

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

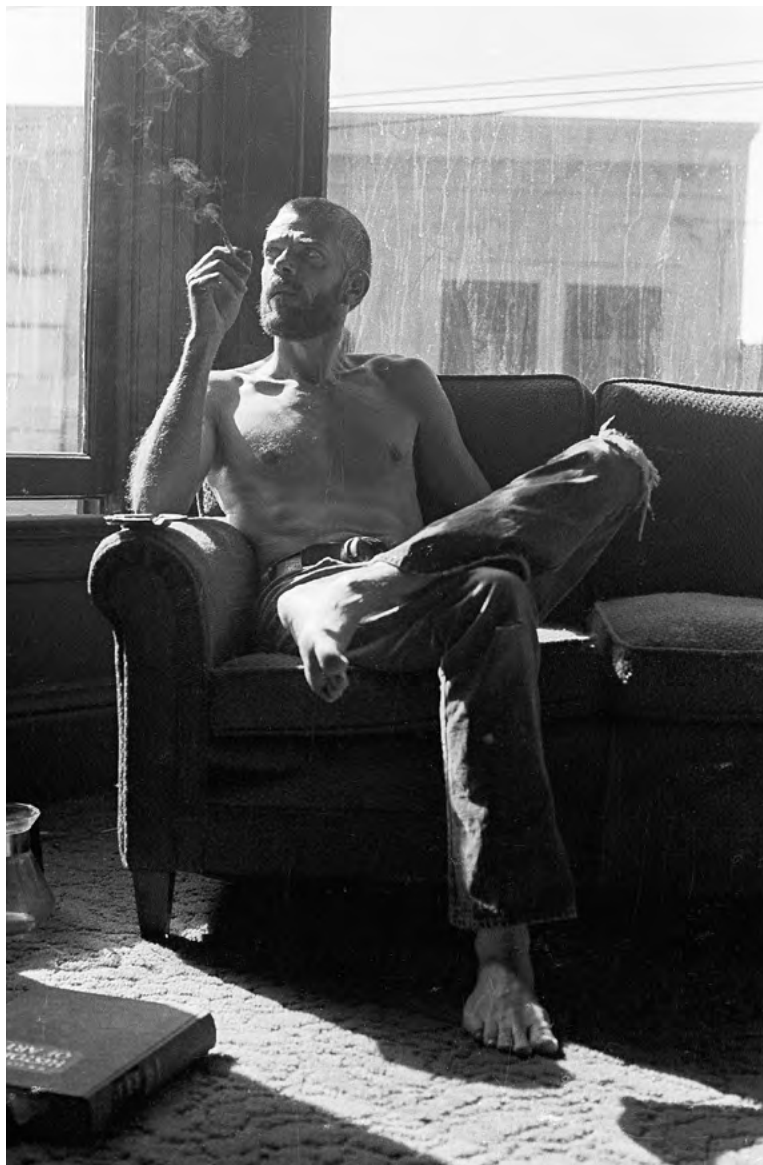
In a *lingua franca*
 spoken in borderlands
 both East and West
 a wizened woman asks
 five-spice chicken

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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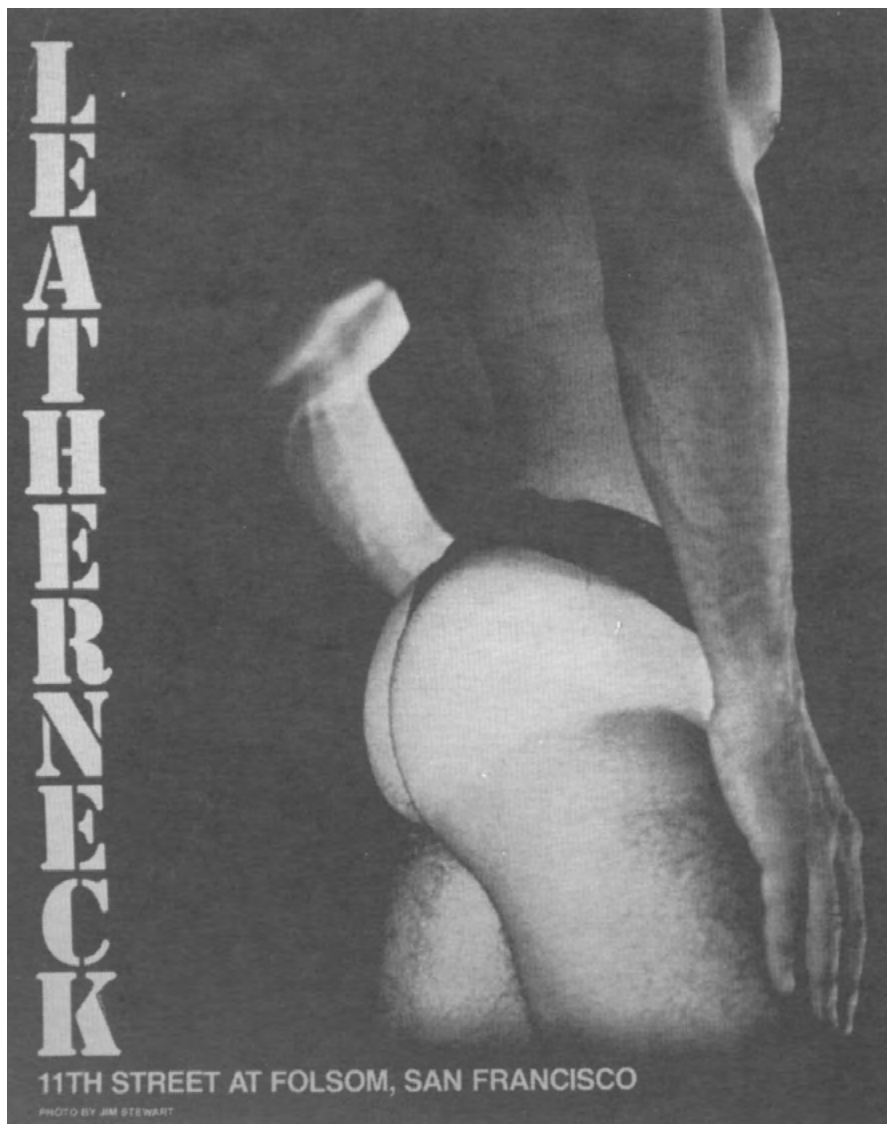


Leatherneck Bartender Ron

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
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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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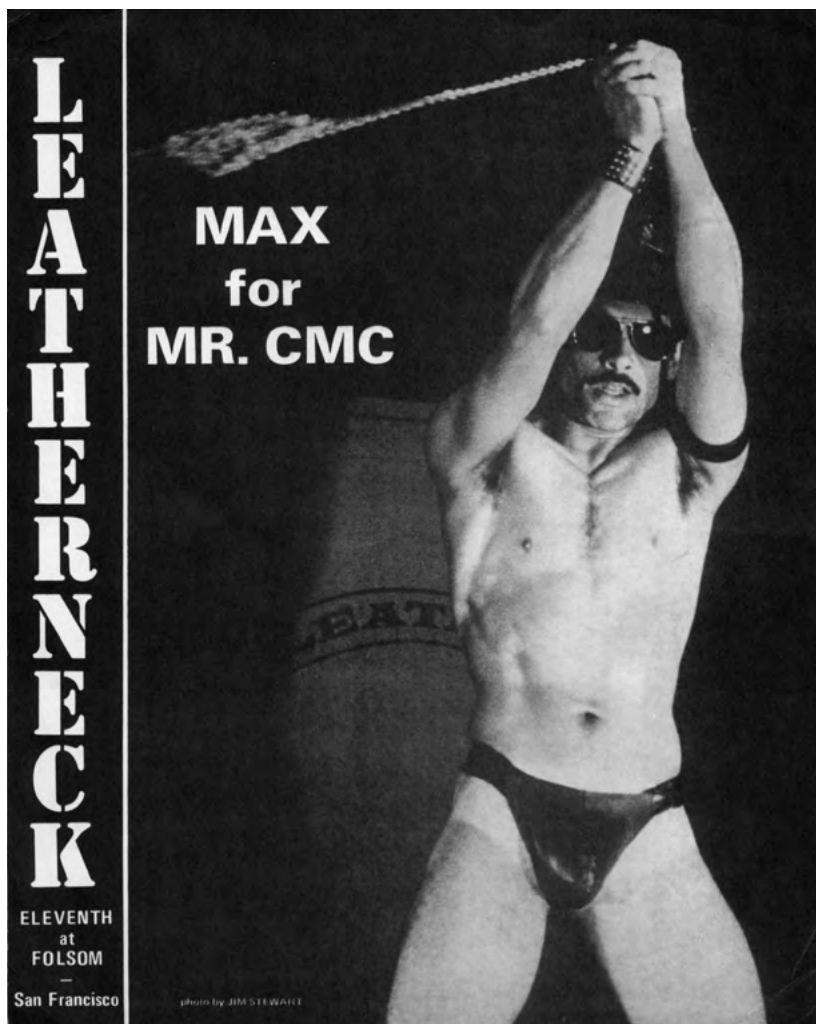


Winter — from the series Four Seasons of Ass

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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