

THE COUNTRY STORE

A tale of four Multnomah Village businesses revisited

By Mark Ellis
The Southwest Portland Post

In early 2007 *The Post* got wind of some Multnomah Village businesses

in transition. Two were new arrivals, Journeys Pub and Anastasia's Salon. Another, Multnomah Antiques, was rumored to be going the way of other older businesses, moving aside for a newer building at its location.

A fourth, G/M Galleries, had been operated by a much-liked couple who had sold art objects at the location for years. George and Marie Woodcock were having a final sale, pulling stakes and moving into different lifestyles, and the future proprietor of their small

shop had yet to emerge.

Now, just a little over one year since these businesses were put under the spotlight, it is time to return and assess how that year played out for them.

Anne Bocci Boutique and Gallery

The Woodcocks' artistic sensibilities were much appreciated in the Village, so it is fitting that their shop is now home to Anne Bocci Boutique and Gallery which strongly integrates the artists' ethic.

The location did see a little downtime between February of last year and Bocci's May grand opening, just enough time for an overhaul of the space and the appearance of what she considered a "lucky" bird's nest, which complicated the installation of her new awning.

Bocci is committed to what she calls "indie design," and no two items in her shop are alike. Custom-made Gordon Dent leather handbags—which Bocci pointed out are leather-lined as

well—hang near the small front counter, including a gorgeous red one that has already been sold.

A sleek mannequin models one of Seth Aaron Henderson's classic Audrey Hepburn-inspired dresses near a display of patent leather belts. "Most of our apparel and jewelry is made by independent designers from Portland, Seattle and San Francisco," Bocci explained, while showing off a striking silver leather and rhinestone bracelet. She also calls attention to brightly-hued encaustic paintings by local artist Barb Griggs. "Barb was my biggest seller over the holidays."

In addition to filling every available inch of her floor and wall space with designer clothing and unique jewelry and art, Anne has opened up the shop's basement to customers, a space used only for storage by past proprietors.

She has created an informal gathering place, with seating and more art pieces. On First Fridays she serves refreshments there, and invites local artists to come meet her guests and

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The interior of Anne Bocci Boutique and Gallery includes an eclectic mix of art, bi-belot and fashion. (Photo courtesy of Anne Bocci)



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