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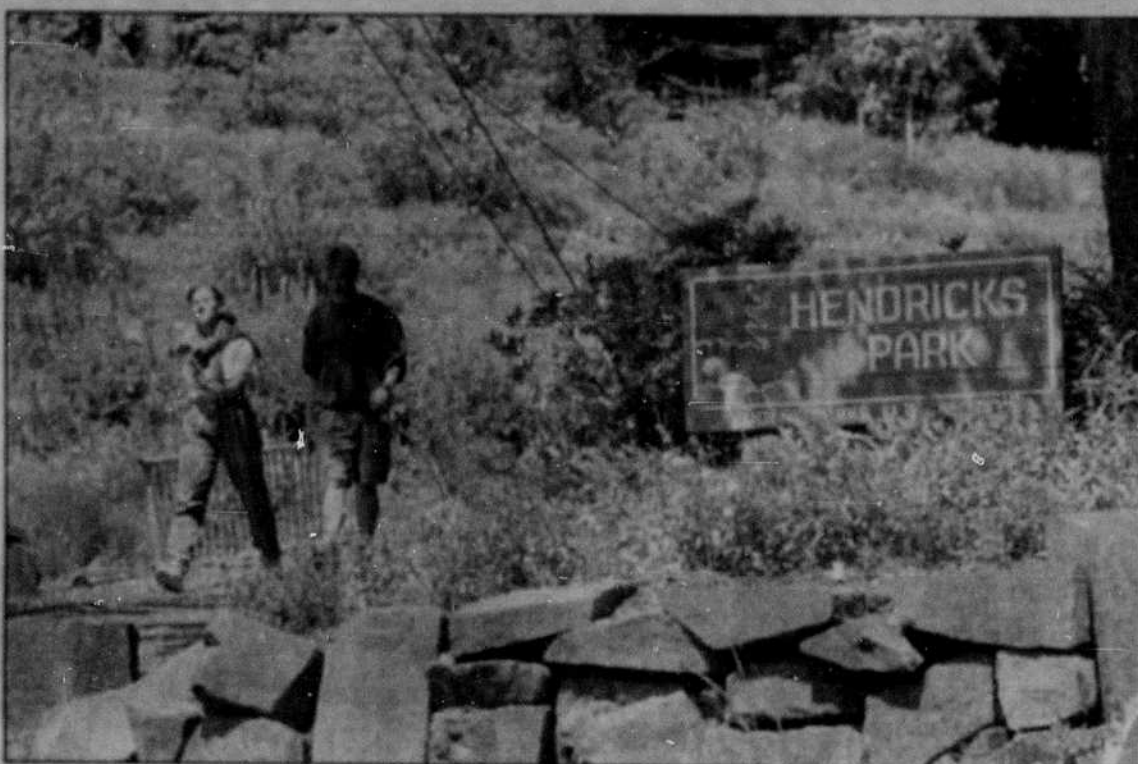
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Audrey Cazden and Alex Trotter take an afternoon stroll at Hendricks Park.

MATT GARTON/Emerald

Places: Show parents Eugene's best

Continued from Page 7B

McGrath's fish house across from Valley River Center is the only place to go.

Gotta have Mexican food? El Torito is right across from McGrath's and has outstanding food, a lush tropical environment, and incredible margaritas. If you want real home-style Mexican food with no frills, El Kiosco on South A Street in Springfield serves up a platter of chicken fajitas that is second to none.

Grandma's here, too, and she wants Italian food? Take her to Tino's, at 15th Avenue and Willamette Street. If she's in a cheesy mood, the jumbo stuffed shells are the best bet. Show her the old photos and menus on the wall at the entrance. Tino's is also a great place to take the whole bunch — probably the best family supper place in Eugene.

Best family breakfast place, hands down, is the Keystone Cafe. If you want to show the family a little local color, the Keystone on West 5th Avenue serves homey hippie food, fresh-squeezed juice, stout coffee, plate-sized hotcakes and a luscious rice pudding. Their omelettes and spuds are true grandma-style cookin', and their huevos rancheros are the best I've ever had.

Speaking of coffee, the best I've found is at Poppi's Anatolia. Their Greek food is outstanding — order dolmas and cucumber dip and try the retsina. No matter what you have, though, finish it off with coffee and walnut cake.

The only other place with a dessert this good is Zenon; sit outside there in the evening, buy your mom a dessert and coffee, and she'll remember why she likes you so much.

How about a place to take the little brats for hamburgers? Jamie's, at 18th Avenue and Chambers Street, is a fun place that even your grandma will love. The outside of the building doesn't even hint at the cool '50s decor, and both the menu and the service will make you glad you stopped. Buy your little bro a brown cow, and you'll be his hero.

Eugene's got more than enough great restaurants to put inches on your parents, but what do you do with them once you've got them fed? Catch a game at Civic Stadium, or install yourself at Taylor's for the Mariners game. Try their Cajun buffet (from 9

till closing every night) or the Blues Burger.

Golfing parents? Drive north on Hwy 99 to Fiddler's Green. Swimmers? Leighton Pool or Amazon. Or head for the Echo Hollow pool — get your little brother on the log roll and chase your sis down the seal slide. If you're only sort of adventurous, go down to REI and climb their rock wall. While you're in the neighborhood, take Mom over to the Rose Gardens — she'll love it.

Pack a picnic and head for Hendricks Park, or drive north on Coburg to Armitage State Park. Drive down to the river and chat with the fishermen and guides, or watch the fly fishermen on the McKenzie.

Want an adventure they'll remember forever? Call Bruce Greene at Wilderness River Outfitters in Springfield. He'll raft you down the McKenzie or the Deschutes, and he does day trips, overnight trips, and even moonlight trips.

Rent a canoe from River Runner Supply. These guys are on the canal at Alton Baker Park and will rent you a canoe, a raft, a kayak or even wetsuits. Take a loaf of bread and feed the ducks. If you pick the right spot you can toss your little brother in the drink without risking his life.

Better yet, take him to one of the paint ball palaces and splat the attitude out of him.

Of course, you have to give visitors the big campus tour, and there are several don't-miss spots to show them. Take them to Rennie's for a lunch special, then shoot a little pool or have a lemonade up on the deck.

Walk them over to Knight Library, and show them the museums and the EMU computing center. Take the tree tour, walk them to the top of Deady to work up their appetites, then escort them over to Clancy Thurber's at Collier House. Gourmet sandwiches at fast-food prices and impeccable service make the new campus pub a best bet.

Most of all, though, enjoy their company. Have fun! You're not the only one this week dragging parents and siblings around campus. Try not to look embarrassed — those of us who aren't showing off Eugene to our friends and family wish we were.

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