The two left their beer behind, flew out the door and out into the parking lot. A few moments later they had drawn guns and were shouting down another man.
spot was Dr. Roy Swank. Swank, who lived just east of here, was head of the OHSU neurology department from 1954-1976, and is a world-renowned Multiple Sclerosis researcher. In the late 1940s Swank was traveling the world, closely studying M.S. in industrialized nations, when he became convinced that there was a link between food and the disease. By 1950 he had developed a breakthrough low-fat diet to treat M.S. At the time, no one had considered such a diet, especially as a response to illness. Dr. Swank still lives in the area, and while he no longer actively sees patients (he is in his 90s) his work and the Roy Swank Foundation continue to help countless M.S. sufferers globally.

After changing hands several times the pub site remained undeveloped until the summer of 1965 when the Charles T. Parker Construction Co. built a unique pyramid-like building. Shortly after construction was completed, the Raleigh Hills Market & Delicatessen, owned and operated by James and Dorothy Digregorio, moved in.

By all accounts the Market gained a deserved reputation for being a friendly and popular neighborhood stop, catering to the fast-growing area. It also amassed a somewhat undeserved reputation for selling beer to minors out of the back door.

After twelve years in the community the Digregorios’ decided it was time to pass along the family business, and here’s where the story takes an interesting turn. They put the business up for sale and in 1977 Mike McMenamin purchased the place. Mike ran the quickie mart as the West Hills Market for six years, offering a great selection of beer and wine along with the most opinionated cashier these parts have ever known. Elaine Harper, a hold over from Digregorio’s tenure, was notorious for barking orders and glaring looks. She didn’t take kindly to making change either. “You’ll have to do better than that or get out,” she would snap.

The Market was fairly successful and Mike enjoyed the community, but he had dreams of something different. In 1983 he sold the joint to Mark Gossage, who quickly converted the space to Rubin’s Gulch, a café, wine and beer-by-the-bottle shop. It was the first major makeover the building had seen since it was built, and it heralded things to come. When Rubin’s Gulch went up for sale in 1986, Mike McMenamin didn’t hesitate to buy the great building in Raleigh Hills back. This time though, things were a bit different. Renamed the Raleigh Hills Pub, the twin pyramid building became the ninth McMenamins brewpub. A modest remodel opened the place up a bit and a fine food selection and festive celebrations like the Oktoberfest (featuring a magician, fire eater and an oom-pah band!) began to attract new folks from around the area.

While people from the community are always discovering this great space, the place has very loyal regulars, some from the days of Rubin’s Gulch. And it’s the regulars that give this place its stories. On one occasion, years ago, a pair of well dressed regulars who always sat by the windows saw something down the street they didn’t like. The two left their beer behind, flew out the door and out into the parking lot. A few moments later they drew guns and were shouting down another man. Upon their return, the pair formerly know as the “IPA guys” had suddenly been revealed as the “FBI guys.” Their cover was blown.

These days, you probably won’t encounter a Swiss bell-ringer or cantankerous register clerk, but the Raleigh Hills Pub is still flush with great personalities. From Jennings County, Indiana, right to you, the stories resident at this humming intersection are dense, on-going and splendidly full of life.