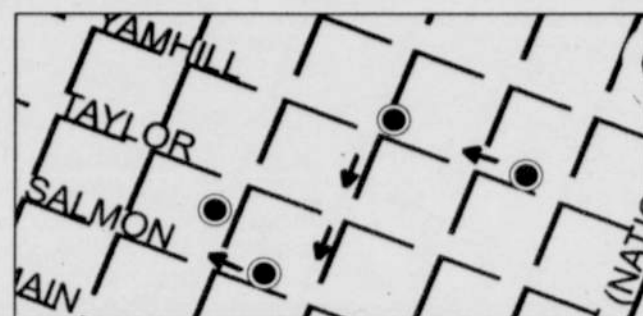


"THE CAMP" **LOTUS CARD ROOM AND BAR** **LOWNSDALE PARK** **LITTLE BROWN JUG** **BUDDIE'S POST TAVERN**

Walk west on Yamhill 50 feet and observe the Franz Building at 122 S.W. Yamhill St., set in the midst of today's Yamhill Marketplace. This once-bustling block was the site of produce markets, just up Yamhill from the Oregon Journal Building (where the fountain now cools summer youngins'). The Franz was the location of the new Half Moon, often just called "The Tavern." Owner Ray Willitson operated the popular spot from 1960 until a suspicious fire gutted it in 1981. He opened a new bar on Broadway north of Burnside, calling it Ray's Ordinary Bar and Grill (now the Tiger Bar).

At the intersection of Third and Yamhill is the corner known in the '60s through the '80s as "The Camp," where underage men headquartered. Here, boys and men were cruised and picked up by mostly closeted men driving by, looking for anonymous sex for hire. Originally popular among Portland boys, word spread of this place, and soon guys from other parts of Oregon and even Idaho were frequently competing with local trade any night of the week. Police turned a semi-blind eye toward this phenomenon, occasionally stopping or arresting a fellow for loitering. It was this type of activity that caused organizations like the Second Foundation to form, with goals of giving young gays an alternative to selling themselves in order to come out. Several underage clubs also functioned in this pursuit, namely Stairs Down, 9th Street Exit and Epicenter on the east side and Evolution, the City Nightclub and Mildred's Palace on the west side. The role "The Camp" played in Portland's gay adolescence deserves a full chapter in Portland gay history.

Several bookstores, cinemas and bars occu-



ried the two blocks south from this corner. Eros Discount books was at 725, Book-a-Rama was at 820, and Eros Adult Books was at 837. The Eros Theater was just off Third on Taylor, and Film Follies was at 915, across from the Hard Times bookstore at 926. Four taverns were in the 900 block of Third. On the

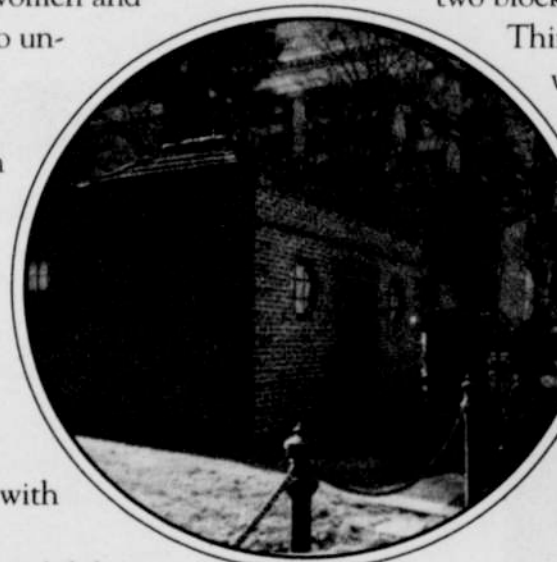
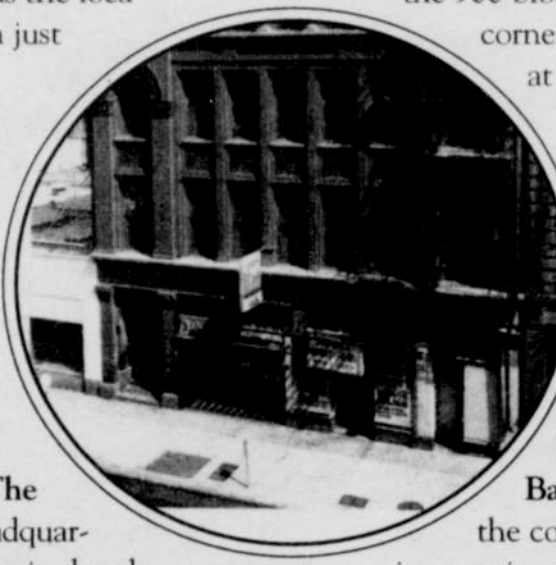
corner of Alder was the Reed at 901, called the Taylor Tavern until 1943.

Next was the Rose City Club Tavern at 917, and across the street was Dinty Moore's (in the 1895 Auditorium Building) at 924. The Lotus Card Room and Bar at 932 was and is on the corner of Salmon, operating continuously since 1928.

From the Lotus, look south into the two parks separated by Main Street and the famous Elk sculpture. You are closest to Lownsdale Park, which was infamous already by 1913 as a cruising spot, complete with a brick restroom. In order to protect women and children from exposure to undesirable contact with "inverts," the city declared that Chapman Park, south of Main, was to be restricted to women and children only. This made

Lownsdale a de facto men's-only square. Apparently the city did not realize it had created the ideal recreational zone, complete with "T" room, directly in front of the Multnomah County Courthouse, and did not reverse the designation until the 1970s!

It's interesting to note the beautiful art deco bronze lettering set in the cement marking the restroom for "MEN." You might walk up Salmon to Fourth and divert north on Fourth to find numbers 908 and 926, the respective locations of two 1960s gay bars, the Little Brown Jug and Buddie's Post Tavern.



TRANSFUSION INN **OLD GLORY TAVERN** **VERITABLE QUANDRY** **AERO VAPORS** **MODEL INN**

Retrace your steps back to Salmon, then east past the Lotus to the corner of Second, where once stood the Town Pump, yet another popular '60s bar.

More significant, the parking lot at First and Madison by the Hawthorne Bridge on-ramp is the site of the Transfusion Inn, 1139 S.W. First Ave. This was the lesbian bar of its day, operating from the 1950s until 1964 and popular with working-class and leather-clad women. At 118 S.W. Madison St. stood the Old Glory Tavern, open from 1962 to 1964. Perhaps predictably, it was popularly called the "Glory Hole." Across First, next to a grassy plot, is Veritable Quandry, open for 39 years under the same owner, who validates that the VQ was on the route between the Transfusion, Dahl & Penne's and the Aero Vapors baths located

two blocks west on

Third at 1237,

where you

will find

Terry

Schrunk Plaza

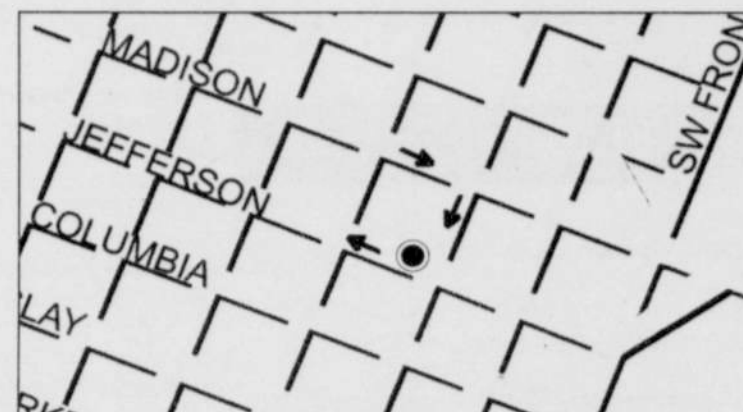
today. The Vapors

provided many an

afternoon's delight

from 1958 to 1972.

From 1962 until



1964 Mama Bernice ran her bar across the street at 1228, where she would watch and comment on her patrons entering and leaving the "tubs." Her site is now the Federal Building.

To complete your gay pilgrimage of Southwest Portland, you could visit two anti-climatic sites farther south on

First. The Model Inn,

another popular les-

bian bar of the '60s,

once stood at

1536 S.W. First

Ave., now the

Crown Plaza

Building. More

interesting and

ironic perhaps is

Keller Auditorium

on Market. When it

was built in 1918, pub-

lic baths were located in its

basement level. These were most

likely eliminated with the reworking of the

auditorium at the time the entire area was

"revitalized" with the urban renewal frenzy of

the 1970s. j



Look for more annotated gay walking tours in future issues of JUST OUT.

DAVE KOHL is preparing a history of Metropolitan Community Church, to be published this winter in anticipation of MCC's 30th anniversary in January 2006. Research for this walking tour included works by Tom Cook, Peter Boag and the Gay and Lesbian Archives of the Pacific Northwest, housed at the Oregon Historical Society.

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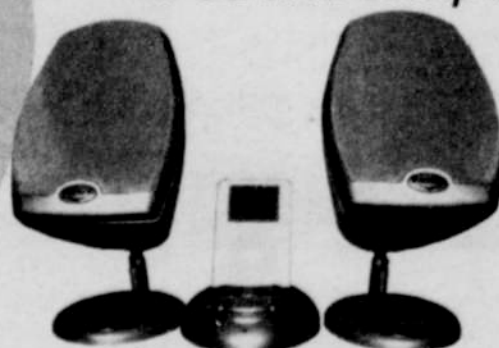
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