

Continued from page 21

much love and care. On many of these Sunday afternoons Emperors and Empresses were made or talked about as well as Kings and Queens—we all worked with the Imperial Court and enjoyed it very much. Those were the days when you were glad to say you were part of the Court. The United Ebony Kingdom was started at a small meeting at Demas's and given birth at a Sunday brunch at D&P's. Sami and Gene were at the birth and became members. Almost everybody had something to do with the Kingdom. Walter Cole who was soon to become Darcelle was a member. Vanessa was a member. Some of our members went on to become Emperors and Empresses. There was Candi Wrapper, Melody Starr, and many more. The Kingdom had two homes—Demas and D&P's. Demas was to soon become Darcelle XV and with the name change came a stage. The shows in D&P's back room will always be remembered by those who will tell their real age. We had a light man that was a real pro. If Don liked you you were made to look ever so pretty, but if he didn't, look out! You would be the green lady and not even know it until you left the stage.

Dahl & Penne's was the first gay bar in Portland to have an anniversary party. I mean a real party. Sami and Gene went all out. There were people there from everywhere. One of the good things about D&P's was that you had both gays and straights and there were very few fights. When it came to drinking, Sami and Gene could keep up with the best of us, and that they did! They had fun with us and we were good to them. We spent money and on Ball weekends you went to every bar in town, but you would start and end at D&P's.

You could have a great breakfast at the bar, along with your cocktail. And if you were a regular you could go into the kitchen and cook your own. Hell, Ms. Lillian Carter was known to go in and cook her something and take half the kitchen home with her! As I said, it was home away from home. There are no fun places like that today. Even the older gays had a place to go and feel at home. Sami had a way with everyone and we all loved her.

In the Winter of 1983, D&P closed its doors, so it was time for for one last party—the really big one. There were people here from near and far. Sami and Gene had made many friends over the years, and they all wanted to be here for that last good-bye. There was one last show in the back room. And what a show it was. At noon the show started and went on until the wee hours of the next morning. Even some of the guys were in the show. To name a few, there was Frank S. (don't even try to spell his last name), Willie Tucker, and Harold Strong. They had all been a part of D&P's long life and like the rest of us didn't want to see it close. But all good things come to an end, and at 2:30 on a cold December morning, the doors were locked, but the party went on. No one wanted to be the first to leave. Many of us miss D&P's, and I for one can say that I'm very glad that D&P was a part of my life. If there is ever a star placed to remember a bar, it should be at Second and Alder. Dahl & Penne's was the Star of all bars and will always be remembered.



Continued on next page