

Feel like taking a dive?

Two bars stress drinks, not decorum

By HARRY ESTEVE
Of the Emerald

Sitting down to a drink in this city is not as simple as it sounds.

Around the campus area, a beer never seems to stand alone. At the closest tavern, a loud stereo blasts drinking accompaniments, oscillating between the Grateful Dead and Willie Nelson.

Down the block, at perhaps the most popular drinking establishment for students, pa-

trons are forced to sit through daily episodes of "General Hospital" displayed on a wide-screen television. Oddly enough, they enjoy it.

Another joint offers daily a "Waikiki" sun deck for tipplers who are into even tans and navels.

An evening of pub crawling within the protective radius of the University area may leave the crawler with only one thought: "I need a drink."

What follows is a description of two bars — one in Eugene, one in Springfield — that represent a step away (though not necessarily up) from the normal college after-class or after-dinner drinking habitat.

The **Veterans Club**, located in the Veterans Memorial Building, 1626 Willamette St., has been serving hard liquor and beer to World War II vets and others since 1948. Inside the huge, colonial building, a glance

down the bar indicates some of the original patrons may still be hanging out.

Aside from being perhaps the most dimly lit cocktail lounge in Eugene, the Vets Club also serves far and away the stiffest drinks. It takes some guts to finish one — but after that it gets easier and easier.

"You order a rum and coke and it comes back clear," one slightly amazed patron commented.

What light there is comes filtered through late-1950-style

given to the only other lighting in the place — a lime-green "exit" sign.

The attractions of **Sonny's Tavern**, located at 5th and Q streets in Springfield, are its simple, sane atmosphere and seven uncrowded pool tables.

A healthy-sized pitcher of Millers costs \$2.50 and pool is a quarter a game.

The place is brightly lit, with low hanging, unadorned lights hanging above each table. The decor is simple — glass and brass beer advertisements

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red lampshades hanging from the tiled ceiling. Everything in the lounge glows a shadowy red and the effect is to dampen conversation to low murmurs.

The old-timers sit along the bar on top of red leatherette stools, dressed in short-sleeved sport shirts and polyester-blend slacks. The younger crowd grabs the booths that separate the lounge from the dance floor.

On weekend nights, couples dance to the "Country Squires," a four-piece ensemble that plays soft musak-like versions of old Glen Miller tunes.

On other nights of the week a rarely-used jukebox glows from inside an empty fireplace.

Attention also should be

along the walls.

Besides sandwiches, beer-sausage and potato-chips are available for building up a thirst.

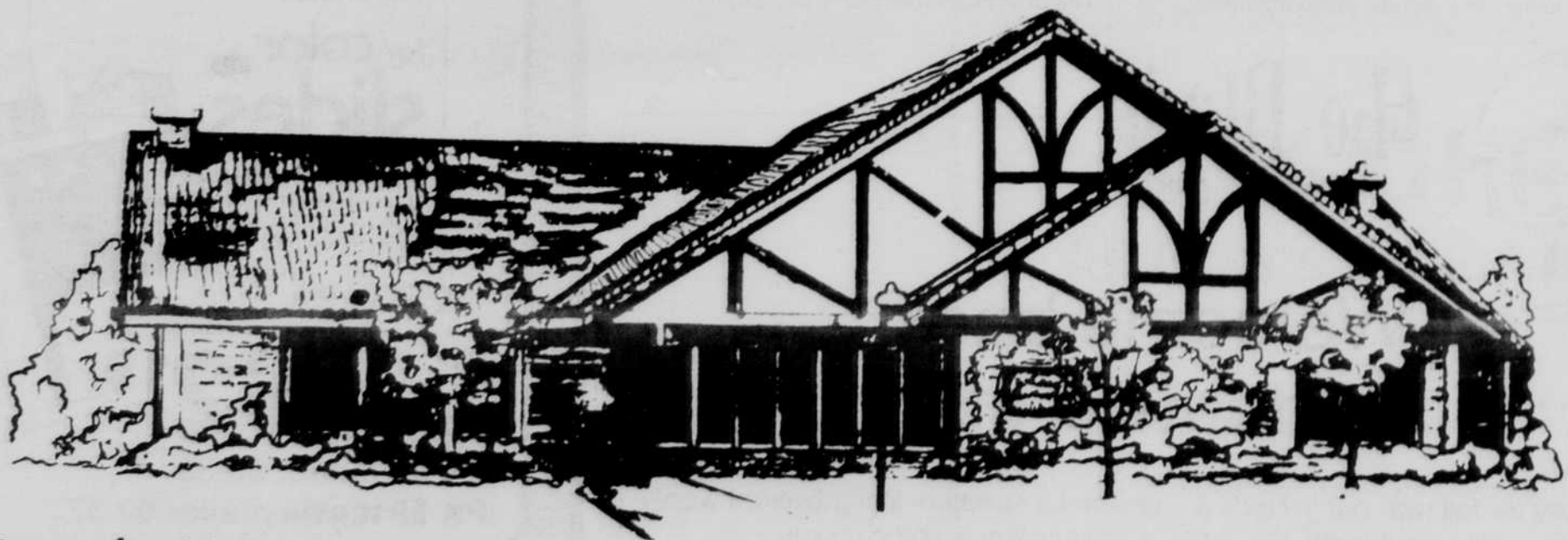
Also offered, though rarely drunk, is a small selection of wine, with splits — whatever "splits" are — going for \$2. Le Domaine champagne is available as well.

Background music is kept to background levels, and comes from a jukebox. Selections range from Johnny Paycheck to Linda Ronstadt.

The Vets Club and Sonny's are only two out of a slew of local watering holes ranging from the seedy to the sublime, reminding students that not all Eugene taverns are created equal.

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