

# The streets in Sedro Woolley weren't always the way we know them now Sept 86

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Have you ever given much thought to the odd alignment of the city streets — those running north and south — that connect to State Street from Metcalf to Township? More than likely not, as it really isn't that important. However, such things intrigue me, and besides, I have to have something to write about...

As you know, Metcalf now extends in a straight line from Highway 20 south to the high school property. However, this hasn't always been so, as up to a few years ago Metcalf stopped going south at State.

There was a billboard set back about 60 feet from State, between what is now the Fashion Crossroads store and InterWest Savings Bank. As I recall, the last use of this space was by Dick Walley, now deceased, who had a used car lot there.

Metcalf is the last street going straight through State, north and south.

As we go east on State, we come to Third on the south and then there is a jog to Murdock, going north. Fourth and Puget almost meet, but not quite.

Then the pattern changes, as on the north we have Reed before we come to Fifth, on the south side, and the jog is the other way. In between

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## Fred Slipper

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Reed and Haines on the north is Fifth on the south.

From there east to Township, we are back on a steady pattern, with Sixth on the south, a jog to Central on the north; Seventh on the south, then a jog to Ball on the north, and we end with Eighth on the south before the intersection finally goes straight through State, this being Township.

Why are the streets

south of State numbered and the ones on the north side given names? And why don't they meet at State instead of being offset?

As I often do when I need assistance, I called my old friend "Puss" Stendal. As usual, "Puss" had the information I was looking for.

"Puss" said in the old days State was referred to as "Division." This was because Sedro was on the north side and Woolley on the south side. I didn't ask him about the numbered streets versus the named streets, but I assume this was the preference of the original residents of the two cities.

What I was interested in was why the jog in the streets, and "Puss" had the answer to this. The original plat of the south, or Woolley side, had the lots measured 40 feet wide, whereas the lots on the north, or Sedro side, were 30 feet wide. Therefore, when the streets were laid out in the two

plats, they did not join at "Division."

"Puss" also said the lots on the north side, the 30 foot wide ones, had a ruling that there had to be 5 foot clearance from the side boundary to the building; therefore, the houses could only be 20 feet wide! He said there was an example of this on three small houses on the west side of Reed Street between Ferry and Pacific. I drove by there and they do appear to be about 20 feet wide and no more than 10 feet apart.

As always, "Puss" also had a story to go with his information. He told me the houses on the 30 foot lots were so close together that if you ran out of mustard while eating, all you had to do was open the window on the side of the house and ask your neighbor to "Pass the mustard, please!"

If any of my readers have any further information on the above, please give me a call at the *Post/Courier*, 855-1641.