

Chela Mela: More Than Just a Meadow

COME EXPERIENCE THE NEWEST THE FAIR HAS TO OFFER!

By the Path Planning Committee

As you walk through the Left Bank past the Circus and Gritz La Ritz, your eyes feast upon an open meadow with a Gazebo, the Fair's newest architectural wonder which serves as an informal venue for our vaudeville entertainers. The Flying Karamazovs are just finishing a short performance and the crowd is breaking up. Continuing your stroll into the meadow, you wander into a group of jugglers, and friends of yours learning to juggle...you join them and give it a try.

You start to marvel at the inventive shade structures and colorful banners when you suddenly get caught up in a parade—to the nearby circus, around the loops, and toward...what's this? Why it's the Phurst Church of Phun. An herbalist from a booth near Shady Grove welcomes you to her new home and tells you that you simply must catch the next service at the Church of Phun's Shrine of the Holy Fool. The Church's clergy of Tricksters, ordained by the Patron Saint of Psychedelic Mayhem Wavy Gravy himself, initiate all newcomers with mirth and folly, helping each of us to ally ourselves with the Holy Fool spirit guide of our own choosing so that we may laugh and smile when life gets too serious!

Immediately following the "service" you catch a great bluegrass band and then Alice Dimicelle, at the Hoarse Chorale Stage (formerly the Security Horse Corral). During the break you check out the adjoining showcase of the Oregon Country Fair's wetlands and watershed planning and community works displays.

With all of that activity you've worked up quite an appetite and lucky for you, the grazing is great. There are some new choices, some of your old favorites, and some food sensations from the past.

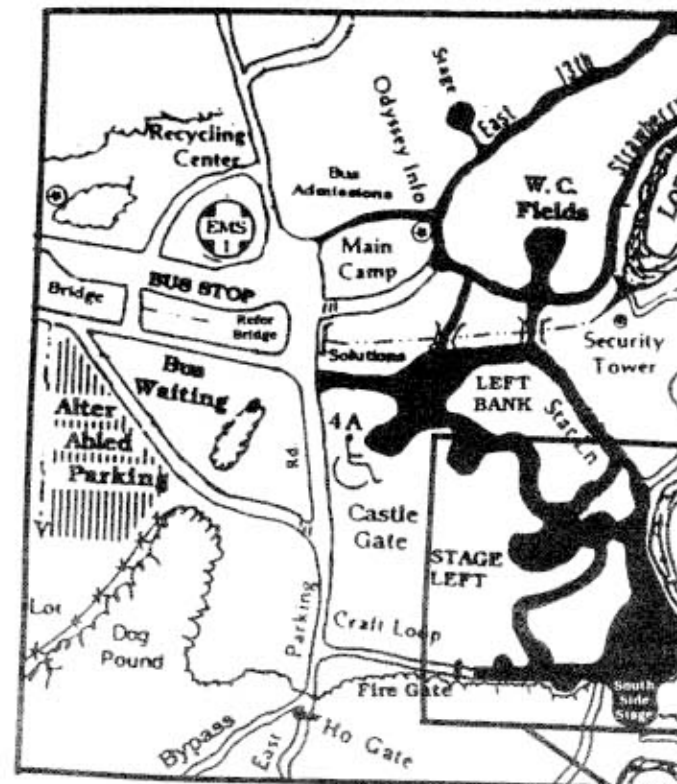
The Whole Enchilada, from the Junction is nestled into the trees with a new counter to serve their fabulous nachos. The Eggsnatcher, a Eugene favorite 20 years ago is also whipping up some grits in celebration of their reunion booth. And a great northwestern neighborhood would not be complete without some coffee and sure enough, Valentine's Coffee is steaming up their famous elixirs. Other carts loaded with desserts, juice and other delights are available for your dining pleasure. You relax in the soft grassy dining area under the one of the oldest, grandest oak trees on the Fair property and hear the sounds of the aboriginal "outback" as the digeridoos harmonize with your inner vibration.

Now that you've eaten, returned to cosmic harmony and been blessed by the Church of Phun, it's time for a little shopping along the meadow's edge and the tree lined path. Most of the one-year-only booths are located in this area. These are the best of the newly juried crafts—those without permanent booth spaces. Plus, many of your old favorites from down river are over here too, nestling into new homes. Eighteen booths from various parts of the Fair were provided with a new home in this area because their old booths were on an eroding part of the river or were in a very congested area. Relocating is not easy so please be sure to look them up and welcome them to their new home. Check out the finders map and listing of all of the booths and other activities in the June issues of the FFN and in the Peach Pit.

Children tugging at your sleeve? You'll find a new kids crafts tent with lots of hands-on stuff or swing by Bubble Master Tom Noddy's windless yurt (for kids of all ages) and just try to replicate that bubble cube or other tomfoolery. Even when Tom is taking a break the solar powered bubble making machine will keep you wanting more.

Although we are all thrilled with this new location, we must take a moment to acknowledge our security crew, many of whom were displaced to a place called the "Far Side" to make room for this special place. As many of you know, the Board of Directors, at its October 1996 meeting, chose this area from a slate of three presented by the Path Planning Committee in response to the continued erosion by the Long Tom River and in places of extreme congestion in the Figure 8. The choices were developed after months of community and committee meetings.

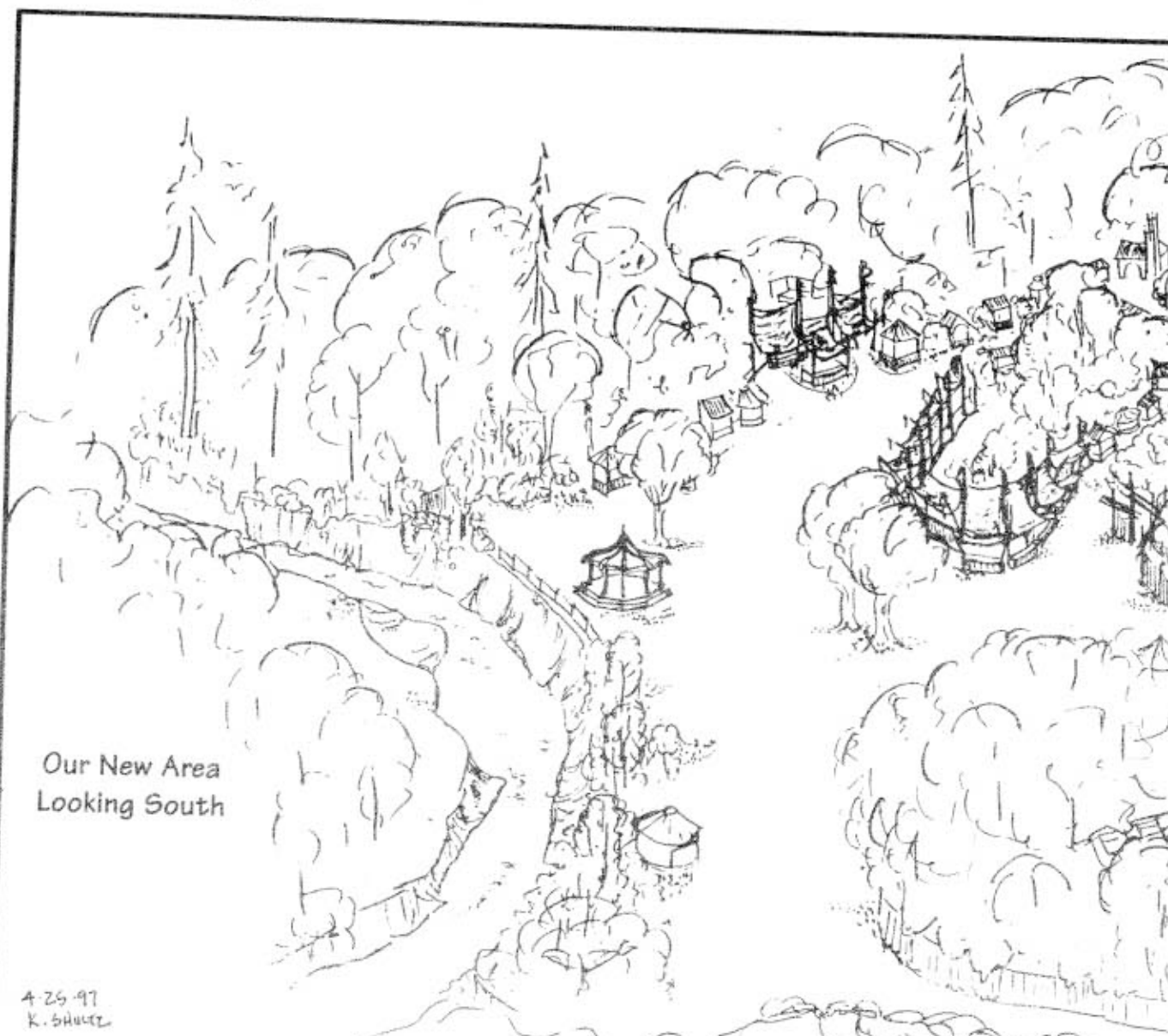
So, when you're back in the 8 take note of the additional space at the Junction and elsewhere but be sure to THINK LEFT, and come on over to the left side and join in the phun.



Planning Principles

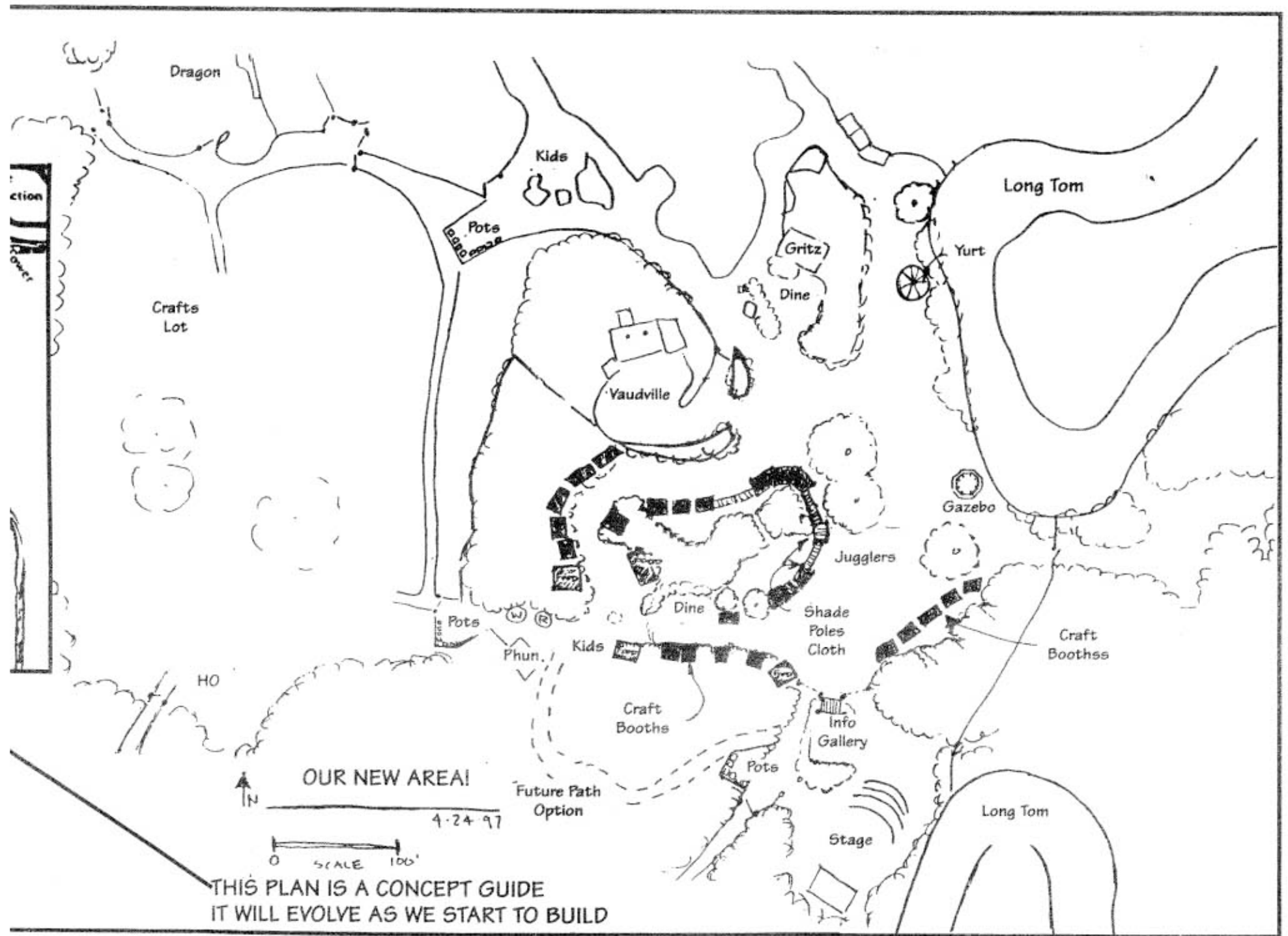
Environment

- Keep all new construction and soil disturbance at least 100 feet from the river
- Enhance and protect native vegetation
- Design paths that are green and barefoot-friendly
- Establish vegetated buffers between campsites and paths
- Protect large shade trees
- Identify, protect, and avoid rare species/communities/habitat/wetlands
- Minimize vehicle traffic on the river banks
- Minimize damage to vegetation and the understory
- Recognize watershed ecology principles regarding soil and river bank erosion, enhancement/restoration of riparian areas...
- Avoid old river channels



Our New Area Looking South

4-25-97
K. SHULTZ



ity
 e and maintain emergency access
 s
 n controllable perimeters
 nize opportunity for trespassers and
 ers
 ol access for pedestrians and vehicles
 e open lines of sign along perimeters,
 s
 effective fences and barriers
 nt passage across Indian Creek, Long
 River

- **Aesthetics/Path Design**
- Create shady rest areas and lounges with benches along stream banks
- Take advantage of views of the river
- Take advantage of big trees
- Create/allow for plenty of open space—cluster booths
- Create interesting public spaces
- Design cafe seating into plan
- Create interpretive signs
- Provide activities to attract the public and enhance their (our) enjoyment of the event
- Design service roads to reduce/eliminate vehicular traffic in the loop
- Design all structures for the floodplain
- Provide adequate tent camping areas for vendors
- Design with alter abled access in mind
- Create quiet areas

- **Health and Safety/Infrastructure and Services**
- Provide adequate, safe, and accessible (for vendors, staff and the public) drinking water, toilets and accompanying handwashing stands, drinking fountains
- Provide access for emergency response and services
- Provide access for service vehicles and vendor load in/load out
- Install oversized water mains and communication lines to accommodate future development
- Provide for adequate dust control
- Provide an adequate number of food booths
- Provide a path wide enough to reduce congestion
- Plan for adequate greywater and other waste disposal
- Provide emergency exits

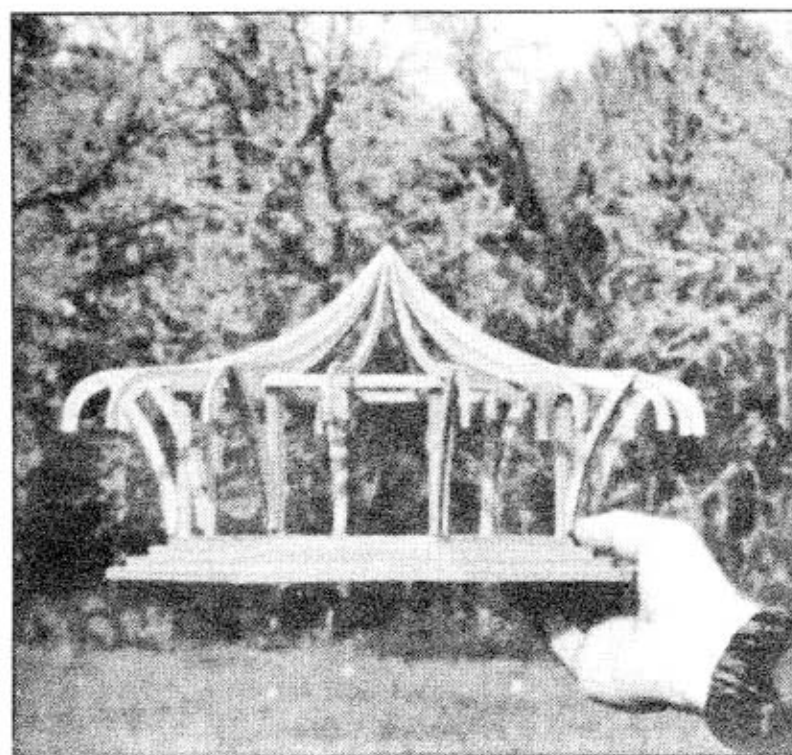
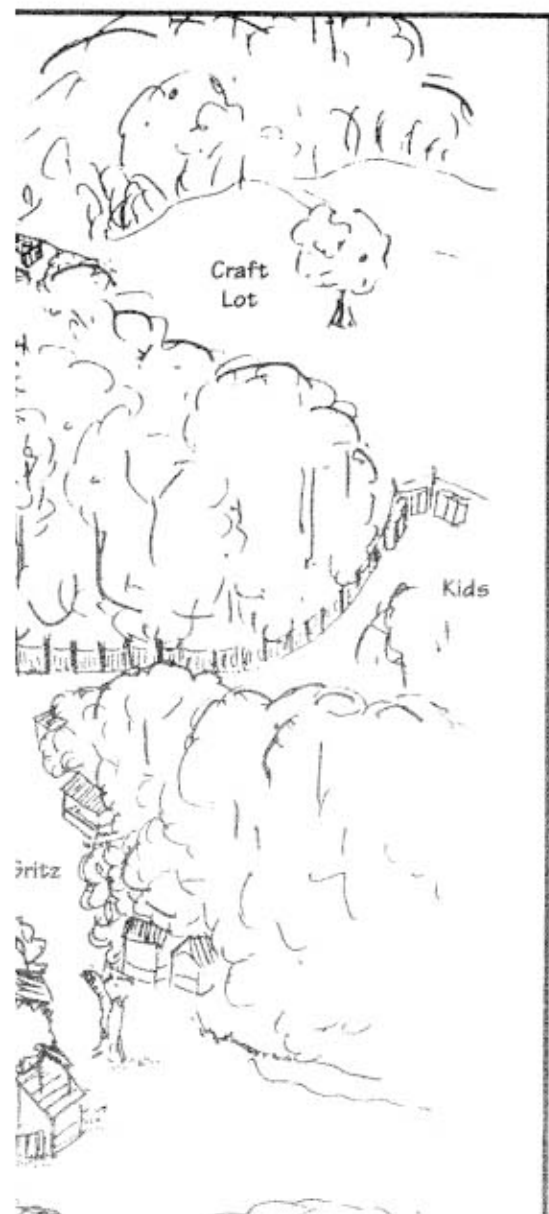
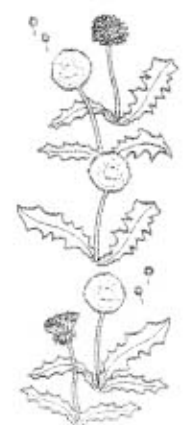


Photo By Charise Prouty



The Gazebo: Coming to a Meadow Near You