



By David Holland

BEACON HILL

a GCN Supplement



Although Beacon Hill is synonymous with Boston (or more appropriately the reverse) it is actually an adjunct of the city. Over the years it has undergone tumultuous transitions. It was once a stopping ground for the Underground Railway, providing a home for a large black population, and later it became the bastion of the rich and politically influential. Today the moneyed-milieu has been relegated to a few cross-streets bordering the Boston Common and duck-infested Gardens.

Near the end of the fifties and during the flower-child heyday of the sixties, flocks of transient young people attempted to root themselves on the "Hill," as it is affectionately called. It was the first area in Greater Boston to attract the avant-garde. No wonder, then, it attracted a large gay influx as well.

Consequently changes had to be made. Large, opulent townhouses were broken down to classically small apartments and business sprang up everywhere to cater to the new clientele. The main thoroughfare, Charles Street, which separates the "Hill" from the "Flats," witnessed a number of antique shops make way for 50¢ dinners, leather shops, and a scattering of art galleries and coffeehouses. Yet some businesses have withstood the transition — there still remains

an abundance of "please knock" shops where one can buy anything from a 17th century



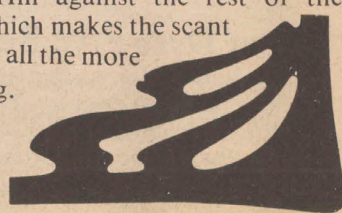
Photo by Ray Hopkins

armoire to a 10¢ "lollie."

The gay influence has been particularly strong throughout the Hill. One of the more popular coffeehouses, the Charles Street Meetinghouse, still caters to a predominantly gay crowd. It is also the site of Project Lambda, a gay-staffed youth counselling center. The Metropolitan Community Church, a prominent gay religious organization, conducts services in the Hill's Old West Church on Cambridge Street. A quaint, bow-front shop, Esplanade Bookstore, always carries a large selection of gay literature and, of course, there are the bars.

On most any evening one can find gay-clusters peopling the streets. As the hour draws closer to two a.m., a steady stream quickens to and from the two popular night spots. Sporter's, a gay bar since 1959 and once known as the West End Tennis Club, is still one of the city's most active bars. 119 Merrimack Street bar, on the other hand, has sprung-up with the new crop of night-spots and is already attracting well-pleased crowds.

Beacon Hill and its top-o'-the-mount, gold-domed Capitol building, has been a political seed-bed since the seventeen hundreds and subsequently has provided a rich humus for the burgeoning gay political population. Perhaps this truism results from the prevailing air of camaraderie. It's as if it's Beacon Hill against the rest of the world, which makes the scant few acres all the more disarming.



ART

The Print Shop 49a Charles St.

One of the few shops that specializes in art prints. Here you can find prints, posters and reproductions, imported post cards and note cards. Custom framing services are also available. Mon. through Fri. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. and Sun. 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Stone Soup Gallery 313 Cambridge St.

This store-front drop-in art and poetry center is a Beacon Hill favorite of artists. Good selection of small press poetry, bargain books and works of local artists. Poetry readings are frequent. Mon. through Sat. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

SERVICES

Crimson Travel Service 2 Center Place

Crimson will send you anywhere with a smile and many helpful hints on vacation planning. They offer all types of service from Charter to Deluxe. Take the Queen Elizabeth to Boston, join their weekly charters to Disneyland or head for the Caribbean. Crimson will smooth the way. Mon. through Fri. 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. 742-8500.

Lester's TV 15 Revere St.

Lester's, a long-time supporter of GCN, can fix anything but a broken heart. They'll fix radios, TVs, anything electrical. Pick up and delivery is free. Or you can find a good buy on a new or used TV. You get personal service, reasonable prices and the work is guaranteed. Mon. through Fri. 5:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. 523-2187.

Fishelson Liquors, Inc. 63 Charles St.

From 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. you can find your favorite liquor, wine or beer. Or you can taste the cheese and pick up an epicurean gift. Free delivery to Beacon Hill and Back Bay. 742-8571.

Jobi Wines and Spirits 170 Cambridge St.

For those on the Cambridge Street side of the Hill, Jobi offers a full service wine and liquor shop with a large selection of cheese and sausage. Free gourmet food samplings on the weekend, free delivery in the area and a huge selection of wines. Open Mon. through Sat. 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. 227-9235.

Charles River Opticians 193 Cambridge St.

Good, low-pressure service and reasonable prices on a wide range of frames. Charles River prides themselves on their honest appraisal of your eyeglass needs. The majority of their customers are women, but they carry a full line of fashion frames for men, women and children. Open Mon. through Sat. 523-8736.

General Photo 311 Cambridge St.

Everything for the photography buff at competitive prices can be found here. They carry all the top name brands and a full stock of supplies for the dabbler and the professional. If you don't see it on display, ask for it! They have it all. Open Mon. through Sat. 8:30 a.m. 742-7010.

BARS

Sporter's Cafe 228 Cambridge St.

Join the friendly, very cruisy gay male crowd that has made Sporter's the most popular of men's bars in the city. They had to put in a new room only a short time ago and are already looking to expand further. You'll find a man to match any dream, maybe two. Cocktail prices every day until 8 p.m. Free brunch on Sat. and Sun. afternoons. Free movie every Mon. at 3 p.m. Mary Faith at the piano on Sun. afternoons. Mon. through Sat. 11 a.m. to 2 a.m., Sun. noon to 2 a.m. 742-0152. Look for the red door.

119 Merrimack 119 Merrimack St.

The best of both worlds meet at 119 Merrimack, at one end of this rustic setting is a disco dance floor, with music provided by Michael Harrison and Richard Robertson; the other side of the room has a large

rectangular sit down bar and pool table. Stop in any time, but remember Mon.-Thurs. from 9 p.m.-12 a.m. a free brunch is served.

FOOD

Salad Days 41 Charles St.

The Bard's face peers down at the happy faces crowded around the salad bar. Soup and salad are enjoyed in the glow of stained-glass panels hung from natural wood walls — a pleasant and popular restaurant where one can eat for as low as \$1.75. Open every day.

Fred's Ice Cream 47 Charles St.

Open daily for a quick snack or take-home of Fred's homemade ice cream and cake. Now soup, sandwiches and salad are available, and customers in the cozy back room can play backgammon and chess.

Romano's Bakery and Coffee Shop

86 Charles St.

This is a cozy bakery with tables so one can enjoy sandwiches on fresh, fresh bread while looking at the variety of colorful pastries in glass cases. Choose a take home order or ask for a specially-made cake. Open 7 days.

Kelley's Homemade Ice Cream

156 Cambridge St.

Ice cream is made fresh on the premises. Decor has feeling of an old-time ice cream parlor. Come and choose your favorite toppings or pick up a homemade cake. Open 7 days, 12-12.

La Trattoria 288 Cambridge St.

Charming, informal Italian restaurant serving the finest in Italian cuisine at reasonable prices. Tables surround a lovely indoor garden, giving each diner a feeling of privacy and peace. Only the top of the veal used in cutlets and scallopine. Stop in any day from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Korner Kitchen 240 Cambridge St.

Open real early (7 a.m.) to real late (2:30 a.m.) for quick snacks. Serve yourself a variety of foods from breakfast to mid-Eastern dinners to fried chicken munchies. It's right next to Sporters.

Beacon Hill Market 133 Charles St.

If you want to take it home, you can find all basic food needs here. They have the only full line of delicatessen goods on Charles St. Family-owned place welcomes its many gay customers and carries a line of gay papers, too.

LEATHER

Nahas Leather 65 Charles St.

Broad selection of leather goods, mainly footwear. Here you can find the finest in skins made into boots, shoes, travel bags, pocketbooks. Frye available. Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.

Helen's Leather 91 Charles St.

Here you can find a wide variety of leather clothes to go with the Frye boots on sale. Hand-crafted deer-skin garments are a specialty. Sheep and lamb suede coats are available. Browsers welcome. Open Mon. through Sat. 10 a.m.

Tisdell Leather Shop 103 Charles St.

Harvard Square shoppers may have missed this shop, but it now belongs to Beacon Hill. Goods are handmade on premises. Custom coats, boots, sandals, belts made to fit. Been in business for 12 years. See George or Steve. They said they'll make anything to order. Mon. through Sat. 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Walter Dyer Frye Boot Pen 110 Charles St.

Long known for having the largest selection of Frye Boots in the country. They aim to please using only the top quality leather. Choose goods from rack or have them made to order. Relaxed atmosphere, low prices. Open Mon. through Sat. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

ANTIQUES

Eric's of Boston 38 Charles St.

A "mini-museum" offering the highest quality in gifts, stationery, cards, miniatures, ribbons and laces, toys, jewelry, antiques and framing services. If



Photo by Ray Hopkins

you don't see it, they'll get it for you. Open Mon. to Fri. at 10 a.m. 227-6567.

Samuell-Lowe Jr. Antiques 80 Charles St.

This Charles Street store is a favorite with collectors. They have the most famous collection of American marine antiques and are the biggest dealers of scrimshaw in the nation. Open Mon. through Fri. at 10:30 a.m. 742-0845.

City and Shore Antiques 83 Charles St.

Collectors of any era would find this a paradise: Tiffany, Ming, Art Deco and Art Nouveau items abound. Friendly service comes with interior design consultations and appraisals. Open Mon. through Sat. at 10 a.m. 742-6751.

Period Furniture Co. 123 Charles St.

Welcomes rummagers from other antique shops, collectors and interior designers. They have a huge collection of brass, old and new. Note their unusual door fixtures, chandeliers and fireplace equipment. Open Mon. through Fri. at 8:30 a.m. 227-0758.

The Trading Post 99 Charles St.

Browse around for everything from an antique country kitchen table to a handwrought modern silver bracelet, all at bargain prices. Find used furniture, antiques, bric-a-brac and even clothes. Open Mon. through Sat. 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

HAIR & SKIN

Salon de Jon 80 Charles St.

Only woman-owned, woman-operated hair and skin salon on the Hill. Up-to-date professional services including skin consultation and hair analysis. All natural products. Open Tues. through Sat. 742-0210.

Maison de Felix 139 Charles St.

To this elegant plant-filled shop are welcome all people since Vidal Sassoon-trained Felix speaks English, Spanish, French, and Chinese fluently. Plus he gives haircuts specifically designed for the individual and beautiful in any language. Open Tues. through Sat. 227-0534. Student discounts.

Cutery 119 Charles St.

With 70 percent of their clients gay, these hair specialists take pride in providing an atmosphere most comfortable to the gay man or woman. They also provide fine hair care, waxing, coloring and excellent cuts. Ear piercing is a special service. Open Tues. through Sat.

Cambridge Street Men's Salon

236 Cambridge St.
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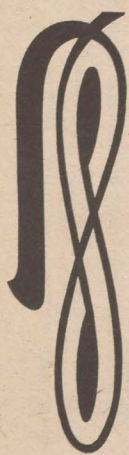


Photo by Ray Hopkins

right next to Sporter's! Drop in and fix up your image before you hit the bar. Open Tues. through Sat. 523-8402.

SHOPS

Beacon Hill Florist 28 Charles St.

For special friends and special occasions, nothing says love like flowers. Beacon Hill Florist will make any arrangement and deliver anywhere in Boston. You want it; they'll make it. And they carry a full line of plants, too. Mon. through Sat. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Once Again Boutique 82 Charles St.

The dress shop for the classy drag fan or for women with an eye for a bargain. This Irish-owned, Irish-run store sells slightly-used women's clothes with top designer labels. Maybe you'll find Jackie's last month's favorite! 12 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. Mon. to Fri., Sat. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Book Exchange 85 Charles St.

When you've read just everything in the house, take your old paperbacks to the Exchange. You'll get a credit towards the 1,000 "pre-read" paperbacks

available. Also a full line of new books for adults and children in all fields. Emphasis is on good literature. Browsers encouraged; you're bound to find a friend sitting on the floor and leafing through the bargain section. 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. seven days.

Dutch Cottage Candies 96 Charles St.

A Beacon Hill tradition is this family-run, quaint candy and toy shop. For 50 years, Old Beacon Hill families have been surprising each new generation with the famous raspberry cremes, a specialty of the shop. All candies are homemade from secret family recipes. A must stop for tourists and home-townners. Mon. through Sat. 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. CA7-0447.

The Woodworks 101 Charles St.

Here you find the newest of the new, one-of-a-kind furniture, jewelry, porcelains and clocks. Everything is handmade by the finest craftspeople who will also make your dream chair or superstud earring to order. Open Tues. through Sat. 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. 523-5086.

Charles Street Pet Supply 160 Charles St.

For the unusual in gift-giving, try sending your special friend a tarantula or piranha. Teach that so-and-so to forget my birthday! Or just outfit your pet with the best in collars, leashes, etc. Or outfit your

apartment with the finest in aquariums; fish and reptiles are sold here as well as birds and small animals. Free advice to pet-owners. Open 7 days.

Sight and Sound 173 Cambridge St.

Much fun for browsers who love pretty cards, candies, colorful calendars, dazzling mobiles and buying just the right gift for a friend. Art supplies, glossies of the stars, paperbacks and magazines are also available. Get your Gayline Greeting Cards here, too. Open Mon. through Sat. 523-5195.

Beacon Hill Music Shoppe 17 Myrtle St.

It's the only record shop on Beacon Hill, but that hasn't made them complacent. They offer a huge selection of used records, many rare and out-of-print specialties. Here you can find the fifties and sixties sounds you missed, and not just rock and roll, but all genres. All salespeople really know their music and will be glad to help you locate that special record or sound track you've been wanting all these years. Mon. through Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 523-5807.

Woodward Drugs 24a Joy St.

Full-service drug store. Last of the old-time corner drugstores where you can get everything you need including snacks and liquor or beer. They've been doing it for 160 years, so they must have got it right. Mon. through Sat. 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Sun. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. 523-6919.

The Plant Shop 23 Myrtle St.

Complete line of flowers, hanging plants and potted plants, terrariums. They deliver free any purchase over \$10 and it's hard not to spend because they have beautiful plants, plus greeting cards, herbs and teas and macrame plant hangers. They will order any plant for you or babysit the plants you already own. Mon. through Sat. 523-8895.

Esplanade Books 107 Charles St.

Carries all the magazines both monthly and weekly, but is best known for its large selection of gay material and those slicks that gay men love to look through. Browsers are welcome and you're bound to find a friend in the narrow spaces between the packed shelves. Get your comic books and rolling papers here, too. Open 7 days. 723-0361.

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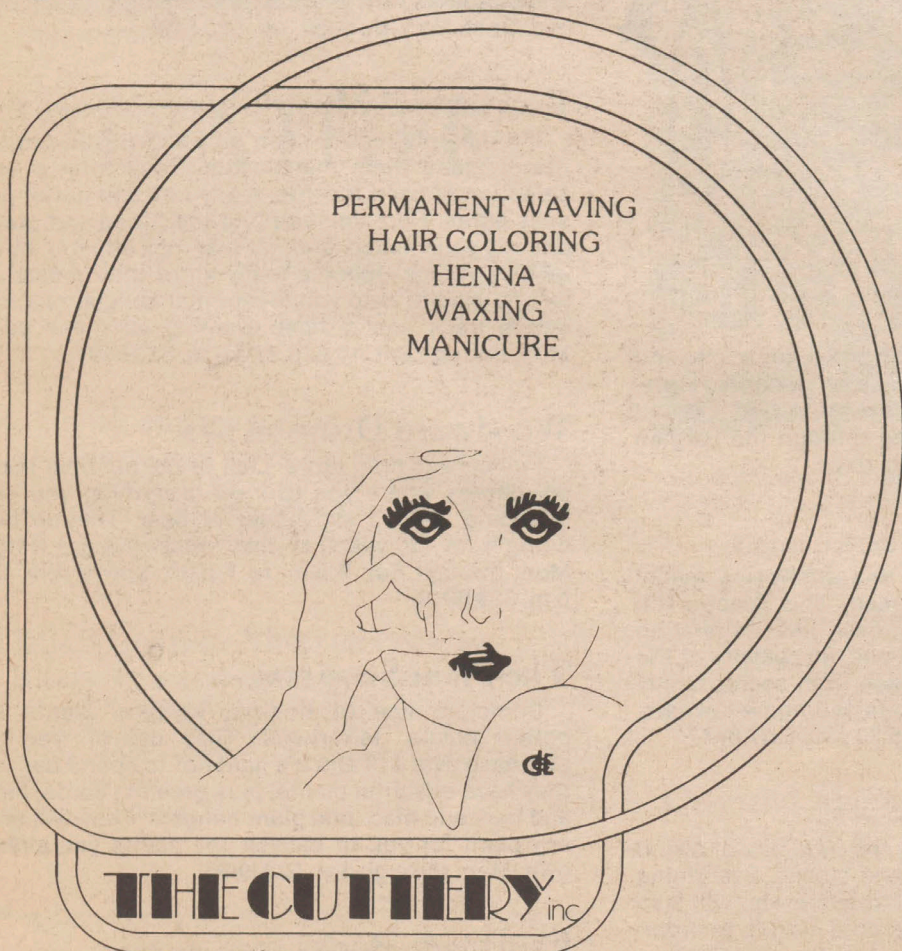
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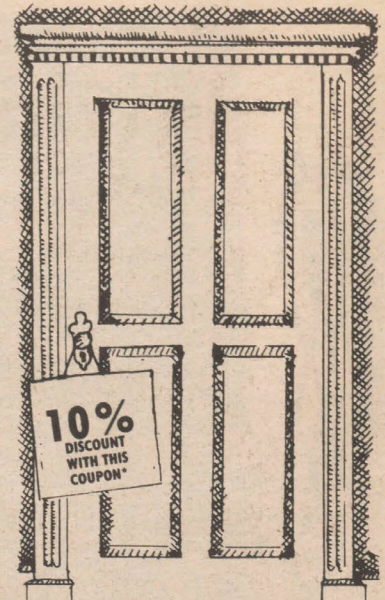
Beacon Hill's Best Kept Secret Isn't Still in the Closet . . . It's in the Back Room at JOBI.

JOBI is a wine and cheese shop at the base of Beacon Hill specializing in wines of exceptional quality at moderate price. We offer nearly 300 wines from 18 countries and 90% of them are priced below five dollars. We also offer an assortment of special features and discounts.

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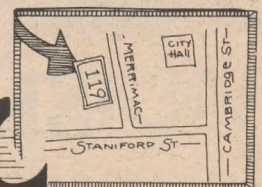
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