year," said James Craig, a sales executive taking in the sights with his family.

"There's more to do and see and the sun is a definite booster."



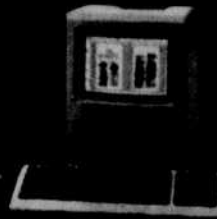
Photo by Sean Poston

Raggedy Anns both big and small march along in the Eugene Celebration parade.

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