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Mary Boone - Sailing off into the Seldovia Sunset

by

Tamara Blodgett



Sailing off into the Seldovia sunset...

She married Ed in 1962 and they had three children together, one boy and two girls, now forty-five, forty-three and forty-

Thirty-five year Main Street Market manager, Mary Boone, will be serving her final, steadfast day on December 31 st. Her history here is the most interesting (although anyone staying at the same job more than three decades is noteworthy).

Long-time Alaskan, long-time Seldovian...

Born in Hillsover, Ohio in 1941, Mary was only briefly in the Midwest when her parents made their way north, settling in the Matanuska (Mat-su) Valley in 1947. They were “truck farmers,” meaning they grew fresh produce, trucked to the roadside and set it up for sale in stands. Around 1950, the family which included Mary, her parents and older brother, made their way to Clam Gulch. They began set-netting (the process of putting nets out from shore to snare salmon) which was their income during the summer months. In the winter, they augmented their income by raising goats and chickens. After four years there, they moved to Seldovia.

“Back in the day...”

Mary arrived in Seldovia as an eighth grader who lived up Seldovia Bay which necessitated traveling to school by boat. Sometimes inclement weather would prohibit travel...such was life in the boardwalk days. She remembers her folks as being a “close couple,” and says one of the happiest parts of her impending retirement will be the time she will gain with her husband who she is very close to [a family tradition!].

After graduation, Mary worked at the cannery, canning both crab and shrimp. When asked what her specific duties were she replied, “...whatever they told me to do!” She said her work ethic was set for life during those self-described, “... good memories of long and hard work.”



Mary at birthday party in Montana.

one. She is the proud grandparent of two grandsons and two granddaughters.

After her last daughter was school-aged, she began to work at the school as a Librarian Aide, which lasted about two years. After that stint she began her long career at what is now known as Main Street [grocery] Market.

Looking forward to “leisure time...”

Monty Hingley will replace Mary as Main Street Market Manager on January 2nd. She will miss visiting with her customers and working alongside her great staff.

She will enjoy *choosing* what to do with her new time! Besides spending additional time with Ed, she will pursue organizing the house in preparation for a slew of home projects, not the least of which will be summer gardening. A large yard that needs tending “calls” to Mary, who can’t wait to enjoy the outdoors with berry picking added in the mix.

About Seldovia...

Like so many before her, Seldovia is a *choice* of place to live, not something one just “falls into.” With this in mind, Mary spoke these parting words, “...people will pick and fight but when someone needs help, they’ll be there for them.” Quintessential Seldovia.



Mary Boone and daughter, Shari, and two grand-daughters

