

Mapping LGBTQ St. Louis
Additional Information Sheet

Location:

Burger Chef parking lot

Additional Information:

One particularly important encounter between the police and patrons of the Grand and Olive bars took place on Halloween night, 1969. Police arrested a group of nine young people dressed in women's clothes as they exited the Onyx Room. At the time, "masquerading" or dressing in the clothes of the opposite sex was prohibited by a municipal ordinance. The Mandrake Society (a gay rights group founded in the Central West End the previous April) sprang into action that night. Spreading word of the incident by phone, members of the Mandrake Society and other supporters gathered at police headquarters downtown and demanded that those arrested be released. This is the first known public protest by gay activists in the history of St. Louis. The Mandrake Society assisted with bail, then hired a lawyer who later convinced a judge to drop the charges. This was a crucial early victory for the local gay and lesbian rights movement and contributed to a flowering of LGBTQ activism in St. Louis in the 1970s.

For additional history see:

Humphreys, Laud. *Out of the Closets: The Sociology of Homosexual Liberation*. (Englewood Cliffs, N.J., Prentice-Hall, 1972)

City of St. Louis Metropolitan Police Report 11-01-1969

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT CITY OF ST. LOUIS

POLICE REPORT

1. TYPE OF INCIDENT MASQUERADING	2. HOW COMPLETED <input type="checkbox"/> RAMP <input type="checkbox"/> STATION <input type="checkbox"/> CITY	3. CRIME CODE NO. 391	4. COMPLAINT NUMBER 412758
7. DATE AND TIME OF OCCURRENCE 11-1-69 12:25 A.M.	11. DIST. 9	12. TYPE OF PREMISE (BUNGALOW, GARAGE ETC.) SIDEWALK	
13. VICTIM (IF FIRM, NAME AND TYPE OF BUSINESS) CITY OF ST. LOUIS, MO.		14. RESIDENCE ADDRESS	15. RES. PHONE
		16. BUSINESS ADDRESS	17. BUS. PHONE - EXT.

RECORDS SECTION
FILE COPY
DO NOT REMOVE TO

18. RACE	19. SEX	20. AGE	21. OCCUPATION
22. PERSON REPORTING INCIDENT		23. RESIDENCE ADDRESS	24. RES. PHONE
26. WITNESSES NAMES		27. RESIDENCE ADDRESS	28. RES. PHONE
29. PERSON WANTED OR ARRESTED SEE NARRATIVE		RESIDENCE ADDRESS	ARREST JURISDICTION
HAIR	EYES	COMPLEXION	BUILD
CLOTHING	ARREST JURISDICTION		

PROPERTY	DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY	WORTH	JEWELRY	DRUGS	CLOTHING	ALCOHOL	OTHER	DATE	REMARKS

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 DSN /

NOV 16 1969
RECEIVED

34. NARRATIVE - GIVE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OF INCIDENT; USE CONTINUATION SHEET IF NECESSARY.
Detective James Robertson DSN 5281, P.Patn. William George DSN 7384,
assisted by Det. Sgt. Joseph Soehngen DSN 2167, Det. Joseph Phelan DSN
6034, and P.Patn. John Hyla DSN 7341 all assigned to the Bureau of Invest-
igation, Vice Division, report that at the above time and location they
arrested the following subjects who were conveyed to the Office of the

35. TELETYPE NUMBER	36. REFERENCER NO.	37. SUBMITTED BY OFFICER, DSN, ASSIGNMENT Det. James Robertson 5281/442	38. DATE OF REPORT 11-1-69	39. P. 1 OF 1 PP.
40. SIGNATURE'S INITIALS JR	41. REVIEWING OFFICER'S SIGNATURE, DSN			

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Vice Division and there photographed in their attire by Det. Robertson with a Department Poloroid Camara using color photos. The subjects were then conveyed to the Prisoner Processing Division and there booked as follows;

- # 1. [REDACTED] negro, male, 18 years of age, born 7-7-51, in Missouri, single, porter, residing at [REDACTED]
- # 2. [REDACTED] white, male, 20 years of age, born 1-10-49, in Missouri, single, Salesman, residing at [REDACTED], Webster Groves, Missouri.
- # 3. [REDACTED] negro, male, 23 years of age, born 4-8-46, in Illinois, single, unemployed, residing [REDACTED]
- # 4. [REDACTED] white, male, 21 years of age, born 9-9-48, in Illinois, single, clerk, residing at [REDACTED], Quincy, Ill.
- # 5. [REDACTED] white, male, 22 years of age, born 5-7-47, in Indiana, single, student, residing at [REDACTED], Memphis, Tenn.
- # 6. [REDACTED] white, male, 24 years of age, born 7-7-45, in Illinois, single, buyer, residing at [REDACTED]
- # 7. [REDACTED] white, male, 25 years of age, born 12-29-43, in Missouri, single, salesman, residing at [REDACTED]
- # 8. [REDACTED] white, male, 20 years of age, born 12-19-48, in Kentucky, single, laborer, residing at [REDACTED]
- # 9. [REDACTED] white, male, 24, years of age, born 7-18-45, in Iowa, single, unemployed, residing at [REDACTED], Keokuk, Iowa

BOOKED: MASQUERADING
Returnable in City Court # 1 on 12-2-69

The above arrests were effected after Det.. Robertson and Officer George were approached in front of about 3500 Olive by several males and females who stated to the Officers that several females were fighting in front of the Burger Chef lot at 3540 Olive.

On investigation at 3540 Olive the Officers observed a large group of what appeared to be females pushing and shoving each other, the subjects

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were standing on the sidewalk and were causing a small crowd to gather. At this time Det. Robertson and Officer George properly identified themselves as Police Officers and they then stopped pushing each other and then began to argue with each other. The Officers then overheard the subject [REDACTED] to say to the other subjects, "You can just keep your hands out of my boy friends pants". Another of the subjects, the Officers not being sure of which one, said to another subject, "you get your own boy friend and leave mine alone". At this time the Officers through their own observations thought that several of the subjects possibly were males dressed as females. At this time Det. Robertson used the car radio and contacted the other Officers who came to the scene and assisted. The subjects were then asked to produce some identification and all of the subjects after showing proper identification, were ascertained by the Officers to be males. At this time the subjects were placed under arrest charged MASQUERADING.

The subjects as listed in numerical order on page 2 of this report were dressed as follows;

- # 1 [REDACTED] Light brown female wig, purple mini skirt, female type shoes. and white bell bottom pants
- # 2 [REDACTED] Blonde female wig, purple dress, and Silver Colored Nylon hose, silver high heeled ladies shoes
- # 3 [REDACTED] Blonde ladies wig, multi colored ladies blouse, black mini skirt, nylon hose, panty hose, black ladies high heeled shoes
- # 4 [REDACTED] Blonde ladies wig, white ladies blouse, black sweater, black ladies skirt, nylon hose, ladies girdle, and black ladies high heeled shoes
- # 5 [REDACTED] Blonde ladies wig, ladies full length green dress, yellow nylon hose, brown shoes
- # 6 [REDACTED] Brown ladies wig, silver ladies mini dress with a fur ring around the bottom, ladies black nylon hose, ladies black high heeled shoes, wearing a ladies necklace around his neck
- # 7 [REDACTED] Blonde ladies wig, ladies ankle length white evening gown type dress, ladies black nylon hose, ladies white high heeled shoes
- # 8 [REDACTED] Black ladies wig, ladies full length evening gown blue in color, ladies full length gloves white, ladies black nylon hose, ladies white high heeled shoes
- # 8 [REDACTED] Blonde ladies wig, Ladies white fur stole, ladies full length green evening gown, ladies black nylon hose, ladies white high heeled shoes

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It is further reported that all of the above subjects were wearing ladies earrings, and that they were carrying ladies purses. Further that all of the subject with the exception of # 5, [REDACTED], were wearing ladies under garments beneath their clothing.

All of the subjects were advised of their rights by Det. Robertson in the presence of Officers Hylla and George and the subject # 6, [REDACTED] waived his rights and made the following statement to the Officers; "I have been going to the places in that block(3500) of Olive because on Halloween we get to dress like women, which I love to dress like, and that in this part of the city all the fellows are Gay and we can have fun together without the Police bothering us". [REDACTED] was then asked by the Officers what he meant by "Gay" and he stated, "I mean homosexual". At this time [REDACTED] was asked if any of the other subjects were homosexual and he replied "Sure they all are, and I can assure you of that."

All of the other subjects refused to make any statement to the Officer.

The subject when advised of their rights were done so according to Department form 200-19.

Bureau of records was contacted who stated no wanted on any of the subjects and prior records indicated on subjects [REDACTED]. None of the other subjects had any record per this department.

Warrant information will be sought at the Office of the City Counselor later this A.M. by Det. Robertson.

The afore mentioned Polaroid photographs are being held as evidence. Further report the subjects were conveyed to the Vice Division in cruiser 49 operated by Patn. James Maccom DSN 5320.

Respectfully,

Edwin Roth
Det. Lt. Edwin Roth DSN 1949
Commander Vice Division

Y/12/67

- cc-Chief Field Operations
- cc-Capt Thomas Moran
- cc-Commander District 9
- cc-Intelligence Section
- cc-Crime Analysis
- cc-Identification Section (9)
- cc-Morality Section