

# Club Confidential: History In The Making

BY DENNIS McMILLAN



Birdie-Bob Watt tinkled the ivories while Connie Champagne wowed the gang drinking in her name.

On April 5 Club Confidential made history with a benefit for the Gay & Lesbian Historical Society of Northern California. The Club was a special evening of "cool queer cabaret" at the Embassy Lounge in the Polk.

The theme was a dressing-up and/or cross-dressing affair where "dress to impress" was the order of the night. Handsome hosts and clubmeisters Jordy Jones and Stafford made sure everyone was properly attended to, including a banquet of fabulous finger food, some extremely decadent Joseph Schmidt's chocolate pyramids, and flutes overflowing with champagne.

## PLENTY OF CHAMPAGNE

The sparkling and bubbly Connie Champagne started off the evening in a very classy and slinky silver gown, draped in white fur (properly fake and altogether elegant) and wearing a magnolia in her hair as the most moderne maiden of the '20s would do, propping her sexy body on a barstool to do a jazzy/bluesy lounge act. She was accompanied on the ivories by the irrepressible, lovely and talented Birdie-Bob Watt wearing a roaring twenties

type outfit and hairdo. Enough cannot be said about BBW and her amazing artistic ability!

Champagne opened with "You'd Be So Nice to Come Home to" and she was indeed nice to be with. "My, you all look so glamorous this evening," she commented to the crowd, who were dressed to the nines in formal wear and some in

gender-bender attire but everyone dolled up as much as possible as if they were out for a naughty night in a speakeasy. "This is so much better than staying at home and watching Bravo," she jested. Champagne has some history of her own, being one of the first to claim the title of Drag Queen Trapped in a Real Girl's Body. "I'm very proud to be a part of this community," she said with obvious pride.

"Jazz maniac" [Connie's words to her friend of twenty years] Tammy Hall played the piano between sets with some very spiffy riffs. But when she had to take a break, the silent intermissions between the between-sets were interminably l-o-n-g and not very entertaining. This would be the only real flaw of the event, but is worth noting when audiences become progressively more restless waiting to be entertained. Move it along, kids!

## MORE SPEAKEASY CELEBS

Elvis Herselvis was scheduled to appear that night, but she said she was unable to attend and sent her alter ego, Special Agent for Club L.A. Confidential, Officer Bud Green. The officer said he had to "detain Miss Herselvis on account of lewd and lascivious behavior and also possession of

marijuana cigarettes." Officer Green shared enceeding duties with Miss Pearl Harbor "straight from the streets of Los Angeles."

After the applause died down, Pearl mugged, "Thank you all for the warm hand on my big opening!"

Pearl was in unusually big big hair that night, and joined

Officer Green takes Veronika Klaus and Pearl Harbor (two dames who will live in infamy) into "custody." Uh oh.



Elv...er...Bud in a duet of "Fujiyama Mama." Pearl was very volcanic and looked like she was "just about to blow her top" with that high hair of hers. They truly got their rock 'n roll rocks off.

The Dodge Brothers, five of whom are actually drag king sisters and one is a sister-sister, performed a rockin' country set. Word has it they have their roots in Tribal 8, but you didn't hear it from me. They claim to be fresh from New Jersey, but they didn't smell that way to me. These "brothers" explained not looking anything alike because they came from an orphanage. Okaaaaaay. They said they had just returned from a tour with Metallica; I'm not sure what to believe from this group. They said they had also done a tour of Wal-Marts, which might be closer to the truth! One of the Dodge Brothers said, "If you can make it in Wal-Mart, you can make it anywhere, but we haven't really made it yet!"

This is by no means your average country band: They balance fruit and pull rubber chickens out of bags and end up with only two strings left on the guitars. They tore the house down with "Six Days on the Road and I've Got To See My Baby Tonight" and "Folsom Prison" which they claimed Johnny Cash stole from them.

## SANTA KLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN

The super-sexy and sultry Veronika Klaus appeared just a night before her debut CD release party of "All I Want" at Café Du Nord. She opened with "Bad

News" from the "wrong side of town" from the right side of her CD.

One of my favorites was "Black Diamond Days," a semi-autobiographical song which she explained came from her days growing up in a small town near Gillespie, Illinois, where a sign just outside of town said "Welcome to Gillespie, Illinois: Home of Black Diamond Days, the Original Festival of Coal." Klaus has taken this metaphor to represent her emergence from a lowly piece of coal to a precious diamond, and "you just can't force this jewel of a girl into a square setting."

## MORE IN STORE

Organizers announced many upcoming events sponsored by GLHS. "Queer and Kinky Danger: Art Relating to San Francisco's Leather/SM/Kink Worlds" is coming to the archives at 973 Market Street, Suite 400. The exhibit will be open from 2 to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays through May 31. More than 60 artists are featured in the show. According to organizers, "Sex clubs, bar, organizations, and publications of the past several decades have relied heavily on advertisements and decoration for promotional purposes and to indicate the specific erotic interests they are connected with. This exhibit spotlights the central role art has had in creating kinky identities, promoting organizations, and making perverse fantasies real." Call (415) [redacted] for particulars, or browse the website at [www.glhs.org](http://www.glhs.org).



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