

# A tisket, a tasket, a Native American basket



Plateau bags made by Native American weavers decorate one wall of Natalie Linn's home. Linn holds a catalogue she wrote for an exhibit of plateau bags that features one of the bags. Photo by Deborah Moon



# Natalie Linn weaves a lifelong passion

By Deborah Moon

Natalie Linn's journey to becoming a national expert on Native American basketry began with the purchase of a \$5 "Indian basket," which turned out to be a fake.

Nowadays Natalie is a frequent appraiser on "Antiques Roadshow" and has appeared on "History Detectives." She has lectured on Native American art at museums and universities across the country and/or helped develop exhibits of Native American baskets or plateau bags at the Portland Art Museum, Panhandle Plains Historical Society Museum, Johnson County C.C. Gallery of Art, DePauw University, Stanford University, several Oregon universities, the National Cowboy Hall of Fame and many others. She's also appraised or consulted for other art museums and auction houses including The Cleveland Art Museum, New Orleans Art Museum, Seattle Art Museum, Bonham/Butterfields, Sotheby's and Christies.

But how did she gain such a reputation after her first failed purchase?

Natalie was a fourth- and fifth-grade teacher in California when she returned to her hometown of Portland for a wedding and met Dr. Merritt Linn. She moved to Oregon in 1965 where Rabbi Yonah Geller, z"l, married the couple (who divorced 26 years later, though Natalie reports they are still good friends).



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