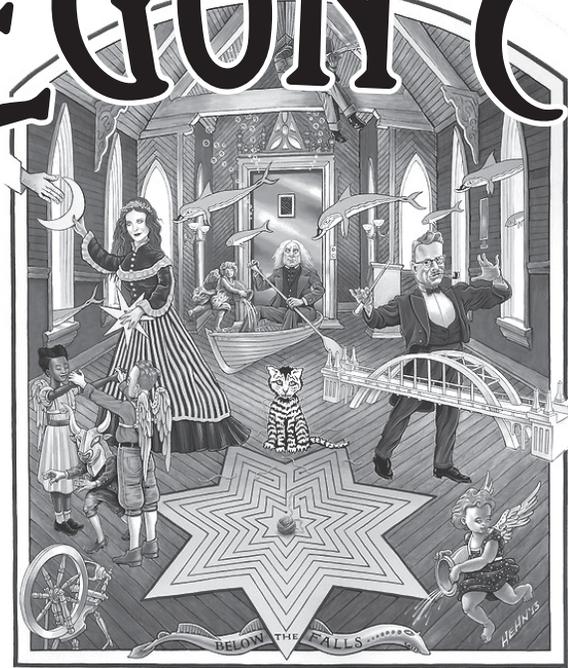


# McMENAMINS OREGON CITY



Happy 20th anniversary to our Oregon City Pub! This place has been buzzing along, serving food and drinks to locals and passers-through alike for two decades, and to that we raise a glass or three.

But before McMenamings took over as stewards in 1995, the actual building had already enjoyed a long-and-holy history. Read on....

## Early History

The low-slung Oregon City Pub sits in the shadow of the arch of the Oregon City Bridge and was born as part of the old St. Paul's Episcopal Church. The building dates back to 1930, but its associated history reaches back much further. In the early 1860s, St. Paul's was known as "the rebel church." Democrats and Republicans of Oregon City were at great odds over the politics of the Civil War. Not surprisingly, when the local Congregational minister began infusing pro-Republican rhetoric into his sermons, Democrats were quick to walk out. Many of these Congregational "expatriots" joined St. Paul's because Episcopal ministers were forbidden to preach politics in the pulpit.

## The 1930s to Today

This building in which today's pub is located was constructed in 1930 as the parish hall for St. Paul's. Years of church functions, wedding receptions and community dances still resonate here under its gently-pitched roof.

Meanwhile, the lots surrounding St. Paul's property became populated with a diverse assortment of neighbors – the Oregon City Brewery, the Clackamas County Courthouse, the Liberty Theater, plus the constant water life playing out down the bank to the north on the Willamette River.

It was an adventure land for children, and in the 1930s, the five Mockford kids – whose father, the Rev. A. J. Mockford, was rector for St. Paul's – enjoyed the spectacle, curiosities and attractions of their surroundings. Many of their recollections, and in particular, those of eldest sibling Stuart Mockford, are depicted in the pub's artwork.

Construction of the parish hall during the depths of the Depression, when St. Paul's funds were quite lean, meant that substantial maintenance repairs to the aging church and rectory had to be put off. After waiting out

the Depression, congregation officers deemed the old church and rectory were beyond repair. So in 1945, St. Paul's moved up the hill to larger, more modern quarters built at Ninth and Washington Sts. The original structures were leveled except for the parish hall, which was sold and underwent conversion to office space – and a life in the secular realm.

After stints as an insurance office and a travel agency, the 1930 parish hall was acquired by McMenamins in 1995. We opened up its interior space to its original state and have strived ever since to maintain its status as a popular hub. Some of our most loyal customers come from the neighboring Clackamas County Courthouse, which could be interpreted as a breach of the separation of church and state. Relations, though, are typically quite harmonious – but make the mistake of towing a judges' car and you'll see what amount of discord can occur.

### Stories, Legends & Lore

Over the decades the old parish hall-turned-pub has been host to countless community and family gatherings. Perhaps the oddest and outlandish of them all played out just a few years ago. It was a celebration for the pub's antique urinal, an impressive if not glorious specimen. Current manager Teri Greenslit recalls, "Back a few years ago, there was a couple who were regulars. The gentleman came out of the men's room and commented about how the urinal was almost a hundred years old. Luke Dempsey, a server at the time, jokingly told them that there was going to be a party for the urinal – balloons and party hats and little pink cakes. Well, the couple left and came back later with a group of friends, bringing with them party hats and a giant sheet cake. One balloon had 'You Old Pisser' written on it with a Sharpie pen. Pitchers of beer were ordered for the celebration of the urinal."



While we have our beloved regular customers, we may (or may not) have some slightly irregular guests as well. These old walls are rife with ghostly tales. Former server and current assistant manager Luke Dempsey has had several unexplainable moments. In one, he was telling a skeptical prep cook about the weird stuff he has seen and heard while on the clock. But the guy scoffed at him: "He said, 'Dude, I don't know that I believe any of that stuff...'. As soon as the words had left his mouth, right before our watching eyes, the window SLAMMED itself shut hard enough to break one of the thick panes of glass . . . and then LATCHED itself. I turned to him and said, 'Do you believe THAT?' He just stared at me, as white as a sheet, and said, 'I need to get out of here and smoke a cigarette!'"

### What's New 'n' Improved?

Every 20-year-old pub deserves something special for its birthday, so recently we built a brand-new outdoor deck here at the Oregon City Pub. We even constructed it around a big old tree that has been here way longer than us and probably has some good stories to tell. We'd like to believe that our new deck is one of the best spots in town to enjoy a beer and a burger, some good conversation and the relaxation inspired by the nearby river.

Next, our wonderful McMenamins artists are constantly adding new artwork to our amalgamation of pubs, hotels, and breweries, and Oregon City is no exception. Several new murals, done in a style the artists dubbed "historic surrealism," have been added to the OC collection – feel free to think of our little pub as a gallery that serves refreshments. Ask about the printed art guide that gives you a little insight behind each piece.

### Onward!

After twenty years of business on Ninth St., McMenamins Oregon City Pub is pleased to continue adding to the community's rich history – come on in for a pint or two, mind the ghosts, check out the urinal and make yourself at home.

