

**Forty years of local history --- on the walls and online.
The Face on the Barroom Floor is OPC's signature.**

“The Face on the Barroom Floor” has been the club’s “brand” since the restaurant opened in 1971. Omaha Press Club leaders wanted something that would make the new club stand out from all others.

“How about filling the walls with caricatures of newsmakers?” asked World-Herald columnist Bob McMorris.

McMorris, who died in 2006, turned to World-Herald artist Jim Horan to create the satirical drawings. Horan was creator of the World-Herald’s “Harry Husker,” a cartoon character who predicted Nebraska football scores. Now a free-lance artist, he has drawn all but two of the “Faces” since.

Call it The Face on the Barroom Floor, McMorris suggested. The name was a reference to a famous poem about a painting on a barroom floor in Central City, Colorado.

The “Face” is unveiled at an event attended by the honoree’s friends and fans. A good-natured roast of the honoree is followed by dinner. A newsmaker who survives the roast sees his or her face framed on the barroom floor; it is moved to a wall after the next Face is unveiled.

Now the Omaha Press Club’s walls are lined with portraits of people who have been part of the community’s history. Each person is a newsmaker who has made a difference for the community.

(BOX) After 40 years, the Omaha Press Club has run out of wall space. Now some “Face on the Barroom Floor” drawings are stored away to make way for new Faces. But you can still see all the Face caricatures and their stories online. Go to the website www.omahapressclub.org