

"Fair magic" is grounded in practical efforts.

As the oral histories unfolded, I often heard the same story told from different points of view. Usually the versions agreed; sometimes they didn't. Nearly everyone interviewed shared a story about meeting noted Oregon author Ken Kesey, a longtime Fair participant. But placing the stories in time became the biggest puzzle. Hardly anybody knew when anything happened. I started reading books about the 1960s and 1970s and dove into newspaper archives, hoping to put the stories in better context.



Toby Alves tends her first Faire booth in 1974, when she sold roasted nuts

The interviews revealed that Fair participants intertwined with the community in numerous ways. Many Fair folks had a tendency to act on their high ideals in the "real world." A pattern emerged of interconnectedness outside as well as inside the Fair. Long hours of perusing microfilm archives at the UO's Knight Library confirmed that impression. Contemporary articles in the Eugene Register-Guard as well as in the counterculture weeklies, the *Augur* and the *Willamette Valley Observer* (predecessors to the *Weekly*), documented that Fair participants helped create key organizations in the region in the 1970s, including the Hoedads, Springfield Creamery, White Bird Clinic, BRING Recycling, the Saturday Market and others. Stories about those organizations would become chapters in *Fruit of the Sixties*, helping place the Fair in the context of the times.



Bill and Cindy Wooten in the early 1970s

Other highlights of my quest involved interviews with Fair entertainers at the forefront of the New Vaudeville movement in the 1970s. Reverend Chumleigh, the Flying Karamazov Brothers, Tom Noddy and other entertainers — all natural storytellers — related hilarious escapades. Their delightful stories helped fill in details about the Fair's entertainment history.

In 2006, I started publishing stories about the early Fairs in the Oregon Country Fair newsletter. Those articles prompted feedback from folks who attended those Fairs. Many of those articles later turned into chapters of *Fruit of the Sixties*.

Last fall, I decided to see if I could pull together enough stories for a book to honor the Fair's upcoming 40th anniversary. By then, I had amassed a significant amount of information covering all four decades of the Fair, although a hundred more names remained on my interview list. I had originally planned to write one book covering all 40 years of Fair history. But as I tackled the work, it became apparent that this material could easily fill more than one volume.

After completing almost 40 chapters covering most of the 1970s, the year 1980 loomed as a logical ending point. That was the year the Fair officially became a 501(c)(3) organization — a full-fledged nonprofit. My decision meant many stories had to wait for another time: the birth of Energy Park and New Old Time Chautauqua in 1981, the Fair's land purchase in 1982, numerous booth histories and much more. Almost 200 interviews have yet to be tapped, and my research continues. A sequel to *Fruit of the Sixties* is in the works. ★



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September 25/26/27th

Black Oak Ranch, Hwy 101, Laytonville, Northern California.

STS9, India.Arie, Galactic, Balkan Beat Box, BLVD, Lyrics Born, Pnuma Trio, The Devil Makes Three, Sly and Robbie (feat. Cherine Anderson & Special Guests)

Fort Knox Five (live), Eoto, Crown City Rockers,
Goddess Alchemy Project, Albino, Blue Turtle Seduction,
Moonalice, Trillian Green, Lynx and Janover, Wisdom,
Dr. Israel, Mighty Dub Killas (feat) Karsh Kale (live),

March Fourth Marching Band.

Jah Sun and Smiley Culture, Lafa Taylor, Flowmotion, Lo Cura, Sambada,
Fannah Fi Allah Qwali Ensemble, Tina Malia, Sasha Rose,
Big Gigantic, Underground Orchestra, Ganga Giri, Boombox, On The One,
Delhi 2 Dublin, Luminaries, T Club, Jeff Jones Band,
Cyphertown Collective, A Town Infusion, Blane Lyon, Urban Nature,
Stevie B, Desert Dwellers, Radio Devi, Kirtan with Prema Mayi and Friends,
Lilla D'Mone, Jorah La Fleur, Etheric Double, Resident Anti-Hero,
Comedy Show Hosted By Wavy Gravy and Special Guests.

THE TEMPLE OF ELECTRONICA WITH:

Ott, Gaudi, Bluetech (Live Band), Random Rab, Ana Sia, Ursula 1000, J Boogie,
Nickodemus, DJ Vadim, Third Eye Tribe, Knowone, Rastatronics,
International Observer, Dragonfly, CB, Dylan, Sashwa, Chango B,
Drum Spyder, Alex Theory, Irie Dub Mafia.

Special festival event: Global Prayer for Peace link up
(4pm Sat) Uniting Over 350 Locations in 65 Countries.
Global Wisdom Council featuring indigenous
elders from many nations.

3 Day camp out celebration for world peace and unity unity set amidst a beautiful
old growth oak forest with 5 stages and over 70 acts.
Highlights include Activist Alley, Late night cinema, organic food,
theater and performing arts, and much more...

3 Day Ticket Includes Camping

Presale: \$170.00 - At the Gate - \$200.00 - Sunday Only - \$75.00

Info and Ticket outlets: www.earthdancelive.com - Festival office: 541-488-5468

No pets, no open fires.

