



With Fond Rememberances...

Melva Earhart 1913 - 1985

Metra 1-23-85

Early in the morning on Wednesday, January 16th, the owner of the longest established gay lounge in Michigan succumbed to a long life and quietly passed away at Flint's St. Joseph's Hospital.

Melva Earhart, born October 19th, 1913 and a lifelong resident of Flint, operated a tailor shop situated behind the original State bar prior to becoming it's owner 37 years ago in 1948. In 1962 she relocated several blocks uptown and dubbed the place the "Poodle Lounge" which was frequented by a mixed gay and straight clientele and become the first in Flint to allow men to publically dance together. She was bold enough to try other things in spite of dire warnings that her practices would lead to the bar's demise. She persisted; the rest is history.

She moved the State again to it's present location at 2512 S. Dort Highway in 1968.

She's going to be missed by loyal patrons and friends. ■