

STSO Documentary Educational Guide

Chapter 11 Rochester Gay Bars 1:36

The decade of the 1970's saw a blossoming of LGBT social life. During this heyday of Rochester's gay bars, at least 13 different bars served the community. This decade of celebration and sexual freedom would come to a crashing end early in the 1980's.

In Rochester, NY the bar scene in the early 1970's was the only place gay men and women could meet each other for social and political organizing. There was some Mafia involvement but not to the degree experienced in NY City. Police harassment in Rochester consisted of taking down license plate numbers, checking ID's, and other minor intrusions. The Liquor Control Board was the authority that established the rules and regulations governing bars which included same sex dancing, drag dressing, and homosexual gatherings. The police were asked to enforce these when violations were observed or reported.

The Gay Bar: Why the Gay Rights Movement Was Born in One

http://www.slate.com/articles/life/the_gay_bar/2011/06/the_gay_bar_4.html

Bar Life – I'd Rather Be Gay in Rochester

http://womenwopinions.typepad.com/shoulders_to_stand_on/2008/09/bob-dardano-id-rather-be-gay-in-rochester.html

Lost Womyn's Space <http://lostwomynsspace.blogspot.com/2011/09/riverview-bar.html>

Organized Crime control of Gay Bars

http://www.democraticunderground.com/discuss/duboard.php?az=view_all&address=221x65287

New York City <http://selvedgeyard.com/2010/04/15/hooks-hypodermics-new-york-in-the-70s/>

Rochester Gay Bars

The Glass Bar – 58 S. Clinton 1947-56

Oasis Café – 326 South Ave 1948-51, then Sam's Grill 1952-53

The Forty-Four and One Half – 44 ½ East Ave 1947-51 jazz venue, mixed

Bazaar – State Street – older men (wrinkle room) Peggy and Bernice owners
(see Peg and Larry's)

Dick's (Martha's) – 14 Front Street, 43 Stone Street, State Street – men

Martin's (Ma Martin's) – 12 Front Street – men, sleazy

Blue Chip – Allen Street

Allen Street Club – 278 Allen Street - women

Patsy's – Allen Street – women

Patty and Jim's – men – on Lyell Avenue. Patty was a singer and Jim played piano

Red Carpet Lounge (Rude Rug) – East Main Street – men – across from Eastman Theatre
Behind the YMCA

Chalet – men after dinner

Turf/Rathskeller – 89 Elm Street near Chestnut, behind Midtown bus terminal – men

OK Corral – 89 Elm Street, 14-16 Charlotte Street – men - country western.

Same location later became Backstreets

Jim's – Court Street briefly, opened Fall, 1971 at 123 North Street (now Liberty Pole Way)

Donald Schultz "Ducky" popular head bartender

Oasis – South Avenue – women

River View – 242 South Avenue – women

Bullwinkle's – Lake Avenue – mixed
Peg and Larry's – Front Street – mixed – Larry Ottoman and Peg Scheiner (sp?).
Peg later opened Bazaar with her sister Bernice
The Rustic – 17 Front Street – men – late 1930's to 1952
Town & Country Restaurant – Gibbs Street – mixed bar, upper crust
Seneca Hotel Bar – South Clinton – men, late evenings
Seneca Hotel, Geneva NY – Exchange Street, dinner, men's bar late
Rosie's – 219 Monroe Avenue – men and women
Friar's Inn (Jesse's) – 248 Monroe Avenue – men
Avenue Pub – 522 Monroe Avenue – men
Front Page Restaurant – 8 Front Street – mixed
Club 25 – 25 North Clinton – mixed, swishy greasy spoon
Bachelor Forum – 1065 East Main Street, University Avenue – men
Tara – 395 Andrews Street, 153 Liberty Pole Way – men, piano
40 Union, Muther's – 40 South Union Street – men
Club Marcella – Liberty Pole Way – men
L. A. Saloon – 48 Lake Avenue – men – country western
Club Mahara – 10-12 South Washington Street – men
The Pentagon – 88 Liberty Pole Way – men
Heaven – 50 Liberty Pole Way – mixed, only sometimes gay
Liberty – 117-125 Liberty Pole Way – men – dance bar
Anthony's 522 – 522 East Main Street – men
Backstreet Bar – drag, dancing. Jimmy Catalano owner/manager
Cliff Street Bar – early 1960's, off State Street
Colvin 212 – neighborhood bar, women
Phase – women
Gallery – restaurant and lounge
The Other Place – live entertainment