

Haikus from My Brother's Bar in Denver, CO, Where Cassady and Kerouac Passed Their Time Megan Krueger

When I was in Denver on a family vacation, I came across the oldest bar in the city: My Brother's Bar. I sat down for a beer and bowl of chili, and learned from the barman that Neal Cassady and Jack Kerouac had frequented this bar back in the day. It was a dark, old, cozy space where everyone had a smile on their faces, and no one was in a rush. After expressing more interest in the history of the place, a worker named George showed me around. He explained that the tables, chairs, and floors were all parts of the original bar. The coolest part of this experience was when he showed me the basement, which used to be a speakeasy. On the way back upstairs, he also pointed out the secret staircase where black visitors arriving at the nearby train station snuck in. If you ever have the chance to visit this bar, don't be alarmed if you don't see a sign; they originally did not have enough money to purchase one, and they have yet to put one up!

wax paper for plate
chili in styrofoam bowl
simply delicious

relaxed casual smile
no one is in a rush here
gotta get a beer

what's goin' on here
plain white t shirt and beanie
the bar's "host" i guess

"come see me again"
"I will" without hesitance
Neal and Jack did too

"hi friend how are you"
"you both look great today"
says the waiter

fist pump
a true friend I guess
speaking spanish

famous people mounted
on the walls but they blend in
neal never noticed

smack in the city
cars at busy intersection
not a single horn

not a lot of drunks
three thirty on a saturday

would that stop them?

house above... brothel?
train stations below
blocked staircases to each

am I here or not?
I guess I'll walk into this door
they couldn't afford a sign

I sit at the bar
"dishes are a pain in the ass"
I agree, waiter

running from the cows
Cassady writes in his letter
He almost lost an eye?

Neal Cassady
looking mighty fine right now
pictured in a suit

orange sweatshirt man
he can tell im interested
might go downstairs!

who's karagas?
"owner" "i thought it was the
capellis?"

"old mafia family"
"let me see if I can get you
downstairs"