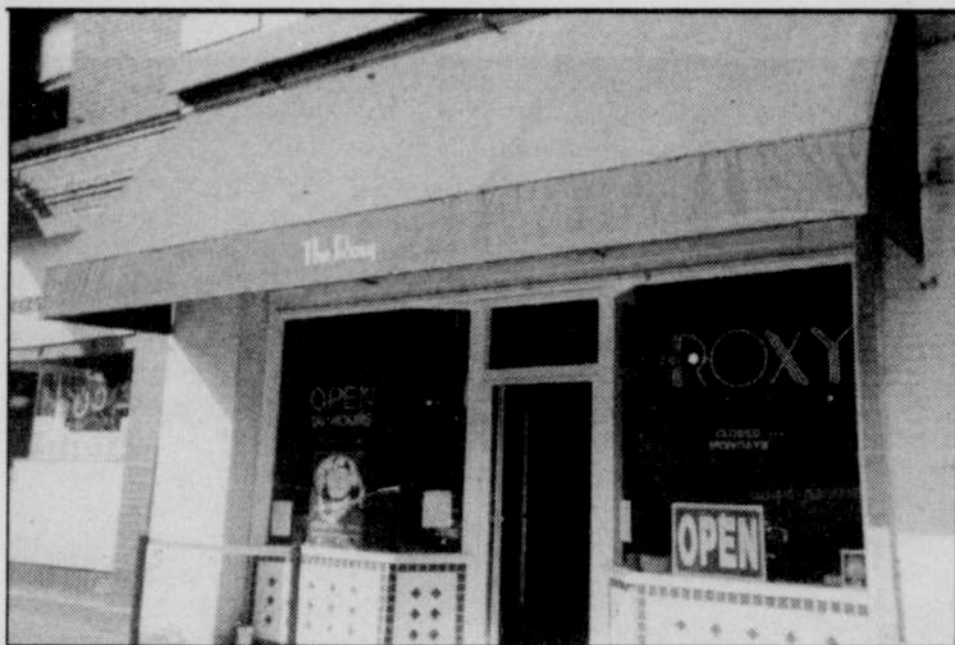




The Roxy, owned by Rose Empress XLIII The Lovely Suzanne, is open 24 hours a day except Mondays.

until they closed in 1987. From 1997 to 1999, one lower-level space was designated as **Zippers Down**, a designated sex club that competed with the nearby **Club XES**. Both are now gone. The Majestic contains 80 rooms, a few larger "suites" and a room set aside for Cascade AIDS Project, which does STD testing and counseling there, usually on Fridays, for interested clients.

The **Club Baths** are the sole survivor of more than 20 baths that operated at one time or another on the west side prior to the advent of AIDS in the early 1980s. Gone are the Old and New Olympic, the Workout, the **Aero Vapors**, the Continental, **Franklin**, **McMahons**, Japanese, Finnish and Russian baths. Even the steam room at the Princeton is history. One oft-repeated story about the Majestic in the early '80s involves an elderly patron who collapsed of a heart attack one evening (from exertion?). When ambulance and police arrived, most of the scantily clad patrons hid in a back room until the officials left with the body, then they resumed their proclivities.

The next stop is 1217 S.W. Stark St., probably the gay address with the most incarnations in the Rose City. **Silverado's** popularity can be attributed to its choice of music and gyrating male torsos in various stages of undress. Sunday afternoons seem especially popular, although there's lots going on most nights. Before its purchase by two owners, it was the domain of Flossie, who always advertised her \$4.95 steak special on the outer Burnside wall. In 1982 the bar was known as **Stark Street Station**; before that it was **Bushes**. Prior to that, it was **Riddles**, and before that, **Pied Piper**. Long-term Portlanders once knew the place as **Kuchina Lounge**, but if you were of age in 1959, you would have called it the **Desert Room**, operated by Nate Zussman and reputed to be part of Portland's very own Mafia connection.

A few of the "cufflink" crowd might shuffle across Stark at this point to **Jake's**, truly famous for its crawfish and other seafood delights. Portland's second-oldest continuously open restaurant, Jake's bar still displays the only remaining piss trough at a bar in town, although men today are discouraged from testing the plumbing.

A walk on past Jake's brings the adventurous traveler to the **Eagle PDX**, opened in 1983 by the same John Adams who owned C.C. Slaughters. It was previously known as the **Curtain Call** and the **Maus Haus**. Visitors are flushed to find an antique urinal running with fresh water near the entrance. Dark lighting, a prisonlike atmosphere, an upper deck overlooking the bar and lots of iron created the most harsh environment of any existing bar in town, reminiscent to many of **JR's Cell** of the 1980s, up on 10th. The Eagle recently changed ownership, sold by John Adams Jr.

Just up 13th you'll see the steel door with a small emblem painted in the middle, marking the site of **Club Glory** and former playroom known as **Club XES**, where you could do everything you could do at the baths, but without the bother of water or steam.

In the same building as the Eagle, a small unnumbered doorway on Stark once led to a plain gourmet restaurant called **Le Crusnier**—pricey but worth it. Next is the **Crystal Ballroom**, restored by the McMenamin brothers and the site of many a gay community party and fund-raiser. The upstairs space was once **Ringler's Dance Academy**, but the street level was a garage and later the **Auto Row Cafe**. Walking past this building, go left and up the slope and around the corner under the glass marquee to the **Hotel Ramapo**, now the Taft Home. Occupying the main level is **Cassidy's**, quietly serving good meals to the gay community since 1979.

To complete the triangular hike, walk east down Washington Street. Look south at 13th. The corner building was once the **Franklin Hotel**, one of the typical hotels that had public baths located in the lower level, now the DePaul Center.

In the next block on Washington, the **Drake Hotel** stands on the north side of the street, and at number 1239 was the popular **Buick Cafe**, a noted gathering place for independent ladies from 1949 into the 1960s. Police reports on the Buick noted that it was a hangout for a group of lesbians who congregated at the Music Hall on 10th. If the women didn't find a pickup there, they would retire to the Buick and look for other prospects.

At 1127 S.W. Washington St. stood the **Washington Hotel** and a gay bar that operated under the name of the **Timber Topper** between 1970 and 1974. It became the **Axe Handle** and then the **Alley**. The architect, Lionel Deane, was one of 13 men arrested in 1912 as part of a vice clique scandal involving a supposed sex ring of men and young boys.

The final stop is a few steps east, at 1116, built in 1907 as the **Waldorf Hotel**, now a vacant lot. Another of the men arrested in 1912 as part of the sex scandal was Harry Work, a 19-year old desk clerk at this hotel. He testified to his passive role in oral sex encounters, which he implied were typical at hotels. The hotel changed to the **Ritz**, and two popular gay hangouts were here in the mid-1970s: The **Ritz Disco** catered to the followers of John Travolta, followed by another club, **Flight 181**. 10

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



After 40 years in business, Three Sisters closed last month to make way for Scandals' new location.



The Mark Spencer Hotel—originally the Nortonia, then Hotel Bowers—is home to many Coronation memories.



The original Ringler's Dancing Academy, now the Crystal Ballroom, housed a McCracken Motor Company Garage on the first floor.

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6110 N. Lombard St.
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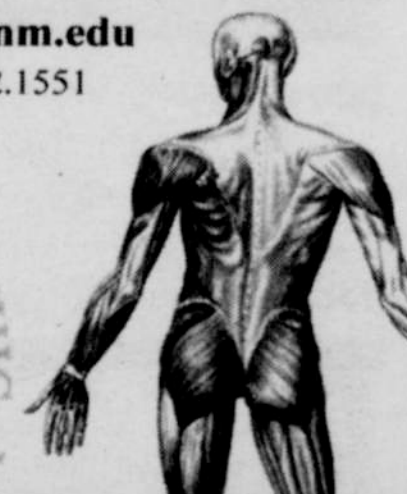
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