

Queer Neighbors

A History of Queer Denver and Capitol Hill

Queer Denver from 1859 - 1900

- “Mining the Miners”, Gender Ratio (7:1), Homosocial Spaces
- Oscar Wilde (1882), Joe Gilligan (1891), Uranian Scholar (1894)



Queer Denver from 1859 - 1900

- Not many laws (no enforcement of Sodomy law until 20th century)
- Push for Heteronormative Spaces (YMCA 1911)
- Large Houses in 'suburbs'
- Slumming & Clean Ups of Red Light Districts



Queer Denver from 1859 - 1900

- Anti-crossdressing Law (1886) (Sodomy Laws on books)
- Resistance -
 - Push for Private Spaces
 - Stronger laws protecting youth
 - Air of propriety

Queer Denver from 1900 - 1960

- Sodomy Cases & Arrests of Gender Non-Conforming People
- Queer Spaces in Downtown Denver & Emergence of Capitol Hill and Bachelor Row
- Mary Sperry, Julian Eltinge, and Wendell Sayers
- Denver After WWII
- R-0 Zoning, Psychopathic Offender Law, Anti-Crossdressing Law (1954)
- Denver Area Mattachine Society

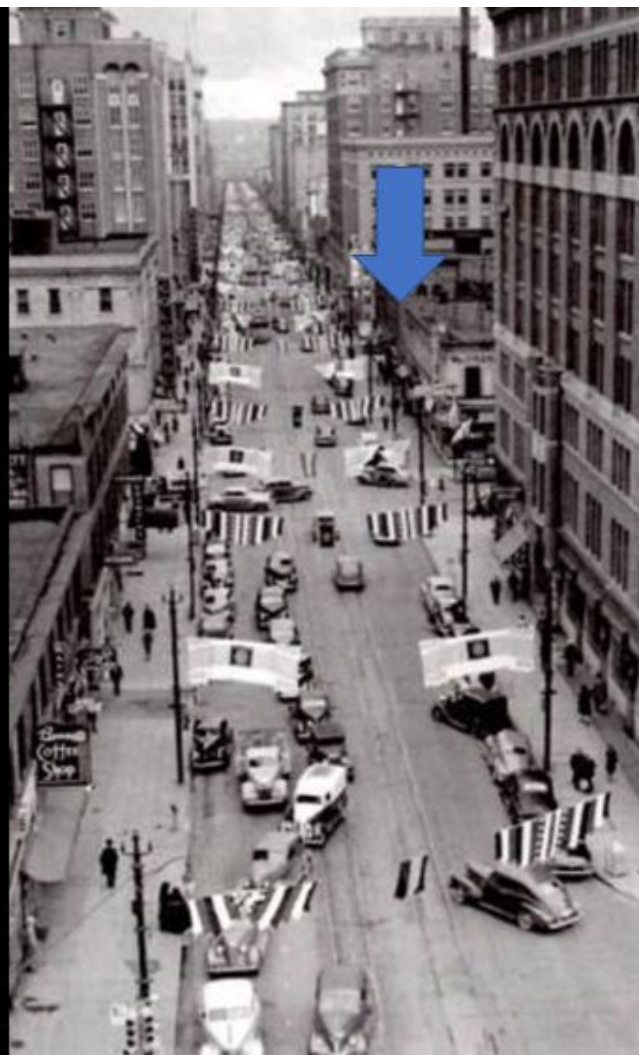
'Countess Olga' Again

HOMER PENNINGTON, 17 years old, who is in jail as one of the "vice school" victims. He is shown here in the feminine costume in which he masqueraded as a Russian countess at an East high dance. The other picture shows him in his customary garb.



From Theaters to the Hill 1926 – 1939

- *Wilkins V. People* (1922)
- *Koontz V. People* (1927)(Left)
- *Capitol Hill*
- *Robin Courtney Henry and Queer Spaces* (c. 1911 – 1933)
- *First Gay Bar "The Pit"* (c. 1939)(Right)



Queer Denver from 1900 - 1960

- R-0 Zoning - Making Capitol Hill a “Gay Ghetto”
- Being Out meant arrest (Wendell Sayers)
- Greater Police Scrutiny (c. 1920 - 1960 w/ Vice Squads)(Arrests of men in Capitol Hill in 1920 - 1940 in Sodomy Cases)



Queer Denver from 1900 - 1960

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- 1954 Anti-Cross Dressing Laws
 - Psychopathic Offender Law
 - Sodomy Laws
 - Formation of private spaces
 - Push for Gay Liberation & 'The Closet'



Queer Denver from 1960 - 2000

- After DAM & “Demi-monde”
- Trans Activism 1960s
- GCD & Institutions



6th Annual Convention
Mattachine Society, Inc.
Hotel Albany--Denver, Colo.
September 4-7, 1959
(Detailed program inside)

Queer Denver from 1960 - 2000 - Law and Resistance

- LGBTQ people made alliances with politicians
- Elected people from LGBTQ community
- Fought for the rights of people outside the community
- Overturned anti-LGBTQ Laws with GCD in 1974



CHUN and Queer Capitol Hill

- CHUN fights to end R-0 Zoning 1970s - 1980s.
- One of first non-LGBTQ Platform for LGBTQ people in Capitol Hill



Logo: Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods

LGBTQ Denver Today

- First Out LGBTQ Reps 2005 - 2015
- LGBTQ Caucus
- End of DADT & Marriage Equality
- Charlie & David (*Masterpiece Cakeshop*)



Corky Blankenship (d. 2021, philanthropist and beloved community member)

- Post-COVID
- Queer Healthcare & Income Inequality (Stapleton vs. Queen City Collective)
- Our rights are as strong as our weakest link