

# Talcott Jewelers

## 131-Year-Old Jewelry Store Closes Its Doors

For Richard Talcott Junior, following in his family's footsteps hardly seemed appealing. In fact, his dream was to become a commercial airline pilot. But when that didn't work out he gave in and carried his family's jewelry business into a fifth generation.

His decision resulted in **Talcott Jewelers** becoming the oldest jewelry store in the state of Washington. In fact, the century old business



was so steeped in history that the Talcott family built a small museum inside the store. On display was an 18-karat gold pocket watch that belonged to Isaac Stevens, Washington's first territorial governor. Also on display were the tools that Talcott's great-grandfather,

George Noyes Talcott, used to manufacture the Washington state seal which was designed by Talcott's uncle, Charlie Talcott in 1889.



Yes, Talcott Jewelers had stood the test of time. Founded in 1872, the business had survived some of the nation's toughest times, including Olympia's big fire of 1882, two World Wars and the great Depression of the 1930s. But most importantly, throughout it all, Talcott Jewelers had maintained their reputation for always providing the extreme customer service, quality and value that had been their commitment to Olympia since the very beginning.



Now in his late fifties, Richard Talcott had been managing his family's store for twenty-nine years and working in the business for thirty-three. By 2003 he desperately needed a break. But when it came time for him to retire, he had a lot more to think about than most. He had five generations of his family's hard work and their reputation for excellence to consider. This was no small matter. So Richard turned to his parents and after careful

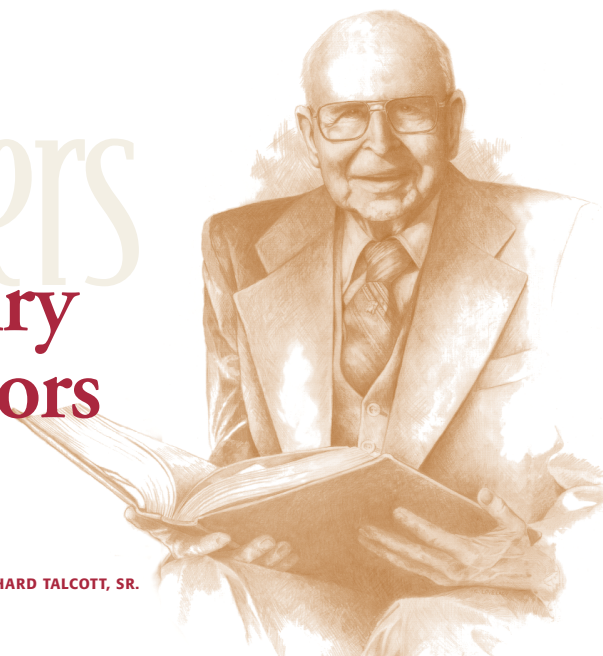


contemplation, the Talcotts reluctantly decided that selling the store (not closing it) was the right thing to do. The only obstacle now was finding a buyer who could successfully carry on the Talcott name. After a long screening process they finally found a perfect match: Michael Nutter, a fellow jeweler who closed his store in Kirkland to take on ownership of Talcott Jewelers.



"I was fortunate that the right person was interested," Talcott recalls. "Nutter manufactures his own jewelry line. He believes in quality, and I believed he would carry the name on in a manner that we could be proud of."

RICHARD TALCOTT, SR.



Before the Talcotts could hand their business over to Michael Nutter they had a lot to consider. Richard had to find something to do with the Talcott inventory: there was a lot of it and Michael Nutter would need the space for his own purposes. Richard also wanted to be sure he could retire with enough money to maintain the active lifestyle he and his family had grown accustomed to. But most importantly, the Talcotts felt they owed it to the city of Olympia to make a proper exit. After all, if it weren't for their continued support, the past 131 years would not have been possible.

### *The Talcott legacy had come to a graceful end...*

That's when they enlisted the aid of Wilkerson and Associates – the nation's leader in conducting Going Out of Business sales for jewelers. The sale was a success and Richard Talcott exceeded the projected goal Wilkerson and Associates had given him. The Talcott legacy had come to a graceful end.

"It was a hard thing to close the store after five generations," Richard Talcott noted, "but it was the right decision for me and the right decision for my family. We cannot thank Wilkerson and Associates enough for helping us end a part of our lives that has been so important for more than a century. My ancestors would be proud."



**TALCOTT JEWELERS FAMILY OF FOUNDERS, TOP TO BOTTOM:**  
LUCIUS LORD 1819-1898; GEORGE N. TALCOTT 1858-1949;  
G. NOYES TALCOTT 1893-1981; RICHARD N. TALCOTT, SR.  
AND RICHARD N. TALCOTT, JR.

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