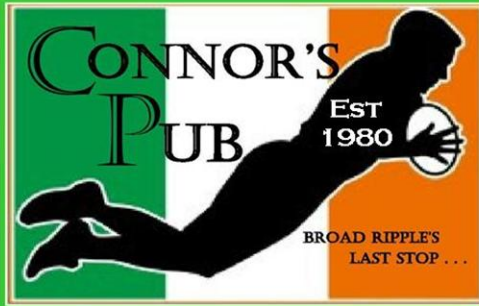


JOHN YAGGI

... JY
2002- OWNER



DENNY CONNOR

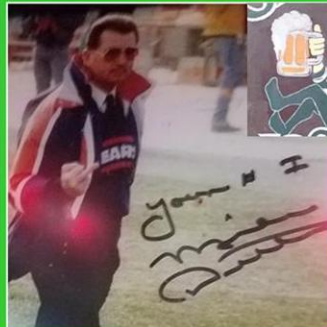
1980 ORIGINAL OWNER

Go....
To >>>

CONNORS PUB STORIES.COM
LISTEN OR READ & DOWNLOAD THE BOOK >

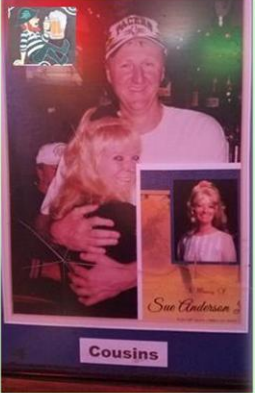


SEAN KURKER
STORY GUIDE
INTERVIEWER



**L
E
A
R
N
&
L
A
U
G
H**

HONORING PEOPLE GONE
SO STORIES LIVE ON...



Cousins



RAINE
BOOK EDITOR



Race
BROAD RIPPLE



ATTENTION READERS This Just went Live we are giving JY time to correcting proper names, and a few details, and will be updating the document and Adding More Interviews with People who have GREAT STORIES TO SHARE.

SeanKurker.VoicesLiveOn@gmail.com : 317-514-5321 interviewer and Raine is the Editor:
Produced By. www.VoicesLiveOn.com/Interviews Also Check out www.VoicesofRacing.com
9X Indy 500 Winning Family: www.UnserStories.com www.NashvilleIndianaStories.com

Table of Contents:

- 3...** John Yaggi About Buying Connor's, First Memories and Stories of What Went Down
- 5...** Denny Connor Life, Family, School, Buying Connor's
- 6...** Denny Connor Indianapolis Rugby Club History and Stories
- 7...** Denny Connor's Staff, Menu, Memorabilia Stories
- 12...** Denny Connor Epic Stories
- 15...** Denny Connor Selling to JY, Buying the Bar, About Him Stories
- 17...** JY's Appreciation Message of Phil Powers Musician
- 19...** Phillip Powers Speaks About Music and Connor's People
- 19...** Ireland Airport Naked Man, Ireland Steve Considine Pilot Greeting Indy Rugby Team at Airport
Arrested Bush Pilot in Africa Died of Malaria
- 21...** Jack Clark About **Steve** Considine, Naked Man on Wall, and Epic Stories
- 22...** Rugby Large Photo 80s, 90s, and Connor's as Home
- 24...** Metal Bridge Sign 1859 Metal from The Bridge in Broad Ripple by Spirit Lake, Grabbed It Down
Dennis Boone Tim Micheli
- 25...** Guinness Sign from Fence of Brewery in Dublin Ireland, Johnny Younger Also Naked on Roof St.
Patty's Day Wrapped in Irish Flag
- 26...** Race Car in Broad Ripple, Woman Topless
- 27...** Golden State Warriors Basketball Team Signed Jersey
- 28...** 1972 Rugby Tournament Photo on Back Wall, Dr. Don Shelborne and Others
- 29...** Indianapolis Monthly Award Top Bar and Famous People Who Have Visited Like, Mark Cuban
- 30...** Indy 500 Drivers That Crashed, Kevin Cogan Caused the Wreck and His Backstory
- 31...** Soldier Field 1929 Nascar Race John's Love of The Bears
- 32...** Stan Fox Indy 500 Driver Crash
- 33...** AJ Foyt Indy 500 4X Winner, His Grandson Comes to Connor's
- 33...** Bob Bell Indy Star Story and Bob Stories, A Great Guy for Decades
- 35...** Mayor Ballard at the Irish Festival with Indy Hurlers
- 36...** Cubs Fan Messes Up Division Playoffs Steve Barkman and Moses
- 37...** Harry Carry Check for 173 Dollars, Year 1968
- 38...** Flags On the Ceiling Who Are the Highlights and Why
- 39...** Sue Anderson, Cousin of Larry Bird, Passed Away 25 Years Bartender
- 39...** Mike Ditka Flipping Off the Camera

40... Front of Building, St Patrick's Tent Party

42... Jamie Waldon 20-Year Patron, Staff Appreciation of People, Food, and Stories

42 ... Vinny White About Connor's

43... Will Security of Connor's for Years

Connors Pub Stories

From John Yaggi, Denny Connor, & The Patrons



John Yaggi about buying Connor's, first memories and stories of what went down...

This is Sean Kurker, I'm here at Connor's Irish Pub. It's been here for many, many years. I'm here sitting with the owner, John Yaggi. He goes by JY to the common folk, but John to his good friends, and we don't know what else yet, but we're going to find out. John, how are you doing today? I'm well. How about you, Sean? I'm Pretty good. So, what was the first year Connor's was established? 1979. Two brother in laws, the main one was Jay Ferguson, AKA J Boy, or **Jay Surgerson** I should say, who started it, had it for a year. The two brothers in law didn't get along and sold it to Denny Connor and his brother Mike, and they renamed it Connor's Pub and it's been that name since 1980. So, obviously it's always been in this location, correct and it never moved locations? That is correct. And inside there is an exorbitant amount of memorabilia. There is quite a bit. So, one of our goals with this Voices Live On interviewing project is to document the history of a lot of these items so the public can then access and listen to some of the great stories. But before we get to that, you've had it since what year? I bought it September 11th, 2002, but prior to that I started working here part time, I'd say July of 1986. So, John, what was your original motivation to even purchase the bar? Well, it probably goes back to 1986. I was at home, and I had a younger brother. My brother Pat worked here as a bar-back on Saturday nights and he called me one Saturday afternoon in July and asked me if I'd work for him and I kind of said no. I've been to Connors once before and it was all right.

I mean I didn't go out very much and I had a full-time job, was going to school and he literally spent the whole afternoon convincing me to work for him and even paid me to come in and work for him and I agreed to do it. That night I worked with **Doug Light** and **Dave Lezinsky** who went by ski and got along with the guys immediately and thought this is a pretty easy gig, just do the work and got paid cash and said not a bad part time gig and then, about a month later, my brother asked me if I just take over Saturday nights as a bar-back, and I agreed to do it. And what was your brother's name again? Pat, then it evolved for me, bar-backing to start bartending on the weekends, and eventually as years went on, I pretty much did all the ordering, the hiring, pretty much ran the bar. Denny Connor was a hands-off owner. Obviously, I love working for him, gave me full reins and I appreciate the fact he trusted me to do it, and I got to a point in my life where I was either going to get out of it or step up into the business more. I always knew I was the one in line if he decides to sell the bar, and I was getting ready to purchase another bar. And the night before that happened, he called me and asked me if I would take Connor's and of course I wasn't going to say no so. Where was the other bar? It was the old Eden. OK. Yeah. And I had that the Eden for about 1/2 a year and sold my share of that and got out of that and just kept Connor's. What year was that? 2002 as a kind of weird when I signed the agreement, it was September 11th, a year after 911. And so, I'll always remember the date I purchased it was September 11th, 2002, and I've had it now for 16 years.

I would say Connor's is very much like a family as far as the patrons as well as the staff. How many people do you think have worked here in those sixteen years? I don't have a big turnover, but I'd say there's probably close to... when you count security door staff, easily 100 or so people have worked here at some point or another. If it was just working security part-time or a kitchen or a bartender, cleaning the bar, I'd say at least 100 people have worked here currently or in the past so. But like I said, there's not a big turnover. I've had a lot of them, ten years plus working here, that's even prior to me even owning the bar. There's a handful. They're still working here. So, we're talking 20 years plus on a handful of them. So that's kind of a testament to them and into Connor's that it's not too bad of a place to work at. So, when you took over the bar were there already items on the wall of memorabilia? Yes, there was. There were several of them. I've kind of flooded the walls and the ceilings, but there was a little bit of memorabilia already on the walls that I was able to keep once I purchased the bar. So, what were some of the main ones that you didn't bring to the table that already were on the wall? First one of mine is one that my mom hates is the picture of Steve Considine flashing the rugby team as they arrived at the Shannon Airport in Ireland. He wore a full London fog coat and he flashed them with a sign Indy Reds, which was the name of the rugby team back in the 70s. Now, I don't want you to go through all the descriptions of all these because this is just going to be the beginning history, but we're going to get each of these in a second.

So next question, when you took over, there's already memorabilia on the walls. What were some of the types of things you wanted to put on the walls? You knew that it would add, not specifics, but like we need to put college flags, we need to get this, we need, what were some of the visions of things that you wanted to acquire to put on the walls? Well, the flag started as someone had made a Connors flag and wanted to put it up on the ceiling, which is still currently up on the ceiling. And it kind of evolved from there, and this flag was up, and someone goes, well, can I put up a Notre Dame flag? And I pretty much told him if you bring the flag in, we'll put it up.

And then it got into nationalities, army, Navy, careers, things of that nature. So, a lot of the flags, almost all of them to be precise, have all been donated by a patron of the bar that came in and wanted you know share part of their life and don't have it at Connor's. So, when you see the college flags it was definitely an alum of that college or a big fan of it and, same with the nationalities, New Zealand, the American flag, the Irish flag, the English flag, it's people from all types of life that come here. And then I have a fraternity flag up there.

It's just people from all walks of life that want to feel like they're part of the bar. So, I'm very open to that. Has anybody ever brought you anything that you said "Nope, not going on my wall."? I haven't been that direct, there's a couple things I kind of said okay, I'll see about putting it up. That kind of usually means probably not, but you never know. I never say never but. So, we won't name the person, but what was the item you're thinking of? Offhand, well, that's tough one, I always said I would never put the Kansas flag up. However, just recently I've changed my mind due to a number of people that have moved from Kansas to Indianapolis and have become part of the Connor's culture. So, I have agreed to put a University of Kansas flag up. So, there's one I can tell you right offhand that I agreed to put up, none that I can think of offhand. There's a couple universities I probably wouldn't have put up, but due to the fact that the patron was so awesome that you couldn't say no to them, so the Kansas flag would stand out as the one I would never put up. Like I said, I recently changed my mind on that. So, what do you love about...

There's so many aspects of the bar and the people and everything else. But what would you say are some of your favorite things about Connor's just in general that you love? And we're not talking the memorabilia, we're just talking about the whole atmosphere, everything about it, obviously there's a cast of characters that keep things interesting. You can't really pigeonhole Connor's is a quote "sports" bar or a club or wine bar it's an eclectic group of people that come in here and I let them enjoy themselves and be themselves as long as they don't bother anybody else. You can pretty much do what you want to do here. As long as you don't interfere with someone else's good time or if, you know, their security, safety, then I have no problem if you want to scream and yell? Then you can scream and yell. It's what Connor's is here for. Have a good time, let loose a little bit and maybe go home with a smile on your face and say I had a good time when I was at Connor's last night or that afternoon, so. Okay. Well, we're going to close this session out and we're going to dive into some of the memorabilia and stories and people that used to work here and get some segments down for the history of Connor's, By Voices Live On.



Denny Connor Life, Family, School, Buying Connor's...

This is Sean with VoicesLiveOn.com for ConnorsPubStories.com, and I'm sitting here with the original man that started it, Danny Connor. How you doing, Danny? I'm doing good. Thanks, Sean. All right. So first off, what year and day and where were you born? I was born here in Indianapolis on May the 16th, 1950. And you know the hospital? Methodist. And who are your parents? Marie and Gordon Connor. And what did they do for their world, living, whatever? They're both passed away now, so my dad worked for Saint Vincent's and my mom was a schoolteacher most of her life. Where'd you go to grade school and high school? Well, I went to several grade schools and high schools both. I went to Saint Andrews, Saint Michael's and Saint Joan of Arc, and I went to Cathedral **Chatard** in Short Ridge. So, what's the reason you hit so many? Family problems, no, it was my brothers were getting kicked out in grade school we just moved, but in high school my brother was asked to leave Cathedral and I left there and went to **Chatard** and my younger brother was kicked out of there and at that time my parents decided I'd go along with him. All right, so what sports or things did you do in grade school and high school. All the traditionals, I did football, basketball and baseball and in high school it was about the same. OK. And where was the longest you spent in high school? Shortridge, 2 years. Shortridge and then where'd you go to college? I went to a junior college in Alabama called Alley City Junior College, and then I went to Alabama for a year. And what are your brothers or siblings' names? Mike, Tim, Pat, Kevin, Terry and Anne. Sounds like there's a lot.

There were seven of us. Seven, all right, so after college, where'd you move to? What did you get into? Well, I moved back here. After going to school down South, I moved back to Indianapolis. At that point in time. I worked as a Carpenter most of my life back then, from like 1972 until I got the bar. And what year was that? The bar was open, I actually purchased it the day after Thanksgiving 1980. Who'd you purchase it from? **Jay Surgerson**. What was the name of the one before? **Jay Boy**. And how long was that open? You know, to be honest, maybe a year, a year and a half if it was that long and I used to come in here when it was **Jay Boys** and what happened there, I'm not exactly sure. But when he, my older brother, Mike and I were looking for a place to buy and when we found out that this was available, we ventured into it together. So, what's the... you could have done anything. What's the motivation to buy a bar? You know, to be honest it was my older brother who had some money at the time, wanted some tax write offs and I had worked at the Bulldog and, you know, I drank quite a bit

when I was younger, so we just took a, we took a... leap of faith. Correct. That'd probably be the best way to put it, but it you know it worked out.

So, when you opened it, right now, there's tons and tons and tons of memorabilia. Was there any memorabilia at all when you originally purchased it? Not one thing in there was here when I got it. So no, all that we accumulated that over the course of the 25 years I had it. So, and again, what was the very first year, what was it? Pardon me? First year. It was, well, the first year that was Thanksgiving of 1980. So really the first whole year was 1981. So that first year when you were working in the bar, was there any... What were the problems? What were they like? Some highlights, Problems, Highlights. Well, the thing that we did after when the New Year came about, that we remodeled the place at night while we stayed open from January until I think we were done by right around Saint Patrick's Day. And it was funny, it kind of took off from there. So probably rebuilding the place, restructuring we've closed. There was an upstairs here, there was a couple little rooms out front. We've reconstructed the inside of it, knocked some stuff down. There was a stairway that went upstairs that nobody went into, and we made the bar bigger too. So, it was just... There were no plans. We kind of did it by the seat of our pants. Did you also serve food back then? We did, yeah. The kitchen stayed open. You know, in current standards, the way the world works now, what we did would be there's no way you could do it now because, you know, you got to get building permits to do everything now. Back then, we were kind of... knocking it out, yeah. So no, and we got that done and from that time on it gradually got better and better.

I was kind of blessed that I was playing rugby at the time and a lot of the rugby boys started hanging out here. So it was, just kind of a snowball effect. Why it happened, to be honest. I don't have any magic in me, but I was very fortunate. So, what were some of the other businesses that were open then right around here? Well, there was next door there was a beauty salon I you know. What went on across the street? My doctor was in those building. Catty-corner here. That's for sale now. Mr. Poster was behind me. That big building next to us was not here. It was, I think the only bars in Broad Ripple at the time were the Patio, the Alley Cat, Union Jack and that might be it. The Vogue? Probably. Yeah. The Vogue was open too. The what? Broad Ripple Tavern. Yeah, well that was the Broad Ripple Lumber Company then. By then the Broad Ripple Tavern was over here on the corner. But Chuck Mack, the guy that owned Mo and Johnny's, he bought where what's that restaurant over where the Broad Ripple lumber company used to be, it's the Mexican restaurant. It's across from Chipotle's, Cholita. That was the Broad Ripple Lumber Company at the time. So yeah, there, you know Broad Ripple's kind of exploded with bars since then. So, as far as the clientele that would come in, where were they? Majority of them was just from living around here? Did people come in from all over or was Butler? We had a lot of Butler people, locals and you know I had a great big extended family too so.

You're a Catholic, you know one Catholic, you know them all. And I was fortunate a lot of Northside Catholics started hanging out here. Capital of the Knights of Columbus, guys. No, not really. It was, you know, the Knights of Columbus was going on then, but now we once again it if, I could tell you a lot, but I that's what I would be doing it just for some reason. The bartenders I had were real good people. They did a great job of keeping people happy here and it was a blessing really. Well, what was some crazy things that happened the first year you remember that were like... Well, the craziest thing that happened to me was the guy that lives catty-corner from me. He didn't like us being here. He tried to get us shutdown, **Gino Dell Lasandra**. I don't want to throw stones about him because eventually we became pretty good friends. But in the process, he didn't like us being here and thought it was a little too noisy, but all that went by the wayside and really after that, you know, we got a head for underage

drinking a couple times. But other than that, it's nothing that any bar probably didn't experience in its livelihood. All right, we're going to close this segment out and go into another one.



Denny Connor Indianapolis Rugby Club History and Stories

Sean with VoicesLiveOn.com for ConnorsPubStories.com we're here with the man who started it all and you've been a rugby man and you've helped grow a team, Indianapolis Rugby or what was the proper name? Indianapolis Rugby Club. It's been other names, but that's what it is now. OK, so when you started, who was with you starting it? Well, I didn't actually. I had played for a couple other teams in Indianapolis, and they lasted about a year and they disintegrated and the Indianapolis Reds, which are now the Indianapolis Rugby Club, I went to play for them and stuck with that.

There's a couple other teams that evolved after that but they've come and gone. So how far out did you guys play? What was the geographic area? Well, we. I mean the geographical area we played in local competition throughout the Midwest, we'll just say Milwaukee, Cincinnati, Chicago, Cleveland. There was a you know, wherever there was a team that we could compete with. We tried to play the better teams in the Midwest and oh there's others probably 400 of them of various degrees. There's different levels in rugby now, so. But there was that many back then? Yeah, you had to travel a little bit, but yeah, there were numerous teams and we went to tournaments all over the country. I think the, I mean we went to Ireland one time, we went to England a couple times locally, we participated in tournaments out in California, so. Florida and Mardi Gras, they were all over the place.

What were some of the championship's you guys won? Well, we won in... We won a Mardi Gras tournament. We never won the Midwest. We won the Saint Louis Rugger Fest, which was probably... there are probably 40 teams that show up for that, and you'd plan, they'd bracket you. It's kind of like what's going on in the NCAA's right now. You'd play and if you want, you advance. But no, great times. Lots of fun. So, the **Terry Reiking**, is that the proper name of what's? **Terry Reiking**. I met him the other night, he said he was kind of there from the beginning with you. Well Terry, when he moved here, he graduated, he started at Miami of Ohio and graduated from Ohio State and when he first moved to Indianapolis he stayed with me until he got his feet established. So yeah, I had guys from all over the world stay with me. I've had guys from New Zealand, Japan, Australia, England, Ireland, Scotland, Argentina and, that's probably enough, but. How do they find out about Indy, like that's far? Well, no, the thing is that most people in America don't realize rugby is probably the second biggest team sport

game in the world. And you know those guys, we had like 4 **Kiwi's** just show up on our doorstep when they were just floating around America. People from Ireland and New Zealand, I think when they get about 20, they're like the Amish people here.

They throw them out for a year and see where they land but no, they were all wonderfully good people. But how they found, you know, we did our best to let people know we were here, but most of the time it was by accident. They'd come for the race and stay. I mean, those... we probably had in the course of the last 40 years, we've probably had 80 or 90 guys that played for us from different parts of the world. So, for the people that don't understand rugby, just explain the base mechanics and kind of some of the rules and just how it works. Well, it's funny, I can tell you all the rules here right now. The best way that you could learn how to play rugby is watch a game on TV with somebody that understands it, because rugby is a very fast paced game. Unlike football, when you get tackled, the game doesn't stop. It continues, unless there's a penalty and it's, there's no forward passing in it. You can kick the ball at any time, and anybody can kick it. There's no blocking and there's set patterns of how teams play offense and defense. Not too much different than the NFL does. The unusual thing that, if you're a football fan that you might not understand is, guys that play have to play both ways because the ball gets turned over. If I was running down the field and kicked it to the other team, they receive it, catch it, they start and you go from offense to defense. If you kick and another teammate gets it you get to keep it. But it's a very fast paced cardiovascular game that's a lot of fun and I'd venture to say that, you know, I've been blessed to coach in a lot of different places, most guys that have been, even football players that have been attracted to it. Once you start playing it, it's addictive if you're competitive and you're not afraid of contact. So how many guys have you coached over the years what's the guess? I coached a cathedral for 25 years, on an average it was probably 40 to 50 kids per year. I mean some of them started as freshmen and graduated. I coached Indianapolis for probably 10 or 12 years.

I've coached at Purdue; I've coached at Wabash. So, I've been blessed that way. I was lucky because I owned the bar and could get away to do that stuff. I really was, I mean, I couldn't and I enjoy doing it. So, it's been... so thousands. Yeah, it has been it probably is 1000 if not more. Okay, so one of the things on the wall here is, the trip to Ireland, Correct. The guy that showed up with, you know. His little willy out? Trench coat. Trench coat. What was that from your perspective? Well, that guy lived here. He bartended here at one time. He's a Cathedral graduate. He came from a big family that went to Immaculate Heart. His name was Steve Considine and Considine traveled the world pretty extensively. And the reason we went on tour over there was because he lived in Ireland at the time. He set up a schedule for us where we played five games in a two-week period. He met us at the airport with that trench coat on, just being funny. If you knew him, he was was a stitch he's a great character and that's what that picture is all about. He almost went to the slammer that day. I'll tell you the police didn't like what he did in the airport. How did he talk his way out of it? He was full of Barney.

I'm telling you that he could talk his way out of almost anything. And there was, you know, there was forty Americans landing there to have fun in Ireland. I think the police probably took that into consideration too. But no, that was a pretty funny incident, actually. So, what are some of your favorite situations that happened with rugby, either from coaching or when you were playing? Just some great ones that really stand out. I think that, you know, as a coach, I think the greatest thing that ever happened to me is coaching at Cathedral. And Cathedral was affiliated with **Char** they're called the Royal Irish, but they won the national championship about four or five times in the last seven or eight years. So that of all things, there was a team I coached at Wabash. It really did an amazing one-year

turnaround when they went from nonexistent to winning. Midwest Division to Championship and that was a great accomplishment.

All the all the places I've coached, I've had fun. Some teams have been better. I always say when you're a good coach you have good players, so. What about people getting hurt? Really... That happened often or? Injury is part of playing rugby. Just like if you were playing basketball or football or baseball, there's a likelihood that you could be injured, but it's, you know, I think as an athlete, if you like stuff, you learn how to get through injuries and continue to play. But it's now, and I was very blessed to play with some wonderfully great human beings. Rugby is a fraternity. It's a worldwide fraternity. And it's a little, I think most people are the one really social aspect of rugby is when you're done with the game, you go have a couple beers with the other team and that's the yeah, that's a tradition like if we went to Chicago to play whoever we might play. There's like 8 teams in Chicago probably more than that but after the game there's always a social that probably. Fights ever break out at the social? No, really, that's, you know, it's funny. Once the game's over in rugby you go out and throw your buddies around. But there's a great camaraderie when the game is over and you joke and have fun. I'm not going to say there was never a skirmish, but more often than not that that rarely happened.

Might happen on the field a little bit, but not afterwards. So, explain a scrum. A scrum is eight guys that connect themselves together. Why did it happen in the first place? Well, if there's a penalty or if there is an infraction in the game or the balls for different reasons, if you catch a ball and drop it, they have an advantage rule in rugby. If there's no advantage taken by the other team, normally it ends up in a scrum. And a scrum is just like a face off in hockey or a tip ball in basket or a jump ball and it's just a way to restart the game. So, they're locked up. How are they physically locked up? And then how's the ball get inserted in the situation? The ball is inserted by a team player called the scrum half, which is kind of like a quarterback in football, and the ball was hooked with a foot.

The guy, you can't touch the ball with your hands while it's in a scrum until it gets to the back, but it's fed in and there's a process. Once again, you'd have to watch a game and I could explain it to you, but both teams lock up. The team putting the ball in usually has the advantage because they know when the ball's coming in just from routine and practicing at it. And they usually have the advantage and that can change depending on who you play. But scrummaging is a big part of rugby. If you can't do that, you're going to get your butts beat normally. Alright so, outside the United States, besides Ireland, where some other favorite places you played and what? What happened? Well. You know when you go overseas, if you go to places that are traditionally strongholds and rugby, like I went to Australia one time, I've been to England, Wales, Australia and New Zealand, but they grow up playing it. You usually get your butt handed to you just because you know, like football and basketball and baseball are the traditional American sports here. If you go to England or Ireland or New Zealand or Australia or Wales, rugby is the big dog. That and soccer probably, and maybe cricket, but no, it's... I think they're going to start showing pro rugby here on TV. They've just started a league here. You'll watch it and you'll probably like it once you learn the rules it takes... Watch the game with somebody that's played it before that under Jack Clark over there, knows rugby pretty well.

So what? What are some situations that happened that were off the field overseas? Well, you know, at every place I've ever been, and this is also a tradition in rugby, when you travel, the team you play against finds a way to house everybody that's traveling. So, you're staying with the guys you're going to play against, maybe not necessarily the guy across from here or some older guy that was

affiliated with the team that you're going to play. So that's a kind of a neat aspect of rugby too, because it saves you a lot of money. So, like something maybe happened in New Zealand or Australia, is there anything that you remember from being down there that was a great story or situation? I just, you know, there's probably 100 great stories, but every place we went we just had an excellent time and the people, it was like being in your own neighborhood. So, it was and when we went to England last time we actually came out on the better and we beat some teams, but there's so many echelons of rugby in those foreign countries.

We weren't playing you know; we weren't playing the top level players that play in those countries but they have a feeder system that we were playing like minor League Baseball teams. So, no it was fun, and it was and just like here there's some real good teams. You go to England you can find a team you want to play on Sunday morning to have you've been drinking for five days. I mean, there's all kinds of calibers of it and we normally, you know, played the middle of the road guys. We weren't professional, but. So, who are some of the guys over the years you were able to coach with that you still appreciate, maybe even still communicate with and some of the guys that have that are gone? Well, Tom Verplank was a big influence on me, and I don't know if you knew Tom, he might have passed away. I knew his kids. Yeah, Garrett. Yeah. Well, Tom had played rugby after he played football at Purdue and he was a coach and I not only coached rugby with him, but I also coached high school basketball at Broad Ripple with him. But he was a pretty big influence in my life about getting me involved in coaching and then, the other guy that doesn't have a thing to do with rugby, I don't know if you know who any of the Schneiders are, but Dave Schneiders used to be the athletic director at Saint Luke and we were roommates at one time.

So, I coached CYO, baseball, basketball and a football group. So, I wanted to coach, coaching is coaching, whether you're coaching rugby or you're coaching basketball or you're coaching baseball, they're all interlocking. It's about fundamentals. Right. So. Sir, if you were going to give some advice to somebody interested in doing rugby a young kid, what advice would you give? Well, be patient. And there's a lot of kids that I have coached. Coaching is A and don't get me wrong, I don't think I'm any better than anybody else. But you learn a lot as you do it. I mean, you know, you can imagine a guy coming fresh out of college that played college football going from the transition of being a player to teaching is a different aspect because you have to have a completely different outlook on how you prepare for it and what's going to make your team better and all those sorts of things. So just like anything, it's a warning process.



Denny Connor's Staff Menu Memorabilia Stories

Sean with VoicesLiveOn.com here with the man who started Connor's, Denny Connor and all these will be up at ConnorsPubStories.com. So, Denny, obviously there's been a lot of things that have happened here over 40 years. Correct. Yeah, and thank God you're still coming. Number one. And you end up selling it to a guy named John Yaggi. Correct. So how many years did you have it before you sold it to John? 25. 25 so, over those years you acquired a lot of different memorabilia and a lot of different things have happened. What are some of the highlight objects on the wall and also some highlight situations that just kind of went down over the years? Well, that's a good question. There's so many of them it'd be hard to... Give me an explicit answer. Here's what I suggest you do. Let me sit down and think about, I'll write down some stuff so I'm not just trying to do it randomly off the top. Well yeah, we can figure out a way we can knock this out even now. So let's say for example some of the guys that were the originals that came in here who were so



me of the original guys that were the regulars that you remember coming in here and what are maybe some situations you remember that you were able to do with them or happened here in the bar? Well, it was funny.

I don't know if you existed here. Did you ever come in when Susie Anderson worked here? Susie. Possibly. Well, Susie worked for me from the day I opened the place until her and JY decided to depart.

And Susie was 71 when that happened, so I'm not saying anything bad, but she was pretty much the backbone of the daytime. She was here every day. She really was a good honest woman. That and she had a following because she had worked at several other bars in Indianapolis and originally the daytime business here was better than I ever thought it would. But it was due to the fact that she brought in the old codgers like I am now, and they were probably in their 40s and 50s at the time, but they had a wonderful bunch of guys and we had everything from ditch diggers to doctors back then.

I mean, we had insurance salesman, jewelry salesman, contractors, a couple guys were, you know, just a multitude... insurance salesman. There was a melting pot of different types of people that were employed, a lot of guys that were construction workers on rainy days. They were good way back when because a lot of and it's funny when I first got the place and **J Boy** had established a pretty good lunchtime business and we sold a lot of food. I worked in the kitchen about the first six or eight months. I was here at lunchtime every day, so. What was on the menu? What kind of stuff did you sell? It's basically the same menu as now. We had homemade cheeseburgers. We did, tenderloins, we didn't do that and we didn't have pizza then and just French fries and we had cold cut sandwiches, just like ham and cheese or roast beef so just bar food. But **J boy** was **Jboy** had started that it was people enjoyed that and so that lasted a long time. It was me at one point as you know and in any of these scenarios, things go up and down. Our food business didn't stay as relative as it had when I started, and I think some of that was due to the fact that we changed the environment. I don't know what it was, but and it's a lot easier to make money selling booze than it is food anyway, so. What's one of the first things that went on the wall? Well then people start bringing stuff. Some of the first ones you remember? You know that's a good question.

Well different people would bring things in and depending on what they were and I'm not specifically we tried to get stuff that wasn't produced by beer distributors, and we wanted original stuff, race car scenes, rugby scenes, football players and it just, it's amazing. People just bring stuff in. What's one of the cooler things or Somebody that was, you know, connected to some big thing that they brought in what's some of the bigger ones? The biggest thing that's in here is the gate... that Guinness sign. It was stolen off the brewery in Dublin by a couple guys I know. I won't mention their names. They were over there playing rugby, but they brought that back and if you ever look at it closely you can see where they busted where the bolts were holding that thing on to get and how they got it back here I don't have a clue but that of all the things and there's a couple other signs from Ireland that people had stolen, there's a tomb rugby that was in Ireland. There's a, that sign on the corner up at the corner of the bar, it's a sign from Ireland. I think the sheep forgot which way to turn after that sign was stolen. I mean it was just stuff like that just you know, and different people have donated different things and it's just been accumulated. I think most of the stuff that is in there now was 99% of it was in there when I owned the place so. Good on JY for keeping it because he has his discretion to do what he wants to do, but there's, as you well know, there's some pretty neat stuff in there. Alright so, there's a photograph kind of on the back wall that's close to the bathrooms and you're in it with long hair. Tell me about that situation. I was... That is the first time I ever played with the Indy Reds. We went to Michigan to play a form of rugby, which most people called Seven.

Seven guys play at a time. You played seven-minute halves. We went up to Michigan. It was a 64-team tournament. I had never played sevens. You got to run around like a maniac. It's very cardiovascular and we, all just the guys that are in that picture, we just decided to go, and we had a blast. Who were the guys in the picture? **Doctor Don Shelbourne's** one, let's see **Rick Reel**. **Rick Reel's**

family owned Reel Pipe and Valve. **Tom Verplank**. **Elvi Fields**, Elvi was a teacher here in Indianapolis in the public school system. **Joe Rennie**, who still drinks here. He's in that picture. I'm trying... a kid named Ray Ritchie. Jack Lemmon. Wayne Thacker, and I don't think I've forgotten anybody. But yeah, I said **Joe Rennie**. So, no it was we just went up there on a you know it was some, we found out there was a tournament up there and I wasn't playing for Indianapolis at the time but I had met Rennie and Burplank at the Red Key which used to be our old watering hole before Connor's came about and they invited me to go with him and I'm glad they did. That's really... if I had probably, if I hadn't gone to that tournament, got hooked up with those guys. It was funny, the Reds, I played on a couple teams that weren't worth a shit and the Reds were good, and we got our asses beat and everybody quit. When they asked me to go play with them, that was kind of feather in my cap, and I've been at that. I'm still coaching to this day. But that was really if I hadn't hooked up with them, I doubt if I'd still be around rugby. So, it was a blessing, you could say.

So, who are some of the more famous people that have come into Connor's over the years that you remember? Could be political, could be connected in the city to stuff, could be drivers for racing, could be, you know, whoever. Larry Bird was, Susie, the lady that worked here, she was Larry Bird's cousin. He used to come in quite a bit. Bobby Knights been here.. Bobby Leonard used to live next to Susie, the longtime bartender here, Quinn Buckner. I'm just talking to athletes. Peyton Manning was in here one night, obviously. Who is Pat, the kicker for the Colts? **Pat McAtee's** been in. I've met Scott Skiles and there's been a variety of politicians that have come through here. I mean. I remember back when **Hudnut** was the mayor, he stopped by here for some reason what on earth I don't know. But so once again, just you know... I as I think I probably took a lot of that for granted back then as you look back through it.

We were privileged to have all those people here, right. You know how people like celebrities. So, it was fun. They weren't here all the time. But when anybody like that walked in kind of lit up the house and then I tell you what really changed the place and none of them, not too many, too many of them are famous. **Dadmata** who coached at Ohio State and Butler. When he was a young man playing basketball at Butler, he I don't want to get him in trouble, but they used to drink here quite a bit to the wee hours so all the coaches of my... from Butler used to hang out here. A guy that coached me in football at Shortridge who is my counselor who had graduated from Butler. He was the head football coach at Butler for a while. My I don't know if you know who Billy Lynch is, he's related to me too and he coached. Football at Butler, but on Friday evening it's after practices. A lot of those guys would come in, you just have a couple beers and shoot the shit and figure out what they were going to do on Saturday to win a game. So, there's been an array of as if people want to look at them, important people that have cross through the threshold into Connor's. Is there any of them that you just had a great conversation with, like one of the best conversations you had with somebody come in and surprised? You know, of all the people that I ever really talked to for a long period of time and he was normal as the day was long with Scott Skiles, who played at Michigan State and then played the pros and coached, he was as ordinary as you are. I mean, you know, he was a great athlete and he played professional, but he was down to earth. He liked drinking his cold beer and having a good time. And he'd come in on offseason. Not when he was at full strength.



Denny Connor Epic Stories

Sean with VoicesLiveOn.com here with Denny Connor for ConnorsPubStories.com. I've been given some notes and I also have some of my own questions of some epic story situations. So, one of them is Pat Yaggi's bachelor party at Connor's two. Pat wanted me to have you kind of talk about that situation. Well, the first thing they did, they put newspaper or wrapping paper all over the front window. So, they. And is it this bar or we can talk? What's Connor's two explain that? Connor's downtown. It was 620 Delaware. It was right across from the city County building and John worked there at nights and we, Pat and his parade showed up there for a bachelor party. And I was there at the beginning of it. I didn't stay as long. But Pat could tell you more about it than I can and I'm not trying to be evasive. That was his last night of freedom you know so for a couple, he was a couple weeks away from biting the bullet. But rumor has it some pretty hilarious things happened down there. There was you know what bachelor parties entail.

There was some dancing girls and backroom stuff that probably a lot of people don't want to discuss anymore. That was just one of those nights. I mean you know Pat pretty well. You don't? Well, he had a lot of crazy Northside friends and they had... yeah, that was the bachelor party most of the guys that were at will remember for a long time. And so how did Connor's two become Connor's two? This is strange J Boy who I bought Connors one off of, had opened that place up and I once again.

I don't know how long he had it, but he decided to move elsewhere, and we just decided... I didn't do that all by myself either. There was a couple other guys. Since this place had been so successful, they thought another one would be, and we once again went in. I had the ability with my knowledge of construction to kind of rebuild the place and we did that and open the doors and it turned out to be another good venture. It got to the point, the reason I got it out of it, there was too many people involved. There was some other guys that invested with me and it was starting to cause problems and I elected to get my buns out of it. Alright, so next on the list is Radar Love being played on the jukebox and somebody shooting the jukebox talk about it. Yeah, Laughing Larry. There was a whole group of people that came in here. Roger Laforge. I mean, there was a Nick. Nick Davis. Nick was a coach at Butler and they not only drank here, but they drank at, what was back then Moe and Johnny's quite often. And there was a song on the jukebox there, Radar of Love. And they came in every Thursday night to hear that. And Larry came in one night. And this is really funny because after rugby practice on a Thursday night, we used to go to Moe and Johnny's and then we'd come here, we'd have a couple beers there and then come here. And anyway, I was walking in after practice and Larry and Roger, and all those guys were coming up here to have a drink.

And Larry goes, why'd you take Radar of Love off? And I said I didn't know it was off, but he came up here and a kid named Tommy O'Brien was working behind the bar and Larry came walking in the door. The jukebox, the place has been remodeled, but the jukebox used to be about what's in there, that we could use this landmark because we added on to it later on, but. The jukebox was right in the corner and Larry walked in and shot the jukebox. Pulled the gun out and shot it? Shot it a couple times, you know. You know what kind of a gun it was? It was a 22. or something like that, but by the time I got here he told me he was going to do it and I just laughed at him. I, you know, I thought he was being facetious, but I come up here the place it was like rats getting off a boat. After he did that, everybody in here just, I remember a cop showed up the next day and it was funny. Moe Walsh, he used to own the Bulldog. His brother-in-law owned an amusement company where he rented those machines, Jukeboxes and pinball machines. And if it hadn't been for that, Larry would have probably gone to jail because he had to pay the guy back. But a cop showed up and he said stuff like this doesn't happen this side of 38th St. anymore. And Larry, no, that was a pretty nutty night, wouldn't you think? Yeah, and it probably cost him the expense of buying a jukebox, but that's a story that still hangs around pretty good with old people.

OK, so we got another one is Steve Considine of the Bulldog. That was, probably he and I wasn't it? Okay, we left here one night, and it was the I think the 10th, 10th or 12th or 15th anniversary at the old pawn shop that used to be at Kessler and College and we went by there. We went by, had a couple beers there, we went to the Bulldog, and we were planning on coming back here and in the process of leaving Moe and Johnny's there used to be an army surplus store across the street from it and there was a coke can on the on the sidewalk and I go Const go out for a pass. So, I threw him this can, and he ran down the street and hit a trash can and about knocked it over and I run. I run down and jump on him like we had just run the won the Super Bowl... simultaneously a police officer stops, gets out of her car and she goes, what are you guys up to? And we said we're just having fun. She goes, are you driving? Well, we said we were, but if you don't want us to, we'll get a cab. So anyway, Const, there was a pay phone on the corner. He walks to make the phone call and about two minutes later about three more squad cars come up and this one young officer gets out and he goes, what's going on here? And I said, well. The lady gave us an option we're going to get a cab and get out of here and he goes, well I don't see it that way and I said, well you weren't here. I did say I think that's kind of bullshit and the guy goes turn around and I go for what, what's going on? He goes you're under arrest and so Const walks back he goes what's going on here and the cop goes he's under arrest and **Considine** turned around and put his hands behind his back. He goes if he's under arrest, I'm under arrest. So, they handcuff us, and they put **Considine** in the back seat of a squad car and sit me down on the sidewalk next to the squad car. And this is right at 54th and College across from where the Fresh Market is now. There's like 5 cars there. We bumped into a trash can. So anyway, Const goes, he was getting ready to go to South Africa in a couple days. He goes, let's go for a run. So, I jumped up and opened the back of the squad car up. I took off running through an alley. Const jumps out and is running down the middle of College serpentine, yelling shoot me in the back. I knocked over a trash can. So, this cops chasing him. So, he's running down College and gets down to about 55th, comes back, jumps back in the back of the squad car, I ran and hit some gravel in an alleyway and in between a couple buildings I hit... When your hands are tied behind your back, you hit some.

I went down and a cop kicked the shit out of me. And anyway, we went to jail that night. So that's the story about Steve Constine and I evading the police, so. I had to pay my way out of that. Const

left the next day to go around the world and came back and never got in trouble. But that was that was a classic story. That's pretty awesome.



Denny Connor Selling to JY Buying the Bar about Him Stories

This is Sean with VoicesLiveOn.com here with Denny Connor telling some Connor's stories and the transition to JY. Then this is going to be on ConnorsPubStories.com. First off, how did you originally meet JY and how did that connection begin? JY became an employee here. Not only did he work here, his brother Joe worked here a little bit. Pat worked here. There was a whole group of guys that worked here just looking for, you know work. I think they were all going to college or working elsewhere. But JY came on. He started out in the kitchen as a bar-back and I mean he worked here off and on for until, he was here from probably... I'm thinking, I can't remember what year. Pat could probably tell me when they got out of high school, but he was a high school student when he started here. And when I went to sell the place. And I thought his brother Mike, who also worked here was the one that was really interested. And he kind of, you know, for various reasons, backed out and I decided to sell it. So, John said he'd do it. So, he was just the next guy in line. I didn't care who bought it as long as somebody did. So, I mean it's that simple. But John had worked here 10 or 12 years, he worked behind the bar for quite a while as a bartender. But when I expressed interest in selling it, he and Mike both looked at it and John was the one that ended up making the deal. How would you describe his personality back then?

You know, he was a... you know anytime you come in into an environment like and Connor's was pretty crazy back in the old days. But all the bartenders I was always told you shouldn't hire relatives and friends to work for you. But all the guys that worked here were guys I had grown up with or met later in life and JY was JY still probably... He's not overly rambunctious but he knows everybody in town though he's good with people so and that's how it happened but he worked his way through the ranks and became a bartender but I'm glad he has it and I'm glad he's doing well. Also, over the years, Saint Patrick's Day, which is coming up here pretty soon. So, did you start doing Saint Patrick's days back in the day pretty big and now with tents and things, kind of talk about Patty? Initially we were reluctant to do it, but as time went on we didn't have the big tent in in the front of the building like they do now. But we used to use the alleyway here next to the bar and we put a tent there and Saint Patrick, It was funny. I was talking to my brother Patrick today, who also worked here. Saint Patrick's has always been the biggest day of Connor's annually for... even when we've just got done remodeling it way back in 81'. The tradition started then. I mean, I had aunts and uncles that used to come in from Saint Patrick's Day and relatives, you know? How many people would come in usually?

Oh, it was wall to wall all day long. You know, if it was 1000 people or like what's a guess? During the course of the day, I bet a 1000 or more came in and out of the place. You know, some people just come in. We used to have the Gordon Pipers come through and you know from the opening bell until closing time, it was a nut house. It's continued to be that way even to this day. So, what's some of the crazier things you've seen happen at Patrick's Day or even just, you know, over the years, even since you've sold it? The craziest things I've ever seen on Saint Patrick's Day... Or anybody in the bar doing anything? Yeah, that was, that was commonplace. You know, going back to rugby, which we started with a little while ago, there were several boys on the rugby team that were notorious for dancing naked on the bar. Dancing naked? Yeah, you know, to Frank Sinatra or somebody way back when. That guy I've lived with, who's, his name was Rick Boswell. Before we remodeled the place in 95', the ceilings weren't nearly as high as they are now. He could pin his head on the bar, and we used to have these old 10 ashtrays. He'd stick his head in there and put his feet on the ceiling and dance upside down with no clothes on. I wish we had photographs of it, and that was a weekly thing. There was a guy named **Dave Wazinski** that worked here. He was a rebuff boy he at one time, and I don't know how this started either, but. On Friday nights at like 11:00, o'clock Ski, he'd go in the backroom, he'd put a mop on his head and bring a broom out and pretended like he was a rock star and he'd get up on the bar, that lights would go out. People light their lighters, everybody'd sing along to the songs.

I mean, he was like an Elvis Presley in the backroom getting ready for a show. He'd make sure he looked right. And now there's been a lot, and its goofy shit still goes on here, as you well know. But I don't know if society hasn't changed a little bit since some of those things occurred. I'm not in here late enough at night anymore to know if people still pull those antics or not. What's the craziest thing you've done? Well, I danced on the bar a few times.. Naked? Yes... Let's talk about the romance here in Connor's. There's been a lot of romance over the years. What's some of the couples that got connected or? Well, God knows there's a thousand of them and that is wild. You know, I didn't open it to be a matchmaker, but I know several people that met here and have been married. Anybody get married here or propose here? There was a lot of people that came in here right on wedding day dressed in tuxedos to have a little nip before they went to the to the Alder that used to be... They'd come in, a lot of them would get up on the bar in tuxedos and their dresses on and... Connor. I think society has changed a little bit but no. And I was never good at photographing stuff.

If I had done that we could document a lot of this stuff I'm talking about and if you have this thing and anybody has any good old pictures of what went on in here, tell them to bring them on, because I'd love to see them. All right. Well, I thank you for your time and we're going to close this one out. You've done a hell of a job of keeping the tradition rolling, and I'm trying to help us as well as everybody else. Well, thanks, Sean. It's been a pleasure.



JY's Appreciation Message of Phil Powers Musician

Hey, this is Sean Kurker with Voices Live On. I'm sitting here with John Yaggi. He has been the owner since 2002. 2002, correct. Of Connor's Irish Pub here in Broad Ripple. One thing I love about the bar is that on Sunday nights they have a collection and it's happened other nights as well, but a collection of some of the best musicians in the city, and we're going to do an appreciation message from John to a guy that supported the music situation here and made a lot of it happen for Connor's over the years. His name is Phil Powers, if you like to say a few words just about as far as what you think of Phil, and then we can maybe bring him on over in here. That'd be awesome. He's a great dude. Very humble. He's a very talented musician and he's a big reason if you like or dislike it. I don't think too many people dislike what we do here. In fact, I've had nobody tell me they didn't like it. But moving forward and it's been like that for a while. If I do any music nights or groups or artists or types of music, it all goes through Phil, and I trust him that much and it's a pretty good vibe on Sunday nights here. We've had people, Dean Clark, drummer from Mellencamp playing here. We've had a lot of good musicians come through here and play and they enjoy playing here and a big reason is because of Phil.

So, Phil is a very diverse musician himself. What are one of your, if you were going to pick which instrument you like to see him play on, what would that be? He's first and foremost a drummer, but I think he's done it and he's done it so well for a while he's wanted to branch out. He plays the bass very well, but he can play the guitar, he can play keys, he can do everything. That's why a lot of people like to play with him. He's very humble as far as that. He'll, if he finds a drummer that's really good, he'll play the bass. So that guy can play drums. Or if he finds a real good bass player, he'll go back to play drums. So, they need a rhythm guitarist. He'll jump up and play the rhythm guitar. And let someone else play bass and drums. So, he's a team player and that's what I like about him. That's great. That's a very solid overview of Phil and let's see if we can get him over here.

Phillip Powers Speaks about Music and Connor's People

This is Sean Kurker with Voices Live On. I'm sitting here with John Yaggi, owner of Connor's Irish Pub, and we're here with the director of music and extravaganza, Phil Powers. Phil, how are you doing

today? I'm doing good. How are you doing? Pretty good. So how old are you, Phil? I'm 17.. no I'm 37. How old were you when you first set foot on this property? That was about eight years ago. So, whatever that math is, I'm not really good at math, so. It'd be 29, Yeah. And what do you do, Phil? I love hanging out here. Do a lot of music here. Luckily JY supports live music. A lot of places around here don't. He's keeping it alive. I appreciate it so much. So how long have you been playing music for the public? Since I was like 17, so 20 years. 20 Years, Yep. And since you've been coming here, when did you kind of start getting involved in helping the music happen? Well, there was a band that played here. A friend of mine was the drummer, band was called **Sourmash**, Steve Fulton. He begged me to come out and watch him play, drummer friend of mine. And I was like, I didn't go to bars.

I was like, no, I'm not coming out. Came here once, just on a whim, just to see him play. And I've been here every week since and then a couple years after that I started playing here every week, so. And you play in a few different bands around town, is that correct? Is it because you're that good or that just that many bands need your help? They're just tolerant of me. I don't know. So, I make them laugh, so you know. That's good as long as you're a comedian while you're doing 14 instruments at the same time. What would you say would be some of your favorite memories of people you've brought in to perform here and who were they and what caliber were they? Well, the thing here is it's like a giant melting pot of like, there's talent from like, the jazz scene, the blues scene, country, rock, like everything, cover band, people, original bands. It's just a giant melting pot and John supports that and that's been the beauty of what's going on here and hope it continues forever because it's my favorite thing ever and it's, when we got national act people coming in here and you know.

Like who, who are some of the big names that have come through? Well, recently Dane Clark, John Mellencamp's drummer's been playing drums with us. Amy Allen, she played with us here years ago. Sorry, I got a stuttering problem. She's, you know, she was like a soap opera actor and had some records out and stuff like that and just people from the jazz scene like people come through like whenever someone's in town from like LA or Nashville or whatever, they come here. This is where people want to come play, so. And then that's you getting the word out to them? Yeah, I mean, I think they just know at this point. It's been so many years that, yeah, it's like people just know that this is, this is the one to go to. So, what instruments do you play when you're playing here helping the bands out? I can't remember. I've seen you play the bass. Yeah, I like playing the bass the best, but drums and last night I played guitar with a new band.

There was some new blood in here last night. So, it just keeps growing. You know, like new people love playing here and you know, people that have played here from years past, they still come back. What's one of your favorite songs to play here? I don't know, probably Whipping Post. Whipping Post. Do you sing on any tracks? I sing backups. Backups? I like to talk a lot of crazy stuff on the mic too, because he lets me get away with it. John, have you ever gotten on the mic? Yes. Unfortunately for everybody else, yes, I have. Is that singing Bear Tone, style or what's your Forte? Garbled rap, I guess we call it. I have two favorite moments of JY on the mic. First of all, it was like probably four years ago. Devil Went Down to Georgia and then Happy Birthday for Izzy. Couple nights ago, yeah.

So, it's one of my better ones. Yeah, that was a good one. Did you sing? Of course, yes. How would you say he ranks against the other singers? I don't know. I'll have to contact my lawyer on that one. I'm not going to quit my job anytime soon. No, that's great. Great singing, great vocals. And one thing, well, let's talk about Saint Patrick's Day for a second. And the music that happens on Saint

Patrick's Day. Are you involved in that? I played with a few bands here on Saint Patrick's Day. Just random. I didn't get to play last year, had a couple other things going on, schedule conflicts or whatever, but the Saint Patrick's Day thing here is just out of control every year. It's just the biggest tent party in town. So great bands, all kinds of good talent and stuff, you know? How many people, John, would you say on average, come here for Saint Patrick's Day? Depends on the day, of course and the weather but, you get towards the end of the week it's nice, that is not too cold out you're going to get several 1000 people through the door or through the tents on that particular day, so.

Usually about 7:00 - 8:00 o'clock it's at capacity, so it's about 1000 people inside the tent. At that point and also inside the bar and on the back patio and in the parking lot. Including the bar, you can't get in the bar, and I don't recommend trying to get in there and at that point, I'd stay in the tent. Yeah, if I get, if I get other gigs, when you know when the tent parties going on, I'll come here before that, it's packed, you know, play my gig, come back after. It's like getting pretty late. Time to start winding down. It's still packed. It's like the best tent party in town for sure. Okay. Well, is there anything else you'd like to say about the music and the experience here at Connor's and why you enjoy it? I just love it, Love the support. I love that I live like three miles down the road. That makes it cool. John and the staff here, they always treat everyone so well. If there's ever a problem that's taken care of and good people, you know. It's like cheers. It is like cheers and then what are some words you like to say to Phil? I love Phil. I'm not going to punch him. I love him like a brother. Loves him like a brother. All right, Well, thanks Phil, for everything you've done to keep the vibe rocking here at Connor's Irish Pub.



Ireland Airport Naked Man Ireland Steve Constine Pilot

Greeting Indy Rugby Team at Airport Arrested Bush Pilot in Africa Died of Malaria

This is Sean Kurker with Voices Live On. I'm sitting here with John Yaggi, the owner of Connor's. John, our little history project we're doing here for you is kind of documenting the memorabilia and the stories behind these items so people can listen and enjoy and understand where they come from, who did it and how it happened, and any other weird aspects of the story we can have you tell them live.

So, the first one we're going to do. Is a picture on your wall of an individual looks like it might be at the airport. He is naked, he is flashing, and it says welcome Indy Reds. Looks like it's probably in the early 70s from the garb that people are wearing. So, what's the history of this photo, John? The

gentleman pictured in the center with the coat and the Indy red sign is **Steve Constantine**. He had worked here part-time 79 early 80s. He was a pilot, so he went all over the country, lived in a seaplane in the San Francisco Bay he's quite a character. He had been over in Ireland and the rugby team went over to play in a kind of little tour of games and they were called the Indy Reds back in the late 70s, early 80s and they flew into Shannon Airport in Ireland. Where he, Steve was already there to greet them and obviously as the picture shows, he greeted him with a sign and no clothes on. He was actually immediately arrested after that picture was taken. However, he had a gift of gab and sort of speak and he was released about 15-20 minutes after he was arrested there at the airport. So, a little fact afterwards he was a Bush pilot in Africa and actually passed away several years ago, unfortunately of malaria. That he contracted when he was over in Africa, but he was just one of the interesting employees, patrons in Connor's pub that people remember.

But that picture also significant, that gentleman on the left, his name was Dicky Moss. He was a rugby player, ex IRS agent. He was the first accountant of Connor's pub and he was the reason, the driving force behind Connor's being cash only for the 80s, nineties or the two early, pretty much the 2000s. He was the driving force of keeping it cash only and he did the books, and he was a master at it and unfortunately he passed away as well as technology and times have changed we now do credit cards the last three or four years. But you could probably blame him or cheer him for the reason that Connor's was cash only throughout the years. This photograph can be found where in your bar? As you walk in the front door to your immediate left on the wall over by the jukebox, it's hanging proudly right next to the jukebox. You can't miss it. Should we call it Naked Man? What's a good title for this image? Oh, just shake your head and go, Steve, I think that's all you could say.



Jack Clark about Steve Constantine Naked Man on Wall and Epic Stories

This is Sean with VoicesLiveOn.com here at Connor's Pub for Connors Pub Stories. We just interviewed Denny Connor, the man that started it all, but we're here with Jack Clark, a man who's been there for a while. He's going to talk about the naked man that's on the framed photo next to the iTunes machine that happened in Ireland at the airport. So go ahead. Well, another when he went to Ireland, that was the one when he went. He liked it so much he stayed and waited till the Reds came back correct? On one of the trips, he overindulged and was feeling kind of puny the next day.

So, he was going to get a little exercise to try to work out some of the bad humors. And So, what he did is he was going to, and I think it was one of his brothers, I don't know one of the other team. They're way out in this beautiful Irish countryside, some village and they go for a jog and they're running

down this beautiful road and you can see the little stone walls and the cottages and there was an old man in his garden with a hoe and he was hoeing his garden and he sees these two lads coming, running down the road. And he walked over to the side of the road and was leaning against the hoe when he came by and Const nodded at him, and he says, who's chasing you lads? And the thought for some guy who would probably work his butt off his entire life. The thought of some kind of, needless exertion was just beyond. Yeah. Who was chasing you and every time I see people jogging as you can tell I don't, haven't done it in a while but, that's why I always think of Const and you know then that old man he said they made it about another four feet and started laughing so hard. Then they went back to the pub. But anyway, that was the one Const story.

How many years have you been coming here? I actually came before Denny got it. Yeah. Originally, yeah. And then Denny got it and I heard you talking about Sue also, right? There's a picture of her in there. Have you seen the picture? And there's another good story I go to... I was in Solomons Island, South Carolina for a family vacation. Okay. And right down from the beach was this great little pub called Dunleavy's Pub. Dunleavy's was a... Dunleavy had been a... he's from Boston, and he had been a pitcher in the Red Sox organization and he ended up his career in Charleston playing for the Charleston River Dogs. Well, he starts this pub and it was a great Irish, it was a lot like this place. It was like in an old house that was right on and in and so I would take the boys to the beach, my son's and then I'd say I've got to go to the bathroom, I'm going to walk.

So, I go in there and he has these pictures of Larry, all these Boston athletes all over the wall and Larry Bird. So, one day I'm at the at Dunleavy's and this guy's in there and he's a tall athletic looking guy and Major League pitcher, you know, so he's in there and I said man, I saw your pictures of Larry Bird. He goes, oh yeah, he says I used one of my favorites, you know. The Celtics and all this and I said well I hang out at a bar back home. It's a lot like this place, the bartender is Larry Bird's cousin. They're both from South Southwestern Indiana and he says really does he ever come in there and I said well he yeah, he has been in you know whenever the Celtics might be in town or something and so this guy walks over to me and he gives me a hat and he brings it says if you can get a picture of Larry Bird wearing a Dunleavy's pub hat, he says you'll never have to buy a drink here again.

I said I probably won't be back, but I'll try. So, I carried this damn, this hat around in my truck for months and months and months and I'd come in here after work every day and see Sue, I'd say you know if Larry's going to be - you know I don't know he just - he's not a drinker he just comes with, and well I don't know, she said he wouldn't but anyway so I just held onto the hat forever. I still have it but I never did get the picture, but it was yeah that was a good place. Thanks, Jack. I appreciate. It.



Rugby Large Photo 80s, 90s, and Connor's as Home

This is Sean Kurker with Voices Live On; I'm sitting here with John Yaggi and we're getting some history of the memorabilia and images that are on the wall of his bar. Connor's Irish Pub in Broad Ripple and everybody's known forever that it's a rugby bar. But why is that? Back in 1980 when Denny Connor purchased the bar, the culture of rugby back then, it's still a little bit to this day, is every host team in the east city had their social club or some place that everyone would go to after a match. The social aspect was a big part of rugby. So, after every match they would go back and have food and drink at either a bar or clubhouse, something of that nature. And that's what Connor's was meant to be back in 1980 was just a kind of a clubhouse for the rugby team, but it kind of evolved quickly from being just a rugby club to everyone wanting to go to Connor's. But it a lot of the 80s and early 90s definitely was a stronghold for rugby. And then rugbys kind of changed over the years. The characters aren't quite as bright as they were back then, but that picture just represents really a part of the history of Connor's that there you know, that definitely rugby has deep roots in the history of Connor's in fact, the gentleman in the front right is **Simon**, he's from England, longtime member of the rugby team and if you've been to bars like oh, the Broad Ripple Tavern, the Meridian.

He's done all the work and remodeling of those places, Moe and Johnny's, Connor's to some extent. He's done a lot of the work, so the architecture, the feel of it, that gentleman, you could give him the credit for that. And it looks like they're in the middle of, would you call that a scrum? That is a scrum, yes, so. Have you been in a scrum? I played rugby briefly in my freshman year at Xavier, but I was not dedicated enough and I'm actually a little too lazy to get up and go to practice every Saturday morning at 8:00 AM. I valued my sleep at that point over rugby so, but I did play briefly for a few months my freshman year at Xavier. By no means an All star either. What position were you? Actually, I was a wing, and I was a hooker and not hooker as in a prostitute but they're at the position as a hooker so and I throw the ball in kind of fight so I kind of remember it from the side. So, would you say that this picture it's, you know, it's kind of like all rugby men can envision themselves on the photo that's kind of a staple photo for the bar that just emulates? That's correct, definitely. Every rugby player that comes in can relate to that picture. That's one that's timeless as far as the nature of that. You can tell the physical exertion, things of that nature. It just typifies rugby and everybody can relate to it that plays the sport. How many rugby fights have happened in the bar? They normally didn't fight amongst each other but as far as fighting with other people, groups that didn't understand that way of life, there's been a handful. Not as much in the past few years but back in the day there was a few here and there. People didn't understand the culture of rugby and they usually didn't talk it out.

They fisted it out so to speak so but, it's smelled out a little bit over the years. It's not quite as wild as it used to be. Well, rugby definitely is a very intense sport, and I can understand after a few Guinness and everything else that they're going to get ramped up and it's going to go out front. So anyway, John, thanks for the overview of the iconic photo of the rugby scrum and where is that located? That is on the wall directly across from the bar. So, if you're at the main part of the bar product across from the taps, you'll be able to see that picture hanging on the wall.



Metal Bridge Sign 1895 Metal from The Bridge in Broad Ripple

by Spirit Lake Grabbed it Down Dennis Boone & Tim Micheli

This is Sean Kurker with Voices Live On. I am here with John Yaggi of Connor's Irish Pub in Broad Ripple, and we're capturing some historical stories for the guests to be able to listen and understand what's on all the walls. The one we're doing right now, it looks like it's made out of some kind of metal or steel, looks like a giant sign from 1895, it says, Wrought Iron Bridge Builders Canton OH John, that well, just give us the background on this who got it for you and what their motivation was. That's a very heavy sign by the way. That sign used to hang on the bridge at Westfield just north of Broad Ripple should go around the bend where Spirit Lake is and all the condos and the social halls, things of that nature. There, around that corner, Oxbow, there what used to be a two-lane bridge and a group of the patrons who are now in there, probably 60s, stole that sign as they were tearing the bridge down. They hid it for years, obviously fearing reprisal from the law until recently. They came to me and donated it to Connor's, which we hung up. I know a couple of gentlemen involved in that. I guess the statute of limitations is over would be and Dennis Boone and Tim Micheli are two of the culprits on that side. Are those the only things they contributed? Well, material wise, that ceiling they've contributed, but they have definitely played in part, many of the stories and folklore. You call it a Connor's pub, that those are just two of the many people that are intertwined with Connor's. They're definitely a part of the history and you can't can't exclude them on anything. But yes. And you said they're not alive or? Dennis passed away recently. Tim Micheli is alive and well, and in fact, if you probably come in tonight, you'll see him drinking red wine. What's the percentage of people that you know they're drink? 95 plus if you're a regular, 95 plus percent. Super strong numbers.



Guinness Sign from Fence of Brewery in Dublin Ireland

Johnny Younger Also Naked on Roof St. Patty's Day Wrapped in Irish Flag

Hi, this is Sean Kirker with Voices Live On here with John Yaggi. We're at Connor's Irish Pub. We're doing some historical tales of the memorabilia within the building. The one we're covering right now is obviously a great beer from Ireland being Guinness, and it's a sign that's basically up above the door when you walk in. What's kind of the history of the sign? That sign literally came off the fence of the brewery in Dublin. Rugby player was over there spending time in Ireland, Johnny Younger and literally ripped it off the fence and to this day I still don't know how the heck he got it shipped from Ireland to Indianapolis. But he did and it's been hanging ever since. But that's literally straight from the fence of the brewery in Dublin. And it says on it, just so we're clear, it says Guinness. St. James's Gate Brewery established 1759 Hop Store Entrance. So that's pretty amazing that out of all the people that drink Guinness that you literally have the sign in your pub halfway across the world from one of the guys who's probably drank a lot of Guinness here.

Well, Johnny was probably only about 21-22 when he did it. Another story with Johnny, which I think the Statue of Limitations is over with, is probably our first tent party for Saint Patrick's Day. Unbeknownst to me, Johnny had snuck in, was on the roof of the bar naked with the Irish flag wrapped around him, and while the police were here. I didn't learn of it till they were presently at the bar that night and I was in sheer panic hoping no one looked up to the roof of the bar to see a naked 18-19-year-old on top of the bar with just an Irish flag wrapped around him. But Johnny currently builds ships, and he lives in New Zealand. How often do you get to see... like has he been back in recent years or? He's only been back a couple times. Obviously, he'll come to the bar, and we talked and he's kind of "matured" as he's gotten older. So, he's not quite as wild as he used to be in his younger days. But he was a handful when he was of age and was able to come into Connor's. He was definitely someone I had to keep an eye on full time when he was in here drinking. You probably are Papa Bear to 97% of the people that come through the door. I wish if their parents could give me a check for "night care," I'd be a rich man. I'd probably live at some beachfront property in some foreign country, maid service, everything if I was able to collect on that. But there's a few I have to take care of, yes.



Race Car in Broad Ripple, Woman Topless

This is Sean Kurker with Voices Live On. I'm sitting here with John Yaggi on the back deck, which recently has been redone here at Connor's Irish Pub. We're doing a little history today on the memorabilia on the walls and one of the items is something that if you see it and you notice it, it definitely stands out. It's an old black and white photo, Not sure the year yet. Basically of an IndyCar looks like across the intersection of the fire station here in Broad Ripple with the Masonic Temple in the background and kind of the old buildings to the left. There's a woman that has a racing jacket that is open and she is not wearing a shirt, she's in a number four car, and this looks like the cars were from a long time ago, and she's got a checkered flag. So, John, how long has this photo been on the wall? That's another old one that's probably been here since the 80's easily. That picture was taken I think early 80's by **Rick Risemore** he was the main culprit in the design of that picture he's one of the forefathers of Broad Ripple. He owned Union Jacks for years, really started kind of the bar scene back in the late 70's, early 80's, and he's a big reason why Broad Ripple is where it is today.

He had a model take that picture, I believe, one early Saturday morning, and outside the picture itself, it's kind of cool to see the businesses behind her in the car that were open during those days. As you can see, there weren't a lot of bars. The patio was there, but there was a Fox Deli. There's a paint store where the Corner Wine bar. Parthenon, looks like the Parthenon was there. Parthenon was there. The corner used to be handy hardware where the corner wine bar is now but yeah Fox Deli that was a great place to go to there's and obviously a paint store that there was you know the patio wasn't necessarily nightclub back then yet it was more of a just a... regular locals only type of bar before the Vogue bought it so, this picture represents a lot of history of Broad Ripple. So, it's kind of cool in that nature and you can appreciate if you're old enough to remember those businesses or know that time of Broad Ripple and the timeline of it so.

Well, it definitely is one that makes you do a double take, especially because of the woman not having a shirt on. But it is one of the coolest nostalgia photos, I think in Broad Ripple in general, like in any business, is that they've seen a lot of different ones and I don't know personally, I haven't seen one that dated, and from that view and so, I do have a few copies of that available. For a measly 5 bucks, I can give you a copy of that picture. OK, that's great. Do you know who's in it like do you know who took the photo? I believe the photo was done by the Rising Moore brothers. But the girl, it's part of the mystery of the photo, I have no idea. If she ended up becoming a playmate, and we will never know that. Or a US Senator? I'm not sure. Yes, anonymous name. It's all I know. The gorgeous race chick that's showing her support of the 500, That's great.



Golden State Warriors Basketball Team Signed Jersey

We're here at Connor's Pub with John Yaggi. We're doing a little Connor's Pub stories and we're going to be talking about the Golden State Warriors jersey that's signed on the wall back here and how long ago was this John that you received it? Oh, about five or six years ago, when the Golden State won their first title, there was a young Butler student co-ed, and her father is Ron Adams. He's assistant coach at Golden State and when she went out to visit him over Christmas break, she got the whole team to sign this t-shirt and they brought it back and we got it framed and matted, put it on the wall. Are you a Golden State fan? Now I am. What was her name? Adams. Do you have any other jerseys? Is this one of the top ones as far as most people signed? The one that we have signed up on the wall currently is Bob Probert, famous muscle man for the Detroit Red Wings and Chicago Blackhawks.

We have a signed jersey of his up on the wall. A lot of people talk about that when they come in the building he's now been since deceased for a few years but, he was a very popular NHL player back in his day. Okay. Well, we'll get that one too. But this is located kind of in the back corner by the games and it looks like it's literally 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, looks like it's about 20 or so players that literally signed it. Do you have any idea what the value of that would be now that they've done well? No, I don't. All right, Golden State Warriors t-shirt signed on the back wall.



1972 Rugby Tournament Photo on Back Wall, Dr. Shelborne and Others

We're at Connor's Pub stories with JY and on the back wall looks like it's the 1972 rugby tournament for Ann Arbor, MI. Can you kind of give a little back story of this? Just a couple of the regulars and Denny Connors in the bottom right front row and former owner of the bar and it's always kept the pictures. A lot of the regulars, you can see Doctor **Don Shelborne**, kind of a well-known local sports medicine surgeon. **Tom Verplank**, Jill Rennie, some guys that you know, regulars have been coming to the bar since the 80s, and I just thought it was appropriate to stay up on the wall. These guys still come in? Oh yes. The two in the bottom row, Jill Rennie and down the bottom middle and Denny Connor down on the bottom right, both come in quite frequently. The rest of them I don't think come in or I've not seen them in here. I think Doctor **Shelborne**, probably his kids come in here, but I've not seen him in here. Did they win a lot of trophies or, you know, a lot of tournaments? I think back in the day, they're a pretty good team. They won quite a many trophies and plaques, things of that nature.



Indianapolis Monthly Award Top Bar and Famous People Who Have Visited, Like Mark Cuban

Here at Connor's Pub Stories and we're looking at an award from March 2013 from the Indianapolis Monthly. Says Connor's is number one, Pat Flynn's number two and the rest don't really matter. Clientele at this Irish dive bar in Broad Ripple ranges from hippies to post match hurling teams. Hurling is a national sport of Ireland. You know to order the fried cheese balls and enjoy the show.

So, what's, what's the reason that they even came to you for? Was it just for all Irish pubs? I imagine so, that or someone that likes the cheese balls a lot, but it's kind of nice to see that in Indianapolis Magazine or Monthly. As far as least be mentioned, as one of the top five Irish pubs in Indianapolis number one. So, have you received any other awards over the years or accolades in the media? I don't... I want to say that probably the dive bar has been named top dive bar before, things of that nature. I don't really correlate Connor's pub winning any type of awards per se, but it is what it is. I will say it's an eclectic group of people that come in here and it ranges from retirees early today, industry people to all ages at night to you know generations of parents come in with their kids, kids coming in. Tell me how they know about this place, their parents talking about it you know, when they came of age to drink and things of that nature. So, it's quite a diverse group of people that come in here and that's what makes it interesting and entertaining.

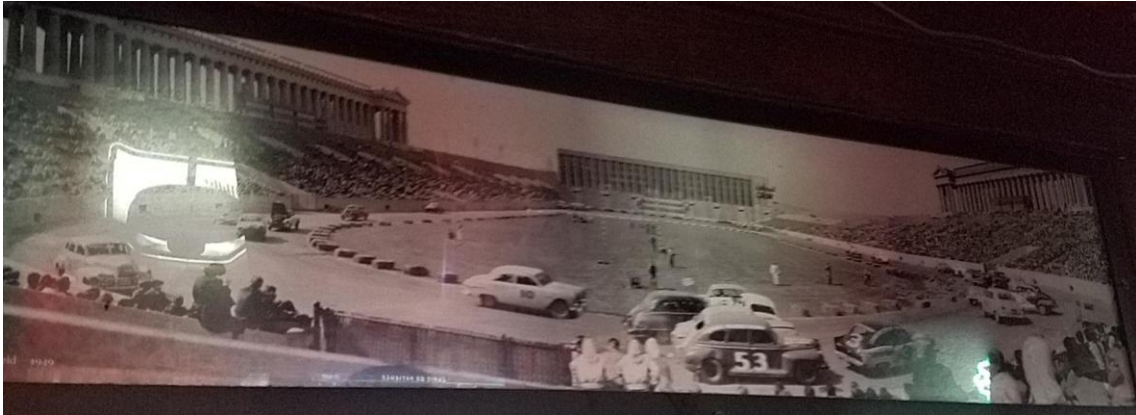
What's some of the more famous people or newsworthy people that have come in that you remember? Mark Cuban usually comes in every time he's in town and usually hangs out here for a while when the Dallas Mavericks play the Pacers and get a few of the Pacers players in here occasionally. Jim Harbaugh has been in here drinking before. Zach Martin, NFL player. We've had a couple NFL players work the door here. Jeremy Trueblood. **Mathias Keanuka**. So, we've had some people come in that's a celebrity, couple film directors, things of that nature been in here. Some local TV reporters, I won't name their names, have been in here late night, things of that nature. Have you ever been featured on TV or any any local show? This face isn't camera worthy so no. Well, The bar itself? The bar itself, no. Which it could be good and bad.



Indy 500 Drivers That Crashed, Kevin Cogan Caused the Wreck and His Backstory

We're looking at the Indianapolis 500 track and it looks like it's possibly back in the 60s or 70s. In the 70s. That's a pretty big painting on the wall for Connor's pub stories or excuse me photograph and it's signed by one of the drivers that well, John just go ahead and then kind of give the back story. Kevin Cogan was a former IRL Driver and it's probably like 70s, early 80s. Start of the race, he was up the first row I believe and he caused an accident. Start of the race, knocked out AJ Foyt and I think someone else, another popular driver.

I forget who, AJ was pretty upset by it and obviously criticized Cogan pretty well in the media. But we got a picture taken of it and got Kevin Cogan to sign and he was pretty good about it and he just wrote in, ouch. Kevin Cogan. So, did you actually get somebody to take the photograph or? Someone had the photograph and then they got a hold of him and he was graceful enough to go ahead and sign it. Has he ever been into Connor's? Not to my knowledge. And did he ever do anything more in IndyCar? Maybe a year or two, but he was out of racing shortly thereafter. What's the year you guessed him at this being? Let's go 80-81, probably. 80-81 and then, OK, so it was, do you happen to know who won that particular race? No, I don't. But nobody died? No one died. That's the most important thing. Exactly.



Soldier Field 1929 NASCAR Race John's Love of the Bears

We're here for Connor's pub stories this is Sean Kirker with John Yaggi, and we're looking at probably in the 70s, an old panoramic photograph of Soldier Field and in Chicago. Correct? Correct. And what's going on in this photograph? So, it's the NASCAR race back in 1949 at Soldier Field. Kind of gives you the idea how massive Soldier Field was back in the day and it's kind of interesting that the field was versatile enough to have hosted NASCAR race as you can see. So, kind of cool. So obviously the Bears took over Soldier Field after... Were they already playing at this point? They were playing at Wrigley Field, so they were not playing football yet at Soldier Field that came about back in the 60s, early 70s, is when the Bears moved to Soldier Field. So, what made you a Bears fan from the get-go? Because you always... well, not always, but a lot of times I see you wearing Bears gear here in Connor's. Back as a child, pretty much.

The Colts weren't here in Indy yet, and pretty much the only games on locally were the Bears. Remember on CBS? And I just became a fan because they were on every Sunday, and I have an uncle by marriage from the South Side of Chicago. So, he always kind of cheered it on like, you know, encouraged me. Yeah, you're a Bears fan. Yeah. So, kind of engrained to me at an early age. So, when the Colts came, I just couldn't change my allegiance. Colts are my second favorite, but I am a die-hard Chicago Bears fan for life. So, there was just something that happened recently in the game. Don't want to talk about it? Don't want to talk about that double bunk boink, Double boink. And if you know what we're talking about, you know about when this was recorded.



Stan Fox Indy 500 Driver Crash

We're here for Connor's Pub stories, and I'm here with JY, and this is Sean Kirker. We're standing basically right in front of the front door. There's a large, framed photograph by photograph, play by play, and you could even see the gentleman's legs flailing out from the car being demolished, and this is when Stan Fox you know as far as when his crash was and he, correct me if I'm wrong, but he did pass away from? No... He did not pass away from this? No. We got this from the Indianapolis 500 Museum, and they do not sell any photographs where a driver actually was killed, so he actually lived through this. Stan did later pass away years later in a regular car accident, I believe in New Zealand, so it's kind of ironic that he was killed in just an ordinary driver-passenger in a car on the road but this was back in the early 90s and you can see AJ Foyt's car in the frames but it's kind of a frame by frame sequence of pictures of showing Stan crashing into the wall and it's basically his car disintegrating and quite incredible he did come out of there pretty much unscathed and it is a hell of a series of pictures, to be quite honest.

So out of all of the drivers and all the pictures and all the crashes, what kind of motivated you to acquire this one? Or what was the back story of why you got this in particular? It was a situation, it was just interesting. So, you don't see this and see the driver in air still in the cockpit, you know with the seat belt on. It's just something you don't see every day and to see that kind of, pictures, the sequence it's kind of amazing so, you could definitely tell from some of the photographs of the car it's ripped in half, his body is half out of the cockpit and is dragging on the track and it is amazing that he wasn't killed from this situation. But have you ever had any drivers come into Connor's? Oh, yes. We've had quite a few. **Dario Franchitti**, Scott Dixon. Young Foyt we've had quite a few drivers over the years coming to Connor's pub. Do you usually go out to the race yourself? I hadn't been the last couple years. I used to go every year with my father, and when he could no longer do it, I kind of... between him not being able to go and the bar being really busy after the race, it's kind of made me stay here at home and then be here at work greeting the race fans after the race here at the bar, but it's something I need to start getting back into, is going to the Indianapolis 500. Okay. And you know, rest in peace, Stan Fox. But we're glad that he was able to live through, you know, at least this situation. And I think **Kent Baker**. I don't know if you know **Kent Baker**, but I think he drove for Kent for a little while. Did you ever know **Kent Baker** is? No, Okay. His own racing team, but anyway, well, we'll close this one out on Stan Fox. And it was in 1995, May 28th.



AJ Foyt Indy 500 4X Winner, His Grandson Comes to Connor's

Sean Kurker with Connor's pub stories here right inside the front door with JY, the first thing you see when you come in to the right is, looks like it's the front page of the Indianapolis 500 from May 1977. It says in super text the 500 winner 4th time which I believe is that AJ Foyt? Yes. So that's senior. And did you say that Junior has been in here? His grandson's been in here, yes. His grandson's been in here, so Foyt obviously has had a really long legacy. How did you acquire this piece? It was here when I started working here back in 86' so it's been here 30 years plus and it was just part of the bar and I just kept it up. AJ Foyt was one of my, has been my top three as far as favorite race drivers, so it was kind of a natural to keep him up on the wall. When his grandson came in, did you happen to get any pics or hear any stories from the grandson? I know that he took some pictures standing alongside the picture, and some people took pictures of them as he stood next to the photograph of his grandfather. That's all I know about that.



Bob Bell Indy Star Story and Bob Stories, A Great Guy for Decades

Here for Connor's pub stories. We're inside the front door and right up by the frame of the door there's a framed picture of a guy with the word, "Huh?" On his t-shirt. What's the back story on this

fellow? Bob Bell was a former Indianapolis Star Indianapolis news reporter and is a regular here at the bar. As he retired, his hearing kind of went away and he was a good enough sport to wear the t-shirt because he'd always would say "huh?" because he couldn't hear you and so someone bought him that t-shirt and he was a good enough sport to wear it but he's since passed away but pretty good guy always a good spirited individual and everybody loved him. Did he ever write up anything about Connor's in the Star? He did once, the first year we did the tent party back in 98-99. He wrote an article about where they were going to put all the parking when we did our tent party.

Where's the parking and where all the people going to park at? I wouldn't say it was a... that's not a very positive article. Well, he was questioning it how more what all these people are going to go or do and it worked out fine. But hey, sometimes. Any publicity is good publicity. Right. Especially with a guy that can't hear and always says "huh?". He was here, too, Trust me. He was here. Bob Bell, he had this old ratty car. I forget what it was. A little red car, and he had Henry put the carpet on the hood because it was about rusted away. Well then, he almost crashed in it. So, he gave it to me. He goes, can you get rid of it? I said sure. So, I took it over my buddies garage just to see what was going on. When he picked it up on the lift. The front axle fell off the car. Fell off the car. Now I'm not shitting you, we're like well never mind we took it to the junkyard. But he drove. That thing goes about 10 miles an hour you know home and to here. That's a nice little added story for Bob.



Mayor Ballard at the Irish Festival with Indy Hurlers

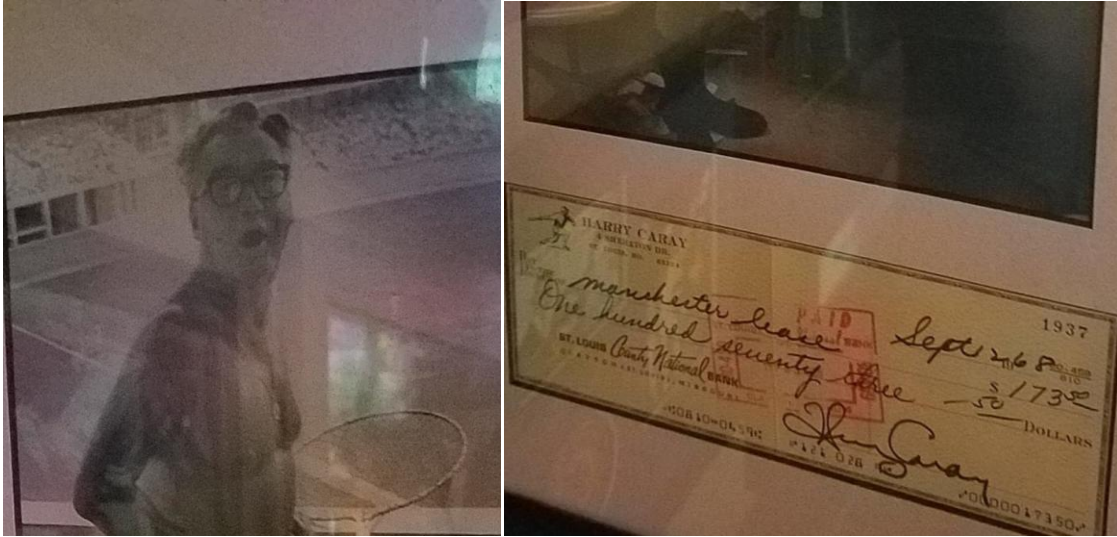
We're here at Connor's Pub doing some Connor's pub stories and looks like there is a picture of our mayor, it was Ballard and it is that a Philadelphia Eagles bird head? A little bit. It was a Irish Fest and the Indianapolis Hurlers were there having an exhibition of the sport, promoting hurling and helping with the Irish Fest and the mayor would happen to be there and one of the hurlers. I don't know what that outfit is, but Ballard took a picture with them at Connor's Pub on this jersey and it was a natural fit to put up on the wall here at Connor's. Do you think we could get a hold of the now ex-mayor and ask him if he would like to come in and enjoy Connor's on the weekend? He's a Cathedral grad like myself, so I think. I think that's possible. I think we need to get him to sign it. I agree.



Cubs Fan Messes Up Division Playoffs, Steve Barkman and Moses

Here for Connor's Pub stories with JY and on the front of the building, in between the two windows, is a framed photograph of what it looks like a Cubs fan trying to capture a ball, and it's signed. Who's it signed by? Signed by **Moses Alou**. And who's that? He was a former left fielder for the Chicago Cubs. Is that him in the photograph? It is. So, he's in the photograph, trying to grab the ball in the sky in the stands. What's the story on this? It was during the division of playoffs. Forget what year the Cubs were playing the Florida Marlins and it was a foul ball and **Steve Barkman**, the gentleman in the Cubs hat with a headphone set.

Was trying to reach to grab the foul ball and **Moses Salute** was trying to get it and end up being **Moist Salute** was not able to catch the ball. He was quite upset, and a lot of fans blamed Steve **Barkman** for the Cubs losing that series. It's really not true, but he was a scapegoat for the Cubs not going to the World Series that year. Then he had to move out of Chicago. He did move out of Chicago. Yes, he did. What is he doing now? It's probably witness protection right now. And how did you actually acquire it being signed? That's a good question. There was a dealer memorabilia out of Chicago and I think I was able to go through him to acquire this picture.



Harry Carry Check for 173 Dollars, Year 1968

Here for Connor's Pub stories on the front wall here, you've got an old black and white photograph of Harry Carry and a check that he wrote to looks maybe like man shelter lease relief, something like that from the Saint Louis based bank. John, what's the... and this is from September 12th, 1968 for \$173. What's the back story on the check and how you got the framed photograph? It's another one where I found a local in the Chicago area, a memorabilia dealer. Photographs, stuff, things of that nature. It's a picture of Harry Carry. They don't have an autograph for him, so they found some canceled checks that he wrote out. So I was able to acquire that with the picture, if it's him in his boxers in the radio booth at Wrigley Field, obviously a famous baseball announcer for both the Saint Louis Cardinals and the Chicago Cubs.

What was one of the more famous things he'd always do each game? 7th inning stretch he'd sing the Take You Out to The Ball Game, get the Cub fans riled up during the 7th inning stretch. But he was famous for not being able to pronounce different players' names and he just butchered their names and little quirky little things he would say on air. It was just a very popular baseball announcer, probably the most famous in his generation. What's the youngest you remember going to Wrigley? Oh boy, in my teens. So, we're talking 40 years ago, going to Wrigley Field. Did you ever have a chance at almost grabbing a ball? Not even close. Not even close all.

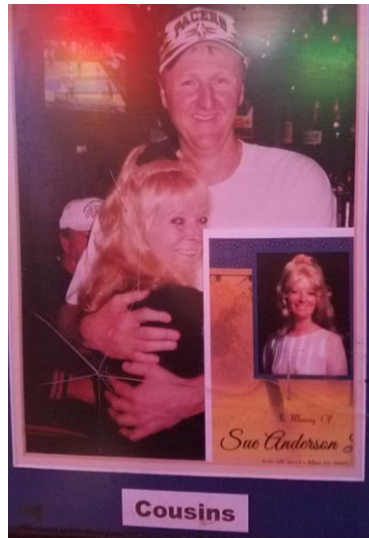


Flags On the Ceiling Who Are the Highlights and Why

Sean with Connor's Pub stories and I'm here with JY and he's going to talk a little bit about the flags on the ceiling. You got... let's just take a guess here. You've got Michigan, Canada, Marion, Guinness from Ireland, Chicago, Police, Navy Seal's, Marines, Army. Irish flag, another Marines Flag, Ohio State, Ball State, IU, Purdue, Butler, Marquette, Notre Dame, Kansas, Iowa, Rangers. There's a ton of different ones. Have there always been flags up since you bought the bar? Correct. It's just different people from different backgrounds as far as whether they were the military, the school they went to, things that and if you know end up being in Indianapolis and they want a piece of themselves here, a piece of the what you know their history so, the flags is a way to allow that to happen. So, it's kind of interesting when you say you have the Iowa Hawkeye flag up and you get some people that come in from Iowa and they see it up. It's like... makes it feel like oh I'm at home type thing or people take pictures with their flag with them like, Michigan State or Wisconsin.

So, it's kind of fun to do that. Guys, military backgrounds come in, they see their, you know, the Marine Corps, the Ranger or the Navy Seals and they feel that they're part of it. So, the one with the snake looks like it's been signed a lot. Is that Marines or? What would that be? It's a Sigma New fraternity flag. We usually have a different fraternity flag up from Butler, and literally what happens is one of the fraternities will come in with the ladder, tear one flag down, put theirs up so that'll be up for a while. Then another house will come in because they're unhappy that their flag isn't up, and they will take that one down and they'll put theirs up. That's a nice little rotating rivalry. Yes. And any particular ones that stand out to you that was a crazy moment when they brought it in or just kind of a more personal die been with the Chicago? The Iowa Hawkeye fans that brought that were pretty wild. So that was a big deal for them to put that up.

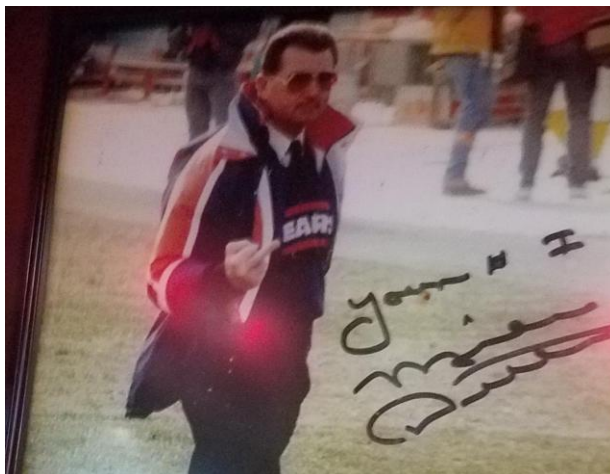
Oh, the others couple die-hard Marquette people come in here and they love the fact that their flag is up. If you're a Bears fan, there's a Walter Payton jersey flag up on the ceiling and that's a talked about one. I got a lot of people, teachers, coaches and students at Marion University. So, they have their flag up. They're particularly happy about that. So really depends where you're from and who your allegiance to is, but the flags are very much talked about. I'm glad you got the Ball State one up too. That's where I went. It does make me feel happy that I'm accepted here.



Sue Anderson, Sue Light Cousin of Larry Bird, Passed Away 25 Years Bartender

Here with Connor's Pub stories and there's a framed photo next to the taps with an old basketball legend, and what's that gentleman's name? Larry Bird. And Larry's holding and hugging a woman and there's a younger photograph of the woman. Is that Sue Anderson? Sue Anderson. They were cousins, and occasionally he would come into Connor's to see her and he'd drink about 10 Miller Lights and then be on his way, but he was gracious enough for a lot of the regulars. He would take pictures with them in the bar but yep, unfortunately Sue passed away but she was a day bartender here for over 20 years so everybody misses her and but, that's part of history right there. What were some of the things that she would do that kind of stand out that the patrons loved?

She had a vocabulary of a oh, she was rough. She was tough. Very graphic language, I guess you could say, very colorful. She was tough, but she was nice on the interior. Exterior though, kind of gruff. Didn't take any crap from anybody, but the regulars loved her. How many years did she bartend here? Oh, I have to say 25 years. 25 years. That's very impressive. And how long ago did she pass? About three years ago, so I'm sure there was a lot of people from here that went to the wake and everything on. Definitely yes. Does her family still come in? Yes, they do. Okay. Is there anything else you'd like to say about Sue? Miss you Sue. Love you.



Mike Ditka Flipping Off the Camera

Here for Connor's Pub stories with John Yaggi. This is Sean Kirker, and we're going to be talking about one of the most legendary coaches in general in the NFL, let alone for the Bears and the mustache made him also famous on Saturday Night Live, and we're talking about Mike Ditka. So you've got a signed, signed photo of him and he is flipping off the camera. That's correct, and he autographed it. You're number 1 and his signature, so kind of poetic, so I definitely had to have this one up on the wall. So, this was from what year? Late 80s, somewhere between 85 and 88. And did you, I'm assuming you got it in Chicago? Actually, I got it while I was here in town, but I got it through someone in Chicago, yes. So, what do you think of Mike Ditka as a coach? Right below God.



Front of Building, St. Patrick's Tent Party

So, we're out front of Connor's, we're getting some Connor's pub stories and obviously the bar's been here for a long time when we got some history before. But out here in the parking lot consistently every year is the tent party, and John's going to get me a picture too, if he's gotten the archives, but just kind of describe how it started and how big it is and just a little bit about the tent party for Saint Patrick's Day. Tent party started about 1998. It was just a small tent right here in this area. The front was basically a couple of pop-up tents out front, just grew in size.

So now we do it from all the way to the end of the block by the canal down to the alley and then up the alley here. So it's basically a 40 by 120 foot tent out front and then a 20 by 40 down the alley when you probably max it out between 600,000 people at one time during the course of the day in the evening. Did you say 600,000 or 600 to 1000? 600 to 1000, if I get away with a bigger crowd than that, sure, but we have live music all day, food. Beer, booze, you name it, it's in the tent and it's heated and usually a pretty good time. Don't have too many problems, it's got well secured IPD's here. We have about twenty security guys, plenty of bathroom facilities. What type of music do you have play? All kinds, we play classic, new indie type Rock U2 type music. I wouldn't say anything's traditional Irish per se. We have bluegrass, we have it all here on that day. So, it's something for everybody on Saint Patrick's Day. That gets pretty packed inside too correct? Yes, we usually get in trouble for having too many people inside the tent, I mean inside the bar. But that's I guess a good problem to have when you can't put all the people inside the bar. So, it's literally jammed the whole day. OK, well we'll get some stories from people telling their experiences at Patty's Day here at Connors. Awesome. Thank you.



Yana, Ali, & Jamie Waldon 20 Year Patron, Staff Appreciation of People, Food, and Stories

Hey, this is Sean Kurker with Voices Live On, We're here at Connor's Irish Pub with John Yaggi and a patron that's been coming here for a very long time and her name is Jamie Waldon. Jamie, how many years there? What year do you think was the first year that you came into Connor's? 91-92. 91-92. Yeah. And so that's obviously, you know, working on 20-7. It's 20 plus years, yeah, for sure.

So, what have you seen change from here from then till now? Well, life changes. So different things in my life, whatever is going on, I migrate to this place because obviously I like the staff consistently. I like the owners consistently, Denny and then John. And then prices are reasonable. I'm not breaking the bank to pay here. Still getting good quality service food, man, you can't beat the food. I mean, when you want to, you know, sit down and have a meal. I'm in the service industry myself, and yeah, you know, I feel like I can come here, relax, sit down, put my feet up, actually, and get a meal and hang out, and some quality stories. The age range of people that come here differentiates and the stories of people considerably older than me is you know, the benefits of that. You know a life learned lesson to hear their stories and what they've been through and how it applies to my life is beneficial. I am... it's just fun, the good music I've learned, the staff, like I said, and some of the best times I've ever had was here, absolutely.

What's some of your favorite go to items for food? Oh, well, you can't beat a pizza or a burger here. Pizza and burgers are like, you know, standard. I've come in here not hungry and somebody's sitting and eating a burger next to me and I'm like, yeah, I want one of those. Yeah, that's a got to have Bosco sticks are legendary. They came up with recent years the sloppy tots. Are you kidding me? Chili on top of tater tots and you know, onions and cheese and its sour cream. Incredible. I love that. Yeah, love it. So, John, you obviously have seen Jamie probably since the beginning of your involvement here when you're even working. So, what are some of the things you remember about Jamie as being a patron? Well, first of all, she probably still beat my ass in tennis. But she was growing up, she was one hell of a tennis player, instructor. She was well known as a tennis extraordinaire, so she'd wear her little tennis dresses in here occasionally and it's like oh that's Jamie. But I love her. She's a free spirit, she has her own pinch. She sticks to them and you're not going to change her mind. She is who she is and I love her for that. I don't want her to change.

I've also seen Jamie make sure things get handled. You know if things get out of whack as far as the people you know kind of in a policing fashion and I think that if you can have your patrons looking out for the bar itself you know you've got a good fan. Is there any moments, Jamie, that you can remember that you wanted to make sure everything was taken care of? There's plenty of times, plenty of times. Some... you know, it's a bar, pub, you know, sketchy characters come in and I'm paying attention. John's not here. Whatever. The guy comes in with a backpack. Questionable, in and out the door, blah, blah, blah. I text John immediately told the bar staff that was there and I'm like, yeah, that's not cool. You need to investigate that. I mean, you know, and they did, and it was actually poignant. You know, there's a liquor license to be held here and you know, people's lives and livelihoods, their jobs, I'm not going to let that go, being without said. So, yeah, tons of times, but you know. I love the bar.

I want it to stay, you know, fluid and good and prosperous for everybody, and it's where I like to hang out. So damn sure I'm going to make sure if I see something questionable, I say something about it. That's great. What are some of your favorite memories here yourself just to feel that stick out? You know, I've seen people coming here that have had weddings, the married couple. In their wedding dresses and groomsmen, I've seen a strong still till this day, a strong Catholic based schools from the area come in and it evens out all the extra stuff that goes on here, you know, middle-aged, whatever, at certain hours that you wouldn't expect them to do it. It's nice, it's just really nice. The music's good, you know, they play the good music, and then they spend money, they tip well, and they take care of the people and the staff that I've come to love and call family. I mean, to me, Connor's is Cheers and I'm Cliff Clavin.

When I come in the door, even if there's four people four rows deep, they know what I want and they have it there, you know, within a reasonable time. It's awesome, it's awesome. That's great. And John, what would you like to, as far as you know, appreciation, like to say to Jamie? I love you, Jamie. I love you too. Can I say one last thing too? I don't want to be like interrupting Jamie, but she was talking about weddings and stuff like that. I actually witnessed a wedding right here on this back deck. When there's a wedding here at Connor's, they got married here. They got married here. Who is the couple? Oh. I can't remember. It's all right. I was here for that, and I was bartending, but I couldn't see. I could not witness the proceedings. They had the justice of the peace here, and they exchanged vows here on the back deck. Yes. Yeah. People were like don't go on the back deck, there's a wedding! And I was like, what? There's a wedding going on? That says a lot about the establishment of people want to actually. Have the first memories of being married in the place that they might have met and they might have

met a little buzzed, but you know, they started the love here and they probably met here and then. Correct, correct. That's a beautiful light when we're going to close this one out. Thanks, Jamie, for giving your love to Connor's. Thank you.



Vinny White About Connor's

We're here at Connor's Pub for Connor's Pub Stories. I'm here with one of the veterans of the group. We call him Vinny. Vinny, how you doing today? I'm doing good. How about yourself? I'm pretty good. So, we're here on St. Patrick's Day, wouldn't miss it here for the world. It's the most epic day for Connor's. Absolutely. An epic day for Connor's. It's rockin. What would you like to say to JY? Why, I'd like to say, Jay, just keep on keeping on. You put on a wonderful party, look at all these people having fun memories, they are going to tell their grandchildren, some grandchildren maybe born today or some children in the...or something. I don't know. I've heard all kinds of stuff around here, so that's all I got. Well, you've been coming here for a while and yeah, you like playing chess on the back deck? I do, I do play some chess on the back deck and there's some real killers here, man, they just look dumb. That's just a disguise, you know? But they come out and they whoop me in some chess. They do. So how long you been coming to Connor's? Shoot, way back in the Denny days, I came in here, I used to sneak in here before they had this porch. I remember it was grass back here and we'd be getting into fights with rugby dudes and they'd be beating us up. It was wonderful. Ping pong balls with rugby guys. No, I'm telling you, Connor's is... it's an Indiana legend. This place is, it's a gem. It's like an emerald, An Irish emerald. Emerald, an Irish emerald. That's right. Well, thank you, Benny. We love you. Thank you so much. I love you too.



Will Security of Connor's for Years

This is Sean Kurker with Connor's Pub Stories. I'm here with Will, How you doing Will? I'm good. How are you long you been here helping out Connor's for 10 years? 10 years. What was the first thing that sucked you in? Why'd you love it? Just a family friendly atmosphere. Man, JY and Denny Connor, you know, they were really good people, and they took care of a lot of people. It was just fun to be around, hanging around with these guys. So, what's one of the more fun memories you remember? My first St. Patrick's Day, how this little bar could hold all these many peoples with these tents and everything. That was my first big experience with Connor's. So, what do you do now to help out? I ran security for JY for a couple of years and now I'm just assisting him with doing security still. Why do you think people love coming to Connor's? You could be who you are. You could just be who you are. We won't care what skin color you are, what you wearing, what you not wearing. We just don't care. So, what do you want to say to JY? JY, we love you man, and keep doing what you do. OK, right out. Thanks Will.