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# The Toast of the Oregon Coast

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**Mo's clam chowder is reason enough to visit the coastal town of Newport, Oregon, on Highway 101. But, truth is, there's a long list of other reasons to hang out in this eclectic coastal haven.**

There's often a waiting line at Mo's Annex, and it's worth the wait. When you finally peek through the front door, the diversity of fish-related items, walls of pictures, posters and framed awards are the first clue that you are about to have a great time. Then you catch a whiff of frying clam fritters; bowls of shrimp waiting to be piled high on saltine crackers; baked, grilled, steamed or scalloped oysters; and bowls brimming with scrumptious, world famous clam chowder.

When you're seated at a long wooden table with people you didn't know when you sat down, you'll understand why the atmosphere has remained unchanged since the early days. It's a combination of Grandma

"Mo" Niemi's warm, hospitable personality and her tasty clam chowder recipe that have kept the doors of the "little joint on the waterfront" open since 1946.

She was known as "the crusty, big-hearted town mother." Early one morning, a woman crashed her car through the front of the restaurant. Mo, in her unique and charming way, put her arm around the woman comforting her. She said, "Well, we'll just put in a garage door so you can drive in anytime you want." She did, and the door still gets opened on sunny days.

The clam chowder became one of Oregon's most renowned foods. By 1968, Mo's Annex was opened across the street overlooking Yaquina Bay, where you can sometimes spot a sea lion in the bay, a row of seagulls standing like wooden soldiers on the pier or a sportfishing boat docking to clean the day's catch.

Four years later, Mo's West opened at Devil's Punchbowl in Otter Rock; then another one south on Highway 101 at Florence...all overlooking a bay, river or the ocean. Mo's has attracted the rich and famous over the years, including Henry Fonda, Joanne Woodward, Paul Newman and Paul Harvey. Robert Kennedy visited Mo's in 1968 during Oregon's Presidential Primary.

Mo died in 1992, leaving behind not only a successful business but also a work ethic instilled in her granddaughter, Cindy Marie McEntee, who now owns and operates Mo's. Following in the footsteps of a well-known, much loved grandma paid off for Cindy, who was chosen Oregon's Small Business Person of



the Year for 2001 and the first runner-up for the SBA's national award. She will show you her picture being congratulated by President Bush, if you ask.

Both of the Mo's Newport Restaurants are located on Newport's Historic Bayfront on Bay Blvd. RVs are sometimes parked on the narrow street during off-season months; however there are two parking lots on the hill above Bay Blvd, making it a short jaunt down Herbert Street or Hatfield Drive. Plan to be gone from your rig for several hours, as you'll want to see the many murals painted on walls of the buildings. You can also schedule a fishing trip or a Marine Discovery Cruise with friendly naturalists narrating the fun activities

while aboard, like the boat's catch-of-the-day. Too, you'll want to visit a lighthouse and the aquarium, so plan to

stay a few days. There are four RV parks within a couple of miles of town and several state parks nearby have campsites.

Newport has earned the reputation of being the friendliest town on the Oregon coast simply by being friendly. Discover for yourself its well-earned reputation. ☺



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