

Five Spice Chicken

Vietnamese hole-in-the-wall
acclaimed as *Cordon Bleu*
off Polk Street on California
in the City of St. Francis

A musky scent of mystery
perfumes the well-worn counter
with pedestals as stools
a smaller seedy *Nighthawks* café

Flames leap up as fat
spits and drips on fire
below an ancient grill
sideshow for a late lunch

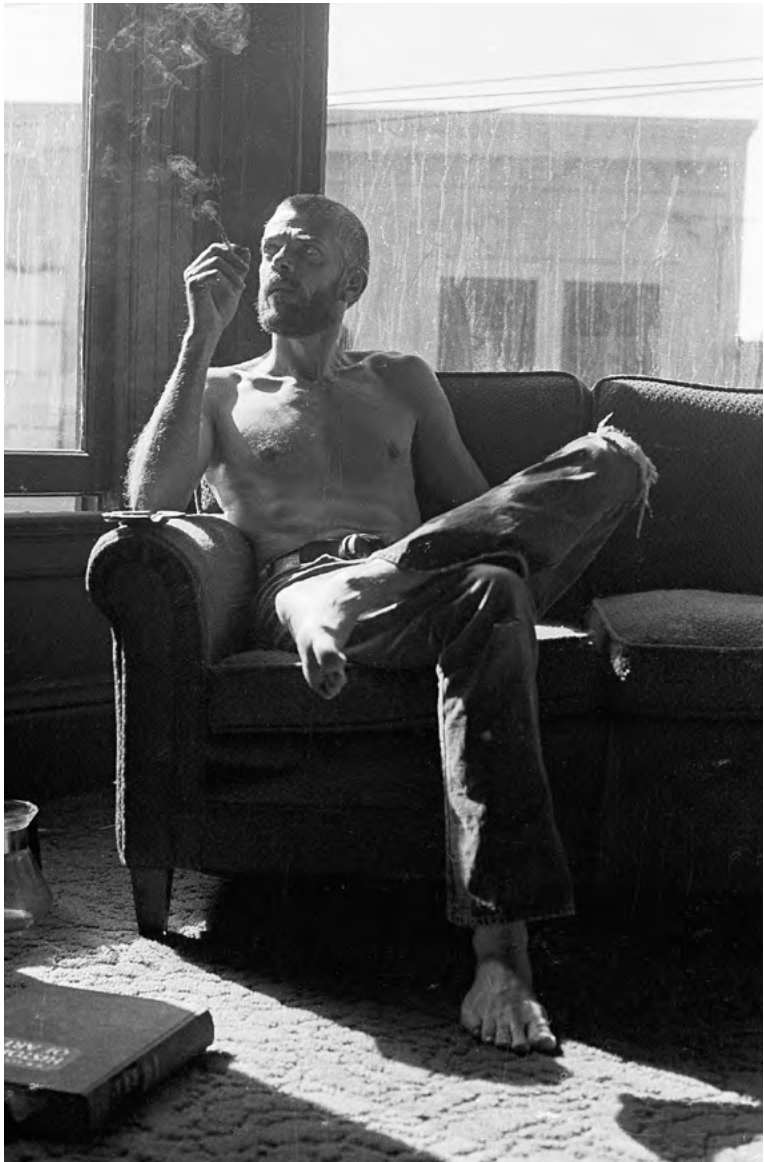
In a *lingua franca*
spoken in borderlands
both East and West
a wizened woman asks
five-spice chicken

They nod yes as she scoops clumps
of rice onto chipped platters
and with a pair of tongs
takes from the grill two tiny chickens
that waft rich decadent aromas

Sweet star-anis reigns
while cinnamon and cloves
with licorice undertones
support freshly grated ginger
in an exotic fusion
more powerful than poppies

Vet and grown boat-boy are whisked off
to some imaginary war-time Saigon side street
seduced and die a gourmand's death
in a city once known as Paris of the East

Not sated yet they leave
and retire to a quickly rented room
in the blighted gritty Tenderloin
for a long and languid
lazy *digestif*



Jim with Cigarette

1977: auto-photograph by Jim Stewart at 766 Clementina Street. Chuck Arnett, David Hurles, Bill Essex and others once lived in building across the street, seen out the window.

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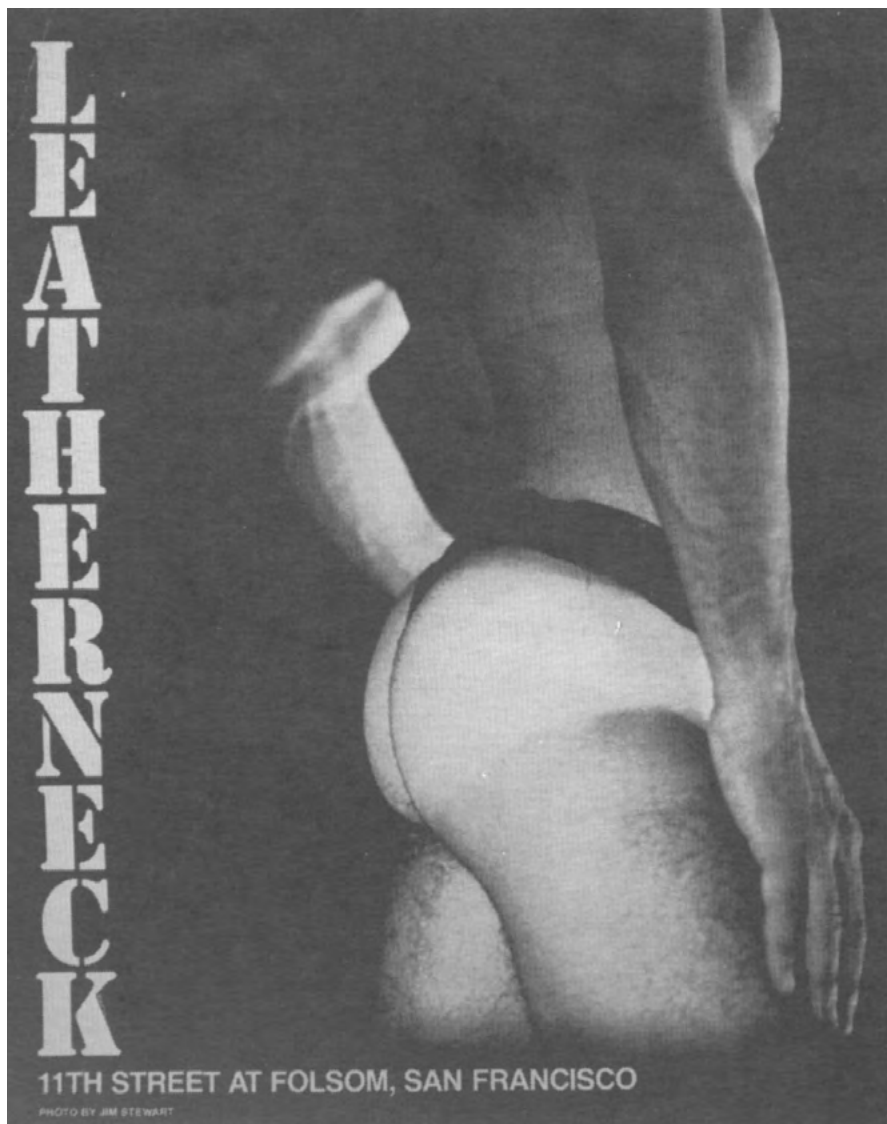


Leatherneck Bartender Ron

1977: photo by Jim Stewart,
at the corner of 11th Street and Folsom

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Leatherneck Poster

1977: model Max Morales, photo by Jim Stewart
Published in *Drummer*, Issue 21, p. 78

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Spring — from the series Four Seasons of Ass

1977: model Max Morales, photo by Jim Stewart

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Summer — from the series Four Seasons of Ass

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Fall — from the series Four Seasons of Ass

1977: model Max Morales, photo by Jim Stewart

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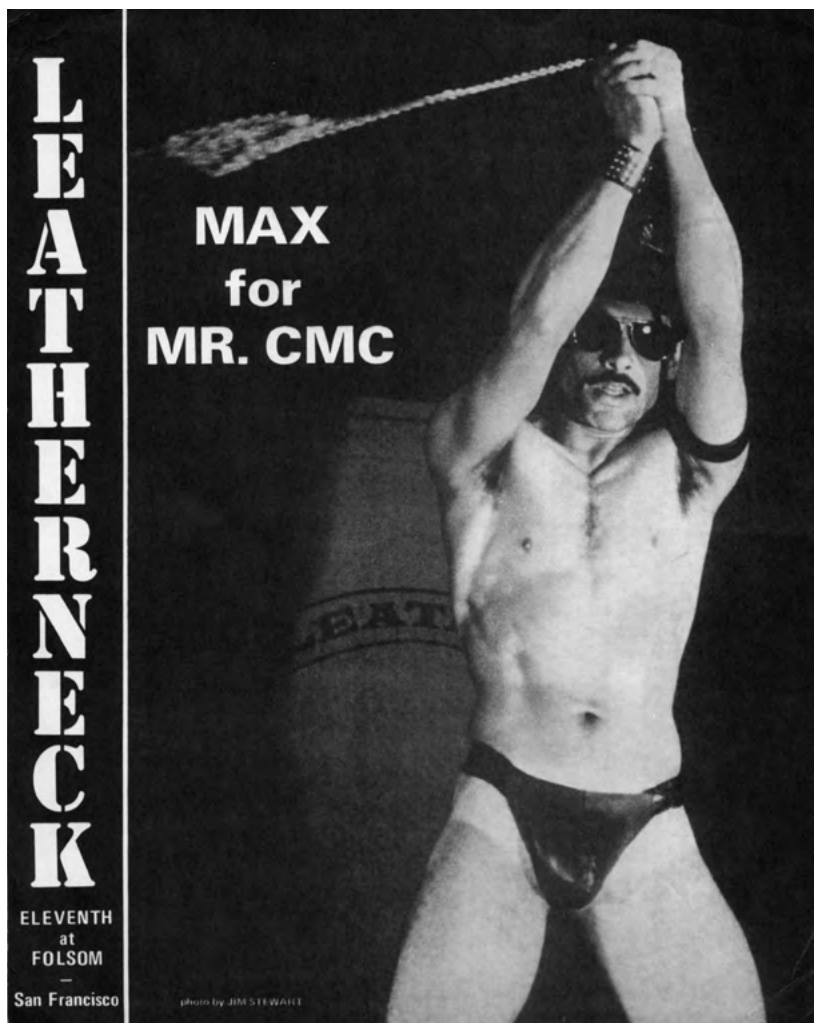


Winter — from the series Four Seasons of Ass

1977: model Max Morales, photo by Jim Stewart

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Max for Mr. CMC — 1978

1978: model Max Morales, photo by Jim Stewart
Leatherneck Bar, 11th Street at Folsom
poster for the CMC Carnival

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