

Pioneer Courthouse (old Federal Courthouse), Sixth and Morrison Sts. This was the site of the U.S. Federal courthouse and the location of the sedition trial of Dr. Marie Equi. At the trial, the U.S. government became alarmed when Equi's lawyers began producing prominent citizens willing to take the stand on her behalf--among them Governor Oswald West, and the editor of the *Oregon Journal*. Department of Justice investigators began collecting information about Equi's love relationships, and eventually used this aspect of her life to try to smear her in court. Of course, it didn't matter for the country was at war, and the U.S. government had decided her propaganda was detrimental to the war effort. The jury was packed with government sympathizers, such that prosecuting attorney Barnett Goldstein was comfortable enough to declare Equi "an unsexed woman" (a thinly veiled comment on her lesbianism), and Special Agent William Bryon called her "an anarchist, a degenerate, and an abortionist." On Dec. 31, 1918 she was convicted under the newly amended espionage act which "forbade criticism of the U.S. government, the constitution, the military, flag, navy or uniform."

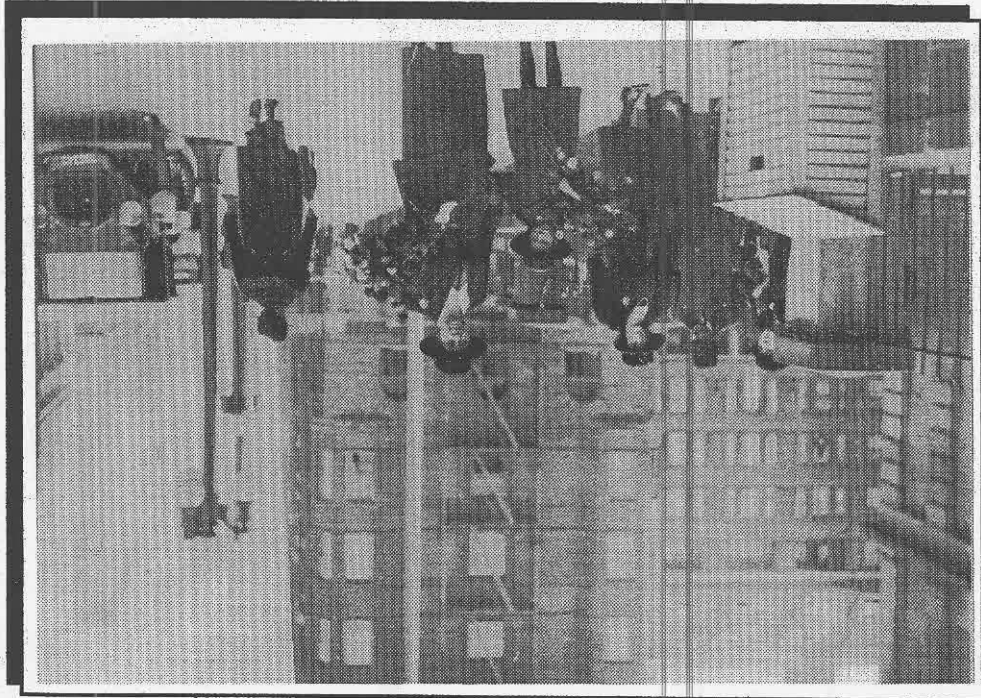


Figure 14 Dr. Marie Equi and her adopted daughter Mary outside of the Federal Courthouse on the day of Equi's unsuccessful appeal, October 1920. To the left in the photograph appear Mr. and Mrs. Paul Barnett (Ruth Cohen Barnett), and the woman partially obscured by the cement post is most probably Harriet. ORHI 23492, Oregon Historical Society

McMahon's Baths, 509 S.W. Fourth st.
 One of the older steam baths in the city which closed down just in the past few years. This was a popular pick up location, being as it was located directly across the street from the notorious Circle Theater. Had a gay history documented well back into the 1950's, and no doubt much earlier still.

Louvre Cafe (Belvedere Hotel), N.E. corner of Fourth and Alder Sts. (1907-1913)
 According to researcher George Painter, "The Louvre Cafe originally opened by Fritz Strobel in 1891, and was purchased in 1907 by Theodore Kruse who made it an outpost for the avant garde. It featured a nude Venus that was one of its main attractions. The cafe is mentioned as a meeting place for some of the defendants in the vice scandal of 1912. But more interesting than that which is not evidence enough to call this a "gay" location--is the story of the owner Theodore Berthus Kruse. He was born in Germany on Feb. 13, 1864 and began his life as a sailor. His ship wrecked on the coast of Alaska, and this caused Kruse to live in the United States. He became a U.S. citizen in 1893. In 1897 he moved to Portland and established himself in the restaurant and catering business. In 1907 Kruse purchased the elegant Louvre Cafe and turned it into a "[G]ay '90s equivalent" of modern nightclubs and a "Bohemian" place. In 1911, Kruse disappeared for several weeks and his wife discounted the theory of another woman offered up by some. She said for publication, "I laugh at such a suggestion because I had virtually to drive him out with the young men of his acquaintance to attend banquets or other social affairs." Kruse was seen in Seattle "getting new singers" for the Louvre, "accompanied by a tall, slender young man." Although Kruse returned

to Portland, the newspapers did not solve the mystery [or perhaps they could not publicly mention it]. He apparently later divorced his wife. Kruse closed the Louvre in late 1913, one year after it was named repeatedly in the Vice scandal trials as a meeting place for some of the defendants. Kruse remained in the restaurant business for a short time, moving to California, until his retirement to the Gearhart, OR in 1931 where he died at the age of 77 on November 3, 1941.

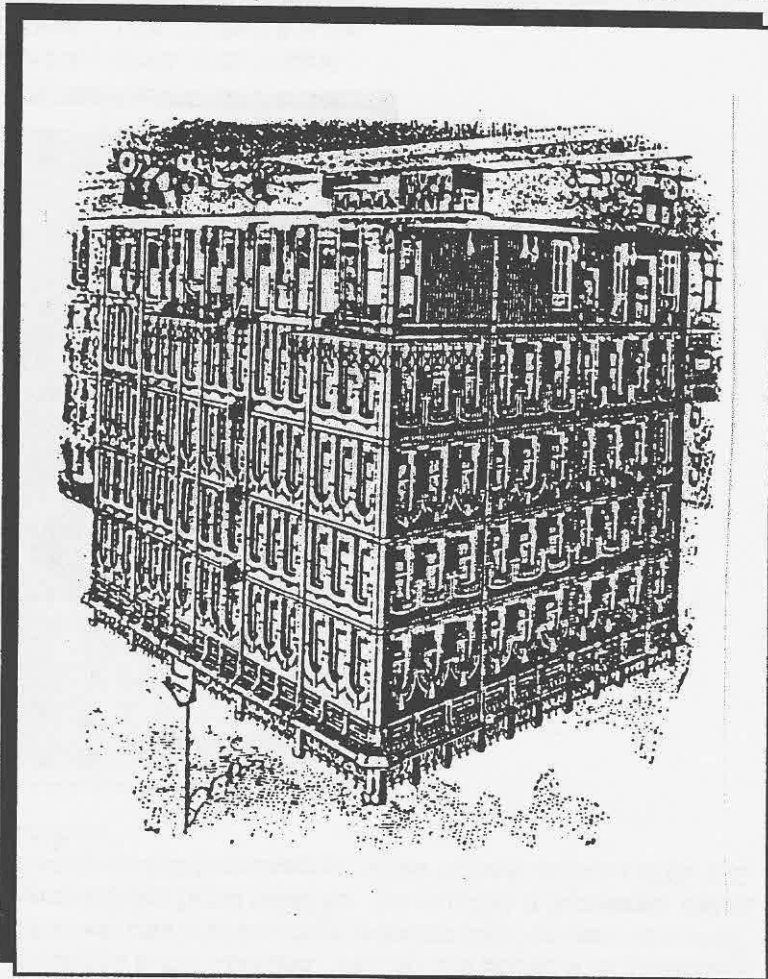


Figure 15 The Belvedere Hotel and the site of the Louvre Cafe, from a Portland City directory lithograph, 1904

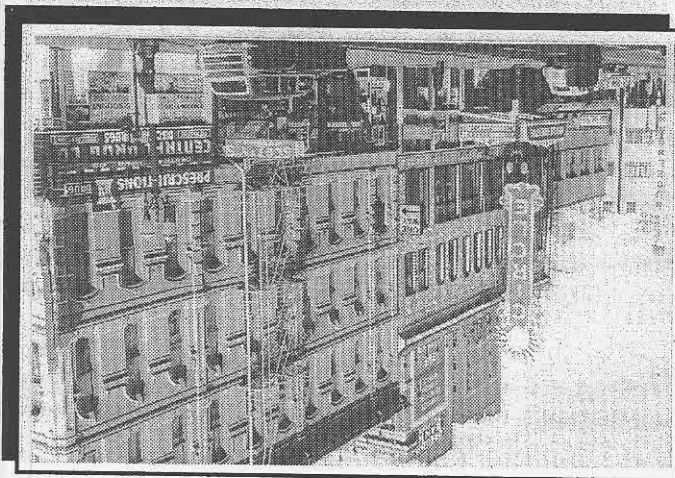
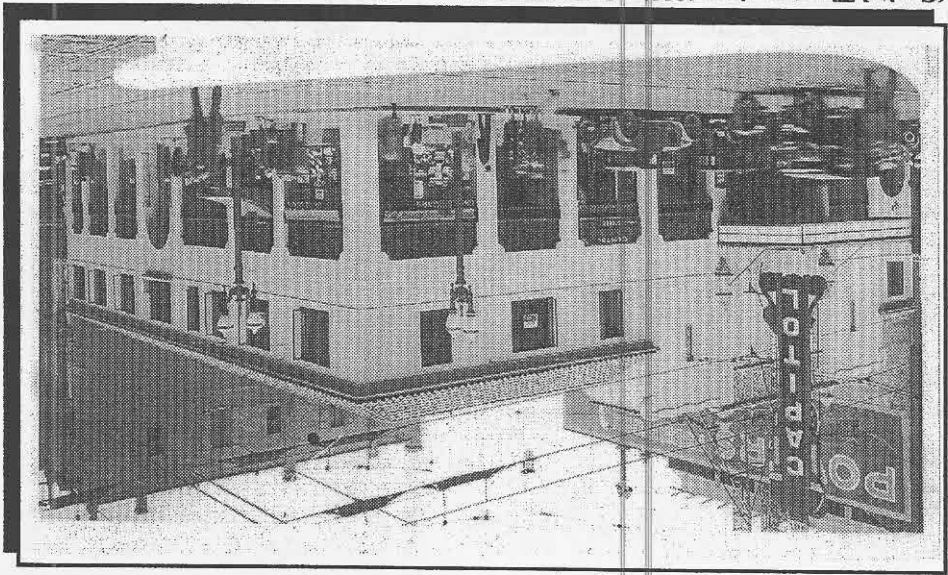


Figure 16 The Circle Theater, c. 1950's, OPHI 4711, Oregon Historical Society

Circle Theater, 516 S.W. Fourth ave. This location is mentioned repeatedly as one of the most noteworthy gay male cruising sites in Portland history. It is mentioned in Holman, the Keyhole article of 1951, and in oral history interviews conducted by GLAPN. Researchers have documented at least three long term gay couples that first met in the balcony of this theater in the 1950's and whose relationship lasted over thirty years. Sources tell us that there were actually two separate balconies one to the left and one to the right. The balcony to the left was for men AND women (hetero dates), and the one on the right was limited to men only—and guess which one you wanted if you were looking for gay companionship (duh!) The police were well aware of its reputation at the time, but seemingly allowed it to continue, although there are accounts in the newspapers of arrests having taken place here.

The Watercloset, 424 S.W. Fourth ave. Advertised in the local gay press in 1975. Little else is known about this location.



(Capitol Theater, circa 1920's, OPHI 51828, Oregon Historical Society)

Capitol Theater, 626 S.W. Fourth ave. Another popular gay male cruising location which had a balcony section for queer men; it was located one block south of the Circle.

This *Speak of Earth*, 315 S.W. Morrison st. (gallery of gay erotic artist Walter Rinder, managed by John Wilkinson in early 1970's) This early gay art gallery featured the works of Walter Rinder who designed some of the most inspiring covers for Oregon's first gay newspaper *The Fountain*. The manager of the gallery was John Wilkinson, the father of *Portland Gay Liberation* who called the first meeting of the Portland Gay Liberation Front on March 10, 1970 at the Centenary Willbur Methodist Church on S.E. Ash and Ninth st. A GLAPN historical marker marks that spot.

Olympic Sauna & Bath, 359 S.W. Morrison st. In the same block of storefronts with the art gallery of Walter Rinder and an adult bookstore was this bathhouse. The archives is interested in obtaining more information about this location.

Gay Community center (former site), 258 S.W. Alder st. The offices of the Second Foundation of Oregon, Inc. became the city's first gay community center (and only since) when it opened in May 1972. The occasion of the opening of the center also marked the first time that the city's daily newspapers covered the lesbian and gay community in a way that treated gays other than sick or criminal. The offices were located in a building as shown here above a Laundromat and popular gay bar--The Other Inn. The center was short-lived, for it moved to the Pythian Building not too many months after this photograph was taken.

The Other Inn (first leather bar 1964-1982) 242 SW Alder st. Portland's first documented leather bar was The Other Inn which was owned by Jim Frantz, and later sold to Mama Bernice. Bernice, the barmaid who previously had endeared herself to the gay community at Dinty Moore's, and at her namesake Mama Bernice's, used to refer to the leather boys who hung out here as her "little bluebirds." No matter who you talk to, those that can remember Bernice remember her with fondness, and they especially remark on the way she would take in kids off the street and put them to work in the bar. Her daughter continues the family's bartending tradition at Galls Dirty Duck, Glisan and Second st.

Grand Oasis Tavern, (also The Last Resort) 243 S.W. Alder st. The Grand Oasis Tavern was one location in what was referred to as *The Dirty Triangle*. The other two points being--The Other Inn and Dahl & Penne's. No doubt this territory of the city got its name from the close proximity of three rather popular bars which attracted both the drags and the leather crowd.

(The Gay Community Center, and The Other Inn, 1972, photo from The Fountain, Neil Hutchins, ed.)

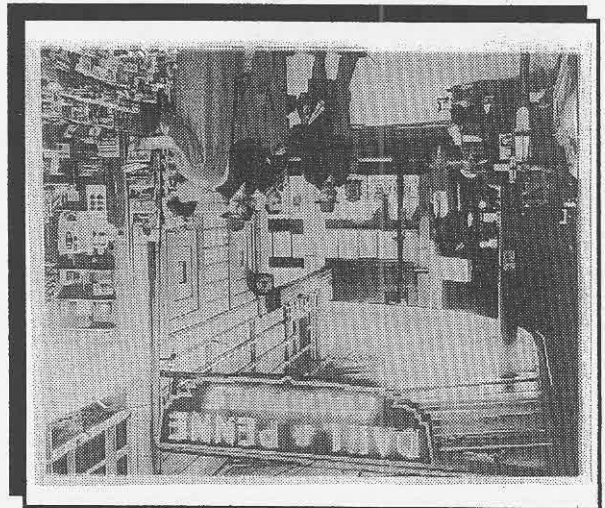


Dahl & Penne Tavern, 604 SW Second Ave. Opened in 1898 near the Waterfront, this working man's eatery didn't begin to develop a gay clientele until much later, some say around 1962. But the gay crowd usually predominated between 1 am and 2:30 am. Then in 1972, two Californians, Sammy and Gene Landauer, a straight married couple came to town and purchased the D & P. Within a short time they had fixed up the grand old lady of Second Avenue, and with the help of Van Richards (Vannessa) a local hair stylist cum drag entertainer, the bar really took off staging popular drag shows and becoming the host tavern for the Imperial Rose Court. The room in the back where the drag shows took place was affectionately referred to as the "Royal Flush Corral." In the 1970s the Oregon legislature passed a law that allowed gambling by non-profit organizations and Dahl & Penne's became one of three bars licensed in the city to conduct gambling. The house could not take any profit—all proceeds had to go directly to the non-profit organization. Thus began D & P's tradition of fund raising for local charities. In 1983 the Dahl & Penne closed down, another victim of Portland's urban renewal. The Bank of America Building now sits on its site.

Portland seems to have had a more wide open attitude towards its gay and lesbian citizens as indicated by the complete lack of bar raids over the past four decades. Other indications from first person accounts suggest that the city wasn't just a good place for gays to live, but perhaps even more tolerant than San Francisco, Seattle and Vancouver, B.C. in the pre-Stonewall years. One man who grew up in Portland, remembers living at the YMCA in the years 1958-59. He mentions that there were three gay bars (that he knew of) in Portland, and that about that time Portland starting having male go-go dancers. He notes, "I was in a bar one night when some were arrested. They weren't completely...they were just down to their G-strings, but they were still raiding it. Of course two or three years after that, they were taking it all off and not getting arrested. That was in 1962 or 63."

There was one theater that had gay films and go-go dancers. As long as they stayed on stage they didn't arrest them. They got to coming out in the audience nude and they did bust the theater a couple of times. (From Issues: An Olympia Gay/Lesbian Forum, December 1983, Page one interview)

Figure 19 Outside the Dahl & Penne, c. 1950's, OHHI 51949, Oregon Historical Society



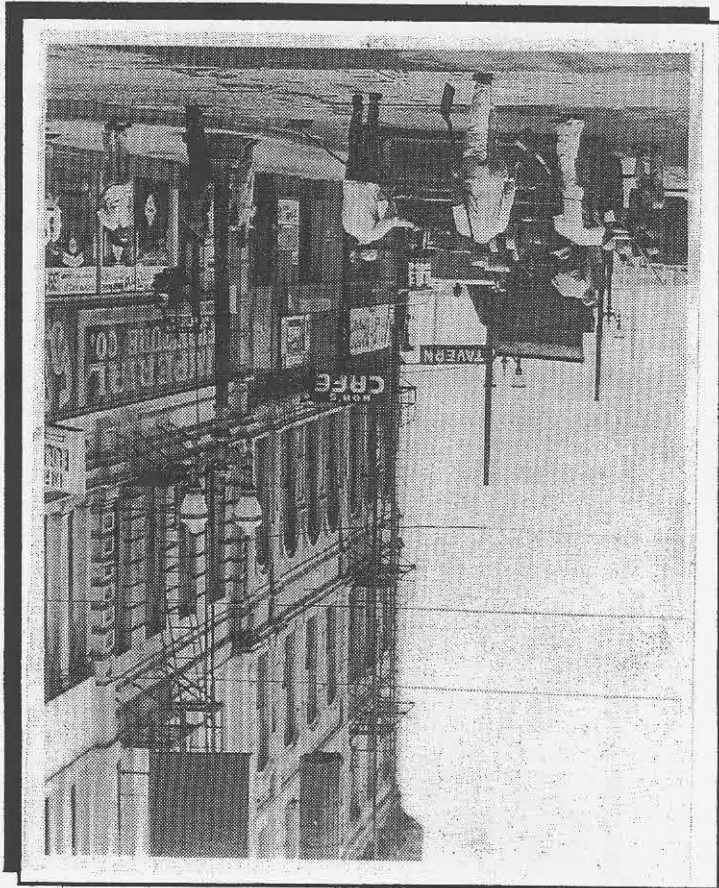


Figure 20 Looking east on Morrison street, late 1940's. The Half Moon Tavern on the corner of Front street. OrHi

The Half Moon Tavern, 72 S.W. Morrison St. (1950's-1960) Dates back to the 1950's, Duane Frye recalls working here as a bartender before moving to its later location on Yamhill. Sometime around 1958 (or 59?) nobody seems to know for sure—the first Queen Eugenie I (alias Sam) was self proclaimed in the *Court of Transylvania*. This mythical court allowed for a whole plethora of other regal titles to come about including a Lord High Sheriff, and a number of other drag queens including St. Mary Wanna (Michael Patrick Dillon who later got caught up in the 1964 Comacho-Vega sex scandal). In the back of the bar was erected a throne for the Queen (who would later become known as Empresses), and an unbroken line of succession was created down to the present day—with the earliest Empresses being declared by someone (but who knows who?), and later by community wide elections held in the city's bars. The Half Moon Tavern was located on Front street right at the Morrison Bridge approach (now the Riverside Inn). It was owned by Eugene Kennedy and his son Les. In November 1960, "The Half Moon Tavern" was moved to 122 S.W. Yamhill st. where it continued under the Kennedy's ownership until 1975. This was one of the bars that was singled out in the Tavern Licensing Controversy of 1964, and contemporary vice reports are quite hilarious to read 35 years later, noting how one particularly good-looking vice officer "got a pat on the behind" while going undercover here:

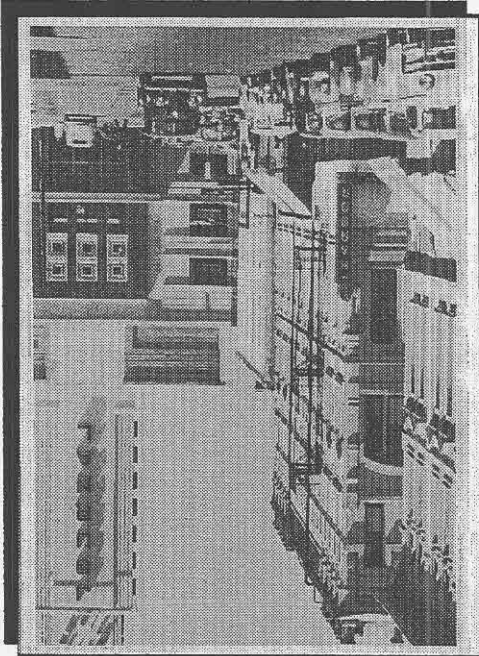
The Harbor Club, 736 S.W. First ave. (now Paddy's Saloon)

The premiere Lesbian and Gay bar of the 1950's was the Harbor Club which was so notorious that it was declared "off limits" by the U.S. navy. This was a cocktail lounge with a brazen mezzanine level where boys could sit in the dark and kiss and do "other things" which upset the powers that be in the city. Amazingly there were no known raids of any gay bars in Portland that we have been able to document, although on one occasion the police and fire department did clear The Harbor Club at the instigation of a city council member. Councilman Earl in 1964 recalled going up into the balcony one Saturday night a few years before, with the Fire Marshall Inspector, and Vice Squad Sgt. Fred Sutterfield. He remarked, "...from what I saw in my rapid inspection, I was quite disgusted. I had a big, long flashlight in my hand which I was willing to use if I had to."

The bar also attracted a significant lesbian crowd, and local artist Pat Ware remembers hanging out here in the early 1960's with some of the members of the *Flonists*, the women's national softball champions which was largely a lesbian team. After the Tavern Licensing Controversy, the city succeeded in closing The Harbor due to the fact that it was the only

of the eight gay establishments that had a Class A dispenser license allowing it to serve liquor. Because of OLCC regulations requiring a certain percentage of food sales with every Class A license, the city soon found an ingenious method by denying food permits to The Harbor. The OLCC although it continued granting Honegger a liquor license, was forced to finally close his establishment in June 1965. He quickly re-opened at his new locale uptown in **The Ripside**.

(Below: View of the Harbor Club in 1949 looking east on Yamhill street with the Oregon Journal Bldg in background)



The Tavern, (1960-1981) 122 S.W. Yamhill st (The Franz Bldg, historic landmark). In 1975, The Tavern was owned by Ray Willitson until it was gutted in a suspicious fire in 1981. The building survives to this day only because it is architecturally significant—being a part of the Yamhill Block which has also been preserved. After the fire, Willitson opened a new bar on

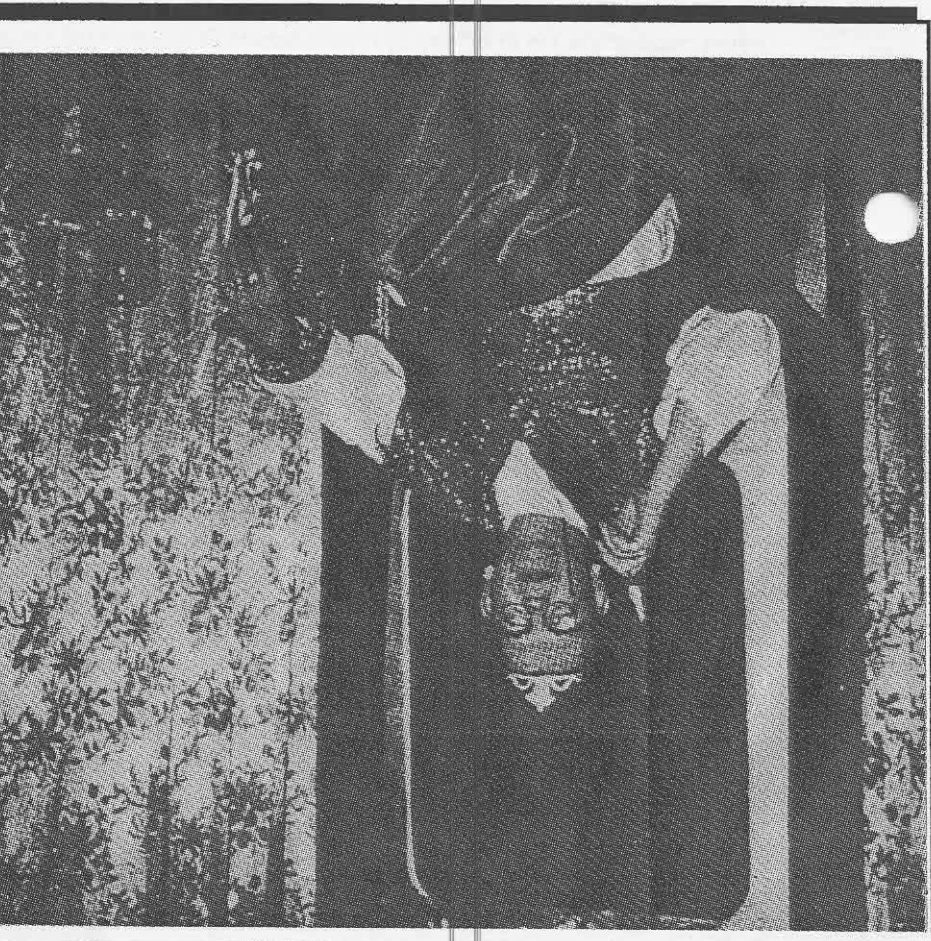


Figure 21 Empress Eugenie I, alias Sam, of the Court of Transylvania seated on his throne in the back of the Half Moon Tavern on Morrison street, photograph circa 1958 (from the Northwest Gay Review, June 1977.)

northwest Broadway called **Ray's Ordinary Bar & Grill** (now Tiger Bar).

“Camp,” N.W. corner of Third and Yamhill st. Camp was the hangout for underage gay guys in the 1960's and 70's. Large numbers of young gay men experienced their “coming out” at this location where you could be picked up by any of a number of men who cruised the block in their big, shiny cars. This was the reality of gay life in Portland prior to the establishment of Outside Inn, The City Nightclub, Evolution, and Mildred's Palace (the Sverdlow nightclubs).

Turn Verein Hall, N.E. corner of 4th and Yamhill streets. Also known as “Turn Hall” or the “Scandinavian Socialists Hall” this was the site of one of the first public lectures on the topic of homosexuality. In August 1915, Emma Goldman was on her West Coast tour of the United States talking about birth control, socialism, the Russian drama, Frederick Nietzsche, and for the first time included a lecture entitled, “The Intermediate Sex” being a reference to a term popularized by her contemporary and friend Edward Carpenter who had published a book by the same name a few years earlier. Incredibly The Oregonian published advertising of the event, and also covered in detail the controversy surrounding her arrest in Portland on charges of distributing “obscene” birth control literature.

Research by GLAPN has discovered, that one woman in particular, Mrs. Josephine Devore Johnson (wife of the prominent city attorney for Oregon City, William Carey Johnson) instigated the city's attempt to shut down Goldman's soap box. In a letter to William Warren, Secretary to Portland's Mayor Albee, Johnson writes,

box. In a letter to William Warren, Secretary to Portland's Mayor Albee, Johnson writes,

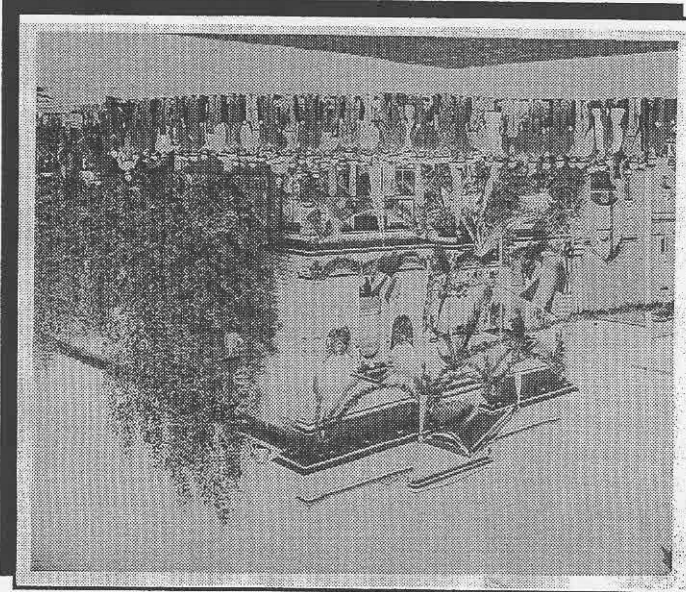


Figure 23 Turn Verein Hall, 172 Fourth St. [old number] as it looked about 1900, OPHI 61544, Oregon Historical Society

"Please present to the Mayor, the protest of myself and others against permitting Emma Goldman the anarchist from continuing her propaganda of atheism, anarchy and free love in this city to the extent and manner that she has planned...

Last year we who are kindly protesting, reported to the Mayor's office, as he will doubtless remember the substance of the Goldman lectures of the 1914 mission, those being practically the same as those of this year; and in consequence, detectives were sent to the meetings to gather evidence, and in the end Miss Goldman and her manager, Reitman, were ordered out of the city. This cut short an advertised plan to have Miss Goldman deliver a six weeks' course of lectures and to found an anarchist colony here, (similar to that on Puget Sound) all under the patronage of certain distinguished citizens.

This year the Goldman lectures continue the former lectures of atheism, anarchy and free love and emphasize what was introduced last year for the first time, "Birth Control." Last year (which finally drew the city's authorities attention), she was openly advocating to a mixed audience the use of certain precautions of conception to be bought in the drugstores; which communication was contrary to the law and against the public good.

This year the "lecture" course of Miss Goldman contains the "birth control" lecture (for Friday evening next) and supplements this, for the first time, by distributing at other lectures (as last Tuesday night at Col. C.E.S. Wood's lecture on the anarchists Schmitt and Caplan, whom he expects to defend in court, which lecture preceded Miss Goldman's) printed leaflets containing specific directions for prevention of conception, including articles to be bought at the drugstores. Such directions cannot be passed through the mails or printed in a book as is well known, and the distribution of them constitutes an unlawful act.

This year Miss Goldman has a new lecture (to be delivered next Saturday night, called "A Study in Homosexuality.") She defined this to an inquirer as being the advocacy of self-use, that is, "self-abuse." This advocacy is a new and startling note, and one that cannot be struck in this city without questions being asked as to how it is permitted. I am taking it for granted that it will not be permitted for the certain above-described literature to be circulated long or... it to be publicly treated of, or for the last mentioned unspeakable suggestion to be more than made (There are some young boys who attend Miss Goldman's lectures. And there is being an effort made through the "Collegiate Socialist Club," I believe to bring out the "intellectual" people through complimentary tickets. So it is especially detrimental to permit this propaganda.) The suggestion that we make to you is for you to send from your force persons who will give you full and accurate stenographic reports of Miss Goldman's lectures of Friday and Saturday (perhaps sitting in the gallery to be inconspicuous) in order to obtain absolute and full evidence to be used by your office and also for a larger purpose, if you permit.

The following are the lecture that we desire to refer to particularly, Friday, August 7 The Birth Control (with instructions) Saturday, August 8 - The Intermediate Sex (A Study of Homosexuality)

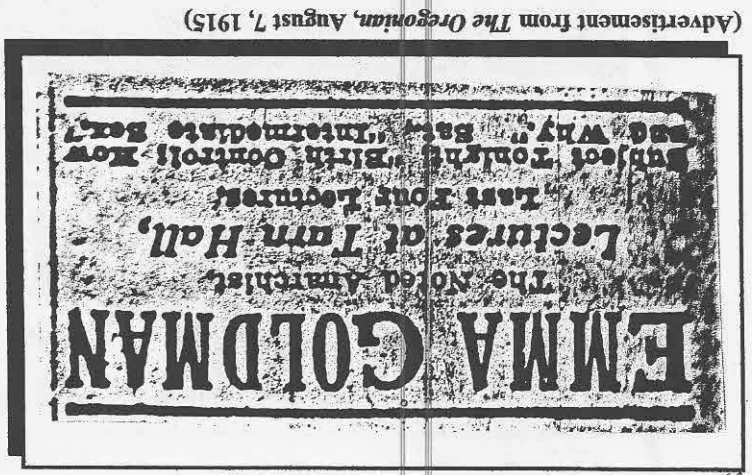
We would advise for the sake of gathering complete evidence, Miss Goldman be permitted to deliver both of the above lectures, and that if she is stopped, it ought to be at the close of the second lecture (which certainly ought not to be repeated

Although the above letter suggests that the police may have been present taking stenographic notes of her lecture, no such notes have been found in the city attorney's records at the Portland City archives, and no known copies of her lecture on "The Intermediate Sex" exist. We do know from Goldman's autobiography *Living My Life* however, that her lecture was an extraordinary defense of the homosexual to live his/her life without society's stigmatization. Goldman reports that "sexual invert" use to stop and talk to her after her presentation on the subject, and they confessed to feeling "freed" by her talk. She described these people as being "of finer grain than those who've cast them out." At the same time, her anarchist colleagues tried to pressure her to stop speaking on the subject, because "they felt that anarchists were already suspect as a class," and they didn't want any additional antagonism from society. These attempts to censor Emma Goldman made her even bolder and more resolved to see anarchism become a "freeing spirit" in every aspect of life including sexuality.

Turning south from this location, we come upon a block largely untouched in a sea of urban renewal, four bars were clustered together that catered to Merchant seamen and "trade." The Reed, 901 S.W. Third ave., The Rose City club tavern, 917 SW Third ave., Dinty Moore's, 924 SW Third, and The Lotus Club, 932 SW Third. The gay crowd that hung out in these bars were not the ones you would find at The Music Hall and the drag shows.

Nearby was Lownsdale Square, with its historic tearoom at Fourth and Salmon streets. The restroom was the site of numerous entrapments by the PPD vice squad all through the 1940's and much of the 50's. Research by GLAPN has documented many of those arrested by combing thru the *Oregonian* and *Oregon Journal* and looking for the clue words "arrested at Fourth and Salmon," and arrested for "disorderly conduct involving morals." Lownsdale Square is first mentioned as a cruising location in the court transcripts of the State of Oregon vs. McAllister [1913] in which Harry Work, the hotel desk clerk talked about visiting the park (referred to as Fourth Street Plaza) where his friend Earl Van Hulén pointed out "Mother McAllister [Edward S. J. McAllister] who was walking the park looking for tricks. Such urban rendezvous were quite common in the days before gay bars. In the early days of this century, downtown parks, hotel lobbies, alleys, trolley stations, and the like became great playgrounds for the queer male population.

This particular park was originally segregated for males only by city ordinance, and the adjoining Chapman Square was restricted to women and children only. Naturally a park segregated for the male sex would tend to attract queers especially if it featured a public restroom facility. The bathroom was destroyed by vandals with pipe bombs in the 1960's, but the facility was restored to its original look (as verified by a 1951 *Keyhole* article which featured a photo of the restroom), and it still stands today as a monument to the gay male libido and police oppression. Historic preservationists may turn over in their graves to know they have restored one of the oldest documented tearooms on the West Coast!



(Advertisement from *The Oregonian*, August 7, 1915)

in this city).

VICE BARRIED AS PORTLAND GRAND JURY BEGINS QUIZ

Hang-Outs For Sex Perverts, Source of Drugs to Be Probed

(BY A STAFF CORRESPONDENT)

PORTLAND, Ore. — The recent grand jury hearing drew a herring across the trail of graft, corruption, inefficiency and rampant vice conditions in this city.

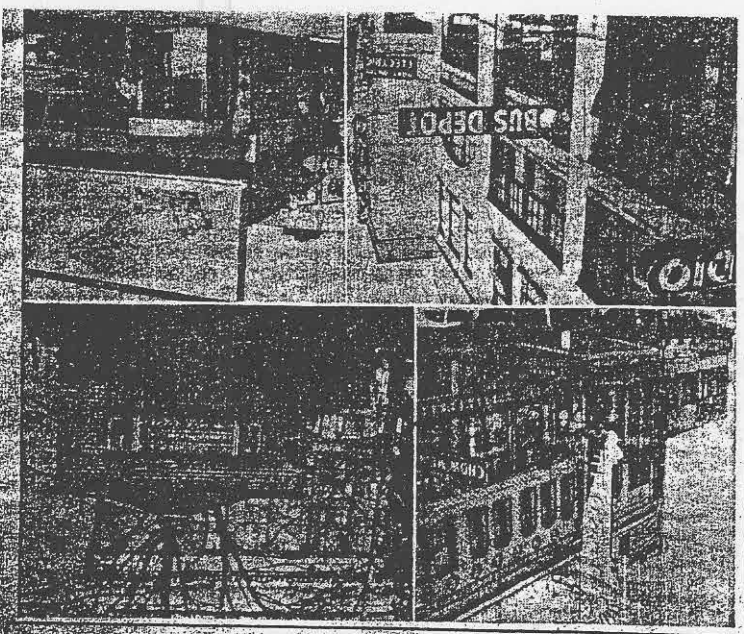
They passed the "Judas kiss" to the Mayor, the Chief of Police, vice jords, gamblers and others who have grown rich, wallowing in crime in this so-called "city of roses".

A year or so ago, Bishop Benj. Dagwell, of the Episcopal Church, stuck his nose in the local "garbage can." All he accomplished was badly-burned fingers, but he did learn he was up against the worst case of "buck passing" he had ever encountered.

Dick Neuberger, state senator and one of the West Coast's better-known writers, says that the police heads of the three great cities on the West Coast—Los Angeles, San Francisco and Seattle—told him that "vice conditions in Portland are worse than in any other city in the West."

While the grand jury was in session a couple of witnesses were badly beaten up. Others look to the fall and uncut to avoid being forced to testify and then get taken for a one-way ride by "goon squads."

Prior to this setup we had the Volmer Report—an extensive fact-finding delve into Portland's



FOCUS OF GRAND JURY'S INVESTIGATION INTO VICE

Figure 25 The Keyhole, April 1951, a police scandal rag out of Los Angeles, is the only documented report of the second YMCA scandal. It featured a photo of the Circle Theater, the Lowndsale Square restroom, the Bud Depot, and a bar we have not been able to identify.

Multnomah County Courthouse, YMCA vice scandal trials and the 1928 Portland Morals Board scandal trials took place here. According to records uncovered by GLAPN, the confessions obtained by authorities who broke the 1912 scandal were delivered on the third floor which is where the district attorney's offices would have been located. Judge William Gatens, and Judge Calvin Gantenbein presided over the grand jury hearings and trials.

The Nineteenth Hole (The Cupboard), 620 S.W. Salmon. This bar is mentioned by Holman, and by Duane Frye, and also by local resident Larry Worthington, which suggests a wide patronage in the city although it wasn't opened for very long. It was located next to the old Broadway Theatre. Also called The Pantry, it had a mixed clientele, and was frequented by many gays as they could buy cocktails there and also have dinner.

The Little Brown Jug, 908 SW Fourth st. This bar and it's neighbor, Buddies Post Tavern, 926 SW Fourth st. (Gay from at least 1962 to 66) were located just a short distance from Lowndsale Square and the Multnomah County Courthouse. One or the other may be the tavern which is referred to in *The Keyhole's* report on vice conditions in Portland from April 1951. If this is the case, than obviously these two taverns have a history much earlier than suspected. Buddies Post Tavern is listed in Damron's Guidebook of 1966.

Greyhound Bus Depot and the Red Carpet Lounge, 840 S.W. Sixth ave.

Specific queer references to the Portland downtown YMCA are many. Shortly after the 1912 scandal, the city's reaction to the knowledge that homosexuality was prevalent in its YMCA, is commented on by an observer of the hysteria surrounding Emma Goldman's 1915 visit to Portland. (See entry under Turn Verein Hall). Writing in Mother Earth (dated 1915, month unknown), author George Edwards, likened Portland's fear of acknowledging the homosexuals living here to a Victorian lady who must not "show her legs in public." He was one contemporary who was not at all surprised to find that the all-male environment of the YMCA would attract homosexual men.

In our gay folklore, writer Robert McAlmon also made allusions to the Portland YMCA in his short story entitled, "Miss Knight" published in *Distinguished Air* [1925], and recently re-issued in *Miss Knight and Other Stories* (University of New Mexico Press). Miss Knight, a popular drag queen reveals her listeners with a story.

Didja ever hear of the Portland, Oregon Scandal? I wuz in it. I wuz at the YMCA--in drag you know--some outfit I had too, stars and sparkles and jewels all over me, Mary. Whoops my dear, you must come over, ah come on, come over an' call on me some afternoon...I'd just come from the theatre--had shown my act there you know, and then the cops came in and pinched us, and them YMCA boys was scared stiff. They let me go because one of the plain clothes guys had seen my act at the theatre and I sez to him that I didn't know nuthin' about what hand of party it wuz, and had come there as a paid entertainer (page 14).

Discovered recently is a nine page handwritten letter on YMCA stationery which was found in the manuscripts of the Oregon Social Hygiene Society [Ms. 54, Box 1, OHS], and which was apparently written in response to an officer of the Social Hygiene Society who was making inquiries about the YMCA at the time of the scandal. The author's name was blotted out by marking pen, but the young man gives an interesting account of his introduction to sex information from friends during the course of his youth in the early 1900's. Near the end of the letter, he talks specifically about the boys at the Portland YMCA who he describes as being "more or less corrupt." One exception he noted, "nice young fellow--Harry Baker" who is later described to him as a "damn sissy!" [This Harry Baker is listed in the Portland City directory of 1912 as a "student" at the YMCA]. The letter writer goes on to mention "dirty stories in progress which would cease upon my approach." On one occasion just before YMCA Sunday school class, the writer notes that, "I followed a bunch of fellows out on the sidewalk... where one of them "started relating the incidents of the night before, which by the way was very interesting to the rest of the fellows. I got so disgusted that I got my hat, and as I was leaving, this same fellow had the crust to take me by the hand and say that he was very sorry that I couldn't stay for the sermon."

The 1910 U.S. census reveals two vice scandal defendants then living at the YMCA--William H. Allen and George Birdseye, both salesmen of mens furnishings at local department stores. A number of other residents appear to have held the stereotypical "queer" occupations including: store clerks, dry goods salesmen, artists, designers, and waiters. Laurie Chilcote who lived in Portland in the 1950's recalls hearing the phrase, "having lunch at the YMCA" which was a euphemistic reference to going up to the building during the middle of the afternoon to have a private sexual meeting.

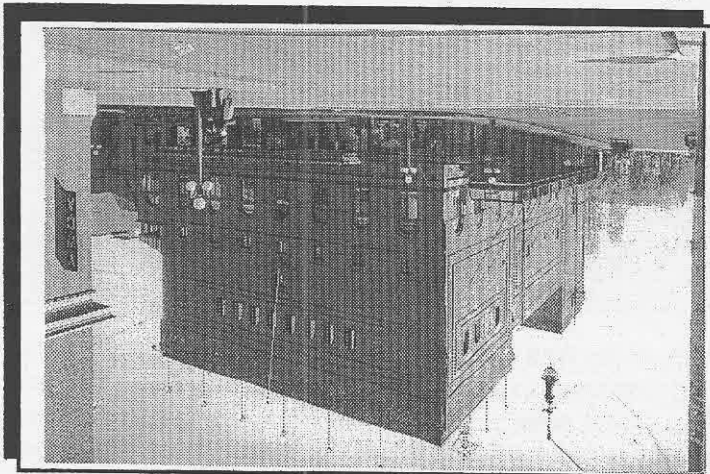
Pacific Building, 520 S.W. Yamhill st. Although this building is not a gay historical site in the true sense of the word it has some significance to our history as an example of how gay accomplishment has been expunged from our local history. The Pacific Building was a work of A.E. Doyle, and was finished under the guidance of its chief draughtsman, Pietro Belluschi. But Belluschi, himself, admitted to architectural historian and scholar Felicity Muisick, that it was the homosexual Charles Kerwin Greene who preceded him at the A.E. Doyle Co. who was largely responsible for the building's authentic design. Greene was in Belluschi's words "a flamboyant homosexual" who loved entertaining the local high school boys from Grant Park High at his home on Alameda Ridge. Sometime about 1928, school authorities notified the police of Green's activities, and he was very politely asked to leave the city to spare Doyle's firm some embarrassing revelations. The coincidence with the beginnings of the Portland Morals Board Scandal that same year invites speculation as to whether or not Greene is actually the individual that the police were accused of helping to leave the city before the Morals Board could have him arrested. Further research may yet uncover the answer. But in any event, Belluschi would seem to be a reliable source for this information as city directories confirm that he actually lived with Greene in his residence in Alameda.

The Hellig Theater (later the Fox Theater), Broadway and Yamhill Sts. The Hellig Theater was the site of Julian Eltinge's elaborate musical extravaganzas of the World War I and 1920's era. Eltinge is considered the most famous female impersonator of stage and vaudeville era. Portland was always a stop on his West Coast tours, the city at that time was even more important than Seattle, theatrically-speaking. Sharon Ullman cites information that suggests that Eltinge was a closeted homosexual, who bridled at any suggestion that he might be "queer."

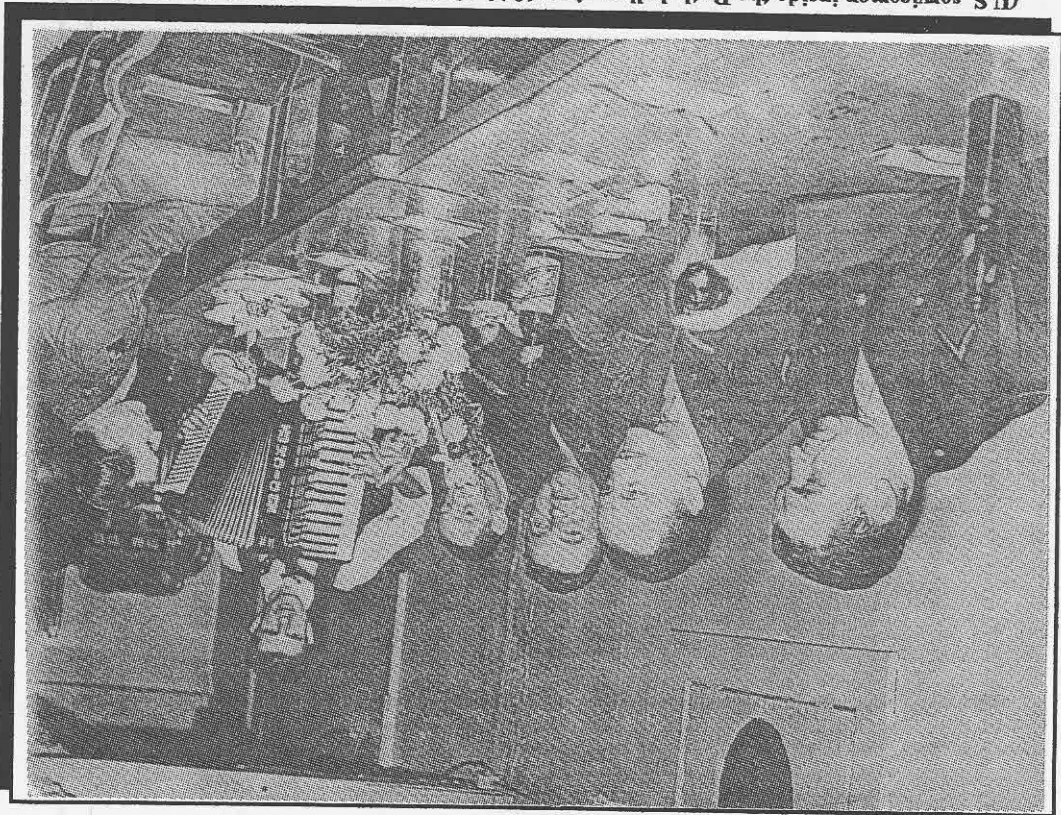
Figure 29 Julian Eltinge promotional photo, date unknown, OrHI 97147, Oregon Historical Society



Figure 28 Hellig Theater as it looked c. 1915 View is looking south on Broadway. OrHI 17527, Oregon Historical Society



He was incredibly adept at public relations, frequently having his picture taken in pugilistic or "manly" poses. Yet he never married, and lived with his mother until her death. Ullman reports that while Ellinger's performances were popular among a wide audience, it was queer men who were particularly enamored of him, and she notes that in some cities, the boys would line up outside the theaters' exits waiting for a chance to meet the great impersonator.



(U.S. servicemen inside the Rathskellar, circa 1946, photo courtesy of the Kolich family)

The Rathskellar, 722 SW Taylor st. Today this location is a retail clothing store, but in its day this bar and restaurant was well known for its vaudeville entertainment including the Adams Sisters celebrated contortionists, and also Monte Ballou and his jazz band. By the time of the Second World War it had developed a reputation as a pick-up joint for G.I.'s. Gay men followed. The bar was opened by Croatian immigrant, Marijan (Mike) Kolich in 1936. According to Homan sometime around 1949 the "play" in the john got to the point that the city closed it down, although the gambling that was going on here may also have played a significant part in its demise. It re-opened as the Club Rhumba and that was shut down in 1952.

Park Haviland Hotel, Park and Salmon Sts. (now public housing project). This is an example of a "non-site," or shall we say a building that could have had some significant history had the event that was planned for it actually taken place. The Dorian Society of Seattle was the Pacific Northwest's earliest homosexual social action group founded about 1966. In February 1968, the Dorian Society began an effort to start a similar homophile organization in Portland. They mailed literature and letters to the Greater Portland Council of Churches (now Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon) urging them to sponsor a movement in the city on behalf of the homosexual. The letters evidently fell on deaf ears. It is not known whether or not the Dorians had contacts in the city to help with their plans, although flyers were mimeographed (copies of them have been found in the University of Washington Archives) and perhaps they were posted in the bars. The meeting was scheduled to take place on February 24, 1968 in a meeting room of the Park Haviland, but later records indicate that the Society was attempting to contact the hotel managers to refund the Society's deposits on the room.

"Old" Hamburger Mary's, N.E. corner of Park and Taylor Sts.

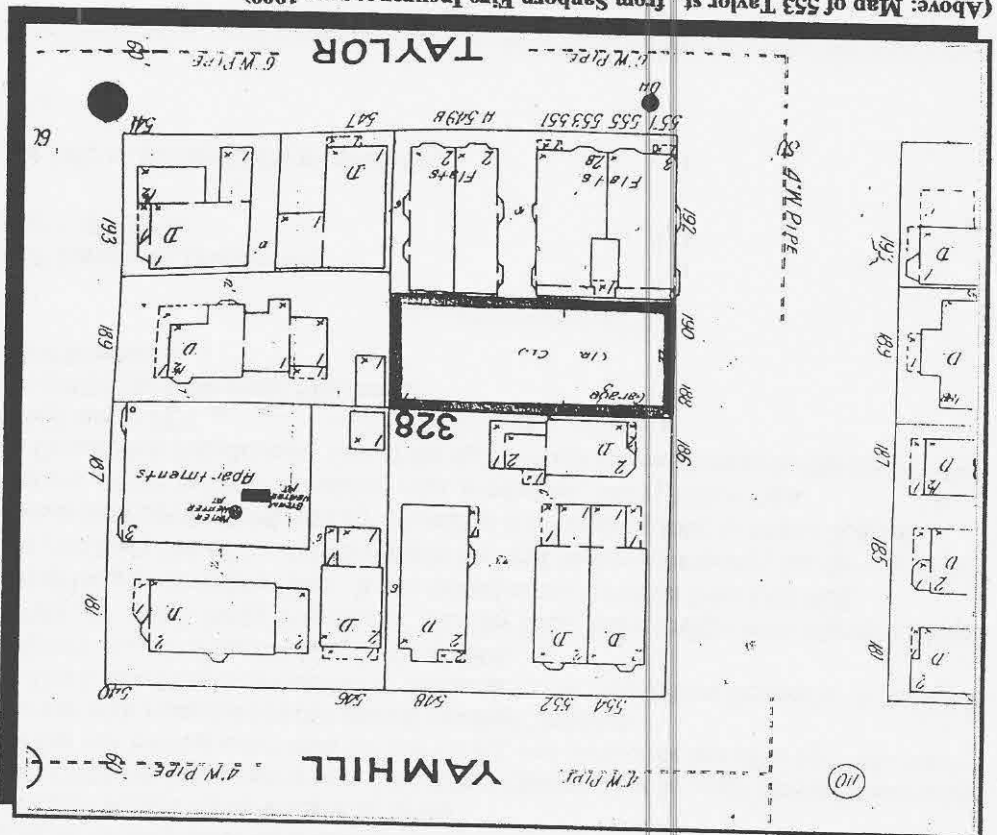
The Castaways Lounge, 901 S.W. Salmon st. Steve Suss open this disco in 1972 but later gave it up because the city of Portland made it impossible for him to get a license. The city claimed that they didn't want one man to control the gay bar scene.

The Fiddler's Three, Roman's Tavern, The Focal Point, "old" Somebody's Place,
 728 S.W. Ninth ave. Roman Wydra opened this popular gay watering hole in January 1969, and by August 1971 it had passed to his lover and business partner Steve Suss whose magical touch seemed to transform it. Suss' attempts to connect this tavern with his adjoining Rafter's was rebuffed by Mayor Terry Schruink and city councilman Frank Ivancie who consistently fought licensing his bars. Schruink was afraid of the reputation that Portland was getting, and Ivancie had an innate dislike for the gay liberation movement and everything it stood for--this despite the fact that Ivancie's own sons were often seen patronizing the very bars that their father had so desperately tried to close down. Despite the city council's opposition to licensing gay bars in the 1960's and 70's (local jurisdictions could only recommend) the Oregon Liquor Control Commission continually renewed their licenses fearing a test case in court.

The Rafter's/Kimbers, 739 S.W. Park ave., (1971-1981)

The Pythian Building, 918 S.W. Yamhill. This is the site of the first Gay and Lesbian Pride celebration coinciding with the second anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion. The event sponsored by the Second Foundation of Oregon, featured a rock band, same-sex dancing, and two hundred reportedly attended the dance which was held in the ballroom upstairs. The Second Foundation later moved its offices to this building from 258 S.W. Alder st., but were forced to close them after its treasurer absconded with several thousand dollars need to pay the rent.

Apartment house of Bronner and Healy, 1731 S.W. Taylor st., formerly 553 Taylor (old number)



(Above: Map of 553 Taylor st. from Sanborn Fire Insurance map 1909)

The Happy Hare, 1730 S.W. Taylor st. (Listed in Dameron Guide of 1966)

Other Locations not on the walking tour (Bars, Bathhouses and Bookstores)

The Met, 1 S.W. Third ave. (1982) drag shows
 214 Tavern, 214 W. Burnside, (1985)
 Teasers, 309 W. Burnside (1985)
 316, 316 W. Burnside, lesbian bar (1974)
 Rising Moon, 413 W. Burnside (later Sissy's and Angela's) 1978-85)
 The Sportsmans Inn, 15 NW Sixth ave. (1972)
 Club Northwest, 217 NW Fourth Ave. (1968-1972), later The Magic Garden. Early drag bar.
 Demas Tavern, 208 NW Third Ave., (1968-1973), Darcelle's (1974-present) Walter Cole has been the owner of this establishment since 1968. A shrine to the art of female impersonation, and the "straightest" of the gay bars in Portland

Wide Oscar's, 318 S.W. Third ave., (1976-1983) Previously known as the Filling Station Tavern and the Chrystal Pistol
 It became a gay bar with a social conscience when opened by Earl Wright in December 1976. It featured a European-style ambience, featuring cabaret and musical shows that appealed to lesbians and gay men alike. Hanging near the front entrance of the bar was a large picture of Oscar Wilde, that suddenly disappeared one day, and eventually re-appeared two years later in Tillamook. This was definitely NOT a cruise bar, and it may have suffered because of it. According to Wright, unable to pay an increased rent, a declining trade, and the fact that the OLC turned down his application for liquor license all contributed to the establishment's demise. Nevertheless it left an impact on the community—having served as the meeting place for a number of community groups including: Gay Men Together, Oregon Fair Share, and a William Temple House counseling group.

Mama Bernice's, 1228 SW Third st. (1962-64) The owner's name was Arthur Brannen, but he hired Mama Bernice away from Dinky Moore's where she was holding court with the gay crowd, and named the bar after her. She was so notorious in the city that she was even mentioned in city council meetings' minutes.
 Aero-Vapors Bathhouse, 1237 SW Third, now Terry Schrunk Plaza. Across the street from Mama Bernice's. A notorious gay bathhouse with a long history. Listed in the Darron Guide of 1966.
 The Cartwheel Tavern, 1223 SW Fifth ave. (1958-1962) "Papa Scott" aka Jay Scott, was a lesbian bartender with a large following that made this one of the popular lesbian bars. It was located across the street from City Hall.
 Old Glory Tavern, 118 S.W. Madison (1962-64) One of the eight taverns in the 1964 license controversy, but the only one to receive a favorable recommendation from the Portland City Council on a tie-breaking vote by Mayor Schrunk.
 The Transfusion Inn, 1139 SW First ave. (1950s to 1964) a working class, lesbian bar; owner Milton Buck
 The Model Inn, 1536 S.W. First ave. Owner Nick Polechrones. One of the eight taverns refused licenses by the city in 1964.
 The Workout Baths, 531 S.W. Twelfth ave. (1973)
 Tom Kat Theater, 425 N.W. Glisan (1973) gay male erotic film theater

The Other Side of Midnight, 426 SW Hawthorne
 Eastside, 3701 S.E. Division
 Primary Domain/ Slabtown,
 Silent Partners/ Chuckles, 1810 NW Lovejoy St. (Torn down)
 Lulu's Tavern/ The Player's Pub, 612 NW 21st st.
 Hunt Pub, 1027 SW Morrison st.
 Judy's, 1431 NE Broadway (October 1983 to January 1985) women's bar
 Club 927, 927 SE Morrison st.
 City Night Club, 13 NW 13th st.
 Frolic, 1447 NE Sandy
 Marv Inn, 2216 NE MLK Blvd
 HR's, 5827 E. Burnside
 The Cell/ Jr's West, 300 NW Tenth ave. A popular leather bar after the demise of The Other Inn. The Cell was located downstairs, and Jr's was located upstairs attracting a drag crowd. A production of Doric Wilson's West Street Gang played here in the mid-1980s.
 JR's East, 4036 SE Hawthorne
 Stairs Down, 615 SE Alder st. (Youth nightclub in 1974)
 Caboose Room (near Union Station)
 Agostino's, 725 SW Alder st. (1965-68)
 Three Sister's, 1125 SW Stark st., (1969-present)
 Zero 'N Eight Saloon, 018 SE 8th st.