

## Kiva Moves East to West Grocer/Bookseller/Wine Merchant Moves Downtown

In October 1970, George Brown, hailing from the Midwest and most recently from Wennatche, Washington, where he had picked, warehoused and loaded apples, opened a book store in the building at 136 East 11th. George had no training or experience to operate a retail business, only a B.A. in Anthropology from Kansas University, the encouragement of friends opening other businesses in the building, and a flair for learning by doing. Over the years the store gradually expanded into groceries with a focus on natural foods; Oregon, imported and rennetless cheeses; and wines from around the world and the Northwest. Many of the businesses that spanned in that bldg., destined to be known as the Kiva, grew into successful businesses themselves—Birkenstocks, Lazar's, and Down to Earth.

On Tuesday, July 5, the Kiva opened at its new location, 125 West 11th—east to west. Three lanes of oneway traffic and a lack of free, convenient parking no longer separate the Kiva from the people living, shopping and working downtown. The new building, formerly Porter's, is bigger and brighter. Wider isles and plentiful on-site parking have prompted many statements of appreciation. For George personally, the new location promises many possibilities, but of special importance is escaping the infamous Emerald Towing

who routinely "hooked" unsuspecting customers from the empty lot east of El Sombrero. George hopes never again to drive a distraught and crying customer to the Emerald lot where their cars have been impounded.

The service of grocer, bookseller and wine merchant was quickly restored following the move, due to the combined effort of 17 Kiva co-workers. George was quick to credit the collective and individual effort that went into the move. Moving a household is one thing, but can you imagine moving a grocery store—and all those books and wines and shelves and coolers?

Capitalizing on their multiple skills, talents, and learning abilities, everyone participated in planning and executing the move. There were several little meetings; teams were formed with specific tasks like heavy equipment, labeling shelves and boxes, etc. After closing on Thursday, the move began, and following many overtime hours and a couple all-nighters, the Kiva restored service 10 am Tuesday morning at its new location!

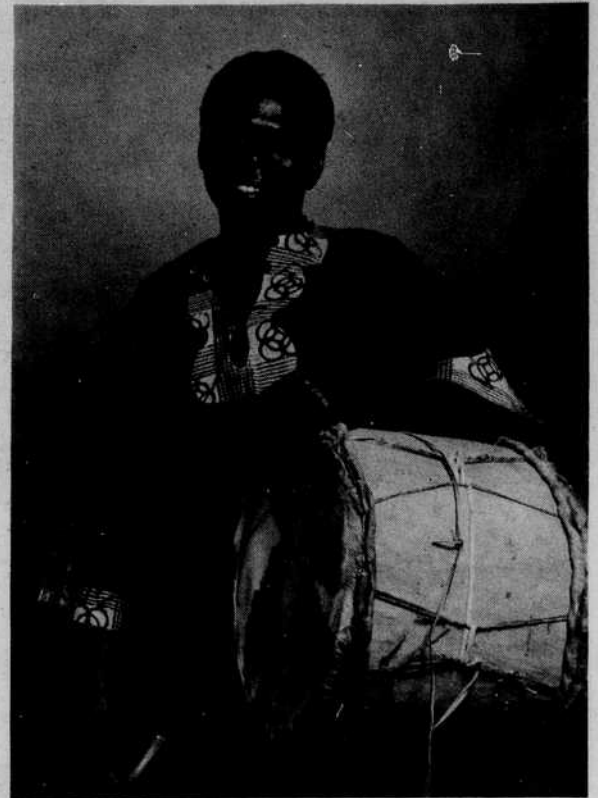
Improvements and repairs coincided with the move. Most obvious are the new, air-tight cabinets with see-thru lids for enhanced display of the Kiva's extensive bulk food selection. Immediate plans call for repainting the outside, adding shelving for 25 new (and exclusive)

French and Italian wines, and a "new titles" section in the book store. Future plans are not fully developed, although additional storage, bike racks, a wrap-around awning, and energy efficient improvements are noted. It's a nice new space George concludes, "but of continued prime importance is service to our customers."

Many have already expressed their appreciation for the services the Kiva brings to downtown. Residents like those at Olive Plaza, and area businesses—McAyeal's Wardrobe Cleaning, Willy's, DeFrisco's, and Atrium Flowers (who sent a bouquet)—have joined in welcoming the Kiva. As David Dillman, Bon Marche manager and recently elected Downtown Association President, said in a recent *Register-Guard* article, empty storefronts are a liability to surviving businesses downtown. More "attractions," more stores filling empty buildings is welcome news to downtown.

Stop in—soon and sample the "attractions" the Kiva has to offer: books on food, health and cooking, a large selection of world literature (Russian, Chinese, Japanese, English and American); groceries, cheeses and natural foods, many locally grown and produced; a good selection of vitamins and supplements; and an excellent wine selection. The Kiva is open 10 am-7 pm Monday through Saturday.

—Bill Snyder



African drummer Obo Addy with his band Kukrudu returns to the WOW Hall, Saturday, July 30, for a special evening of African and jazz music. Also appearing will be the ever popular reggae band Arousing Spirit.

### At the WOW Hall African Drummer Obo Addy

Master Drummer Obo Addy brings an interesting blend of traditional African tribal music and original Western-style compositions to Eugene on Saturday, July 30. A native of Ghana, Addy combines the sounds of his native drums with guitar, trumpet, saxophone, and bass, in his group Kukrudu, which means "earthquake."

The son of a priest and medicine man of the Ga tribe in Ghana, Addy was surrounded by the drumming, dancing and singing that accompanied his father's work. Throughout his youth, he developed a thorough understanding of traditional song and dance, and eventually achieved the status of Master Drummer, a special honor reflecting extreme skill and knowledge.

Addy came to Seattle in 1975, at the invitation of the Washington State Cultural Enrichment Board, where he performed and taught his art to University of Washington professors. This was followed by concert tours and TV appearances around the country. He also taught in the public schools in Portland and Seattle, including the Jefferson High School in Portland.

Addy and Kukrudu present a visually as well as musically interesting performance, with colorful Ghanaian costumes and traditional percussion instruments.

Addy's original compositions range in style from traditionally influenced songs to the more contemporary, incorporating both African and Western influences. The performance promises to be a lively and exciting one.

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