

LGBT-097 Kirsten Backhaus-Smith Collection

LGBT Center of Central PA History Project
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COLLECTION REGISTER

Name: Backhaus-Smith, Kirsten **LGBT-097**

Material: Artifacts and Digital Media (2011-2016)

Volume: 4 artifacts and 23 Digital Files

Donation: Donated by Kirsten Backhaus-Smith,

Usage: These materials have been donated without restrictions on usage.

Processor: Simone Gillespie, January 2025

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Kirsten Backhaus-Smith, the daughter of Gunter Backhaus, served as the manager of The Loft and Tally Ho Tavern.

The Tally-Ho Tavern, located at 201 W. Orange St., in Lancaster, Pennsylvania was bought by George Centini in 1966, but did not begin operating as a LGBTQ+ bar until 1968 when the Village Night Club closed. Centini began catering to the LGBTQ+ clientele, offering dancing, seasonal parties, and organizing bus trips to Atlantic City for patrons. In 1974, the second floor of the tavern was remodeled and opened as The Loft, a fine dining restaurant. The bar became a target of anti-LGBTQ+ rhetoric in mid-1980s as people began to complain about the noise and people gathering outside of the establishment.

The bar and restaurant were sold by Centini in 1987 to Gunter Backhaus, a chef who had previously worked as the executive chef at the Grove Park Inn in Asheville, North Carolina and

Host Farm Resort in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. The tavern continued to operate throughout the 1990s, in 2008, the after-party for Lancaster’s inaugural Pride even took place at the Tally Ho. It remained in operation as a LGBTQ+ bar until 2020 with the onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic and the restrictions that followed. The bar and restaurant were then sold in 2021.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

This collection contains two series: Artifacts and Digital Media.

The first series contains four artifacts from Tally-Ho, a LGBTQ+ bar in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The artifacts include a Tally-Ho staff t-shirt, and three different Tally-Ho signs.

The second series contains digital media files of videos that played during events hosted at the Tally-Ho Tavern. The events include, but are not limited to drag performances, pageants, benefit nights, and holiday themed nights. The videos include images and names of performers, bar staff, and other relevant information to each event.

Note for researchers: Researchers must see staff in order to access the digital media contained in LGBT-097.

COLLECTION INVENTORY

Series 1 Artifacts

LGBT-097-AC01	Black “Tally Ho Staff” rainbow flag t-shirt – undated
LGBT-097-AC02	Tally-Ho hours sign, green with white lettering – undated
LGBT-097-AC03 (see west wall)	Tally Ho sign, white with brown lettering – undated
LGBT-097-AC04 (see west wall)	Rainbow Tally Ho sign with black lettering – undated

Series 2 Digital Media [see staff for access]

Digital File 01)	Show – Aug. 21, 2011
Digital File 02)	Miss Tally Ho – Oct. 23, 2011
Digital File 03)	Tally Ho Show – Dec. 11, 2011
Digital File 04)	Miss Tally Ho – 2012
Digital File 05)	Pride & AIDS Walk Benefit – Apr. 22, 2012
Digital File 06)	June Events – Jun. 1, 2012
Digital File 07)	Tally Ho Halloween – Oct. 31, 2012
Digital File 08)	Miss Tally Ho 2012 Photos - Nov. Drag Queen Bingo – Nov. 1, 2012

Digital File 09)	Tally Ho Christmas – Dec. 25, 2012
Digital File 10)	Valentine’s Show – Feb. 14, 2012
Digital File 11)	Pride Pageant – 2013
Digital File 12)	February Show – Feb. 1, 2013
Digital File 13)	Tally Ho Christmas Show – Dec. 25, 2013
Digital File 14)	Miss Tally Ho – 2014
Digital File 15)	Pride Pageant – 2014
Digital File 16)	Tally Ho Summer Show – 2014
Digital File 17)	80s Show and Valentine’s Night – Feb. 9, 2014
Digital File 18)	Pride Benefit – Apr. 13, 2014
Digital File 19)	Pride Benefit – May 4, 2014
Digital File 20)	Tally Ho Christmas Show – Dec. 15, 2015
Digital File 21)	Miss Tally Ho and Tally Ho Halloween – 2015
Digital File 22)	Christmas 2015 – Dec. 25, 2015
Digital File 23)	Miss and Mr. Tally Ho – 2016