

MICHIGAN NEWS**OBITUARY****Leonard Lippert****November 3, 1924 -****November 26, 2000***By JASON MICHAEL*

DEARBORN HEIGHTS - Leonard Lippert, the original owner of the Hayloft Saloon and a regular on the Detroit bar scene for almost 20 years, died Nov. 26 after a lengthy battle with Alzheimer's disease. He was 76.

Born in Detroit and raised in Essex, Ontario, Len, as he was known to friends,



served in the Canadian Air Force as a pilot during World War II. Following the war, Lippert returned to Detroit, where he worked at Manufacturer's Bank for 20 years. It was during his time at Manufacturer's

that Lippert met Eddie Walker, who would go on to become his life partner for the next 24 years.

In 1981, Lippert purchased The Bel Air Lounge, a straight bar located on Greenfield Road north of Tireman on Detroit's west side. Lippert soon reopened the bar as the Hayloft, which he also managed with the help of Walker.

Lippert, an early member of the Detroit Bar Guild, will be remembered by many for his turn as Judy Garland in several of the Guild shows.

"Lenny was extravagant and didn't mind showing it," said Ron Suresha, a long-time friend. "He enjoyed nice clothes and fine dining."

Lippert sold the Hayloft in January of 1997. Two months later, as his battle with Alzheimer's began to worsen, he checked himself into the Heartland nursing home in Dearborn Heights.

"Len was grumpy but loveable," said Suresha. "Even despite the onset of dementia, he could be incredibly funny, lively and full of laughter."

Lippert is survived by a brother, Bill, and two sisters, Jean and Valdean.