

GREENWAY PUB

"If Mike McMenamin hadn't dubbed his new tavern in Greenway Town Center the Greenway Pub, he probably would have called it 'McMenamin's Center for Beer Education.'" So began an article in the September 29, 1983, *Tigard Times* announcing the opening of a new neighborhood pub. True, with all the beer on tap at this place it would be easy to get distracted studying the shiny spouts that line the wall behind the bar. Roam around the interior and you could lose yourself for a bit learning about traditional methods of British beer manufacturing from the photos on the walls. Many consider it a beer lover's dream, but there is more to this place than meets the eye.

The Greenway Pub is now a favorite stopping point on busy Scholls Ferry Road, but for most of its life this spot eight miles west of Portland has had a relatively sleepy history. Long before becoming a pioneer McMenamins establishment, this site was part of the original land claim of another Oregon pioneer, Thomas McKay. Along with his wife Margaret, McKay traveled overland to the Northwest in August 1852. Around the same time that Wilson M. Tigard, for whom this city is named, settled his land claim, the McKays settled this remote spot along what would become Scholls Ferry Road. Here, Thomas and Margaret built a log home, tilled the ground and began a family.

Like most of the early settlers, the McKays gradually sold off portions of their land claim. It's unclear how long the McKays retained this particular spot, but by 1907 it belonged to Joseph W. Meats. Meats lived on and farmed this site for roughly 70 years. Just across the road was Meat's neighbor, Ernest Hite. He and his brother Sam, both lifelong

farmers like McKay, ran the Hite brothers Farm. Hite moved to the farm in 1878 when he was two years old. He passed away on his farm at 84 years of age in 1962. Such was the pace of life here on the quiet Scholls Ferry Road just a short time ago.

Like much of the surrounding area, this place remained agricultural land right up until the development explosion of the early 1980s. Located just a mile from Washington Square, it was simply a matter of time before the escalating growth of the previously sleepy westside would reach this section of Scholls Ferry. The Greenway Town Center was built in 1983, and McMenamins moved in shortly after.

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fail me!" wrote Fred Eckhardt, editor-publisher of *Amateur Brewer* in 1984. Just a few months after the Greenway Pub threw open its doors, Eckhardt was beside himself with the selection of beers found at the place. Who wouldn't be? In 1983 the

Guinness Book of World Records listed the largest bar in the world as having 27 taps; the little Greenway boasted 33.

What many folks don't know is that the unassuming Greenway Pub was a significant participant in and early promoter of the Northwest's "Good Beer" and brewpub revolution launched in the late 1970s. When it opened, the pub gave beer lovers a haven on the westside, offering a staggering amount of beer choices and showcasing jars of hops and malts on the bar to touch, taste and smell. But because of a Prohibition-era law that banned breweries from having public houses, McMenamins was unable to create ales to serve at the Greenway. It was the authorities' attempt

to address "conflict of interest" and to curb sales to minors. Mostly, we think it just curbed our fun.

For more than 50 years, the dream of enjoying a unique and fresh neighborhood-produced ale at the place it was made was just that—a dream. That is, until Mike and Brian McMenamins teamed with other upstart craft brewers like the Widmer brothers and traveled frequently to the state capitol to argue their case and lobby for the brewpub cause. After countless trips and much frustration, the ban was lifted in July 1985, paving the way for brewpubs across the state. Three months later, McMenamins Hillsdale Brewpub in Portland began producing beer, thereby earning the distinction of Oregon's first post-prohibition brewpub. Shortly after, the Greenway Pub poured its first Hillsdale ale, liquid proof that the era of the brewpub was under way.



The casual ambiance here has always drawn a varied clientele, from blue-collar workers to high-tech employees. Families and folks who live and work nearby have long considered this a favorite stopping point. Recently though, the addition of accordion-style folding windows, an inside gazebo and a substantial expansion have given the old place a major facelift and made the comfortable, open atmosphere even more so. The new feel of the place cements its role, we hope, as a truly democratic meeting space in the community.

Besides the scores of taps and great atmosphere, a main interest here has always been the imposing aquarium. The original tank was a survivor of the earliest McMenamins' effort, the Produce Row Café in Southeast Portland. Mike and Brian considered losing the tank when they left the old Café, but were too attached to it. Much to Brian's chagrin the two stored it away until they carried the unwieldy thing into the Greenway themselves! A new, larger tank replaced the old one a few years back and today is playfully inhabited by a lively, interactive group of fish. Betty, the 13-year-old

porcupine puffer, is the matriarch, joined by a blue tang, orange-spotted grouper, a dog-faced puffer and others. The carnivorous fish are an attraction especially around feeding time, as they receive a diet of live goldfish 3 times a week.

Even without its brewpub revolution connection and fish tank, the Greenway has always been a special place in these parts. When it first opened, the spot was unique as an all-draft tavern; if you wanted bottled beer you would have to look elsewhere. As only the second McMenamins pub to open, the place was instrumental in evolving the concept of providing a comfortable setting for people to come and have a good time. "We try to provide an atmosphere in which people can come and meet their friends, have good food and good beer," former manager Matt Osborne said back in 1988. "We try and reflect the area...try to maintain a certain level of energy. When customers come in here to relax, it's not against the law to joke with them and have fun." Little has changed since Osborne's days.



The Greenway Pub often surprises people. They are shocked to learn that it was McMenamins' second place. Often, they are taken aback by the beer selection here and, when pressed, they reveal their surprise at how great a spot this really is. To us it is no big surprise. It is the reason why we joined this community more than 20 years ago and why it remains one of our favorite spots today.