



ArchivesSpace

Giddings (Harold (Bill)) Bradley's Corner Bar Photograph Collection

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

San Francisco History Center

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URL: <http://www.sfpl.org/sfhistory>

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Summary Information

Repository:	San Francisco History Center
Title:	Harold (Bill) Giddings Bradley's Corner Bar Photograph Collection
ID:	SFP 95
Date [bulk]:	1950 - 1990
Physical Description:	1 manuscript box 370 color prints
Physical Location:	The collection is stored onsite.
Language of the Material:	English
Language of the Material:	Collections materials are in English.
Abstract:	<p>The collection documents gay bar culture of Bradley's Corner Bar with 370 color prints of mostly men and some lesbian women. Bradley's Corner Bar, 1949 – 1987, was a neighborhood tavern located at 900 Cole Street in San Francisco. In March 1965 the tavern became a gay bar and in 1967, the bar was owned by Harold (Bill) Lloyd Giddings and Thomas (Tom) W. Stuart. Giddings became the sole proprietor in 1971 and owned the bar until 1987. Bill Giddings compiled this collection of photographs of Bradley's Corner Bar. The bar events documented in the photographs include Halloween with cross-dressing, holiday and birthday parties and one wedding celebration. Most of the photographs are of the interior of the bar with a few exterior shots. The photographs not of the bar include a bus trip to Guerneville and house parties.</p>

Preferred Citation

Harold (Bill) Giddings Bradley's Corner Bar Photograph Collection (SFP 95), San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library.

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Biographical / Historical

Harold (Bill) Lloyd Giddings was born August 11, 1927 in Yuba City and graduated from Colusa High School in 1945. Following high school he served in the United States Army and the Merchant Marines. He learned his cooking skills while a Merchant Marine and subsequently worked for Standard Oil as a cook on various oil tankers. Upon retirement from Standard Oil, he owned and operated Bradley's Corner Bar in San Francisco. Giddings enjoyed bartending as well as cooking. After selling Bradley's in 1987, Giddings moved to Guerneville and ultimately Santa Rosa. Harold Giddings died on February 12, 2008.

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Scope and Content

The photograph collection documents gay bar culture of Bradley's Corner Bar with 370 color prints of mostly men and some lesbian women. Bradley's Corner Bar, 1949 – 1987, was a neighborhood tavern located at 900 Cole Street in San Francisco. In March 1965 the tavern became a gay bar and in 1967, the bar was owned by Harold (Bill) Lloyd Giddings and Thomas (Tom) W. Stuart. Giddings became the sole proprietor in 1971 and owned the bar until 1987. Bill Giddings compiled this collection of photographs of Bradley's Corner Bar. The bar events documented in the photographs include Halloween with cross-dressing, holiday and birthday parties and one wedding celebration. Most of the photographs are of the interior of the bar with a few exterior shots. The photographs not of the bar include a bus trip to Guerneville and house parties. The photographs are all color prints with some being Technicolor prints and Polaroids. The photographers are unknown and there is limited handwritten identification on the backside of the photographs.

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Arrangement

The collection is arranged chronologically.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Conditions Governing Access

The collection is available for use during Photo Desk hours.

Publication Rights

All requests for permission to publish from photographs must be submitted in writing to the Photo Curator. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the San Francisco Public Library as the owner of the physical items.

Provenance

Gift. 2007-89.

Conservation note

During processing, photographs were removed from albums and were re-housed in acid-free folders.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Gay bars - California - San Francisco.
- Gay bars
- Gay business enterprises -- California -- San Francisco.
- Gay men -- California -- San Francisco -- Photographs
- Gays -- California -- San Francisco -- Social life and customs -- 20th century -- Photograph collections.
- San Francisco (Calif.) -- Social life and customs -- 20th century -- Photograph collections.

- Photographic prints -- 20th century.
- Photographic prints, 1960-1970
- Photographic prints, 1970-1980
- Photographic prints, 1980-1990
- Instant camera photographs

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Costume Event, 1968 <u>Physical Description:</u> 36 Photographic Prints	box 1	folder 1
Halloween, 1968 <u>Physical Description:</u> 80 Photographic Prints	box 1	folder 2
Halloween, 1969-1974 <u>Physical Description:</u> 36 Photographic Prints	box 1	folder 3
Bar Events and Activities, 1967-1970 <u>Physical Description:</u> 32 Photographic Prints	box 1	folder 4
Bar Events and Activities, 1970-1979 <u>Physical Description:</u> 86 Photographic Prints	box 1	folder 5
Scope and Content Events includes Halloween, Christmas party, Jim and Ken's "wedding" party, bartender John Swindle installing new window.		
Events and people not at Bradley's Corner Bar , 1950-1985 <u>Physical Description:</u> 31 Photographic Prints	box 1	folder 6
Scope and Contents Photos include Bill Giddings in Santa Cruz in 1955; Bill Giddings in Hawaii circa 1963; a Christmas gathering at the residence 561 Rivoli; and Bearcreek Saloon in Montana in January 1977.		
Russian River Trip, 1968-1972 <u>Physical Description:</u> 24 Photographic Prints	box 1	folder 7
Bar Events and Activities, 1980-1987 <u>Physical Description:</u> 46 Photographic Prints	box 1	folder 8

Scope and Contents

Includes Holiday party, December 1986.