

Tom Baker Interview #1

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bar, heard, lived, called, polk street, street, worked, gay bars, days, people, san francisco, castro, gay, friend, started, moved, tour, gordon, place, raided

SPEAKERS

Shawn, Tom, Daniel

S Shawn 00:01
Okay, I'm just gonna put it next to you so I can hear you. But otherwise don't worry.

T Tom 00:06
They're gonna pick it up. Yeah. Well anyway what we want to start

S Shawn 00:12
When did you come to San Francisco?

T Tom 00:13
Boy do you want to race but I went to school well during the Depression, keep them I'm 93 years old. So I've seen a few things happen. I'm 92. I'm sorry.

D Daniel 00:26
On the email, I aged email him. Sorry, Tom.

T Tom 00:38
Anyway, during the Depression, my father who worked for the Chronicle at the time lost his job, and he was from Ohio, and his mother who lived in a little town called Marion about 50 miles north of Columbus had a contact with a lever brothers soap company, and apparently there was a job opening. So we packed up back in baggage and left San Francisco. I was five years

old and we drove to Ohio. So that led to going to Charleston, West Virginia, because that's where the job took him. And so I did all my primary school in Charleston from first to 12th grade and then my mother's one of my mother's sisters, as a graduation gift from college, or from high school, offered to put me through college so I came out here and what 1949 and enter San Mateo Junior College. I did two years there and then the next few years at San Jose State University. So basically most of my life I've been here.

S Shawn 00:38

How did you pick San Francisco when you got the opportunity to choose a college. Why did you pick here?

T Tom 02:07

Why? My aunt chose it for me.

S Shawn 02:11

She's paying so I guess she

T Tom 02:12

Well, she had some connections. You know, in those days. I didn't pay a penny to go to college. Believe it or not. I got a college education for \$0. And she paid for my—I stayed in dormitory and those days they had dormitories at the junior college. And so I stayed at the dormitory. She paid all those expenses, food and so forth. And then in those days, I was very active in the Episcopal Church in San Mateo. And one of the parishioners was Dr. Taggart, and he was the gym boys at the junior college and he pulled some strings and got me into San Jose State University. So I finished up my two years there so that's the whole story of how I... And then when I graduated, I majored in psychology and minored in art history. And as it turned out, I follow my art history minor through my career. So then, I got a job. After I graduated from college, I needed some money so I got a job working for swimming pool company. Hadn't that foggiest notion what I was doing

S Shawn 03:37

They didn't teach that in art history program? No, no pool maintenance?

T Tom 03:40

No. I was put in charge of doing the payroll. And at that time, there may be four or five different unions representative tile setters, union, the concrete setters union, the blah blah plumbers, a blah, blah. And they all have different rules about overtime, etc. So every—it was weekly payroll every Saturday there'd be a line of guys outside my office all complaining that their

checks were wrong. Well, that lasted maybe a year and a half and then I thought, oh, you know, I really don't like this job at all then I bumped around a couple of them finally, because of my psychology thing. I went to—this is all background to lead up to what you're interested in. I got I went to a an employment agency. And the guy that owned it hired me to work there because he thought experience and clinical psychology would help in that business which was BS because employment agencies are all about dollars —they, you know, it's all— Anyway, there was a small local service airline called Pacific airlines there. In those days there were a lot of small Pacific local service airlines around the United States. And this one operated out of San Francisco and flew to great places like Fresno and Arcata, even Los Angeles. And so I got a job there. Because I was placing so many people there and one day I thought, well, that sounds interesting. I think I'll go to work for the airline. So I applied and they hired me and put me in in the accounting department. And in accounts payable. Well, the airline was on rocky ground financially. So I worked with— they hired a woman an older woman to assist me. And this is where it began. She lived on Russian Hill or Telegraph Hill, and she had two neighbors that lived above her, two guys, who were lovers as we called them in those days. And she after she got to know me for awhile, I had not really done anything gay wise. After a while, she said, I think there's two guys that live above me. I think you'd like to meet them. So I said okay, so we went upstairs, I went up to her place and went upstairs to these guides. And one was Ed and the other was Tom and Tom was very aggressive, shall we say? And women they lived downstairs, she lived upstairs and she had moved but her apartment was empty. But she knew these guys that's I'm getting my story mixed up. So the first day I was there, first time we went up there, Tom said to Ed, take Hilda upstairs and show her her old apartment. And Hilda said, "Well, I don't want to see it. I'm lived there for umpteen years." "Oh, take her up anyway." So the minute they went out the door wham! he had my pants down and my butt up against the oven, which was on! I mean, this all happened to flash and I kept saying, "Tom they're upstairs, it'd be down here any moment." "No, there'll be there for awhile. We can hear them blah, blah, blah." So that kind of started the whole thing. And one thing led to another and I used to go up there and spend weekends with them, the three of us together and then there were two guys that worked for the airline. One his name was Bob Raus from New Zealand by the way across across the water neighbors, and he was from Auckland, and the other guy was a guy named Jeb Gearheart their dad so it's okay. And they got me going into gay bars. And the first time Jeb said, "Have you ever been to a gay bar?" And I said, "no." He said, "Well, I'm gonna take it one next weekend." I said, "okay." So there was a bar called Gordon's have ever heard of that?

S

Shawn 05:52

Yeah, Gordon's over North Beach.

T

Tom 08:09

That was a great bar. It was a restaurant and bar. And that was my first one and I was so nervous. Those are the days when cops raided bars. And I was so nervous when we went in that after a little while, I got so nervous. I went outside and sat on the curb and vomited. I was so nervous. And then I went back in. And from that point on Jeb who had taken me there and Bob Raus, they kind of took over and they introduced me to a lot of people and bars and so forth. And I'll show you the matches and the website, the website I think you'd be interested in and you should look it up because it'll help you with your yeah with research. There's bars on that list. I've never even heard

S Shawn 09:01
Now what years are we talking about when he started going out?

T Tom 09:06
Let's see about 1959.

S Shawn 09:10
Okay, yeah. So that would have been there's still would have been a lot of bars in North Beach. Oh, tons of 'em.

T Tom 09:16
Polk Street was the main gay straight.

S Shawn 09:19
That's my new research right now as I'm focused. I've got my tour of North Beach done. And now I'm starting to do research on Polk and Tenderloin areas.

T Tom 09:27
Oh you're gonna like this website. I have it on so I'll show it to you. And you can download it when you're when you're home and there's a lot of information there.

S Shawn 09:36
Do you remember because it's actually hard. It's hard to find a lot of pictures of the gay bars because you know, people were usually trying to be very discreet and taking a lot of photos would have been unwelcome. But what would you how would you describe or do you remember anything about Gordon's what it looked like inside?

T Tom 09:50
Yeah, yeah, it was on the corner of Broadway and Battery Street. And it was a brick building doesn't exist anymore. The building been torn down. And you walk in and there was the as you walked in, the bar was long inside here. And then there were all booths for dining on this side and the there was a waiter whose name was Harry and his favorite thing wasâ€”He would put the water in front of us as he waited on us he said, "Don't don't drink the water. Fish fuck in it."

He was a character and so we had we I would say it got to the point where almost every weekend we went to Gordon's and had dinner and, um, and then there were well, I'll show you when the matches in the list. There were other in those days there were quite a few gay restaurants. Yeah, which I don't think exists anymore. Do they?

S Shawn 10:49

No, so I talked about this on my tour: in the 40s, you had a lot of a lot of kind of like cross-dressing kind of entertainment on Broadway and by the 50s late 50s. Around the time you were there and into the 60s was more supper clubs that were common throughout North Beach. A bunch on Grant and a couple of further east like he did like Gordon's and where you were at? Yeah,

T Tom 11:12

Gordon's and another one we liked was Jackson's. Okay, he was down in North Beach area. And P.S. which was on Polk Street.

S Shawn 11:20

Yeah, I've heard of that one.

T Tom 11:21

In fact, one memory I have a P.S. I went there one night for dinner with some friends. And in the booth next to us. There were two people, which I didn't pay any attention to. Until one of them they started having a little tiff. And there was an older man, somewhat older man and a younger guy. And the younger guy got up and left. And the older guy started crying. Yeah, it was Tennessee Williams!

S Shawn 11:48

No way. Holy cow.

D Daniel 11:52

He was the one left? He was left there. The was the boy left Tennessee Williams.

T Tom 11:58

They had a little argument the boy got up left.

S

Shawn 12:01

So I'll summarize a little bit about what was going on in Polk Street so Polk Street was known a little bit more as having a lot more hustlers and like their relationship and dynamic was a little different from what I've heard

T

Tom 12:12

I'm a little hard of hearing.

S

Shawn 12:13

Sorry, so so on Polk Street what I've heard is that compared to North Beach, Polk Street had a lot more older men and younger boys going on dates together. There was more hustlers. There's a different kind of scene on Polk Street, no?

T

Tom 12:29

Somewhat but I don't think I'd characterize it that way. Okay. I mean, in those days, Polk Street was the Gay Street like Castro is now. And everybody went. But there, there were about well, I'll show you on the list. I'll point out the bars that I like. But there was one called Cloud 7 was good every Sunday. And they had a piano player and those are the days when they'd have a piano in the bar and everybody would gather around and sing. You know and have a good time. My neighbor Harold, across the hall. He's he's good people and what have you get sure you'd make out some time but but the primary reason, which is social, really more than anything. So anyway, Cloud 7 was one of my favorite Sunday morning ones. That's after I stopped going to church. And so I go there Sundays, and we'd have they'd have a brunch, and we'd gather around the piano and the guy that played the piano was a bit overweight and we used to call him The Fat Lady. You didn't mind is like with at the Black Cat, you know, Jose, he I was telling you the other day, the piano player that after a certain amount of time after we'd had drinks, and so we push all the tables together. And that became his stage. And he got up on there and do operas. And that piano player, he called Hazel. And the guy he was good, very good at the piano, and they'd run through different offers. Carmen was the one I remember the most. He had more fun with Carmine. He had a Monte and so he was he was fun. Anyway. So anyway, after my experience at Gordon's and being introduced to the other stuff, then I just started every weekend I'd go and I lived in San Mateo at that time, by the way, and I would drive up, but, you know, it seems like the bads and things were not not of interest to me. Just interpret that, but I did like the bar line.

S

Shawn 14:38

Now, we talked about this a little bit but what was the difference to you between Polk and North Beach? why would why would you sometimes go to North Beach and sometimes go to Polk Street?

T Tom 14:49
Well, for one thing. There were not quite as many bars North Beach there was the the Copper Lantern. Yeah. Grant Avenue, Savoy Tivoli, which is still there, but it's not gay anymore. But in those days, it was gay and a lot of fun. And then there was a little little alley off of Grand Avenue. And you heard of Charles Pierce. No doubt. Well, that's where Charles Pierce kind of started and it was at the end. It was at the far end of this little alley, this bar and we go in there and Charles Pierce would be entertaining.

S Shawn 15:27
Was it the Paper Doll?

T Tom 15:29
Yeah, Paper Doll. That's another one. Yeah, yeah.

S Shawn 15:32
And the Anxious Asp. Have you heard of that one?

T Tom 15:35
No.

S Shawn 15:35
It might have been later. Okay.

D Daniel 15:37
But it might be on the list, I'll show you in a bid.

S Shawn 15:41
And then, and then did you did overtime? Did you go to poke more often?

T Tom 15:51
I can't really say I did or didn't. Kind of, you know, there were there were a bar downtown that we went to. There was one on on in the financial district, a little alley called Trinity Place. I forget the name of the bar there. But we used to go there. We'd start there and have our first

drinks there. Of course, in those days, keep in mind, it was very different from today. We all wore suit and tie. Yeah. And so we would gather at the bar on Trinity place, have a drink or two and then we'd go to Gordon's for dinner. And then we'd spread out and do other bars or whatever. When I think about it, driving home after all that to San Mateo. I'm surprised, I'm still sitting here. Anyway, that was kind of routine, but there were there were a number of bars downtown. And so sometimes we go there and then there was one place out on I think it was out on California street near Polk and it was called the Gilded Cage. Okay, and the Gilded Cage is also a place where Charles Pierce entertained. And another guy by the name of Rio Dante"you ever heard of him?

S Shawn 17:05

No.

T Tom 17:06

Well, they had they had an act where they had kind of a stage and then you had tables and stuff where we could sit and drink. And there was a big swing hanging from the ceiling of the proscenium arch and Charles Pierce would be dressed up like Jeanette MacDonald. He would get on the swing and swing out into the audience with miming, "San Francisco," and Rio Dante, he would come out he was kind of a strange looking guy. He would come out dressed like a nun and the curtains would part and Rio Donte but standing there in his full nun's habit, and he would mime "Climb Every Mountain" and very solemn. And at the end of it, he rollerskate off because you didn't know where he was on rollerskates. He was wearing roller skates under his robes. So a lot of stuff like that, but that was that was way out on California Street. I mean, near Polk or near"yep, near Polk Street and trying to think of some other things. Let me show you that.

S Shawn 18:13

Yeah, we can take a look

T Tom 18:14

By the way you can have these, if you want.

S Shawn 18:24

Match boxes.

T Tom 18:26

Well, I was kind of obsessive about doing things like this in those days. But these are Doris that that's on Presidio and you know where the Jewish Community Center is now? Well, they tour

the building this was in plus all the other buildings around they took them down to build the community center but that was a place we used to go to a lot and they have dinner that served dinner. There was a bartender there who had a lot of fun. If somebody, if a siren went by a fire truck or some he'd yell out he's a "Ma'am, your chauffeur chauffeur is here." Or somebody dropped the glass he'd say, "Somebody dropped their diamond." And he was full of stuff like that. And then the Yacht Club alright, that's on Polk Street.

S Shawn 19:07
Yeah, Yacht I've heard of.

T Tom 19:08
That was that was. That's a good restaurant. Sausalito Inn, that's of course in Sausalito.

D Daniel 19:17
It was in Sausalito? It was a gay bar in Sausalito?

T Tom 19:20
Oh, several. Oh, yeah. The Alta Plaza that was a dinner place on Fillmore at Clay. That was a nice bar. Very fancy. And this one I forget what this one is. Oh, San Diego. Sorry, Phoebe's, Phoebe was a motorcycle bar. It was one of the first leather bars in the city.

S Shawn 19:44
In SOMA?

T Tom 19:46
The, okay, let's see. I don't think the address is there. You can see the phone number M-A for Market

S Shawn 19:57
A little different than now.

D Daniel 20:00
And Jackson's that's another dining place that was on Polk Street or Powell Street. And this one was the Purple Pickle. The Purple Pickle at 2223 Market and I think there's a bar there now or

rest okay. So the no name bars something like that. Is that right is 2223 market Which end of Market is that? Sounds middle which is sort of in the middle of Market Street

T Tom 20:26
2223, well, it's up towards Castro.

D Daniel 20:32
Oh, yeah. It's on the same block as Hi Tops.

S Shawn 20:38
It's in the Castro.

D Daniel 20:39
Yeah, it's in the Castro. I think oh, maybe that's because that Mexican restaurant now. Here's Gordon's.

S Shawn 20:49
Oh, great. I've never seen its branding before. Amazing.

D Daniel 20:54
And then this is

S Shawn 20:56
Ah, so I get it. So it's like very Greek themed.

D Daniel 20:58
Yeah. Oh, that Town Squire. That was a clothing store. P.S. that's another gay bar and restaurant. After Dark, well, that was in Los Angeles. And Savoy Tivoli see there you are. And the Mint, which I think is still there, right? Oh, yeah. Yeah, yeah, it is. It's a karaoke bar. Yeah.

T Tom 21:23
Do you want to have these?

Do you want to have these.

S

Shawn 21:28

You know, what I'll do is I'll donate these to the GLBT Archives so someone can preserve them. Thank you so much.

T

Tom 21:33

Would it help if we cut through here so it'd be easyâ€”

S

Shawn 21:35

I think these are great as they are. But this is great. I so it's funny. I hear names and bars, but I don't know what they looked like or what the signs looks like. So it's great to see these because I get to see a better flavor of what the bar was like.

D

Daniel 21:52

Well, another this and the other leather bar, as we call them in those days, was The Toolbox. And actually a little story about The Toolbox. Years ago when I lived in San Mateo and I went to church down there, there was a naval base on Treasure Island. And there was a young, redheaded sailor who would come down in his sailor suit for to go to mass at the at the church, and I got to know him. But this before it came out. And so years later, a good friend of mine who was also in the travel business like me, he used to give wonderful dinner parties. He lived down that way. I can't remember the name. I can't remember the name of the street. Anyway, he would always have some interesting guests for dinner. And so one day I went down for dinner and who do I see but this little sailor ...in full leather. And I said so neither one of us knew anything about each other in that respect until that night. So we'd had a nice visit. And I remember he said to me, unfortunately after a few drinks, "Have you ever been written on a motorcycle before?" And I said, "No." He said, "Would you like to go for a ride?" And I said, "Yeah." So I climbed on the back of his motorcycle, after we'd have a number of drinks, and off we went roaring into theâ€” as I say it's a wonder I'm still here sometimes. That was kind of interesting. And he but the sad part is I found out sometime later, he had a job working at The Toolbox. And they had a neon sign that stuck out from the corner because it was on the corner and he was on a ladder working on the neon sign and he got electrocuted and died. He fell off theâ€”got electrocuted and fell off the ladder and that was that. Where was where was The Toolbox? Where was The Toolbox? Do you know where the Whole Foods is down there in that area On Market Street?

T

Tom 24:04

No, no. off market it's down. Can't remember what the neighborhood is. Further down on Folsom Street.

S Shawn 24:14
Oh, oh on Folsom?

D Daniel 24:17
I think is Folsom is it was Like down near 4th street? Like down... ? Anyway, that's where the that's where The Toolbox was. And they tore all that down to build a Whole Foods store. There's one on like Fourth and Folsom. Yeah. Would you like to see that website?

S Shawn 24:32
Yeah, yeah, let's take a look.

D Daniel 24:55
I don't know why I have to sign into this now every time if I leave it alone for more than 10 minutes. I got to call my computer guy and see what he can do. Okay, there it is.

S Shawn 25:10
Oh, amazing. You can play on it. Thank you. 60s To 80s Okay,

T Tom 25:19
And on the left is a list of the bars arranged.

S Shawn 25:23
Okay, so 12 Adler on my tour. Some of these are here.

D Daniel 25:30
And so if we click on any one of those little

S Shawn 25:34
Yeah, let's see. Okay.

T Tom 25:36

You can enlarge that map a little bit.

S Shawn 25:42

Oh, you mean zoom in a little.

T Tom 25:43

There's a plus sign.

S Shawn 25:49

Okay, so yeah, I've heard Bix/Gold Street. You ever go there? Bix well, today it's a steak house but it used to be Gold Street. Yeah. And then here's your Gordon's.

T Tom 25:59

That was very fancy.

S Shawn 26:02

It sounds like it. Now Gordon's was over here, wasn't it?

D Daniel 26:05

It's on Battery and Broadway.

S Shawn 26:15

Battery and Broadway? Yeah, it's not on this map.

D Daniel 26:21

Is it on the list? Hit the red. Yeah. See if they're all alphabetical. If it's not on the list, that's an oversight should be.

S Shawn 26:29

Yeah, they don't have it in here.

D Daniel 26:31
When did when did Golden's close?

T Tom 26:33
God, I don't remember. Probably, probably in the late 70s, early, early 80s. And they probably they tore the building down. It don't exist anymore.

S Shawn 26:50
Did you ever hear of Opus One?

T Tom 26:53
Yes.

S Shawn 26:53
Yeah. Had you ever gone there?

T Tom 26:54
I don't remember. Yeah, I might have very few I didn't go to at one point in my life.

S Shawn 27:02
What about they may not have been around as much but like Mona's 440, or anything.

T Tom 27:08
Lesbian Bars? That's on the list. Yeah.

S Shawn 27:10
Had you ever gone in or seen it or no?

D Daniel 27:14
I was intimidated. Not about to mix up with that

I was intimidated. Not about to mix up with that.

S Shawn 27:21

What about Finocchio's? Well, that was for tourists. Yeah.

T Tom 27:26

However, should I say this? When I lived in San Mateo there was a bar in Redwood City called "oh god, now I can't the name went out of my head" anyway, we used to go down there sometimes and was friends and there was an entertainer at Finocchio's and his boyfriend who were there that night. And they went home with me. That's my only connection to Finocchio's.

S Shawn 27:59

Let's see. What else do we have on here? I'm trying to think about the bars that come up on my tour too. The Capri I've heard a lot about. Did you ever go there Capri?

T Tom 28:06

No.

S Shawn 28:06

No, it was more 70s than 60s. Miss Smith's Tea Room? Ever heard that one?

T Tom 28:13

Heard of it, but I haven't been there.

S Shawn 28:15

I think it was more lesbian than gay. But yeah. And Savoy Tivoli we talked about.

D Daniel 28:24

Was this one the that was one of the piano? They sort of classical music one?

S Shawn 28:28

Yes, run by Donald Pippen. Yeah, right.

D Daniel 28:31
Do those one you went to is in the basement of the Sentinel Building with the like classical music. What was the name of it? Opus One?

T Tom 28:43
Didn't connect. Could have been but after two or three drinks who knows?

S Shawn 28:48
I'm surprised you remember any of it. People asked me about the bars I went to in my 20s, I would not remember anything.

D Daniel 28:55
Now if I have one drink, it's a big deal.

S Shawn 28:59
Well, this is great. So did you did you ever go to The Tenderloin out ever?

D Daniel 29:04
Not very much. No.

S Shawn 29:06
Do you remember? Especially because you used to be in the church a little bit in the 60s. I've heard a lot about like a lot of members of the Methodist Church and whatnot Glide in the Tenderloin like reaching out to gay rights groups and trying to do some collaborations. You were in the city at that time. Did you get involved or hear about that at all?

T Tom 29:29
Yeah, no. I knew about Glide. But I mean, I never. Another one was St. Barnabas Church. Yeah, they took in a lot of homeless people and so forth. Yeah.



S Shawn 29:42
Let's see what else do I have this?

T Tom 29:45
If you click on any of those, it'll bring up theâ€”

S Shawn 29:48
Yeah, let's see Andromeda. I've never heard of that one.

D Daniel 29:52
There are a lot of them there that I have never heard of.

S Shawn 29:54
This is this is a great list. I have to find a way to get this Poke Along is new too. Suzie Q was more lesbian bar. But do you remember that one? Yeah.

T Tom 30:05
I've heard of it but...

S Shawn 30:06
It was across from the Cinch which is still open. It's the last one on Polk Street.

D Daniel 30:10
Oh, really? Didn't think there was anything left on books for

S Shawn 30:14
Nope, just one and then well in the Tenderloin there's at Aunt Charlie's Lounge is still there.

T Tom 30:20
Oh, yeah?

S Shawn 30:21
Still, there's still still drag performers every weekend. Yeah, no kidding?

D Daniel 30:26
It's great though.

S Shawn 30:27
Yeah, it's fun. Oil Can Harry's?

T Tom 30:29
Heard of it.

S Shawn 30:30
I've heard of it. I've been to one in Texas, but not the one here. I keep doing that.

D Daniel 30:39
Were any of them like dance bars? Like they had dance floors? Or were they more like smaller? Like sit sit at the bar kind of spaces, rather than like disco where a dance bar?

T Tom 30:50
Oh, dancing was out? No. No. Oh, no, no, no, no. When I when I was doing the bar scene, if you did this [holds hands], the bartender'd say, "NO TOUCHING!" It was that strict. And I've been in a couple of bars that got raided so

S Shawn 31:07
Now I've heard that Twin Peaks the bar with all the glass. Part of that, it gets celebrated because it was one of the first bars to do finally a transparent kind of wall like that.

T Tom 31:19
It didn't originally though.

S

Shawn 31:20

Right, it had been closed off. But what I've also heard is that this was also like, a bit of smart, smarter business for the owners because the police would often red bars where they couldn't see what was going on inside. And by making the glass there. The police could look in and it kind of put the gay people in a fishbowl where if they touched someone they could now be caught from the cop that was going by outside. So it wasn't totally altruistic is what I've heard. It was something it was something that was also like preventing the police

D

Daniel 31:49

Older guys go there now. Wasn't that way originally. Look on the list and see if the TayBush is there. TayBush that's where I was when it got raided.

S

Shawn 32:05

TayBush? I don't see it.

D

Daniel 32:07

It was at the corner of Taylor and Bush, hence the name. And I was in there one evening having a drink with a friend. And all of a sudden somebody said something yelled out something and my friend grabbed me by the arm "Just get out of here." And we rushed and we rushed right by the cops. The cops are coming in. And we were going out. And it was in the paper and those were the days when they raided the bar they would put the their your name and where you worked and everything in the news, in the Chronicle. I remember a Stanford professor that I had known, got caught and he lost his job at Stanford because of that. There's just, you know, I hate to say this, but as an older person, I'll do it. But the younger people now, gay people. I think sometimes don't appreciate what went before and what what transpired with raids and being afraid of touching anybody in a bar and not being able to dance and all these things that people take for granted now. Those did not happen 35-40 years ago. They just didn't.

S

Shawn 33:16

When I do the tour, I talk about that because it happened Jose Sarria. He got caught. I think he was cruising in the St. Francis hotel bathroom. And it was a friend who betrayed him and turned him in and caught him and his name, his address where he worked was all printed in the newspaper. And that's part of how he became a drag queen. He had to give up his dream of becoming a teacher. Because that was "Jose Sarria. And he went to North Beach to figure out how he's going to pay his bills and he wound up performing it at the Black Cat and that was the rest of that. But But yeah, even straight people are surprised to learn that because if you're young enough, you you are not even used to gay bars being raided it's it's not even part of your awareness that that was the thing. So there's one here on Taylor and Bush but it says Have One. Do you recognize that? What is it called? Have One? No? But it's the same spot as your TayBush.

T Tom 34:07
Taylor Bush? Well, maybe they renamed it yeah, what's it called? Let me see.

S Shawn 34:12
Have One. And then it says part of the 1960 "gayola" scandal.

T Tom 34:18
Oh, hmm. It could be. That's when they just renamed it.

S Shawn 34:23
Maybe let's see where...

T Tom 34:24
It is right on the corner of Taylor and Bush.

S Shawn 34:26
I forget what's there and I would Stookey's. Can't believe that. Wow. And there was another bar, and unfortunately, I can't remember the name I think was on Sutter Street. Have you heard of Sally Stanford? No.

T Tom 34:38
Have you? Well I'll tell you Sally Stanford was a prostitute and she was a madam. And she was well known in San Francisco. And she ran a whorehouse on Center Street. And then eventually she became the mayor of Sausalito. And there's a restaurant and there's a restaurant in Sausalito. That was I don't know if it's still there called Valhalla. That was her place. Okay. And she was she was at one point. I think she was married to you've heard a gumps. Yes. All right. Richard Gump, I think was her husband at one point. Okay. And you know, he was a very prominent merchant I guess that's the word you use. And yeah, Sally. Well, we'll have to look up Sally Sanford. She was a character.

S Shawn 35:29
I think I just read about her. The Tenderloin Museum. There's a museum now in the Tenderloin tells you the whole neighborhood history and it's great. And I think she's mentioned as being a character.

T Tom 35:37
She was Pine or Sutter, or one of the streets there. And let me tell you this her her whorehouse was a beautifulâ€”and it became a gay bar.

S Shawn 35:46
Rendezvous? Rendezvous? Is that? No? Anyway, continue your story.

T Tom 35:52
But I remember you go up a flight of steps to get to the what was essentially a second floor and the bar was there and in the middle of the floor was a big huge marble bathtub. And they just left it there. That I remember that was Sally Stanford's old whorehouse.

S Shawn 36:10
I'll have to look that up. That's that's a good story.

T Tom 36:14
We can we can Gooâ€”I don't Google. I Bing. I prefer it over Google. More precise.

S Shawn 36:24
Now, what time did you become aware of more gay rights organizations because you were just going to bars but when did it start? Just start caring about the rights organizations?

D Daniel 36:36
Probably. Well, when Jose started campaigning for Board of Supervisors, a little bit started to come out then. So that was kind of the beginning of it in my in my recognitions,

S Shawn 36:56
did you ever join sir or any of those organizations? Yeah,

T Tom 36:59
I used to aive monev to there was one of them. I contributed monev to them. but and then

...there was the Mattachine Society right?

S Shawn 37:08

Right. Didâ€”what was the relationship between those organizations and the bars? Would they go to the bars and try to recruit or take donations?

T Tom 37:18

Not that I recall. I don't recall that happening. Might have happened but not my recognition recollection.

S Shawn 37:25

And was it pretty separate? Was it gay bars separate from lesbian bars separate from very much transgender issues?

T Tom 37:32

Very much so.

S Shawn 37:33

Yeah. When did that start to change in your memory?

T Tom 37:37

Well, I think there weren't that many lesbian. Well, maybe there were I wasn't aware of but Mona's was the one I was mostly because that was I used to pass it when I go over to that part of town. Well, I cannot put my finger on it, and then it started to separate

S Shawn 38:04

And what about like the Pride parades? Because I know the first one was on Polk Street actually. First Pride parades or gay rights marches?

T Tom 38:13

Yeah, yeah, I remember when it was on Polk Street. And we thought it was kind of strange. And we thought kind of daring. And then little by little it got. I don't like crowds. So I never went to one of the parades because I don'tâ€”Not to the Chinese parade or the I don't. I just don't like