

Restaurant Review 45 O'Connell's Pub December 22 2016

FOOD: GREAT HAMBURGERS FOR OVER 50 YEARS: I have been eating burgers at O'Connell's since 1969. There were good in 1969 when O'Connell's was on N. Boyle in Gaslight Square and they taste the same in 2016 on South Kingshighway at Shaw. Back in the 1960s I was a disc jockey at two radio stations located in Gaslight Square. One was in the Musical Arts Building and overlooked O'Connell's. It was the last eatery left in Gaslight. Lucky for me! It was great. By 1973 owner Jack Parker moved it to S. Kingshighway and Shaw. The amazing thing is that the food, especially the burgers did not change. Served on a paper plate, they were some of the best burgers in St. Louis.

As time goes on there have been very few changes at O'Connell's. Much of the tables and chairs used in Gaslight Square are still there. The menu is basically the same.



The big sellers at O'Connell's are the burgers. The standard burger is the 1/2 pounder (\$5.75 burger \$6.25 cheese burger).



Over the years the 1/4 pound "junior burger" is all I need to get full.



While the French fries are average at best, I have always been a fan of the onion rings (\$5.25 full order / \$3.25 for small order) and my wife likes the fried mushrooms (\$4.50).



The other popular item is the roast beef sandwich. (\$7.50)



I have stopped ordering the Roast Beef. First of all even for a fat guy, it is too much food. Plus it is a lot of work to eat one. Sometimes that roast beef can be a chore to chew and digest.

The daily specials include the Rubeen on Tuesday that Rubeen lovers have given good marks. The Saturday rib tips often have too much fat.

However, the one thing that has not changed are the burgers. Nora the waitress from England who used to keep cash intertwined in her fingers dated back to the Gaslight Square Days retired about 10 years ago. Red the bartender retired over a decade ago. But owner Jack Parker now in his 80s is alive and well. The two things that have not changed are the furniture and the burgers.

Due to the road construction at the Kingshighway bridge much of the front parking lot at O'Connell's is gone with only about six parking spaces left. The street parking on Shaw Avenue also has been taken away during construction as they added a detour lane. There is now a back parking lot. You have to drive past the building on Shaw and turn right into a driveway. I'm told that the lunch crowd has been affected the most by the construction. The road construction is supposed to be completed in the Spring of 2017.

The other thing that is different at O'Connell's is in the early evening and on weekends there are lots more younger kids with their parents having a meal. Part of the reason is the reasonable prices and the St. Louis smoking ban is probably the other.