

James Riddlesperger/Gage Williams Interview 3/13/24

00:00:00 **James Riddlesperger**

It's James Riddlesperger, and that's spelled R I D D L E S P, as in Paul, E R G as in George, E R. And originally from Birmingham, Alabama.

00:00:12 **Gage Williams**

Okay, that's a little bit away from Atlanta. How did you make your way over here?

00:00:20 JR

I started coming to Sci-Fi conventions back in 91. And when I was living here, I was completely in the closet. Then I joined up with a Starfleet or Star Trek fan group, and they convinced me to start going to Atlanta for conventions. And at that point, I started meeting more gay people than I ever knew before. And so that carried on for over a year.

00:00:56 JR

And then I started coming on the weekends that didn't have conventions. And that's the first time I went to Backstreet, was probably early 92. We started doing that. And then eventually, by September of 93, I moved. I just told my family and my job.

00:01:18 JR

I said, sorry, I need to do this. It didn't give any explanation. And I moved to Atlanta.

00:01:25 GW

Yeah. Was it really just the sense of community that brought you over, or did you feel kind of like it was easier to be yourself?

00:01:36 JR

No, it was definitely a community. Because living in Birmingham, one of the friends I made in the Star Trek club called me one day and said, I have something to tell you. And I said, what? And he said, well, I'm gay, and I think you are too. And so it's like, I'll be right over.

00:01:57 JR

And so that's how the whole coming out started. And then when I got over to Atlanta and started having a wider circle of friends, and they were like, you need just to move over here. And I knew that in Birmingham that my chances of meeting someone were quite limited. And so I decided that's just what I had to do. And that's the way I explained it to my parents.

00:02:29 JR

I said, it's just something I need to do for me for a while and without any explanation. And then I just moved. And I did move. The night before I moved, my brother asked me if I was doing it because I was gay, and I told him yes, and he understood. So off I went to Atlanta.

00:02:51 GW

I think that's a really relatable story for a lot of gay people growing up in the southeast, Atlanta seems to be one of those places that just becomes home for a lot of people. So when you first went to Backstreet, kind of tell me the story of how you were introduced to it. Had you ever been

out to a gay bar before?

00:03:17 JR

Yeah, I've been at one gay bar in Birmingham called Buchanan's went there, started that's the first gay bar I ever went to, which was a small little bar, and I need about three or four people. But the first major bar I went to is Backstreet. And after going for conventions on the weekends, I started going on just weekends. And my best friend [...] lived near Backstreet on Argon.

00:03:50 JR

And so we walked from his apartment over to the club and went. And I think we got there like at seven, eight, something like that. And we didn't get out of there the first night until probably three, four in the morning because it was just all new. It was like going to six Flags because we had the cabaret upstairs and then we were on the dance floor for hours after the cabaret started. But that was the first night I went there.

00:04:27 JR

And then, of course, after I moved, we were there every weekend.

00:04:33 GW

Kind of paint me a picture. So it was a big building, right?

00:04:38 JR

Oh, yeah, three stories. You came in on the ground floor and there was a bar and pool tables down there. And then you went, sort of came in on the. You went through there. It was the second floor overlooking the dance floor, and there was sort of a gallery around the dance floor.

00:05:03 JR

Then you went down there and then they had the big boxes for guys to get on and dance and the DJ booth and the giant mirror ball. And when we got there, it was fairly empty. But about 10:00 it started getting busy. And that's when, of course... at the time, I knew that that's what time you got there was like 10:00. So the first couple of weekends, it was getting my feel for the place.

00:05:37 JR

And we would get there after I got used to it, we would take a taxi because I knew I'd be drinking, so I didn't drive. And so we'd take a taxi down there and we'd get there about 10:00. And the first month or two, we didn't leave some nights until four or five in the morning when the drag queens would leave, that's when we left. We would do three or four shows up in the cabaret and then dance and all that downstairs and then go back for another show at the cabaret to rest. That was pretty much our didn't.

00:06:19 JR

When I moved over, I saw real estate in Birmingham. So I had amassed a pretty good savings account since I was living at home. And so for the first six, seven months, I didn't even worry about finding a job. I had a place of my own place. And so it was pretty much just nonstop back straight for the first four or five months.

00:06:44 GW

So tell me, what was the crowd, like, there was it mostly gay men, were lesbians, trans people. The racial breakdown of the crowd.

00:06:56 JR

I'd say the mix was probably back then. I'd say, well, probably 90% men, probably 90% gay men. Then you had a couple of lesbians, and you had the straight tourist. They heard about the cabaret and would wander in, and every now and then you would have the stars from different TV shows that were in town for something. It was before Atlanta became a film thing.

00:07:32 JR

But let's see, I saw several people from 90210. I couldn't tell you who, because I never watched the show, but there were several people from that. I saw RuPaul in there once, and your odd... carrot top of all people was there. But you get your odd celebrity, come to the cabaret. I didn't really see them down on the dance floor that often, but it was interesting.

00:08:11 JR

You never know who would copy in going to the cabaret. I spent a lot of time up there. I was friends with Lily White, so we would spend a lot of time up there. And it was funny watching straight people come in and come to the cabaret and sort of see drag queens for the first time. Especially your team, to remember them.

00:08:43 JR

But Raven and Heather Daniels, if you didn't know they were men, it was hard to tell they were men, and that would just freak people out. It was fun just watching the people watch the drag queens.

00:09:03 GW

My god mom is actually really good friends, especially Raven. I know she's talked about Heather before. Richard Amos. She's got kind of red hair. She was always up there.

00:09:20 GW

So the cabaret was like the place to be. That's where everybody talks about the cabaret. Tell me a bit more. Like, imagine you're walking in and there's kind of the entrance because it was upstairs, right?

00:09:37 JR

Yeah. The cabaret was on the third floor. You could either come in on the third, where they didn't let you do it too much. There was a big deck out there. And then the cabaret.

00:09:47 JR

At some point, if I remember right, way before my time, it was a restaurant up there. More of a restaurant than a cabaret, but that's where I'd spend most of my time. I was a hefty guy. I wasn't what I always call the "A Gays"

00:10:05 JR

The gym bunnies at the bottom, shirtless, dancing all night long. So I spent most of my time up at the cab ride and probably 25% down the dance floor and 75% up there. I was around the drag queens more than anything. But it was interesting. It was funny.

00:10:35 JR

I got to see them one time with Charlie, I would go, not just on the weekends at that point when I started knowing people, I would go during the week to some of the just filler drag shows. And Charlie would do this big and beautiful drag, just. It was just the big girls. And one time I was in there and it was me, Tamay, another friend of mine, and a lesbian named SF. And we were all in there, and we were right at the front table sitting next to the thing.

00:11:15 JR

And Charlie looked at me and said, you're just what we're looking for. And I said, well, Charlie, I've got a razor if you've got a. She. She said, well, come with me because I've always worn a beard. And she took me into the back and she said, I'm not going to make you shave.

00:11:32 JR

But at that time, Charlie was sort of a big girl, too. And she told Raven, she said, Raven, do his makeup and put him in one of my dresses and wigs. And so Raven was like, okay, and not really know what the hell to put me in one of Charlie's dresses and wigs. And then the last number, they sent me out and she gave me one of the, I don't know if you ever heard of. She had a t-shirt.

00:12:06 JR

Says I was the drag queen at Charlie Brown's cabaret that she would give to the straight people when she'd do that, too. And so she gave me one of those, which I still have the shirt, but that was the only time I was on stage.

00:12:22 GW

That's cool. I'd love to see pictures of that shirt, if you still have it.

00:12:26 JR

Yeah, I can take a picture and email it to you.

00:12:28 GW

Yeah, that'd be awesome. Are there any other performers or performances that really stand out to you? I know we always know the really iconic queens. Heather, Raven, Charlie, Lily, all of those. Was there any kind of just something that really stood out to you, like the best show you ever saw there?

00:12:51 JR

Well, the one that I never got to see as much of as I wanted to was around. She worked the gift, sort of a gift shop on the first floor when I started. She wasn't really doing a lot of drag then, but she would come up and perform occasionally. I'm six two. She was probably 6'5" and just thin as a rail.

00:13:20 JR

And she would do her thing and she did a lot of Bowie sort of cross-dressing kind of thing. Not really female, not really male kind of thing, but she was always great. But the best thing I've ever seen in the cabaret was Raven doing the fire dance where she would come out. And she would do waiting on a hero. It's from "Streets of Fire", a movie back in the early nineties.

00:13:54 JR

And she would do it. And if you never were there, the stage probably from the floor to the curtains, maybe 10ft, and she would come out and do her spinning and all this other. Then she would bring out two torches and light the torches and then she would spray it. Wouldn't light her foot, I can't remember what it was, but just around the stage. And she would light it on fire and start spinning with the torches.

00:14:30 JR

And she did it for a long time until the fire department found out about it and shut it down because there was a lot of fire for that little stage with all that very flammable material hanging from it. So I got to see it several times. That was always my favorite. And the next thing she did was Wonder Woman. She did the whole thing with Wonder Woman.

00:14:55 JR

If you ever get a chance, go and look on YouTube and look at Raven fire dance or Raven. Wonder Woman. She did it at the Starlight cabaret, usually at pride, but those are my favorite performances.

00:15:11 GW

That sounds cool. Yeah. I haven't heard of the fire dance before. That's cool. I'm going to have to look up.

00:15:20 GW

I'm sure there's pictures and things like that.

00:15:23 JR

There's several versions of it. There's one at Backstreet and there's one where she did it at the Starlight cabaret at Pride, I think, in 94.

00:15:35 GW

What is the Starlight cabaret?

00:15:38 JR

The Starlight cabaret, what that was was. That was the Saturday at Pride. They would have on the main stage. That would be. The Starlight cabaret was like the big finale for pride.

00:15:54 JR

And it was on a big outdoor stage, usually what they used to call Oak Hill. It was at the bottom of Oak Hill and it would just be just a giant drag party.

00:16:09 GW

And this is Piedmont Park, right?

00:16:13 JR

Yeah, it was at Piedmont Park. If you're going down Monroe toward Piedmont, it's on the left. That hill that sort of goes down there. That's where pride was for most of the 90s until they moved it because we kept tearing up the grass. In 93 it rained and that whole hill became a giant mudslide.

00:16:38 JR

That's when they told us we couldn't have pride there anymore.

00:16:42 GW

That's funny. Can you tell me? So I know for a lot of queer people from my generation, it can be hard to imagine gay social life without social media and Internet. How did gay bars kind of play into that dynamic of meeting people and building community at the time?

00:17:09 JR

Well, you had everything from just the people trying to hook up. And there was a lot of that back then. Somebody tried to pick me up the first night that I was there. After I moved, I moved on a Friday, and that Saturday I went to the bar and this little guy tried to pick me up. And it was just hilarious.

00:17:32 JR

He wasn't very good at it, but he was actually trying to get me to go to his apartment to look at drawings. I thought, that is so cliché. But anyway, we all laughed about that because it was too funny not to. But you had a lot of that people trying to hook up. You had your intermediate people grinding on the dance floor kind of thing.

00:18:03 JR

But you made friends there a lot, especially if you went every weekend. You saw the same sort of, sort of started forming circles. And me and my best friend Tome, and there's a couple of other core people that would go, but now it's just me and him. We're the only ones left of that core group because we had several people pass from AIDS and that was the only damper. Back then it didn't stop a lot of people, but it put a damper on it.

00:18:48 JR

You just make social circles, especially in the drag show, because it was physically two different floors and it was physically two different groups of people. You had your people that would stay at the drag show and that would be their thing. It would be some crossover. You'd go down, dance a little while, but while the shows were switching out, but probably a good 90% of the time I was upstairs, I knew the bartenders, the barbacks, and once you got to be a regular, then they'd give you a little bit stronger drinks and you'd chitchat with them. And one time it was my birthday, and she said, well, I'm going to give you free drinks.

00:19:36 JR

And she said, what do you want? And I said, well, just whatever you think. She said, I'm going

to give you a Long Island. I see. It's the most liquor I can give you.

00:19:46 JR

I drank like four or five of them. I got shots and all that on my birthday. But you had a whole click up there with people that were into the drag thing. And that's what I was interested in, just hanging out with that crowd, because it wasn't quite as clique-ish. They were a little bit more friendly.

00:20:06 JR

And most everybody had the same interest, being there for the drag shows. And that's where I started following Lily white on her off nights from Backstreet. She did a show at a club called Guys and Dolls. It was on Ponce Leon in Decatur, and it was a mixed strip club. One side was guys and one side was girls.

00:20:38 JR

So depending on who you wanted to see, that's the side you went to. And Lily would have. She was hosting the show on the men's side, so she would be over there and just be just cutting up with them, and we would follow her over there and do shots of peppermint schnapps. It was her favorite thing. She called it breath freshener.

00:21:00 JR

It wasn't liquor. So me and her group kind of was Lily White's circle of friends, but she was a hilarious woman when she was in drag.

00:21:18 GW

So I want to circle back a little bit to the AIDS crisis, and I know that's a difficult subject. You said around that time, this is the early to mid-90s, right?

00:21:34 JR

Yes, starting in the 90s, we lost people even past 95, when Azt and all came out. But yeah, we lost a lot of people. It was a hard time.

00:21:56 GW

You said that some people at the bar were not. Wasn't always at the forefront of what they were thinking about. Do you think that places like Backstreet were a way to kind of, I don't know, separate yourself from that fear, anxiety and kind of the discourse?

00:22:20 JR

Yeah. You didn't have as much of the hookup thing as it did back probably pre-90. It happened, but not my circle to the extent it did in others. You had some people that would come in, it wasn't a kindergarten. There was some drugs going on and all that, poppers and coke and whatever.

00:22:54 JR

It was never my thing, but it happened. And you get frisky and go off. But it wasn't like it was with bathhouses back in the late 80s. But people got high and got stupid sometimes, and that

probably has something to do with losing friends, because you would just get stupid occasionally. But me and my husband, we had a union ceremony in 93 of October, and from that probably three people are left.

00:23:46 JR

And we had six groomsmen on each side. And so we had a lot of loss there. And most of them we met at Backstreet. In fact, the funny thing about it is the night that we got married, October 1393, and we stayed in tux and tails and went to Backstreet after the party, after the reception, and it was us and probably about six, seven people, we had the front three or four rows, and that's where we spent our wedding night, was at Backstreet in full tux and tails. And of course, Charlie and know made a big to do about it, because back then, that's just something that didn't happen that often because this was way know marriage became legal.

00:24:40 JR

In fact, this was even before the Clinton administration when they had the Don't Ask, Don't Tell thing, the Defense of Marriage Act. We were actually on television being interviewed about that one. A. It was a big deal when you had a union ceremony and Charlie made a big thing out of it, and Lily and Raven, and there was a bunch of them. They all made a big deal out of it since we were in full tux and, you know, we lost a lot of people.

00:25:17 JR

It was a bittersweet, but what I can say about it, it was fun as I'll get out to go to the club and all, but then you would hear so and so is sick, or this one's passed last week. And there was a lot of charity events at the club for mills on wheels. I forget what they were called back then. For AIDS patients, it was something else, and I can't remember offhand, but they would raise money for that, to take meals to people, to AIDS patients at home. They didn't have any back then.

00:25:57 JR

It was really bad about families just giving up on you and just not having anybody but us in the community to sort of take care of them until they pass.

00:26:12 GW

Yeah. Wow, that's tough. What were some of those fundraising events like, and how did they come about? Were people just.

00:26:29 JR

Easter was a big one. The club would do something called, this is before RuPaul's drag race. They call it drag race. And what they would do is in the parking lot, they would set up stations. And what you had to do is if you were going to be in the drag race, you started in just regular clothes, and you had to go to each station, wig, makeup, costume, all this other stuff.

00:27:01 JR

And the first one to become a drag queen won. And we get a bar tab. And they had that every Easter in the parking lot at Backstreet. And it was the annual drag race. And I don't know if RuPaul got the name from there or what.

00:27:19 JR

I can't say to that.

00:27:20 GW

She was around during that time in Atlanta.

00:27:24 JR

Yeah. If you ever want to see some really cool videos, go look up RuPaul Atlanta. And it has her stuff from the 80s where she was a little punk rocker kind of drag queen. It was funny. But, yeah, they did drag race.

00:27:43 JR

They did the armory. I don't know if you know, but it was Backstreet. And then there was a club called the Armory next door to it, sort of formed an L, and they had their own drag show called the Armorettes. There was just the weekends, and it was a two different. There were camp drag at the Armory.

00:28:06 JR

So you had your. How drag at Backstreet, you had your camp drag at the Armory. So they would do the drag races together and they would do other charity events. We never had things like bait sales, but you have your contest between the bars and things like that to raise money for AIDS research. And there was a hospital on Piedmont, on Ponce, right there at the Krispy Kreme, and they had an AIDS ward, and that's where most everybody went when they got sick.

00:28:47 JR

And they would do things to raise money, to take gift baskets and things. People needed toiletries and things like that, that nobody would bring them but us. And so it was a big thing like that to raise money and then to just navigate who would do what for whom, and who would go see who when they were in the hospital. Because you didn't have a lot of back then. People were so scared of it that you would not get families, go see their kids or their brothers or sisters.

00:29:30 JR

They just wouldn't go. So it was really up to us to do it all. And it was a tough time. I was involved a little bit, knacked up some stuff they were doing, but it was a challenging time in the 90s.

00:29:51 GW

Yeah. What happened to the armory?

00:29:57 JR

The armory, it stayed around, I think it didn't click. The whole thing with Backstreet is the city came after them for the 24 hours liquor license, because back, I think it was into the 2000, maybe 99, 2000. That's when the redevelopment of Midtown started happening. And you had a lot of high rises going up around there, and people were complaining about noise and things like that coming from the club. And so they started really coming after Backstreet to get their liquor license.

00:30:40 JR

They were trying to shut them down, is what they were trying to do. And the Armory was a smaller club. It wasn't quite as loud, and they sort of ignored it. Backstreet was who they came after. So Armory actually lasted a bit longer.

00:30:55 JR

But for a while there, they actually went to a [...] club. It was just like a juice bar kind of thing. Bring your own liquor and we'll sell you mixers. That lasted for a year or two. And then finally, when they couldn't be 24 hours anymore, that was their thing.

00:31:17 JR

That was where you went when every other club closed. That's why they didn't even start really having that bigger crowd to 1011 o'clock night. So the city was the killer of Backstreet because people in half-million-dollar condos around there didn't like it, and they wanted it gone, and the city got rid of it for them.

00:31:44 GW

I know the city really painted Backstreet as this public nuisance, a place of sex, drugs, and depravity. Was there any veracity to that at all? Do you really think it was that much of a disturbance?

00:32:04 JR

I think back then, that was a lot, way before. More accepting kind of times it is now. And I think you had your shirtless boys running around the parking lot and all. I just think it was a nuisance to people, especially straight people. The only thing you ever heard from the club was you'd hear the thump from the base.

00:32:30 JR

You could hear that outside. You couldn't hear really anything else because it was all facing Piedmont. It was all brick, there was no windows, so the sound was pretty much deadened. But after the high rises started going in and the land became so valuable, because the people that own Backstreet did not own the property. So I think the property owners probably had something to do with getting the city to sort of nudge Adam to get rid of the 24 hours thing, and all because they knew that land was much more valuable to high rises, because that's what was really going in toward the end, was they were redeveloping.

00:33:18 JR

It wasn't just that. It was the metro down in Juniper, it was Bulldogs. It was all the clubs in Midtown. When I moved in the 90s, there was probably 20 eye clubs, 20 plus, maybe a little bit minus in midtown alone. And now I think there may be five left that are still in operation.

00:33:46 JR

But there was a club everywhere. You could walk from Backstreet to three other clubs, to the metro, to Bulldogs, to several other clubs. You just do a tour in midtown. But redevelopment really sucked the life out of Midtown. For gay people, it was an enclave.

00:34:11 JR

It was pretty much ours. The houses weren't as nice. It was a rough area. Argon I remember getting, you get your OD, truckload raid nets come through midtown and down near the eagle and all that. That would throw beer bottles at us and things like that.

00:34:36 JR

So it changed, but midtown was ours. And toward the early 2000s, that's when it started becoming, we can redevelop this. When Atlanta just started the redeveloping craze and sort of moved us all out. I lived in Decatur at that time, and after me and Roger got together, Decatur got so expensive, we moved out to Stone Mountain, and then we'd sort of coming in. Town was a little bit tougher and not as much to it just, they sort of moved us out like everything else.

00:35:15 JR

We just sort of got spread out to the suburbs.

00:35:18 GW

It's an interesting parallel, the land not being owned by the bar and what happened with the eagle before they had to move.

00:35:29 JR

Right.

00:35:31 GW

That's interesting. As Atlanta kind of sprawls out and gentrification, it kind of seems like a cycle that's been going on for decades now.

00:35:42 JR

I need people in midtown that bought their houses for \$30,000 back in the early nineties a big old Victoria you get for less than \$40,000. And all of a sudden that just flipped. And every year they got more and more expensive. And like my friend Tome had a little apartment. They divided the big houses up into little apartments, is what they did.

00:36:10 JR

And he had an apartment I think he was paying \$200 a month for. And then he got kicked out because they want to convert the house to a single family again and sell it. And it worked us all out. That's why midtown people still think of it as gay. But except for the clubs that are down there, it's not as gay as it used to be, because the poor gay people, unless you have a \$500,000 figure job, can't live in the town.

00:36:47 GW

That's very true. And I don't think that kind of the socioeconomic differences within the queer community in Atlanta and everywhere else is really talked about a lot. Because when you think about queer nightlife, especially today, you think of very attractive, very wealthy people partying it up, living the life. And so do you think at Backstreet, was it more inclusive on that kind of socioeconomic level?

00:37:22 JR

Oh, yeah. Backstreet, as long as you had the COVID I think they had a \$5 cover to get in. I think one time it went to ten. That's as much as I ever remember it being. If you get the COVID charge, you get in there and you could dance and do whatever.

00:37:40 JR

They didn't have, like a drink minimum or anything like that. You could just go in and dance, drink water, if that's all you could get, they would give it to you. They didn't care. As long as you were there dancing. And you could even get free drinks a lot of times, especially if you were cute, you get people to buy your drinks anytime, but it was a lot more cliché.

00:38:04 JR

You have people from waiters and waitresses all the way up to your people that were closeted, that were more corporate kind of guys that would just come out and party at the weekend. It was all sorts of people there from poor to rich. But you had your good mix about it. Nobody really put on heirs. They didn't hold anything against you if you didn't have a lot of money.

00:38:38 GW

So as the city kind of started to push this legislation that was pretty obviously aimed directly at Backstreet and the queer community there, what was the reaction like in the community?

00:38:55 JR

Well, everybody fought it. There was petitions and everything we could think of to do. Going down to city hall on council meetings and writing petitions to keep the 24 hours license and everything you can do without having to spend a lot of money on a lot of lawyers we tried to do. And it was just fighting a losing battle against. You have these big developers coming in.

00:39:29 JR

And if you go through downtown today, I mean, where Backstreet was, there's nothing but high rise condominiums now. And as that sort of happened in midtown, clubs started moving out to Cheshire Bridge. And now you have the very same thing in Cheshire Bridge. Pretty much the only thing left out there is the heretic. And I have a friend that works at heretic that Marta bought the property and at some point they're going to build a MARTA station there where the Heretic is.

00:40:04 JR

So they're on borrowed time right now. So it's just moving us, getting rid of people that they want to gentrify everything. Us, the old people that grew up around there when we were coming out, they're just moving us all off. And nowadays you don't need the bars as much for a social life. People younger have apps and you can do everything from find somebody to go to the movies with or to hook up with.

00:40:41 JR

So you really don't need a bar for that.

00:40:46 GW

Do you think that that kind of disappearing landscape of bars and a centralized community, I've noticed that there is kind of a resurgence in people, I don't know, just remembering kind of the way that the bar scene and the community used to be. I think it's like over 1100 people on the Backstreet page. And a lot of these kind of iconic drag queens are getting more noticed and mentioned again. Why do you think that is?

00:41:35 JR

I'm almost 60 and we're getting up there. And as you get older, you start remembering things from when you're in your twenties and nostalgia kicks in at a certain age and retiring, that's your heyday. So you sort of want to remember it and talk about it. And that's why the backstreet thing on Facebook is so big, because you got us know, trying to remember things and talk about people. That's gone.

00:42:13 JR

Lily White passed like two years ago. Charlie Brown's in her seventies and she just had open heart surgery last week. And Raven retired and moved to Oklahoma, so taking care of her family there, those are good old days. And when you get to a certain age, you just sort of want to remember it and you sort of yearn for it again because you had so much fun at that age. And now your knees hurt, your back hurts, you can't even think about going out dancing at three in the morning anymore.

00:42:55 GW

Yeah. Why do you think it's important to talk about these stories and remember them?

00:43:06 JR

Well, thankfully, people like yourself are interested in the stories because the times before the Internet, I mean, jeez, AOL wasn't even a thing when all this happened. And it's just you all will never have that kind of interaction because everything's on the phone now. You can get on a Facebook thing and you talk to 300 people at once if you want to and meet people that way. I mean, I met my husband in a bar the way he used to before the Internet. I'm glad people are interested in the stories because once my generation is gone, pretty much my generation, maybe a couple of years younger than me, um, still remember it.

00:44:11 JR

But after that, you know, things like that, things like bars. In that situation, nobody's going to have any concept of what it was like when, you know, I was in my 20s.