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Home Town City Liquidators

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business
unites
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BY CARI HACHMANN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

As one of the few remaining local, family-owned businesses passionate about their work, members of the Pelett family can be found daily on the sales floor of City Liquidators, including store-owner and father, Walt, manager and mother, Pamela, and their three children, head of sales and son, Zach, and daughters Emma and Ellie.

After a brief stint at college, Zach realized the opportunity to work at his father's store was not worth passing up. As toddlers Zach and his sisters starred in local City Liquidator commercials, and since then, have remained involved in the business.

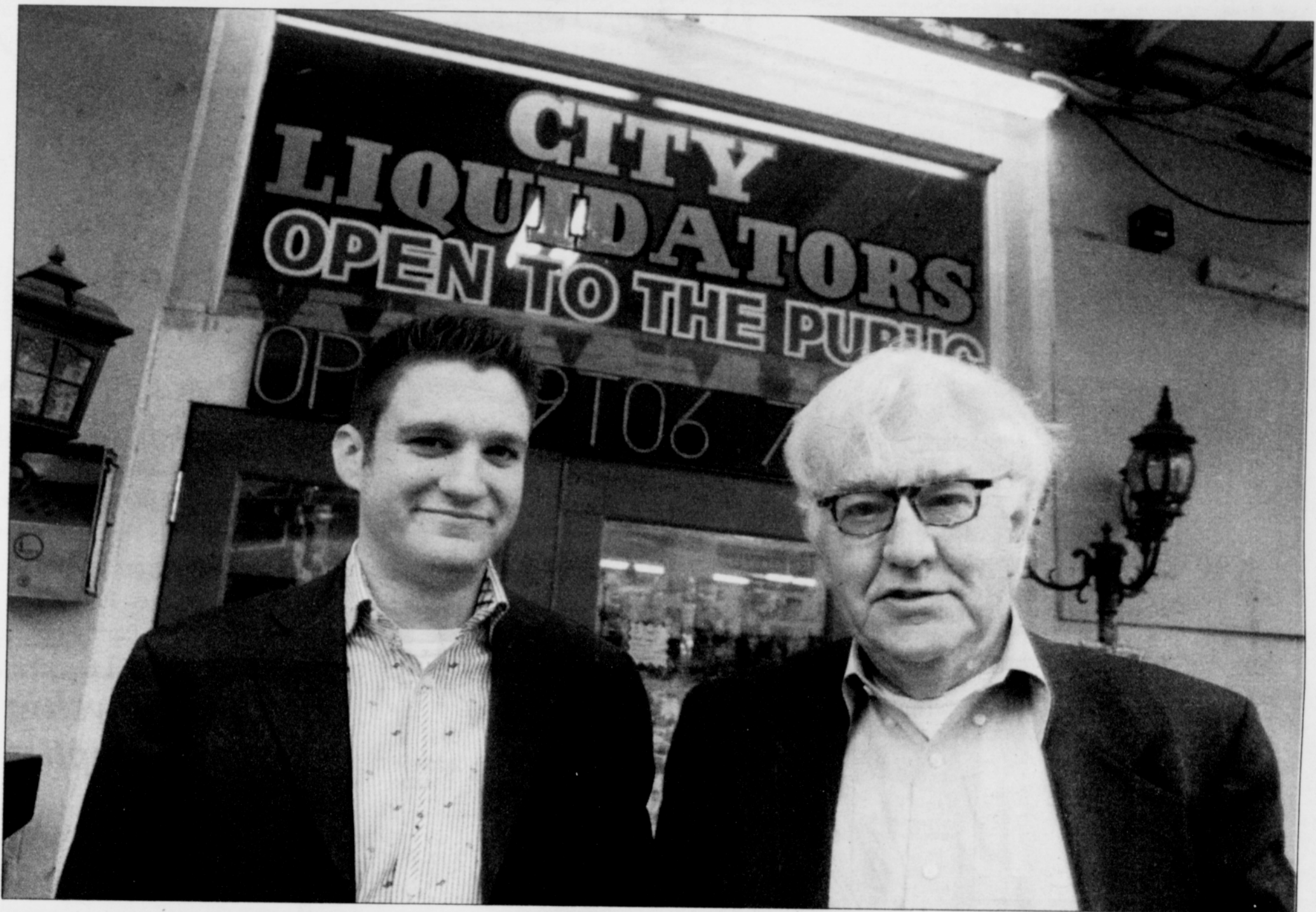


PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Walt Pelett and his son Zach Pelett work alongside each other running City Liquidators, a family-owned, giant furniture and home accessories warehouse in southeast Portland since 1977.



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Quinton Searcy (from left), Zach Pelett and Andrew Bayona have been friends since childhood and are now all employed on the second floor salesroom of the main City Liquidator's warehouse in southeast Portland.

Not only have the Pelett children been brought up immersed in the family-business, but their friends have too. Walt says it's exciting for both him and his wife to have their son and daughters' friends come work at the store throughout high school and college.

Now Zach's childhood friends, Quinton Searcy and Andrew Bayona, help him run the 2nd floor sales floor.

"They're good kids and we've had an opportunity to help a lot of kids earn money while they go to school," said Walt, who remembers hosting his kids and friends' high school prom dinner and after-party inside the main warehouse.

The senior Pelett first opened City Liquidators as a second-hand store in 1977. The business has evolved into Oregon's largest show room,

featuring brand new home and office furniture.

Unique to the sort, City Liquidators literally sells everything under the sun; from barstools, sofas, recliners, and futons to decorative art, modelships, mirrors, bookcases, chandeliers and gumball machines. Shopping the isles of this eclectic warehouse is like hunting for treasures in the mansion of an American grandfather eccentric.

Hand-selected by the diverse personalities of each Pelett family member, the merchandise comes from some of the world's most renowned trade shows, places like Las Vegas and Highpoint, N.C. The furnishings fill three on-site City Liquidators warehouses and decorates three floors of the 160,000 square foot main building.

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