

Olympic Club Hotel Room Names

The lodging rooms here celebrate a colorful and worthy cast of characters who have a notable association with the hotel, the Club or the surrounding community.



1. Roy Gardner

A notorious and charming bandit, Roy was captured at the Hotel in June 1921.

2. Art Vogel

A great poker player and no-nonsense force at the Oly Club, Vogel started working here in '24, was made a partner in '27 and remained active in its operation until 1961. His family ran the place 'til '96.

3. Ernie Rector

Ernie became a partner at the Oly Club in 1911 and remained a quiet force here until 1955.

4. Floyd Duell

A regular at the Oly Club poker tables between 1940s-60s, Floyd also was one its greatest raconteurs.

5. Lester Webster

"Web" was a fixture of the Oly Club pool hall from 1937-1998.

6. Marie Donelson Lotz

A cook at the Oly Club cafe in the 1970s, Marie also ran the Jet Tavern (now the theater) in the '60s.

7. Don Schultz

During the '40s, Don worked here as a waiter, shoe shiner, card room house boy, and pool room clerk..

8. Joe Robinson

A wealthy mill owner, Joe had the Hotel built in 1913.

9. Nugent Brothers

Before the Hotel was built, the Nugents ran the Oxford Bar on the site. Though a popular spot, they were forced to close when the city yanked their license for running a card game at the bar (an illegal practice in 1907).

10. F. B. Hubbard

Hubbard was a Centralia mill owner and the city's most influential man during the 'teens and '20s.

11. Tom Churchill

Author of Centralia Dead March. Published in 1980, it was the first book in 50 years to examine the violent labor clash that occurred in Centralia on Armistice Day 1919.

12. Jeannie Heier

First lasting female bartender at the Oly Club. She worked from 1980 through the mid-'90s.

13. Louis Sonney

Sonney was the Centralia policeman who captured Roy Gardner at the Hotel. Sonney went on to become a Hollywood film producer, and among his films was a movie about Gardner's exploits for which

he filmed at several locations, including Centralia.

14. George Washington

An African American man, George Washington came west in the 1850s and settled land on which he established the City of Centralia in 1883 and saved from extinction during the depression of the 1890s.

15. George Barner

Youngest mayor in Centralia history, he was in office during the 1920s and led a crusade to subdue bootleggers. Barner's savings & loan office was where the current Oly Club meeting room is now.

16. Charlemagne Tower

A Philadelphia millionaire and namesake of Tower Avenue.

17. Mike Solomon

Longtime card player in the '40s-'60s, he got to know the Oly Club's owner and poker ace, Art Vogel. Art gave Mike lasting advice on how to keep a tavern in business.

18. Elmer Smith

Wobbly lawyer from Centralia who met with Wobblies at the Oly Club Cafe in '20s.

19. Don "Iver" Iverson

Don first came into the Oly Club as a wide-eyed ten-year-old kid in the 1940s. Years later, in the early 1970s, Iver took a series of great photos in the Club showing the old regulars playing pool, standing by the stove and gawking at the women.

20. Turkey Red

A.K.A. Walter Friedrich, he was a latter-day card dealer and bartender during 1970s-80s.

21. Gertrude Howell

Proprietor of the Hotel in the early 1920s, she identified bandit Roy Gardner here in '21.

22. Ray Bush

Best pool player at Oly Club, 1950s-60s.

23. Ione Sellards

First female employee at the Oly Club, she worked as head cook in the Cafe during 1960s.

24. Jim Fasano

A barber whose shop was below the Hotel in the 1940s-50s.

25. Lucien Christin

Longtime Oly Club Card dealer and former bootlegger, he even worked for Al Capone for a time.

26. Jack Sciutto

Original proprietor of the Oly Club, Jack was a local boxing impresario and "King of the Bootleggers."

[Unnumbered; First Floor] A. J. Forgues

Opened the New Tourist Bar below the Hotel in 1913, ran Oxford cafe in same space after Prohibition forced the bar to close. In 1917, Forgues took over operation of the Hotel.