

# Do you remember a store in Multnomah called The Sewing Basket?

## OLD MULTNOMAH

By Don Snedecor  
The Southwest Portland Post

The Post received an interesting phone call, followed by email correspondence last month from Susan (Miller) Christensen of Quincy, Calif. According to Christensen, her mother, Marion Miller Bentz had her sewing store in Multnomah from the mid-1950s to the late 1960s.

"It was on the north side of Capitol Highway in the main block and more or less across from what is now O'Connor's," wrote Christensen.

"If you stood in front of O'Connor's and looked across the street, the storefront I'm talking about would be the second one from the corner of what I think is 36th Avenue."

"For quite a few years there was a gift shop there, the name of which I don't recall, but there's something else there now, and although I was in Multnomah just last month for a reunion with grade school friends, I failed to note the name of it."

"If you could help me with this, I'd appreciate it. I'm writing a remembrance of my experiences working in my mom's shop, which was actually in three different loca-

tions during the approximately 12 years that she owned it."

The Post contacted Tim Lyman and Patti Waitman-Ingebretsen, board members of the Multnomah Historical Association.

According to Lyman, one location of The Sewing Basket (circa 1961-1965) is now a vacant lot. It's between Neighborhood House and Multnomah Antiques. The street address at the time was 7776 SW Capitol Hwy.

Christensen said after corresponding with Lyman and Waitman-Ingebretsen that one location of her mother's sewing store (circa 1970s) is the building that currently houses the Nectar Lounge frozen yogurt shop, 7847 SW Capitol Hwy.

Over the past 25 years the stores that The Post remembers at this location include most recently Birdie's and before that Time & Again—both were gift shops. Perhaps dear readers you can help fill in the blanks?

"As for pictures, I'm amazed at how few I have of Multnomah or any of the locations where The Sewing Basket was situated," wrote Christensen.

"I do have a couple [of photos] of my mom dressed as a Native American while participating in the Chief Multnomah Days' parades, and I believe I have one of my sister and I taken in front of that third location."



Winter scene in Multnomah, circa 1952. Weatherly's Market and Multnomah Drug Company (currently Thinker Toys). (Photo courtesy of Multnomah Historical Association)

Christensen said she would try to find the box the photos were stored in and "email them to you, along with the article."

While Waitman-Ingebretsen (who grew up in Maplewood) didn't recognize her name, Christensen said she went to Multnomah School (now the Multnomah Arts Center)

from the third to eighth grades, roughly from age 8 to 14.

Do you have memories, stories or photos you would like to share of Old Multnomah? Phone Don Snedecor at 503-244-6933 or email don@multnomahpost.com. You can also mail us a card or letter at 4207 SE Woodstock Blvd, Box #509, Portland, OR 97206.

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