

## **Panther Connection**

Sweet Jimmy Ward was a kool guy, well known and well liked. He was the owner of the Lamp Post Club on Telegraph Ave and about W. Grand. I first met Jimmy in 1971. The Black Panther Party through Huey P. Newton became the controlling interest in the Lamp Post. Jimmy was having tax problems, Huey and Jimmy worked out a solution. Jimmy still worked at the club, but it was staffed by members of the BPP. Jimmy and Huey were related.

I worked at the Post as a kitchen aid and in security. I worked and Party-ed with Jimmy. We would close down the Post at 2 am and clean it up and I would head out with Jimmy and crew to the many after hours nightclubs he knew about. He even ran a few after hours spots during that time. I remember one time in 1973, I went down to Monterey Jazz Festival and Jimmy and crew had the best seats. After the Festival at night, we would go to the Seaside Inn and party until 5am. The bartender there was Adam, a former Bartender at the Post. Funny how things work out in life.

I moved away from Oakland many years ago. I was living in New York for a while and moved back to Sacramento in 1995. I hooked up with my old friend Kim Nelson who used to work at the Post with me. It was around New Years and she had tickets to a new year's party at "Sweet Jimmy's". That night Jimmy was the host and sat at our table all night. Since that time I have gone by often to see Jimmy and I know a number of comrades coming through the Bay area always stopped by to see Jimmy. Many comrades worked with Sweet Jimmy. He was a good person and will be missed.