

South Tabor Crow

A neighborhood newsletter brought to you by your
South Tabor Neighborhood Association (STNA)

ISSUE NO. 7 | December 2025

Join us for happy hour:

December 18th from 5-8pm @ Lay Low (21 and up)

Crow's Nest

Message from the chair of STNA:

As we learn about the history of South Tabor in this issue of *The Crow*, I think about the evolution of our little rectangle over the past decade or two. The homes and buildings tell the story of Portland. There are buildings from the early 1900s. There are buried streetcar tracks poking out of the asphalt. You'll see super cool houses made from cinder blocks when materials were hard to come by during World War II. There are large 1950s and 60s homes that are a snapshot into the abundance of post-war America.

I'm excited about the next wave as we watch new development and think about our own place in history when we discovered the value of urban density and community.

In community,
Juan Cummings



Juan at a recent STNA board meeting

Connect with STNA

Question, comment, or interested in helping with the newsletter?
Drop us a line @
communications@southtabor.org.

Join the STNA mailing list [here](#).

For general information, visit our [website](#).



100 years in South Tabor: The Shoshito Family

By Jacqueline Fitzgerald

Our neighbor Jean Shoshito and her family have lived in South Tabor for over a century. At 101 years old, Jean, with her daughter Judy Shoshito, tell their family story over tea and pastries. Sepia-toned photos of Jean's late husband, Sam Shoshito, along with memorabilia of their family's legacy, lay on the coffee table.

Sam was born in 1915 in his parents' home at SE 88th and Market. After arriving in Portland from Japan in 1905, the Shoshitos owned and operated several stores at the furthest corner of South Tabor. Their first store was located at what is now the Key & Coin Shop at 82nd and Powell. In 1937 they opened a second store, a fruit stand on the south side of Powell and 79th.

"In 1942 [the year after the US declared war on Japan and the Japanese] we were put in the Assembly Center [Portland Temporary Detainment Center] before being sent to an internment camp until 1945," she says, moving quickly over the war years. "Since that time, Portland has really changed."

In 1946, the couple broke ground on Sam and Jean's Market where the family's fruit stand used to be.

They raised six children together in their home on SE 78th Ave., where Judy still lives. Judy recalls that "the store was pretty big. And we had a lot back there. And there were three apple trees with different kinds of apples, which was exciting. And we had a community. So what more could you ask for?"

Judy and her sister Carol also remember a neighborhood fair where Eastport Plaza is now. During those years, the children rode on the back of an elephant, a hot air balloon crashed, and a fireworks storage building blew up, shattering the windows of their family store.



Sam & Jean's Market on Powell Blvd., 1946

They also remember helping their dad when he burned the fields by carrying wet rags to keep the fire under control, and by stocking shelves. Carol says, "We took pride in how neatly it looked with all the labels facing forward. Mom and Dad made it fun!"

100 years in South Tabor: The Shoshito Family (cont.)

Jean and Sam were central figures in the South Tabor neighborhood and supported their neighbors through hard times. "Generations of people have grown up knowing Mom," Judy said, "and when people were broke... they would sign their name on the back of the grocery [receipt]. When they closed the store for good, they had so many little papers! Some people never did pay them back before they closed. They didn't seem to worry about it. I think they looked at it as community service. My friend Teresa said that at times her family wouldn't have eaten at all if they couldn't have had things on credit."

Sam and Jean's Market was demolished in 1975 when the city bought the family's land and ODOT widened Powell to four lanes. Powell has been a dangerous crossing for as long as Judy can remember. Judy's sister Carol says that "us little ones would have to stand on the curb of 78th and yell 'mommy, daddy'... so they would help us across the street."

Their pioneer mother, Jean Ito, grew up in Redmond, Oregon. Her family came from a farming community and immigrated from Japan. They were longtime friends with the McCall family who had a son named Tom. Governor Tom McCall, well known in Oregon history for his environmental lawmaking, gifted Jean and her husband Sam a Douglas fir tree 50 years ago. That tree still stands tall in their backyard today.



Judy Shoshito breaking ground

When asked about the neighborhood's future, Judy said, "help people find housing. It really bothers Mom when people should be housed."

Mt. Tabor Talk

To learn the latest about Mt. Tabor, [join the Friends of Mt. Tabor Park \(FMTP\)](#) for as little as \$15/year. If you're looking for gift ideas, the Visitor Center (open 9:30am-2:00pm daily) has cards, t-shirts, hoodies, hats, mugs, and other tasteful swag. Of special note: check out the first annual 2026 "Dogs of Mt. Tabor Calendar" for \$20. All proceeds benefit FMTP. And be sure to [sign up for the Tabor Times](#) monthly newsletter!

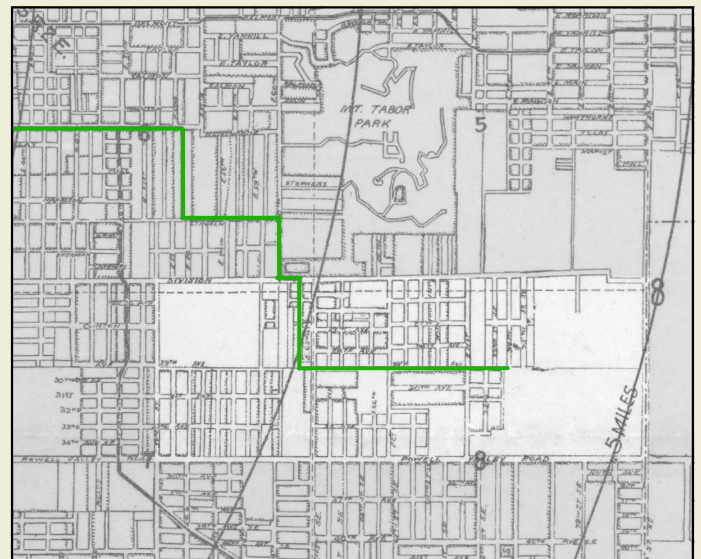
Did you know there used to be a streetcar line on SE Woodward?

Contribution by John Carr



In the early 1900s, the Hawthorne Avenue line came down along 54th to Lincoln, to 60th, to Division, to 61st and to Woodward (then called 29th Avenue Southeast), all the way to its end at 74th.

We've highlighted South Tabor on this map from 1915 and traced the streetcar line in green. The photo above shows a Hawthorne line streetcar from around 1920!



Upcoming Events

- STNA Happy Hour: Dec 18th, 5-8pm @ Lay Low - 6015 SE Powell Blvd. (21 and up)
- STNA Board Meetings: Jan. 15th and Feb. 19, 7-8:30pm @ location TBD

Tuning in to the neighborhood

Check out Franklin High School's excellent student newspaper, "The Franklin Post,"

or subscribe [here](#) for a print copy.



The "Back" Page

Links:

- South Tabor Communications Email: communications@southtabor.org
- Join the STNA Mailing List: <https://groups.io/g/southtabor/join>
- South Tabor Neighborhood Association: <https://southtabor.org/>
- Join the Friends of Mt. Tabor Park: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/friends-of-mt-tabor-park-memberships--2025>
- Sign up for the Tabor Times newsletter: <https://www.taborfriends.org/newsletter>
- The Franklin Post: <https://fhspost.com/>
- The Franklin Post in print: <https://www.schoolpay.com/pay/for/The-PostStudent-Newspaper/SewyDVQ>

Past Issues:

- Available here: <https://southtabor.org/newsletter/>



Wintertime in the Taborhood

Connect with STNA

Question, comment, or interested in helping with the newsletter?

Drop us a line @

communications@southtabor.org

Join the STNA mailing list [here](#).