

Estacada: gateway to outdoor recreation

By Barbara Dikty

Those who relish the outdoor life could do worse than to enjoy the abundance of recreational activities in the Estacada area.

There is excellent fishing in the Clackamas River and surrounding creeks. Trout, steelhead, coho and chinook salmon are caught there in goodly amounts.

The forested hills outside of town provide the scene for varied pursuits such as motorbiking and horseback riding. There are many designated horse trails for riding enthusiasts, and motorbikers frequent the trails around Eagle Creek.

For backpackers, the parks near town are good for dayhikes. McIver State Park and Metzler Park also have overnight camping for those who wish to extend their trips. The Mt. Hood National Forest to the east of Estacada provides trails for more extensive hikes.

"There's quite a lot of rockhounding done up on the Clackamas River," said Lucille Klinker, manager of the Estacada Chamber of Commerce.

According to Klinker, the riverbed above Estacada is worth exploring. It produces gem quality cinnabar, ("A guy brought me a really pretty chunk of cinnabar the other day,") a variety of petrified woods, and a variety of common opal.

For people who enjoy playing in parks, Estacada has three in the immediate area. Eagle Fern Park at Eagle Creek is three miles north of town and has picnic and fishing facilities. Metzler Park, five miles south of town is a park for those who like lots of variety. You can fish or swim in Clear Creek, play on the swings, slides, teeter-totters and baseball diamonds, eat in the picnic areas and sleep in the overnight campground.

McIver State Park, three miles west of town is on the Clackamas River. It's a popular place for company picnics as there are acres of green lawns to run around on and plenty of trees to collapse under. The Clackamas River provides a good place to go fishing or to swim. There is a boat launch and the campground is a welcome sight to those people who hike the miles of trails in the park.

Estacada also has eight tennis courts and a golf course five miles out of town.

Custom Tackle Shop: fish bait and foosball

By Cindy Ralston

The Custom Tackle Shop in Estacada is one of few businesses that provide entertainment for teenagers.

Owner and manager, Lassie Williams, opened his tackle shop in 1974 and just recently put in a game room with five foosball tables, five pinball machines and a pool table.

"I feel it takes a lot of the kids off the streets," said Williams. "I felt it was needed for the sole purpose for kids to have something to do."

Williams moved to Oregon from Anderson, South Carolina, and has been residing in Estacada since 1973. His wife manages the game room and they have weekly and monthly foosball tournaments with trophies and prizes. Williams said kids from Astoria, Sandy, Molalla and outlying areas come to his game room.

Williams plans to enlarge the game room to provide more space and he intends to add more foosball and pool tables.

The Custom Tackle Shop is open seven days a week from 6 a.m. to 9 or 10 p.m. While the tackle shop is open, so is the game room.

The tackle shop itself supplies fishing, hunting and camping supplies and is Estacada's largest sporting good store.

Williams also repairs rods and reels for customers and gets calls from local people and travelers for almost everything.

"My biggest business," said Williams, "is tourists in the summertime."

Williams' shop is on the way to the Clackamas River and much of his business comes from travelers on their way up the river.

Williams said he gets many comments on being cheaper than G.I. Joes and Fred Meyer and he tries to keep competitive prices.

"People in Estacada aren't oriented in such a way that if they have a shop in town to shop at home," said Williams.

Williams seems to have quite a business and with the addition to a game room it has attracted families and teenagers too.



Photos by Norma Bennick

Lassie Williams, owner of the Custom Tackle Shop, watches daughter Karen play foosball with John Fowler, left, and Mike Smith.

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Estacada

Merle's 'toyland'

By Marlene Clark

The sign on the outside of Merle's Merry-Go-Round reminds one of a toystore, but once inside you realize you are in a unique craft shop.

Merle Kiggins, owner and manager, bought the store two years ago in July. When asked why she started the shop, Kiggins said, "We needed one here. There was no craft shop in Estacada or close by."

Kiggins and her three daughters run the shop, make the macrame hangers, do the sewing and alterations and make the sample jewelry. The shop also offers classes in tole-painting.

Kiggins wants to specialize in the unusual crafts and things and the hard to find.

Next month, new carpeting will be laid over the old oiled, wooden floor. They have done a lot of changing and "fixing things over." In fact, it is hard to imagine that this shop full of crafts and the essence of incense used to be Phillip's Variety for 30 years.

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