

OHP 271
Finding Aid -- DRAFT
Southern California Music Venues Oral History Project

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Southern California Music Venues Oral History Project

Dates: 2013-2014

Collection Number: COPH OHP_271

Creator/Collector: Derek Papa (2013-2014)

Extent: Six (6) oral histories

Repository: California State University, Fullerton. Center for Oral and Public History
Fullerton, California 92834

Project Description: The Southern California Music Venue Project will record the memories of men and women who have made a major contribution to the development of music venues throughout Southern California. These oral histories will record the life histories of men and women who opened the venues, worked at the venues, and played music at the venues, and those who attended events at the venues. It will not only record the stories of their life, but what drove these individuals to dedicate a part of their life to growing a music community. This will provide a collective history of those who helped grow local music scenes and communities. The purpose is to investigate lesser known music venues throughout Southern California. Music venues that were important in supporting new musical genres and that helped support a local music scene. I am looking at collective style music venues that are unconventional in nature. Co-ops, all-ages, etc.

Language of Materials: English

Access: Unrestricted

Publication Rights: Standard copyright restrictions apply

Preferred Citation:

Acquisition Information: Donation, May 2014

Biography/Administrative History:

Scope and Content of Collection:

Indexing Terms:

Date: 2013-2014

Place: Southern California

Format: original .wav. User copy: .mp3

Additional: Field Notes, Photographs

OH 5182

Narrator: William "Lee" Rickard

Interviewer: Derek Papa

Date: May 4, 2014

Location: Burger Records, Fullerton, California

Language: English

An oral history with William "Lee" Rickard, a longtime resident of Anaheim. Currently, Lee is co-owner of Burger Records, an independent record store/music label in Fullerton. This interview was conducted for the Southern California Music Venue Oral History Project, archived at The Center for Oral and Public History at California State University Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to explore youth culture throughout Orange County during the 1990s, specifically how the youth established independent music communities. Lee talks of growing up as a stable hand on a horse ranch in Anaheim close to the 57 freeway. He talks of his earliest exposure to music at five years old, specifically tapes of Guns n' Roses and Van Halen. Rickard describes growing up in Orange County with a lack of all-ages venues. He discusses how in this environment he gained access to punk rock and alternative music. Sean describes the rise of all-ages venues during the 1990's, specifically Koos Café (Santa Ana), and the PCH Club (Long Beach). It was at Koos Café that he met Sean Bohrman who he would eventually co-found Burger Record with in 2009. He describes these venues as places that the youth could go after school that fostered musical and artistic interests. Rickard also discusses his motivation to start Burger Records and how places like Koos Café informed that motivation. Rickard mentions many influential local bands, one of which is Four Letter Words. He also discusses his various musical projects – The Noise, and the Make Out Party - and how Koos Café gave them an opportunity to perform. Lee notes how the youth culture had to work hard to build a community for themselves because no one was going to do it for them. He speaks of the music community as a backlash to Orange County conservatism.

OH 5206

Narrator: Michelle Carr

Interviewer: Derek Papa

Date: September 6, 2013

Location: Stories Café and Bookstore, Los Angeles California – Echo Park

Language: English

An oral history with Michelle Carr, collected for the Southern California Music Venue Oral History Project, archived at The Center for Oral and Public History on the campus of California State University Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about Michelle's notable life in the Los Angeles alternative music scene during the 1990's, as owner of the DIY, all-ages music and art space, Jabberjaw. Specifically, the interview deals with Carr's upbringing in the San Fernando Valley, her early interest in music, and her motivations in opening up a music and art space. She describes life as a teenager in the valley and the lure of Hollywood. She discusses the strip mall takeover of the San Fernando Valley during the 1980's; the lack of all-ages music space; motivation to open Jabberjaw in the

early 90's; the high crime around Jabbewjaw; the effects of the Rodney King riots on Jabberjaw; the venues continued interaction with LAPD; the drug culture that surrounded the venue; the city efforts to move Jabberjaw out of the neighborhood; and Jabberjaw's closure. Carr speaks of notable bands that played Jabberjaw such as Nirvana, Unwound, Jawbreaker, and Hole.

OH 5237

Narrator: Ezzat Soliman

Interviewer: Derek Papa

Date: March 28, 2014

Location: Riverside, California

Language: English

An oral history with Ezzat Soliman, collected for the Southern California Music Venue Oral History Project, archived at The Center for Oral and Public History at California State University Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about Soliman's ownership of Spanky's Café, an all-ages music venue in Riverside, California operated during the 1990's. Specifically, I aimed to broadly explore the alternative music scene in Riverside and how youth culture accessed music. I was interested in looking at music scenes outside the industry hub of Los Angeles. Ezzat discusses immigrating from Egypt to the United States; his entrance into the Navy; meeting his wife Paula while docked in Richmond, CA; Moving to Riverside when Riverside was less developed; opening up an Italian restaurant called Spanky's Café; how Spanky's evolved into an all-ages music club; how he eventually entered the music promoting business full time giving a venue to emerging young local bands; he discusses the Riverside music scene before and after his involvement.

OH 5240

Narrator: Deborah Randall (accompanied by Sondra Blake Kerr)

Interviewer: Derek Papa

Date: April 13, 2014

Location: Jumpcut Café, Studio City, California

Language: English

An oral history with Deborah Randall (accompanied by Sondra Blake Kerr), a long time resident of Los Angeles, California. This interview was conducted for the Southern California Music Venue Project, sponsored by California University State Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to better understand Randall's involvement operating the Alligator Lounge, an all-ages music venue in Santa Monica, California, during the 1990s. Specifically, the interview covers Deborah's life in the music industry, as a concert promoter, booker, manager, and eventually co-owner of the Alligator Lounge. She describes the 90's alternative music scene in Los Angeles and how the Alligator Lounge played host to much of that scene. There are stories about Beck, Sonic Youth, and Nels Cline. She discusses how the Alligator was a launch pad for many young bands starting out. She describes the "Hollywood" clientele – regulars Jim Carrey and Chris Farley.

OH 5244

Narrator: Anthony Lukens

Interviewer: Derek Papa

Date: April 23, 2014

Location: San Diego, California

Language: English

An oral history with musician Anthony Lukens, native of San Clemente, CA. Lukens now resides in San Diego where his band The Donkeys is based. This interview was conducted for the Southern California Music Venue Oral History Project, archived at The Center for Oral and Public History at California State University Fullerton. The purpose of this was to better understand youth culture in 1990's Orange County. Specifically, to understand how Orange County youth formed music communities in the "do it yourself" (DIY) spirit. The interview covers Lukens' birth in Michigan through his families move to Orange County in the mid 1980's. Lukens discusses growing up in Orange County, discovering music, and how he accessed music in Orange County. He discusses the numerous all-ages venues that came to be in the 90's around Orange County, specifically Koos Café, and the Huntington Beach Public Library. He describes the challenges of accessing music, and finding performance space before such all-ages venues were founded. His perspective as a fan of punk rock and alternative music along with his experience as a musician offer a unique view into Orange Counties tight knit music network.

OH 5246

Narrator: Sean Bohrman

Interviewer: Derek Papa

Date: May 4, 2014 – 1PM

Location: Burger Records, Fullerton, California

Language: English

An oral history with Sean Bohrman, a longtime resident of Anaheim. Currently, Sean is co-owner of Burger Records, an independent record store/music label in Fullerton. This interview was conducted for the Southern California Music Venue Oral History Project, archived at The Center for Oral and Public History at California State University Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to explore youth culture throughout Orange County during the 1990's, specifically how the youth established independent music communities. Bohrman describes growing up in Orange County with a lack of all-ages venues. He discusses how in this environment he gained access to punk rock and alternative music. Sean describes the rise of all-ages venues during the 1990's, specifically Koos Café (Santa Ana), and the PCH Club (Long Beach). It was at Koos Café that he met William "Lee" Rickard who he would eventually co-found Burger Record with in 2009. He describes these venues as places that the youth could go after school that fostered musical and artistic interests. Sean also discusses his motivation to start Burger Records and how places like Koos Café informed that motivation. Sean mentions many influential local bands, one of which is Four Letter Words. He also discusses his various musical projects – The Noise, and the Makeout Party - and how Koos Café gave them an opportunity to perform.