



Google Street View

Derby Room

2200 Tongass Avenue, Ketchikan, AK (907) 225-2465

License Issued: 1953 to the Gilmore Hotel **CLOSED January 2015**

Amenities: 2 TVs, 1 juke box, Pull Tab corner

Web site: Facebook

History and Notoriety: The Derby Room began as a bar in the Gilmore Hotel at 326 Front Street. James Stinson took over operations of the bar in 1956 with his first wife Loretta, and then in 1958 with his second wife Pauline. Thomas & Shirley Carlin bought the bar in 1960 and moved it to its current location in 1970. The bar occupies the first floor of the Tongass Towers building.

It was under the ownership and management of Jack & Evelyn Cousins beginning in 1976 that the Derby Room acquired its current persona. Photos and drawings of the couple adorn the walls of the bar.

Jack Cousins (1930-1999) was a veteran bush pilot who spent 50 years flying in Southeast Alaska. According to Michelle Masden, pilot and owner of Island Wings Air Service, "As a flight instructor he spread his enthusiasm to hundreds of students. Jack would talk to anyone who would listen about the greatest place to fly in the world - Alaska! Jack used to say 'Float flying is the free spot left on Earth!'"

Visiting the Derby Room: The Derby Room is a neighborhood bar that doubles as a shrine to the Cousins family and Jack' love of flying.