

Transcription and Coding

<p>Danielle: Good Afternoon. Today is Saturday December 1, 2018 and we are currently in a Study Room at the University of Southern Maine Library in Portland, Maine. My name is Danielle Fraser D-A-N-I-E-L-L-E F-R-A-S-E-R</p> <p>Jarod: And my name is Jarod Wescott J-A-R-O-D W-E-S-C-O-T-T. And we are interviewing Butch Fenton-Snell</p> <p>Danielle: Good Afternoon Butch, we are delighted to have you here with us today. Can you say your name and spell it please?</p> <p>Butch: Butch, B-U-T-C-H, my real name's Clarence C-L-A-R-E-N-C-E last name is Fenton-Snell F-E-N-T-O-N - S-N-E-L-L.</p> <p>Danielle: We would like to remind you that you can refuse to answer any question and you can end the interview at any point. We would also like to ask you to provide verbal consent for this interview.</p> <p>Butch: Yes</p> <p>Danielle: So we are going to start with the basics and get into more as we go along. How old are you or what decade were you born in? Whichever you prefer.</p> <p>Butch: I am 68 years old</p> <p>Danielle: How do you identify and what are your preferred pronouns?</p> <p>Butch: Male, He/Him</p> <p>Danielle: Where did you grow up?</p> <p>Butch:I grew up in Youngstown, Ohio. Born in Ohio, the Northeast Corner of Ohio.</p> <p>Danielle: And what about family life?</p> <p>Butch: I am one of six children, third in order but oldest boy.</p>	<p>Introductions</p> <p>Oral Consent</p> <p>Age</p> <p>Preferred pronouns</p> <p>Where Butch grew up</p>
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<p>Danielle: At what point did you come to Maine and why?</p> <p>Butch: I came to Maine in 1980, because I followed someone here, someone I thought I couldn't live without so....that's when I came.</p> <p>Danielle: How was your family with that move? Were you close to them?</p> <p>Butch:Very, yeah, pretty upset. I mean I, I had had a good job and had already bought my first house and my mother was very upset. Her and I were very close and she said "why are you moving so far away? You have everything you could ever want" and I said you know, "lightning could strike my house at any time and burn it to the ground, and I could be fired from my job at any time, but you have to go where your heart is, and she understood that.</p>	<p>When he came to Maine</p>
<p>Danielle: And were you close with your father as well?</p> <p>Butch: Um, later on in like yes, not growing up. My father was an excellent provider. He did not get close to his children when they were young, in fact there was a period of my life for about a year, almost a year and a half, that he and I never spoke but lived in the same household, but we never spoke. It was a very strained relationship, it had nothing to do with my sexuality, it was about how little he paid attention to me as a person and i had done something and my mother was upset and she said "tell your father when he comes home" and he got, must have been bad for something, and he raised his arm to hit me and I, and he had never done that before, and I reacted and pulled back and smacked him right in the stomach, punched him right in the stomach and I said, I was probably a junior, maybe a senior in highschool at the time, I said "listen here you son of a bitch you have never cared anything about me now, so don't start now". So we did not have a good life after that for a while but I went to the military and after I came back from the service we were very close after that.</p>	<p>Relationship with father growing up</p>

<p>Danielle: and you talked about that your relationship with your father wasn't because of your sexuality</p>	
<p>Butch: no</p>	
<p>Danielle: and when did you know you were gay?</p>	<p>When he knew he</p>
<p>Butch: ohh, from a very young age, well, I didn't know I was gay, I just knew that I had this sexual attraction to men, you know, I didn't know about anything because it was in the 1950s and certainly no one talked about anything like that. but I had girlfriends all through school, I would take them to proms and stuff like that, then they would come home with me and [unclear: I/they] have sex with the boy next door. (laughter) Knew something wasn't right.</p>	<p>was gay</p>
<p>Danielle: And so when did you come out?</p>	
<p>Butch:Um, really when I was in the military. I knew then, I got taken to a couple gay bars, in um upstate illinois, so great lakes and I went to chicago, and then my first gay bar in chicago in the 1970's and that was quite an eye opener. and I said "my god, this is a whole world about being gay" and a whole bunch of people in the military and it was quite different. so I came out then, and I was home on leave and my mother expected me to be really excited about being home and I was kind of like depressed, so I had written her about my trip to, from great lakes it was easy to go to Milwaukee, it was easy to take the train to</p>	<p>Coming out in the military</p>
<p>Milwaukee, so I started seeing someone out there and she said "you don't seem to be happy to be home" and I said "well, its fine." and she, my mother, the great inquisitor, she said "I have to ask, are you on drugs?" because drugs were the big thing then you know, and I said "no, no I am not on drugs" and she said "well then, are you involved with michael?" and I said "Yes" and she said "well do you think you need help?" and I said "do you think I need help?" and she said "no, but I thought it was my place to ask."</p>	<p>When his mom and him first talked about him being gay.</p>

<p>Danielle: That seems like a nice conversation that you had</p>	
<p>Butch: It was.</p>	
<p>Danielle: And so, what sort of challenges did you deal with in coming out? did you come out in the military?</p>	
<p>Butch: Yes, not, so many of my friends were in the military with me and [unclear] it was a time where we were still in the Vietnam war, and it was a time where we were coming back, military personnel, so many people like were like trying to decrease plagued people all over the place, and there was a huge cutback, or, looking at gay people in the military and one of our, Admiral Zumwalt had not come to the military yet, and so the person that was on my base, he really made a conscious effort to rid gay people of his command and um, many people that I was associated with were rounded up and taken away and put in like a little special place, for like people who were probably going to be discharged and they were no longer associated with the other people around there. and many of them had undesirable discharges and were kicked out. My name was bannered about and people knew I associated with them and so they associated me with that group also, and they kept bringing me in and asking me questions and things like that and I said "if you want to charge me with something then charge me with something but I am not telling you anything." and so because I had been associated with those people for a length of time they decided to bring me to mast to be discharged from the Military, but they couldn't prove anything so I got a general discharge under honorable conditions and it was the government that really set my path in life because, when I was in highschool I thought I was going to be a business major and had all business courses and they decided I was going to be a hospital carman because they were going to ship my ass to vietnam and so when I was reassigned back to Great Lakes, I was just</p>	<p>Being gay in the Vietnam war</p> <p>Dishonorable discharges</p> <p>Discharge under Honorable Conditions.</p> <p>Business major but Military formed his future</p>

<p>waiting, I was developed to be a senior corman on their intensive care unit there, so when I got out, I had all this military medical education so it was easy then to go from there to being an operating room technician and I went to nursing school, all on the military's dime so, so it was good</p>	<p>career.</p>
<p>Danielle: wow, that is amazing, and so was it easy for you to find a gay community in your local area?</p>	
<p>Butch: it was because when I went to, after I left the service I went to Milwaukee to live and I had started hanging out with this one person, and so he was friends with one of the bartenders, the local people. So when you get involved with a bar staff in a given area everyone knows you and it's very very easy. So I got to be pretty well known in the gay community of Milwaukee but I broke up with that boyfriend and decided, actually, I had a very bad breakup with that boyfriend, tried to end my life and my mother and father came to Milwaukee to bring me home and so that's when I would probably eventually move to, back to Ohio. And so I did that. I probably was maybe there about a, came(went) back to milwaukee for about 3 more months. Submitted my notice and then moved my stuff back to Ohio. But Ohio was, because Ohio being the redneck place it was, you know, everyone knows that well "that's where the queers go" there, "well really, well thanks!"</p> <p>(laughter)</p>	<p>Gay community in Milwaukee</p> <p>Move back to Ohio</p>
<p>Danielle: So you mentioned you went to nursing school and then you had mentioned in your paper that you had working at Mercy Hospital in 1980?</p>	
<p>Butch: Right</p>	
<p>Danielle: Were you out at work?</p>	
<p>Butch: Yes I was, and it was a very strange place Mercy Hospital, during that time. I was the</p>	<p>Being gay and out</p>

<p>first man they ever hired as a nurse in the operating room. I was the first non-mercy nurse that they hired also, they had a school for nursing there. The only other non-mercy nurse was a graduate from, umm, out in Windham, St. Joseph's, she was from there so they had a school of nursing there. So they are all Catholic girls and so when they hired me they didn't know what to do. First they found out that I was a Lutheran Boy, and so that kinda like upset them, and then they found out I was gay and I thought they would fall off their chair. But I didnt hide that fact, as opposed to the woman who was their supervisor; she was a big bull dyke. I mean she walked like a mountain and nobody thought it was strange, her and her "girlfriend", her and her roommate were roommates ever since but no one would ever talk about the two of them, it was like "oh yes, they are just friends and they live together" that was the good 'ole Mercy group and they just like, whatever it was, was and no one would ever talk about it.</p>	<p>at Mercy in the 1980s</p>
<p>Danielle: And how long did you work at Mercy for?</p>	
<p>Butch: Probably for about 8 years.</p>	
<p>Danielle: And did you, I guess you kind of covered this a little bit, did you ever feel any stigma against you while you were working there?</p>	
<p>Butch: More as a man than that I was gay because I mean they just didn't know what to do with me. They decided- How could I ever work in an OR and touch women's private parts? you know, and so it went that way for a long time and finally I said something and I was annoyed and (I) confronted my supervisor with some different stuff and she said "well fine, then tomorrow you are gonna be in such-and-such a room" and I said "fine, what are the cases?" and she said "well the first case is a vaginal hysterectomy and it is going to be on Sister So-and-So and when Sisters come into the OR, Mother Superior comes with them and</p>	<p>Stigma at work about being a man. How he confronted the stigma.</p>

<p>Mother Superior sits in the room with them and she used to be the OR Supervisor here". So I thought well I am either fired or, this is gonna work out ok. I had a warm up jacket, I am always a pretty hot blooded person in the OR, I've been working in the OR for years and so Mother Superior came up and she was chilly so I gave her my warm up jacket and she was comfortable and the night before (the surgery) I like looked at prepping. So vaginal hysterectomy, ok (does some hand gestures like looking at a diagram), no extra time on any given place. And so I really planned out my whole day taking care of Sister-whatever-her-name-was and at the end, Mother (Superior) asked me, gave me my jacket back and I said "oh no! keep it, the recovery room is cold too" because she went down there with them. She brought it back to me the next morning and said "thank you, Sister so-and-so got really excellent care!" she was really happy that I was her nurse and that was the last I heard of anybody having any objection to me being on any case.</p>	
<p>Danielle: That sounds really great, and why did you leave Mercy?</p>	
<p>Butch: I left Mercy to go to, I thought I was going to move to Springfield, Massachusetts. Again, some little man, thought that I should come to live with him in Springfield, MA. I moved there for one month and it was just really a horrible mistake and so I moved back and when I moved back (to Maine), Mercy Hospital did not want to hire me back because I had maybe shared too much, when i was leaving. That was probably the best thing that ever happened to me because I went to Brighton Medical Center after that when it was still working as a Hospital and went to work in their OR as their OR Educator, and then my career took off really from there, after that. So that's, that's why I left.</p>	<p>Moved to Springfield, MA then back to ME</p>
<p>Danielle: When did you first become aware of HIV/AIDS</p>	
<p>Butch: Um, so, uh, I'm one of the Harbor master, the original Harbor Master's of Maine and</p>	<p>First AIDS patient</p>

<p>uh, we had, one of our members was the first aids patient here in Maine, Stephen Genteel. And uh, he was, we called them Toy. The reason why we call him Toy is because, um, we were on a like invasion of New York and we went to, um, all Albany, NY, where he lived and uh, everybody thought Toy was cute and we jokingly like kidnapped and, went and put him in my car and um, the people who were with us said, well, what, were you guys going? I said, we're going onto Rochester are spending the night there and then we'll be back this way. And so they, and they said to Stephen, do you mind? He said, no, but someone needs to feed my cat!</p>	<p>in Maine, Stephen Genteel Kidnapping Stephen</p>
<p>And so, you know, uh, when, when Steven then came after he got, and he was in school, he Graduated as a social worker and he went to work and, I was still working at mercy, but he came and started working at Maine Med. He was a social worker at Maine Med and he came, started being sick and he was, uh, had Kaposi Sarcoma, um, was what they first found when he was diagnosed. And so we knew him very well. So I was working with him, uh, sometimes doing some home care with him. And, uh, when he got really sick he had wanted to move back to New York where he was from and so he did that, but then people around here where, um, knowing a bunch of things and so I was one of the really first workers on the, uh, Maine Aids hotline when it was still in the housed, in the state theater building as a part of the, one of the phone banks. It was there for other reasons, but, so it was interesting doing that.</p>	<p>Stephen's background Maine AIDS Hotline</p>
<p>Danielle: And just to clarify for the record, are you HIV positive?</p>	
<p>Butch: I'd rather not answer that question</p>	
<p>Danielle: Okay. How do you feel that HIV/AIDS affected the local gay community?</p>	
<p>Butch: How do you feel that HIV/AIDS affected the local gay community? Um, it</p>	<p>HIV/AIDS and</p>

<p>devastated it for a while. I mean, the lesbian population really soared and they come out and we were, uh, I'd always been, Ohio the gay people were here and the lesbians were here and never the Twain shall meet, you know. But when I came to Maine, I've really met some very amazing lesbian people. And uh, Judy never as, who used to be the owner of the Just Friends, which is where Katahdin, no, not Katahdin. It's a bar, it's a sports bar run by lesbians, but it's all gay bar. Um, anyway, it's on Spring Street. (Danielle: Flask?) Yes. Right. And so that was Judy's bar and so she was one of the good friends of mine and i used to go in her bar and sit down. And that's where I met one of the biggest lesbians at the time, Kathy Russo and I was sitting at the bar and I felt this arm, a hand come down on my shoulder and arm and she said, " BOY, YOU 'RE IN MY SEAT" I turned around, there's this person. And Judy who was a tiny, tiny woman, she leapt across her bar and she said, "you put that boy down, he's with me". And so I got to be friends with Kathy at times and when she was sober enough. Um, and then I met her years ago, after when I started with the bar and um, I said, yes, Kathy Russo. And I said, yea we've met. And she said, "oh, was it a good meeting?" I said, "it was a memorable meeting." Um, so, you know, that was, I'm sorry, your original question?</p>	<p>how it affected the community</p> <p>Getting closer with the lesbian community.</p> <p>Flask.</p>
<p>Danielle: It's alright, how do you feel that it affected the local population?</p>	
<p>Butch: Yes. And so I think the lesbian population really been showed how much that they could be involved in the community as a whole and not separate. Um, and uh, as far as a hard message to go, it took four or five people like bang, Bang, Bang. And so we had a like set back because no one would want to join our masses, because they would say "oh they are all dying" you know. And it was um, it was quite, quite devastating.</p>	<p>Lesbian community really showing they could get involved in the community.</p>
<p>Danielle: And so you mentioned already the first person that you lost in that epidemic and I</p>	

<p>know there were a lot of people from the community that were lost from HIV aids. Did you lose many close friends?</p>	
<p>Butch: Several. Oh yeah. I remember saying to my partner at the time, we were in the church in Boston and uh, we'd have like a really big [unsure] in the summer and I said if I have to attend one more fucking funeral</p>	
<p>Danielle: Ok, so let's change gears a little bit. Jarod is gonna ask you some questions now.</p>	
<p>Jarod: Yeah, so you had mentioned, in there, I guess in the pamphlet that had turned in initially that you were a co-owner at Blackstones. So I would like to have you talk a little but about that if you could please.</p>	<p>Question about Blackstones</p>
<p>Butch: Yes. My partner and I purchased Blackstones from the original developer of the bar and um, it was an interesting time. He and I were together for like 33 years, married for only three, but it was a very close knit community from the bar. And we've got, I got ,developed really well with good close friends, you know, after we bought it. We bought it in like September, so the first holiday coming up would have been Thanksgiving, he said, uh, we'll close for the holiday and something like that and we posted it. And uh, some of the patrons came to say "Why are you closing on Thanksgiving?" Cuz, we thought people would want to spend time with their families and he said "these people are family". So we didn't.</p>	<p>Purchase of Blackstones Patrons of Blackstones Wanting it open on holidays</p>
<p>Jarod: Now, uh, who did you Co Own Blackstone's with?</p>	
<p>Butch: Ralph Cousak</p>	<p>Co owner of Blackstones</p>
<p>Jarod: and, uh, when, when did the decision occur in like, I'm assuming there was probably a conversation back and forth on when was we're gonna purchase this, this place. And become co-owners of a gay bar?</p>	<p>Further Question on buying</p>
<p>Butch: Well it came very in-opportunely, because I mean the person who owned the bar,</p>	

<p>um, at the time, was like a cooperation. Mostly the person who and im not going to remember first his name, but Robinson was his last name, but the owner of the money backer of that was a person from, A married man from the Boston area. His wife was a lawyer up for a judgeship and she did nothing. It was probably not a good idea for her husband to be owning a gay bar even though it would be in Maine when she was going to be up for a judgeship. And so he divested in some of the bar, sold it to Tommy Robinson and umm, Tommy was a nice person and really good person, but he had a drug habit. And uh, Ralph was one of the bartenders there and so he almost like became the manager who is so like, there's so much. And then he left the bar when Tommy started having financial difficulties and he was going to go, go work someplace else and than Tommy got sick and died. I don't remember if he died of an overdose or HIV, or whatever. But the original person came back to Ralph and said, I would like to sell the bar to you. And so it was like not much time to think about it, had like about maybe 30 days to do this, you know, I said, well, I can't stop my job, you know, because we'd didn't know how much, how much do you ever make on a bar like that, you know, because it was a small bar that Time.</p>	<p>Blackstones</p> <p>How Owning Blackstones came to be.</p>
<p>Butch : Portland had at least three, four gay bars that were gay bars and then the other places that people went. And so we didn't know how much money that would generate., you know, so we went ahead and I said, I'll keep my job, but I'll come and help as much as I can, you know. And um, but I mean he was the Mr. Blackstone, I mean, you saw him there all the time. I was a person behind the scene more or less was a bouncer or the manager on duty a lot of times as a bar back by never actually tended bar there.</p>	<p>Ralph being Mr. Blackstone and Butch's Roles at the bar.</p>
<p>Jarod : Um, what are some of your most memorable moments? Moments at Blackstones?</p>	
<p>Butch: So every time I walk in the bar and see something, oh my God, I remember when</p>	

<p>that was put there. I don't remember why that was there, you know, umm stupid things about, you know. Like the first time I ever got hit there, you know, we had a customer who was not behaving well and they wanted to take their drink out of the bar. I say you know your not aloud take a drink outside. And so they took a drink and they had hold of the cup and wasn't gonna let it be. I said so fine. So I turned the drink upside down and drink, poured down their pants. I said now you can take the glass. I don't care. He threw the glass down and uh, started to come to me and I knew I was like way too small for it. And so I ran at him and pinned him against the door and um, that was good. And then people are starting to come to my defense. But he reached up and over the um, my body and then came down right here on the base of my eye and there's a blood vessel that runs right there and when he hit that it really turned hard and you know, it was awful. And so that was my first time being hit certainly not the last, but first time being hit the bar, you know. Another one's I guess when we put up the facade, you know it's there now. It's a big piece on the top with pillars on it if you've ever been to the bar. you can see it, but people thought that was, it was always there. And so I' said oh god no, we put that there, "Unknown Word " this is not really part of the bar. It's like nailed to the bar. If you lean against it probably might come off. And so people thought was very funny and then when we cleaned and we were going to put that up. Then we we're going to stop and clean the bar after the bars went nonsmoking. And so we spent, we closed for like three or four days and we washed the ceiling. It has a beautiful tin ceiling in it. And so we washed the tin ceiling. And uh, the stuff just came down all over us, this brown. It wasn't brown soap when we put it up there it was white soap, and that came down. And uh, when we reopened many people asked if we re- painted the ceiling, I said no, we just washed it because it looked black and it was really a nice Patina, green, you know, so that. And then</p>	<p>First time being hit in the bar.</p> <p>Facades on the front of the bar.</p> <p>Cleaning the ceiling of Blackstones</p>
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<p>Christmas every year and decorating for Christmas was always, always fun.</p> <p>Jarod : That's awesome. Um, so this is a relatively kind of a similar question, but were there any particular periods of time that were like the best years of Blackstones over the course of the years or not?</p> <p>Butch: Um, Christmas every year. Very good. Very, very sharing. We've got to always do. Um, every holiday. We never closed it off on a holiday after that. So, um, we always had holidays at the bar so people would come and bring stuff. It would be like a covered dish and very community thing. So that was one and pride, certainly pride. Most people thought pride was a chance to get drunk and said, oh Geez, I'm too busy during pride. We were up in serving breakfast at the bar by 8:00 in the morning and then we had to go decorate our float and be at the parade. The higher mass is always filled, with hamburgers in the park. So I went, we went from the parade to the park to serve hamburgers. Was there until 5:00 and then we'd come from 5:00 back to the bar. The bar was packed with people, many who had been there drinking all day. So it's very hard crowd to handle, so it needed many, many people there and then we were there until closing that night at 1:00. So even though, you know, that's when I drank heavily between 12:30 and 1:00 when we, most people are um, uh, pretty much, pretty much gone, but pride is always a nice time, should have always been a nice time. And then of course, when any of the election things come up, you know, the very first, I'm never really political around here. I didn't know anybody when Senator Ann ran, ran for her first campaign. She used our bar as her, uh, election night headquarters and uh, Ethan Strimling was her, either her chief of staff or in charge of our election committee or something like that. So that's when I first met Ethan and I got to know him over the years, but he was there with Ann and we had a really great time. With all these great people</p>	<p>Christmas at Blackstones</p> <p>Pride at Blackstones</p> <p>Government function at Blackstones</p>
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<p>celebrating their victory in the bar was interesting.</p>	
<p>Jarod: So there was another bar that we had come across in some of our research and special collections and whatnot, and we couldn't find much about, um, a bar called cycles and I wondered if you could tell us a little bit more about that.</p>	
<p>Butch: Yeah, very much so, cycles. The sign for cycles actually is in Blackstones, along with many of the others. My husband at the time, Ralph was the first bartender, one of the first two people who have cycles ever hired. There used to be a poster for cycles and this and then someone like holding his arm like this and that was my husband's arm. So that was a home of the Harbor Masters in the very beginning. And the people who formed the Harbor Master's were uh, the two of them, the two bar owners, uh, Ralph and I and John Preston, and we were there and we met at cycles until the two original owners of cycles. Kind of like split up? One of them passed away and then one of them moved to Florida, I believe.</p>	<p>Cycles bar before it became Brian Boru's</p>
<p>Butch: Now, Do you know where Cycles used to be?</p>	
<p>Jarod: I do not know.</p>	
<p>Butch: Now the building where Brian Borus is.</p>	<p>Murder</p>
<p>Jarod: okay, yes, they had mentioned that and if in a few different situations.</p>	<p>Committed in</p>
<p>Butch: So it was cycles first and then became the Unicorn, a lesbian bar. Um, nice, nice place. Marion Tessie owned the Unicorn. The one thing I know a thing about Unicorn was a very, very, very handsome, tall, handsome young men because the bartender there was taken home by someone who came into community. We did not know but he went missing for a couple of days. Um, anyway, he finally ended up being found, found the bartender was killed in his community and he had wrapped his body up in the, eh in a rug in this apartment and try to get rid of him and that's when he was found. So that's one that always things that rang</p>	<p>relation to the Unicorn what Cycles became before Brian Boru</p>

in my mind about the Unicorn, but it's now Brian Boru.

Jarod: Um, so you touched on this a little bit so far and one of the things that we've done some research on and has been in our class towards is you think, you know, are gay bars still important for a community. And then how could they have kind of started to disappear a little bit?

Butch: Well, it's certainly not necessary for my current husband and I to go to Blackstones to feel comfortable sitting next to each other, holding hands around each other, um, because that's acceptable on any restaurant or bar here in the city of Portland, which is an awesome thing, you know, and oftentimes the first time a friend of mine met me for lunch at a umm The bar on Congress, Congress Street. Um, they said something about being gay, bisexual gay bar said, as the people who are here are probably gay, but you know, it's not really a gay bar. Uh, and so, you know, they were surprised at how open this city was. But still, I mean, Blackstone's is probably still the only place that you will go that I can feel free about really putting my hand on someone's butt. There's this friend of mine that I've known for years and years and years when he first came to the bar his names Dana, very young, cute boy when he first came to the bar, like I brushed up against his hand. And he was new to bar and he jumped in and I said, I'm sorry I didn't mean to startle you, but I was brushing, against my hand, but he felt the whole hand on his butt. And so it got to be that, that, that every time that Dana came to the bar I went, I said, I'm going to grab you now so we're going to desensitize your butt so you can walk through the bar without feeling too, you know, too, too bad about that. So every time to this day, when I see Dana at the bar, I have to, like I said, excuse me, and I'll go over and stand behind him and grab his butt.

How Butch feels in Portland in relation to the need for gay bars.

Blackstones being a very open place.

<p>Um, and so, you know, there are very few places you can still do that, either openly, jokingly or furiously trying to pick up someone. Some tweak just came up by someone pulled at the bar. Uh, they, they were complaining about someone being a free with their hands in a bar. And I thought the current manager of the Bar, uh, dealt with it very well. You know, if something happens, tell us, you know, we'll be happy to correct behavior, um, but still probably, and probably the only place that get away with wearing a jockstrap in the bar, you know, things like that.. So there are still places for that, depending on what your activity is.</p>	<p>Good ways bar owners have dealt with individuals being handsy.</p>
<p>Jarod: Why don't you think so many of the bars have closed,</p>	
<p>Butch: Um, cast business. I mean, I, I've known being in, being in the bar business, I was very thankful that I never got to be a drug person or um, I drink. And I like, I enjoy alcohol, like the taste of alcohol, but being around so many drunk people, um, really makes me stop drinking at a certain point and I'm very conscious of the amount that I drink and being a cast business. I've seen too many bar owners, um, sniff their profit up or you know, another way to do that. And people, the young man I went to Springfield for was a bar owner, strangely enough. And um, he thought he had a lot, Lots of friends and when he moved the business he thought he would. He closed for a while. We've been to the bar and they come back and all of these friends came. When I left, I said, you know, you don't have friends. I said, you have people who know you because you own this bar and if you think they're your friends, you're very sadly mistaken. And he thought, well, I was talking badly because I was leaving him a couple of years after that. He decided he was going to move. I think he moved to Atlanta, Georgia. Uh, and he came to a very sad point in his life because he found out that those people just liked him because he owned the bar. So you know, the need for bars. is sad. And why people don't just, again not to say gay bars. And anycast business. I know a lot of</p>	<p>Opinions on why bars have closed in general not just Gay Bars.</p> <p>Bars in general not being good businesses to be a part of.</p>

<p>straight people would ruin their life or probably the same, you know, and certainly is. It's a good pickup place. You know, if you're a single person and a bar, then you have a new boyfriend every, every month. You know, very seldom have I ever known a bar owner and i've known many over the years that ever kept long term partner.</p> <p>Jarod: Um, so next set of topic question is going to be kind of about Harbor Master's and I was more or less curious about what Harbor Master's was about. Uh, can you tell us a little bit more about that.</p> <p>Butch : Harbor Masters Started out as, of the five people I told you about and we started out to be, we are Portland's Leather club and um, so when we gave some of our paraphernalia to the special collections here, what's her name?</p> <p>Danielle: Julie</p> <p>Jarod: Wendy Chapkis</p> <p>Butch: Anyways one of the people in special collections her and I talked several times and um, and so she just took all the stuff she never really looked at. So then once she sat down to looked at some, she goes Oh my!</p> <p>Danielle: we did view the box</p> <p>Butch: Oh did you, Surprise, Surprise! (laughing)</p> <p>Butch: And so we started out to be, um, there was a lot of drags, big drag community and, still is in Portland, uh, and the leather community, the drag community is very close. No, certainly not birds of a feather, but birds of a feather in the disguise. Then you know, whether its leather or feathers it's still drag, you know, and people are some people who would just wear leather to just impress people yah know that's what it is. But um, so we were trying to be Portland's positive gay male image. You didn't have to be a drag queen to be</p>	<p>Harbor Master's</p> <p>Reaction of a Faculty member of Special Collections</p> <p>Portland's positive gay male image.</p>
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<p>openly gay or have a gay bar or something like that. So when Tom and Tom's tried to open the bar cycles, um, they wanted it to be a leather bar and the, because we were all complete, somebody had nice leather bars and big crowds and um, dress code, just stuff like that. And so they tried to initiate that and they couldn't do that because of Portland's population is too small. It's just like the restaurant people here who wants to enforce a dress code. You know, I remember when one of the big people who owned a yacht in the marina down there, he tried to come off their yacht and they said you can't come in here. Cause, there's a dress code. He said, fuck you, I'll buy this place instead.</p>	<p>Dress code problems in Portland.</p>
<p>All: Laughing</p>	<p>Became a neighborhood bar</p>
<p>Butch: And so the leather bar is the same way. I mean, you just couldn't have enough "Unknown" lot of people. So that's when we became more of a neighborhood bar. But that was our, you mentioned what was our purpose. People who try to join the Harbor Master's still to this day think we're a sex club and they're very disappointed when they come to our meetings and they sit down and we actually held a business meeting, you know, and they, and somebody turned to me and said when does the fun start? as soon as they say we're adjourned. Oh really? Okay. And so we, during them, so we go out to eat when we have our meetings because they are also lunch and dinner gatherings and so they asked when does the sex start. And I said when you go home.</p>	<p>do to lack of business.</p>
<p>Butch: I mean, and so some people thought that's what we're all about, you know, certainly. I'm not saying that there were no, nothing sexual ever happened between Harbor Masters, but it was not the reason why we were wanting assistance.</p>	<p>Other individuals misconceptions of Harbor Master's.</p>
<p>Jarod: Um, so obviously we had deduced from special collections in viewing the box. And by the way, we want to personally thank you for that donation. That was fantastic to go</p>	<p>Original Member of Harbor</p>

<p>through and learn about a lot of that stuff. It says Harbor Masters was formed in November of 1982. Were you involved from the beginning?</p> <p>Butch: One of the original members</p> <p>Jarod: and uh, why did you choose to get involved or why did you guys as a group choose to develop the group?</p> <p>Butch: Well, the bar cycles had only been open maybe like a couple months and Tom and Tom knew of Ralph and so they contacted Ralph about bartending down there. He had left, was working at Maria's restaurant one time, but he had an appendix rupture so he was out of work and not able to do anything. So we helped them decorate their bar, in having come from larger communities outside of the Portland area, being around gay bars, like the Gold Coast in Chicago or the different bars in New York. We knew of like kind of like what we wanted to see, you know. And so our aim was then to provide that here in Portland. We really know that was the type of bar and we always wondered why Portland never had a baths and when the baths were big you know, and so I said, well, here in Portland about the end of one year, you would have had everybody that isn't meant to be had in one year. And so there would be no one else to have. (Laughing) I said, okay. They said, well why do you close a 1:00? And I said, here, Portland, Maine, if you not find it by 1:00, you're not going to find it, you know. So there are reasons why Portland is the way it is.</p> <p>Jarod: And Are you still an active member of the Harbor Masters?</p> <p>Butch: Yes, I am one of the two, what we call Rear Admirals. We are military navy in our formation. Ralph and I were the only two people that were promoted to what we call Rear Admiral and um, it's more or less an honorary title. I am currently going this coming year, going to be the Harbor Master's secretary and my husband is a our road captain.</p>	<p>Master's</p> <p>How Harbor Master's came to be.</p> <p>Current titles in Harbor Master's</p>
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<p>Jarod: Can you talk about some of the friendships you made through being a member of the Harbor Masters?</p> <p>Butch: Extensively. The Harbor Masters had members all the way to Nova Scotia we have a member who's in Nova Scotia. Frankie's like all over the Internet. You ever see a leather man with a big mustache and a cowboy hat on facebook. That's frank. And he's from Nova Scotia and he goes everywhere. He's retired and he just goes everywhere. He's a really great ambassador for us and we have members as far south as Florida and as far west as Michigan. So our associate members are like all over our full members that are voting members are probably like down to about 10 now. Um, but our, our friendships are, we created because of Harbor Master's, We belong to a group of, uh, coordinate people. The AMCC, uh, American Motorcycle Club Coordinate. No Coordinating Council. That's what. And umm so we go there, go from city to city where those meetings are. And hopefully in March I will become the AMCC president. Lots of friends all over.</p> <p>Jarod: Fantastic.</p> <p>Jarod : Um, so some of the next questions, there may have been some confusion on my part as well as to some of the people that you may have to show up to the meetings for Harbor Master's about SM or BDSM in general. And so is Harbor Master's when you first got into that or is it that speculation inaccurate for me to ask that question?</p> <p>Butch: No, that is exactly why. We were. We were known to be BDSM people and um, certainly when we come out we bring out some accouterments that maybe would lead people to lead to that. So I usually like to wear a strap on my, on my belt, carry a small whip or a paddle tucked into my pants on the back, you know, and you know, it's a conversation starter</p>	<p>Other members of Harbor Master's outside of Maine.</p> <p>Affiliation with AMCC and Butch's coming title there.</p> <p>BDSM and the Harbor Master's</p> <p>Goods used in BDSM practice.</p>
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<p>or something like that. And so it is interesting to see how different people react to something just like a small paddle. And my, the paddle I carry mostly has a heart in it. And they say, well why does it have a heart in it? I say if I smack you with hard enough that will leave a heart imprint on your ass, but it's mostly a toy that I use on people's,men's bare chest and belly, just as a noisemaker. Much of what we do is like smoke and mirrors. It's A. People think, uh, BDSM is like pain and stuff like that. Some people might perceive it as that. And so I've taught a lot of people we went to, when these have symposium, the uh University of Maine to have a symposium, gay symposium you know, from campus to campus, like the University of Maine Presque Isle hosted one year. And uh, we were asked to give a talk about BDSM. So our first class was maybe like 15 people about "unknown . Walk me through the class, you know, through the group earlier. I can pay "Unknown". Uh, so they'll come, they'll come, you can pick them out. And they did. And uh, and a couple of lesbians and I thought that's odd. These aren't butch dykes either what is wrong with this? Uh, and so Penny Rich was one of them. I'm sure you've met Penny. If you've not interviewed penny you should. Uh, anyway, Penny Rich was one of them. And uh, so she asked this question about different stuff and she said, well, what all things do you consider BDSM? I said, well, we really run the gambit from the very small to the very severe. And I said, you know, I'm doing my restraining. Some people get into verbal abuse, some people really like to be smacked around a little bit, you know, so it really depends on, on the people. As long as you have two consenting adults, I said, why do you ask? And she said, well, I guess I wondered if like some of the things we knew or some of the folks that we know are into BDSM. I said, well, what do you mean? And she said, well, something about her girlfriend tied her up was silk scarves. I said, you're into bondage lady. And then she says, "Unknown". And then she'd</p>	<p>Gay Symposium information at UMPI.</p> <p>Penny Rich.</p> <p>Penny Rich questions about BDSM.</p>
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<p>talk about water sports. And I said, well, water sports usually runs in that gambit of being into the BDSM community. Sso we ended up with a good conversation and then the people who are running this symposium asked if we would repeat it the next day. So I said, okay, the room was packed mostly with women and so we had some really frank conversations about, you know, um, and some of the things that they were saying and mentioning. No, don't ask me. I have no idea about, you know, thank God I'm a nurse and so I know what the female anatomy looks like other than that, you know, "Unknown"</p>	
<p>Jarod: uh. So with the Harbor Master's was when you first became involved in that community or is that something that had prior occurred? And then you guys formed Harbor Masters afterwards.</p>	<p>Leather organization locations and</p>
<p>Butch: We were all from a places where they had leather organizations. And so I was from Ohio, Youngstown, Ohio, and both Ralph and I were members and we had formed a group there called the Young Sound Exiles and our closest associate group was from Cleveland, the Stallions of Cleveland. So we were really ingrained in the, uh, in the BDSM community. And the two Toms were from New York City and from California, so they knew it very well. And then John Preston was an SM writer. Um, if you don't know John. He's a, he was a hysterical man. He looked very stern you know, um, but he was such a wimp in many ways. He was a top and he liked younger men. And there was always a Preston Boy, someplace around close, sometimes more than one as many as three, if I can remember. Uh, but it, you know, John, one of those people you'd go over and like hit him like that, but he worked. He was famous for he never wore leather boots. Uh, he finally bought a pair. We went on a book signing tour and he got lather boots. He tried on all the people he knows boots before he decided what kind of boots he wanted to wear, he usually wore penny loafers, like, um, like</p>	<p>other places Harbor Master's were from.</p> <p>Butch's experiences with John Preston.</p>

<p>from beans. He was a big Beans person. Um, and um, so one of the ways early on that I used to know people or get to know people, uh, when they had T shirts on and you could see their Nipples, I would walk up and tweak their nipples say how you doing? And he was very much not into nipple play at all. He would go OWW!, I said, did I just hear John Preston saying OWW!</p>	<p>First experience buying chaps.</p>
<p>Jarod: So, there must have been a time when you first purchased leather goods or BDSM materials. What was that experience like for you? And I guess if you could elaborate on that?</p>	
<p>Butch: Um, the first pair of chaps I ever wore or ever purchased I bought in Chicago, so going to Touches' leather place in Chicago was not an unusual place, for leather people to be. And so, um, so when you get measured for chaps it's a very intimate process because they really want to know your goods dimensions, you know, and so, uh, all that stuff, when you put them on for the first time, uh, you want to make sure that everything fits well and things that are supposed to be punched out are punched out, you know. And uh, and so I was being helped by someone at Touches' where I bought them, they then fitted me with them and I said, well, I didn't know that buying these things was going to be such an enjoyable process. You know, um, and so that. But then my first big purchase was my pair of chaps.</p>	<p>Other BDSM memorabilia purchased.</p>
<p>Um, my first memorable thing after that was my half, I have a bear cap and so you never touch a leather man's cap, you know, if you want to see it, you can ask them to see are their cap and you know, but you can't just reach up and grab it off their head. And so I'm much more forgiving than I ever was. I'm a slapper and uh, and so one time I was with someone and they were just trying to be pushy and they said something to me and they said that they were 20 and I said a cute boy and they said is, that's the best you got. And I went (spwoosh) and knocked him over and I said, no, I said, but careful about your questions. Um, and that</p>	<p>Never touch a leathersmans cap.</p>

<p>was my other most memorable purchase. But, and so little things you buy. I buy small things to remember trips, you know, My first leather band was at fire island and stuff like that. So they were bought around memorable trips. The pair of boots I still own that are almost falling apart, with the exception of the sole. So I had them resoled and the soles are really nice since I still look at them and say, oh, such great soles. Um, I bought them in San Francisco next to a bar called Daddy's. It was a shoe store and went in there? And a young man come over and tried to help me. And so I sit down and had this, I brought my, my box over, sit down and there's one of those like thing you put your foot on in front of me. So he like, scooted down and he pushed that aside and the end, he took my boot and my shoe off, put my foot in my boot and tied it up like this and he put my boot right in his crotch, in his lap. And I, hmmm this is a pretty good service. (laughing) And uh, when I was done and I put the boots on, he said, well, get up, walk around, try them. So he stood up. He had no underwear on very obviously, and he was leaking with pre cum. You could see it in front, his whole pants were wet. This is one of the most memorable shoe shopping experience I have ever had (laughing). And, but he was a good salesman and not only did I buy those boots. I bought other things and I never did see him again. I gave him my number and said we're staying here at the hotel feel free to come over. He never did come over, but he was a great salesman. (laughing) I still have those boots.</p>	<p>First experience buying boots.</p>
<p>Jarod: Are there specific locations in the Portland area that cater to the BDSM community?</p> <p>Butch: Other than Blackstone's? My house..</p> <p>Jarod: Or maybe in reference to. well, like leather goods in general?</p> <p>Butch: Laughing" leather goods. Oh, clothing. Silly Me Well, I have one of the, one of the</p>	<p>Where to buy leather and BDSM materials in the</p>

<p>only um, play space basements, I know of in the Portland area, so people are always talking to me about play spaces that I see at leather vendors. umm Condom Sense used to have a place where she would leave or she would like do like small toys. I think one of the first whips I saw someone buy was at Condom Sense. There's a woman, down My Essentials, I think she's down in like the Biddeford area or something. So all of that that if you asked her to come, she'll come and sell to you. Um, so it's, it's hard to find that around here. Um, but you know, if you go to places, any of the larger cities usually have a vendor, a leather vendor or two at their, um, at their gatherings.</p>	<p>Portland area.</p>
<p>Jarod: Was there any push back from within the gay community in relation to BDSM as it was becoming more of a thing in the Portland area?</p>	<p>Experience in</p>
<p>Butch: Yeah, I myself am probably one of those people who could probably explain it best, I have a lot of people because when I first came up from the Chicago area to live and living in Milwaukee. There was this young couple and they were the first leather couple I ever saw. I never really got to know them, but I was like, every time they were around my jaw just opened up and watch them. I watch them like it was a uh, they were amazing together. Uh, and so cute, so sexy, just everything they do, but it's just about who they were. And so, you know, having been the person that probably remembered coming from the community that was mostly drag queens, I had no idea of what it was like to be that type of person. And then you can see how when I was that type of person with a bunch of drag queens. I had to act feminine because I thought that was the way I was supposed to act. And then when I got to be around other people and you could really be yourself and relax and be a masculine person and still find men attractive and stuff like that. You know, Tom of Finland, this one of my favorite, uh, things were we went. We just had the Tom Finland, a movie maybe didn't know</p>	<p>discovering the gay leather community.</p>
	<p>Tom Finland Movie and Exhibit in Portland.</p>

<p>that like last year or something like that. The Tom Finland Movie. They to the space on, gallery on Congress Street and then had gathering there. Tom Finland does just an extremely erotic drawing. I mean he makes the, he draws them up with a big chest like this and the waist like this, you know, bulges that come out like that. Um, it, it is interesting. And so when people started to react around here, I said, listen, I remember when I was a person standing on your side watching these two men and I said, all I ask is you come with me for one outing or one trip and just observe before you make any judgement. When Harbor Master's met we met in public so people would see what we did. Um, it's very much different than when you find a way to walk someone's walk. It's different.</p>	<p>Harbor Master's</p>
<p>Jarod: Now we were going to special collections. We came across some different documents as far as like events, Harbor Masters may have put on what are the ones that the two of them actually were, um, there was a competition for Mr. Drummer for Drummer magazine as well as some towards Toys for kids. I don't know if you could talk a little bit about those things.</p>	<p>Autumn Fest.</p>
<p>Butch: The very first one we ever did was Autumn Fest and so um Autumn Fest was held right across. No, it was like, almost like where this building is here. No, maybe one building down. It was held in what used to be a parking lot, a dirt lot here on the grounds of USM and at that time the Harbor Masters and whatever they call the University gay group, I don't remember if it was Charlie Dwyer was president of that group and it was such a strange meeting of people Charlie Dwyer was a young preppy boy and John Preston was our president and so John and Charlie got together and Charlie became one of John's boys and so we had an event called Autumn Fest and got together and it was a like a all weekend group. We did like leather dance night, we had a huge lot a flea market and that's what we did here</p>	<p>Charlie Dwyer. MLGPA</p>

<p>in the, in the, in the lot. And at the end of that then like some of the more political people got together and they came away with a group called MLGPA and that's how, MLGPA was formed and we were the first donors of money. They have our check still. Um, the Harbor Masters donated money to MLGPA to fund their beginning. Dale Mc. Cormick, I think was there first president and umm a Robin Lambert was our treasurer that at the time. And so that was our first big thing. Uh, the toy drive we do every year in couple of weeks you can come to Blackstone's on the third Saturday of the month is called night before Christmas come in your pajamas or what you could get away with being pajamas (Laughing) um, maybe people will come in in night shirts, pajamas. Some people come in just like a very small pair of boxer shorts, you know, of course the more Christmassy they can become is good. But, and then we used to have someone come up and dress up as Santa Claus and that Santa Claus, one of our members was a built guy and he had nice legs. And so we made Santa shorts for him. We had this big chair that Santa would sit on when he would come and he'd be getting in his bag and give out toys too people and if they said they'd been good Santa said, okay, you have to leave. If you have been bad, then you get something from Santa's Bag.</p> <p>(Laughing) So we always look for a naughty boys. What was the other one?</p> <p>Jarod: It looked like you guys had done an event for Drummer Magazine.</p> <p>Butch: Mr. Drummer. So yeah, we were the first people in New England and we held the first one Mr. New England Drummer Contest. And umm so my previous partner, Rob had been in the Blue Boy Competition like years ago before I met him you know, Drummers Magazine. He actually appeared Naked in Drummers Magazine. Uh, and uh, so well after I met him and he said this just came out and I said, oh, interesting. And so while he made him who he was here, he became Mr. Maine Blue Boy and went to that competition. So we had</p>	<p>Toy Drive for BDSM products.</p> <p>Christmas pajama party at Black Stone's.</p> <p>Mr. Drummer Magazine and Mr. Drummer New England Contest.</p>
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<p>an idea about what competitions would be like and when we got to join other competitions from other places and Drummer Magazine, if you've ever seen that, uh, is a really nice, pretty pure BDSM ah magazine. And uh, so he wanted to know if Drummer would like to come and put on a contest here in New England and so they said, we'll sanction the title to you, but you have to do all the work yourself. Uh, Tony Dipolase probably, he's from New York he's a person who does events and he made a lot of money about other people off of other people's work. But, um, we did that. And uh, our first winner was Blaine? Zane Blair. He was a beautiful blonde hair man with a nice chest and umm very shy, uh, appearance too. I mean he became a Preston boy and then, um, so we had the contestants. We wanted to send Blaine to nationals but he didn't want to go. The first person who we actually sent on to national competition and Drummer competition in Los Angeles. San Francisco was a school teacher, um, who's a black man from Boston and such a gorgeous man and personality as his, not his real name, but the name he went by was Al because he was a school teacher and didn't want to put his name out there and he went to the national competition in San Francisco and came in third place ah great, great time. And so we were the first one to do that. We stopped having them because the leather men that they believe that the people would call eligible to hold that title in Portland were scarce, uh, at the, at the time. And so the title dropped away, and so then the people from Boston and one of the groups in Boston, leather clubs there asked us if they would, if we would mind or could they take in the title. So, we allowed them to take the title of Mr. Drummer New England to Boston and it's been there for a while.</p>	<p>Tony Dispolase</p> <p>Zane Blair, First winner.</p> <p>Al, first winner sent to nationals.</p> <p>Handing the contest to affiliates in Boston.</p>
<p>Jarod: This actually might bring me to the question that I wasn't sure I was gonna ask or not, but we noticed in the flier that had talked about, Mr. Drummer New England, there was</p>	<p>Relationship with</p>

<p>a bar in Boston I believe. And I don't know how to pronounce it. It was German, it said Dreizhen or something like that.</p> <p>Butch: It's not a bar it's another club. So Dreizhen in the, in the German language means 13. There were 13 of them in the very beginning and they were one of the clubs that we were very close to. We have a brotherhood sealed with each other, all of their members were our members, associates and vice versa. And some of our great and very good friends. We're membership holders from Dreizhen from Boston.</p> <p>Jarod: Now switching gears a little bit did Blackstone's, Cycles or Harbor Master's do any education or fundraising or direct support for people facing HIV AIDS?</p> <p>Butch: Yeah, all the time. All the time. We were um, many people. Um, so my previous partner and myself became members of a Quilter for the Names Project quilt. And so the two of us and our boy at the time, umm Jamie who is now around here, he's a DJ. I don't see him much anymore. He's over 40 years old now. Uh, we went to, um, to Boston, to DC for a quilt display and were umm Quilt Captains. And so the first time we went was just Ralph and I and umm very powerful and so when we came back we started the Names Project here with a bunch of people and so we were making panels for each other, you know, for different people. And we had to make them for some "Unknown".</p> <p>Jarod : Can you tell us a little bit about your dating and relationship history?</p> <p>Butch: Wow. How long do you have (Laughing). And so it was strange when I first came out, I was attracted to older men, you know, and I hear some of the people of the young people saying, well, it's a constant struggle or something like that, you know, and I get it. There will probably always be those people that were really forced into sex, um, and not in a good way, but I sought out people like, um, I can tell you on the street that I lived in in Ohio,</p>	<p>Dreizhen leather club in boston.</p> <p>Names Project and Quilt created for individuals fallen to HIV/AIDS.</p> <p>Being aware of</p>
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<p>I could tell you were all cute boys were and how many of them that I had been with in one way or another. Uh, I started being sexually active in the third grade and I can remember when the classes got together to see like a movie that they shared. You wouldn't remember the old seats, there weren't chairs, there were seats and wide enough for two small people. So one of the cute boys in the class would come over and we'd sit together and we had a nice body contact while we're sleeping while we're sitting. So on the um, on the play field and going outside. We were like sexually exploring different things. So at a very young age I started having sex with men. Never. I still have something not very common. My Gold Star. I've never been sexually with a woman. And so I'm, I'm the total aversion in that way, uh, and so dating was, I've always been with someone one time or another. I guess that's a weakness in my and my character. But a long time I mean, I worked for a period when I first got in the military, but lived with Michael for two years and Milwaukee for two years with him then someone else in Milwaukee for two years and then came back home to finish nursing school and met someone there and met with them for two years and I said, I've got to stop this two year cycle. Uh, but then I met my first long term partner Richard and he and I were together for like 12 years and then Ralph moved into our relationship while we were still together and so that was the first "menage et trois" I'd ever lived with. And then Ralph decided he would come to Portland, Maine. He was from here. And so Dick and I split that time. He stayed in the House that we had purchased and he was going to stay there, uh, I moved here with Ralph, uh, you know, it kind of like a trimmed that first year, but it was, it turned out pretty good 33 years later. I thought after, you know, we'd had during that, during that 33 years, we've had two other significant young men come with this, Jamie being the first one. And then Chris was the second one. And so having that happen, uh, our</p>	<p>Sexuality at a young age.</p> <p>Never intimate with a woman.</p> <p>Relationship with Micheal.</p> <p>Relationship with Ralph.</p> <p>Relationship with Richard.</p> <p>Other men in Butch's life.</p>
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<p>relationship never was closed. Uh, I thought we would be able to weather any storm and not so and so after we were married for three years, we came to a point where we could not live together. And so I thought from there I thought, well, I'm now at the ripe old age. What? Oh, almost like 60 years old starting to date again. And that was hard. And so what do you do? What do you do? Then, you know, who would ever want to date me? And so I was on the Internet with different people and so it came to a dinner and then I went to Blackstones with a young man and I said, he says your about my age and I said how old do you think I am? And he said, oh no, your a few years older than I am. I said, probably a few. And I said, why? How old are you? And he said, I'm 23. And he was the one that had asked me out and I thought, Jesus Christ, I am old enough to be your grandfather. (Laughing)</p>	<p>Splitting of long term relationship.</p> <p>Dating over 50.</p>
<p>Danielle: Must feel good though right?</p>	
<p>Butch: It was, it was really uplifting. Yeah. And then shortly after that I met my current husband and so we were married four years ago on 12, 13, 14.</p>	
<p>Jarod: Congratulations</p>	
<p>Danielle: I think I'm getting a vibe of a few open relationships. Have they all been open or no?</p>	<p>Marriage to current husband.</p>
<p>Butch: My first relationship. And so you learn when you're learning your lesson. Sometimes I'll give it away. My first relationship with Michael, I thought it was closed relationship. I didn't know about open relationships. So, um, I'm still in the military. I was stationed at Great Lakes and he got sent to Camp Lajune, North Carolina to be with the Marine Corps, and so my God, you are brought around people wearing uniforms at that age. How many gorgeous people can you fit all one marine base? And so, but I was a good man and didn't do</p>	<p>First relationship with Micheal.</p> <p>Being in the military while in a</p>

<p>anything and came back and then found out that Michael had been fucking anything that walked, and so pretty devastated, that ended that relationship. And then it went to Kurt, Kurt and Kurt was a friend of Michael's and I had known Kurt. Kurt was a bartender that we got to know and so Kurt and I got together for about two years and I came home early from work one day and there was Kurt fucking someone else. So he really did then lead me to the thought that monogamy wasn't really not a great thing.</p>	<p>relationship. Relationship with Kurt.</p>
<p>Jarod: You probably already touched on this already, but um, what would you consider to be your first big love?</p>	
<p>Butch: My first big love So, my first big love was probably, um, was Michael. Umm for lots of different reasons. He was, he was, he was his own person and I appreciated that about Michael. He was a longer haired person in a group of pretty clean cut people that I had known and he worked nights and slept days and so I was a night person and he knew a lot of people in Milwaukee and so as I was, on about the, uh, the community that he had, the friends that he knew and I didn't have all that, you know, it's coming out he had a very large penis. (Laughing) So lots of very remarkable things about Michael. Um, and so I, I guess he was my first love in that way. Um, but, you know, it wasn't until that I got to know people and uh, so not just sex and love an grew to realize those are two totally different things. And I guess I didn't know that prior to high school or leaving high school because any girlfriend I</p>	<p>First Big Love Descriptions of Micheal.</p>
<p>ever had all we had ever done is kiss, you know? And so I really didn't experience sex like that. And so I didn't know too much other than that. And so then when I met Ralph, I think he was, I mean, I certainly loved him enough that I would leave my whole life as I knew it</p>	<p>Experience being with Ralph.</p>

<p>and come to someplace else. And so, um, that to me was, I think, you know, this is totally somebody different and in my life.</p> <p>Jarod: Um, so you touched on it a little bit already about what it was like dating over 50, but also being a member of the gay community is, is there anything else you'd like to add on that?</p> <p>Butch: Um, I, I think Portland has a really great gay community, um, in this interaction with the straight people. I actually had a straight man not too long ago say to me, you know, he knows Brad my current husband and would not feel comfortable. He said, I wish I would have met you a couple of years ago. And I said, well, why is that? He said, well, I'm straight, but he said, I would like to of had you teach me about gay sex. And I said, well, I guess that's a compliment, but I said, what makes you think that you would want to do that? He said he'd been married a couple times and doesn't really know if he's like, "unknown". I said, well just go have sex with someone and try it. He said, it's got to be someone who I know and I'd like. Um, but you know, he's since moved away. But I think the camaraderie of many people here in Portland, like currently now, the person who manages Blackstone's is not gay he's a straight man and one of their more active bartenders is also straight. In some ways, I also find it, you know, I said no, the people who built this business and busted their ass in this business for gay and you can't find gay people to work um, on pride morning. one of the worst time was because I walked in and everybody who was working there was straight one of them being one of my students, a female, her boyfriend was working there to. So she was helping me out. And so I saw JR, who's our manager, who's still tends bar there I said what everybody busy doing something else? They said what do you mean? I said, there was no gay bar, there's no gay bar person in the, in the gay bar?In Portland's only gay bar right now.</p>	<p>Portland Gay Community.</p> <p>Blackstone's current owner.</p> <p>Suggestions for Blackstone in relation to staff</p>
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<p>And he just (stared blankly). So the very next day I walked into Black Stone's and both bartenders were gay. And I said, oh, GAY BARTENDERS IN A GAY BAR HOW COULD IT BE! And uh, so they, they do, they do know what my displeasures are. People that still, I mean, it's been years since I've been part part of the bar, but people still come to me and say, hey Butch look at this. And I said, I'm sorry, you see that man over there, that's the you want to talk to. Well now I can just reflect and show people what back in the beginning when it was a very fresh and open wound, I would say, excuse me, I think you've mistaken me for someone who gives a shit. (Laughing)</p>	<p>not being gay.</p> <p>Individuals still approaching Butch about Blackstones</p>
<p>Jarod: So we've kind of concluded through the questions that we had prepared at least, uh, we wanted to ask you whether this interview led to any new thoughts or insights on your own life and whether you had anything else you would like to add ?</p>	
<p>Butch: I guess it made me think back to dating. I didn't know. I've thought to myself now should I even bother to get married again? And then the men I did date I thought. He's very much younger than I am. I'm older than his mother and all of her eight siblings when they came, all eight of them came to our wedding, which is really super, super. We were married at St. Louis Cathedral and uh,, one of the brothers of the group says, we were starting to decorated the house. He said, I understand you're quite older than Bubba. And I said, yeah, I am. He said, How much older? I said, I think I am a day or two older than your oldest sister. He said really! Yeah. So I thought it was a unique process and I certainly, I'm all for those groups out there. They're like the dating seniors and stuff like that. And of course it certainly wouldn't bother me to see dating seniors but I would never go to a dating seniors group because I don't date seniors I date younger people and I'm. you know, it's just who attracts to</p>	<p>Husbands family.</p> <p>Were they were married.</p> <p>Communication</p>

<p>me and the same back. So a dating scene, the dating scene is "Unknown".</p> <p>Danielle: Okay. So I mean, if you feel like we didn't cover everything that you wanted to talk about or you have anything to elaborate on, you're absolutely welcome to have a follow up session with Wendy Chapkis. You can always let us know and we can forward that on to her. Um, we will be sending you an electronic copy of the audio interview by email and a copy of the transcribed interview when we've finished transcribing it. But we really wanted to sincerely thank you for sharing your story with us. It's gonna be a great addition to the USM archives, so thank you.</p> <p>Butch: You're welcome.</p>	<p>with husband's family about their age difference.</p> <p>Conclusion of Interview.</p>
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