

Quad-Cities
Online

an edition of **THE DISPATCH**

Posted online: August 30, 2006 8:13 PM

Print publication date: August 31, 2006

R.I.'s Hunter's Club closes for now

By Rita Pearson, rpearson@qconline.com

ROCK ISLAND -- Although The Hunter's Club closed in mid-August, the former owner says he believes the 73-year-old landmark will reopen when another owner-manager can be found.

The Hunter's Club, at 2107 4th Ave., was as much a Quad-Cities tradition as a Rock Island business, known for its comfortable old-time atmosphere and good food. It had established a reputation for tasty hamburgers -- buffalo burgers in recent years -- and a night-life of live jazz ensembles.

"We weren't making it," said owner-manager Alan Mosley, who operated Hunter's Club the past four years.

He said he was increasing sales every year but was not keeping up with expenses. He said he labored over the decision to close for some time before deciding to throw in the towel. Since he was buying the business on contract from East Moline businessman Mark Polaschek, he decided to stop making payments and turn the business back over to him.

"It was just time," Mr. Mosley said of his decision. No other event precipitated the closure, he said.

The darkened bar-restaurant appeared untouched and fully furnished Wednesday. Signs posted on the doors directed patrons to the next performance of the Metrolites scheduled for Friday at the River Music Experience in downtown Davenport. The Metrolites last performed at Hunter's Club Aug. 11.

Mr. Mosley said he believes a new owner for Hunter's Club will be found and it will reopen.

Mr. Polaschek could not be reached for comment Wednesday.



Photo: Terry Herbig

The Hunter's Club in Rock Island closed in mid-August after 73 years in business. The landmark tavern was known for its burgers and live jazz entertainment.

[More photos from this shoot](#)

Coming Sunday

*Movie previews * College football * Outdoor spaces * What's happening*



[VIEW FULL AD](#) +

Marsha Walker, director for business development for Renaissance Rock Island, said she was shocked and saddened to hear of Hunter's closing. People told her how great Hunter's was as soon as she moved here from Pennsylvania earlier this summer. A short time later, she heard Hunter's was going to shut its doors.

"We hate to see any business go under," she said. "We like to see all of our businesses thrive. It's a long-time institution."

Mr. Mosley said he plans to spend more time with his wife and 5-year-old daughter and, otherwise, is open to suggestions for new employment. Before buying into Hunter's, he managed Max's Tavern in downtown Davenport.

Hunter's Club

Founded in 1931 as a speakeasy, Hunter's holds the oldest liquor license in Illinois. Businessmen Bill Hunter and Phil Senatra were the founding owners.

After Prohibition, Hunter's was given the second liquor license in Illinois in 1933. The first went to a Chicago bar off Wabash Avenue that has since gone out of business.

[back to top](#)