

Craft people add handmade touch

If you're shopping for unique and one-of-a-kind holiday gifts for your loved ones and friends, the Holiday Market and local bazaars provide shoppers with diverse, handmade arts and crafts.

Every weekend from now through Christmas, holiday shoppers can peruse the wares of local crafters and artisans, while listening to area bands, choirs and vaudeville acts at the annual Holiday Market at the Lane County Fairgrounds, 796 E. 13th St.

The holiday version of the Saturday Market will be indoors for the holiday season, as more than 200 local crafters and artisans display their merchandise. The Holiday Market will be open Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and admission is free.

Stephen Densford, Saturday Market administrative assistant, said the Holiday Market is for the general, buying public and is an alternative to



Photo by Sean Poston
Scott Gielish of Eugene is selling handcrafted wood items at the Christmas Market at the Lane County Fairground, now in its second year.

malls. Instead of seeing 100,000 of the same, manufactured items, shoppers at the Holiday Market can buy un-

usual items made by the vendor, he said.

"It lets you meet the person, meet the maker. You have a story to tell when you give a gift," said Sandy Schempp, chairwoman of the Holiday Market committee. Meeting the artisans and crafters and asking them questions provides people with anecdotes that "add a certain something" to gift-giving, he said.

Each item at the Holiday Market must be unique and handmade by the sellers, the individuals sitting at each booth. "We are the only ones who do" require that the maker also be the vendor, Densford said.

Everything from expensive artwork to refrigerator magnets will be on display at the Holiday Market.

"It is not at all a bazaar," Schempp said. "They are not all hobby items; they are professional art."

Schempp, a six-year Saturday Market artisan and vendor who has a master's in Plant Science from the University of New Hampshire, makes and sells fresh wreaths and floral arrangements at the Holiday Market.

"It's surprising how many (vendors) have teaching and other graduate degrees, and have given up teaching," to pursue their artistic talents, Schempp said.

Most people don't know that the Saturday Market is a professional organization, Schempp said. It has three, full-time managerial positions, including a general manager, an assistant manager and an administrative assistant.

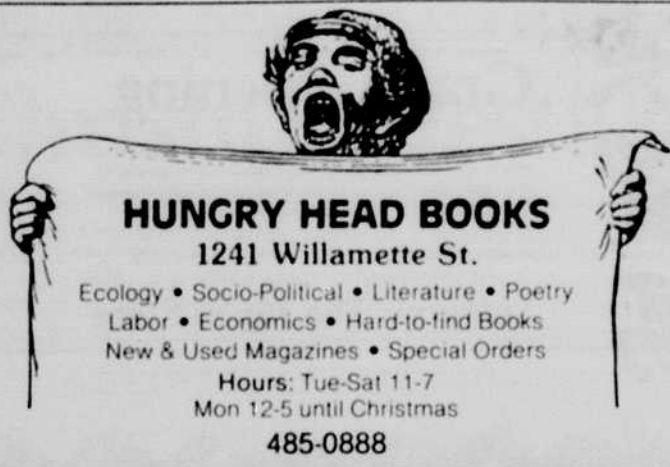
Lane Transit District buses Nos. 30 and 32 will be shuttling shoppers to the Lane County Fairgrounds. Free parking, wheelchair accessibility and bicycle lock-ups are available.

The EMU Crafts Center will hold its Winter Craft Fair, Dec. 5 and 6 in the EMU Fir Room, featuring the handmade art of professional artisans and crafters. The various crafts range from ornaments to South American textiles and will be on display from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Local church bazaars are also good places to find unique, handmade arts and crafts.

—Tamara Arnold

Tuesday, December 4, 1990



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