

shop. Everything in his shop was kosher and therefore “clean.” Few butchers of those days believed in catering to their customers.

Intermingled with the butcher shops, the visitor would come upon Brenner’s and Lippman’s Jewish bakeries and the enticing smell of freshly-baked challah, pumpernickel, and rye breads. On a Sunday, people from both Capitol Hill and the Yesler Way–Cherry Street neighborhood often lined up in front of Brenner’s Bakery for bagels. Brenner’s baked only one kind of bagel in those days—plain, then considered a uniquely “Jewish” food.

In the early years, Moise Tacher’s Eagle Grocery at Fourteenth and Yesler, and Hiam Fiss’s fruit and grocery at Fourteenth and Fir provisioned the community. By the 1930s, a visitor walking farther east would discover two more Sephardic-owned grocery stores: Altaras’s, between Eighteenth and Nineteenth Avenues, and Sam Maimon’s and Jack Funes’s Twenty-fourth Avenue market. Nearby, on East Fir Street, was the entrance to the Seattle Kosher Sausage Factory and Meat Market.

Dozens of other businesses, Jewish and Gentile, could be found scattered along or near Yesler Way. Favorites included Condiotty’s candy shop and the Yesler Theater, where children paid a nickel for movies. Funes’s and Oziel’s Yesler Furniture Company, jewelers and watchmakers, laundries, barbershops, drug and hardware stores, plumbers, and shoe repair shops provided goods and services to a close-knit community.¹⁷

The people who frequented the stores lived nearby, in apartments, rented homes, or their own single-family homes. A few lived a block or two south of Yesler Way, but most lived to the north. The Mosler Apartments at Twelfth and Yesler, and, across the street, the apartments above Aroni’s furniture store provided

When you had company in those days it was a custom to have a silver tray, and on the silver tray was a beautiful ornate container that was round, and the spoons hung around this ornate bowl. You’d take a spoon and you’d take a teaspoon of the sweet candy that was inside. Before you’d put the candy in your mouth, you’d bless the hostess and her children. If they have unmarried children, you hope that they be married with a lot of happiness. If the woman didn’t have children, you’d ask she be blessed with children. It was a regular ritual. Then you’d eat the candy—it was just out of this world—and you’d put the spoon in the glass of water, and with the spoon in the water, you’d sip your water. Right now it’s not proper to drink water with a spoon it. Then, it was okay.

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