

For Immediate Release

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www.placeandmemory.org



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*NPR Launches Summer-long Series on The Place + Memory Project
www.placeandmemory.org celebrates beloved places that no longer exist.*

On Saturday, July 18, 2009, **NPR Weekend Edition** airs the first episode in a summer-long series featuring stories from *The Place + Memory Project*, a website that celebrates places we love that no longer exist.

The Place + Memory website (www.placeandmemory.org) is populated with user-generated memories of places that have disappeared—high school hangouts, awesome restaurants, family-run businesses, one-of-a-kind bars, magical parks, and other places that are gone, but not forgotten. Users tag their own remembered places on an interactive map and upload audio, video, photo, and stories to document those places. The site also features “Memory Messages”— from users who call an 800# to share their memories.

The website, www.placeandmemory.org, launched in June, already has over 200 locations with pictures, stories and videos. Remembered places range from **Taco Land**, a San Antonio dive bar and punk music venue that closed in 2005 when the owner was tragically killed; to **The Summit of Mt. St. Helens**, before the volcano erupted in 1980.

Beginning this Saturday, NPR will air the first of **four stories about four different places** around the US, exploring why those places were meaningful and distinctive to the people who remember them. Each sound-rich narrative, chosen from website contributions, will look at a different type of place, encouraging listeners to expand their ideas about the kind of places they’ve lost.

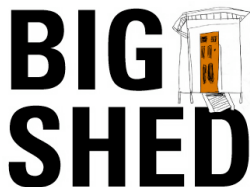
The first story, “**The Rabbit Hutch**,” captures the legacy of a restaurant in rural North Alabama that served up fried rabbit, barbecued rabbit, and rabbit livers, all with rice and rabbit gravy. For over 15 years, live show tunes, dancing rabbits and hare cuisine kept patrons coming, but the real story of the Rabbit Hutch is the deep appreciation the customers and the owners had for each other.

Created by **Big Shed Audio** in conjunction with **NPR** as part of *Maker’s Quest 2.0*, an initiative of the **Association of Independents in Radio** and the **Corporation for Public Broadcasting**, the goal of this project is to inspire public engagement about our collective memories and to use those memories to generate a sense of community among contributors.

Ideas can be submitted through the www.placeandmemory.org site, The Place + Memory Facebook Fan Page, and the 888-910-2555 voicemail.

For more information about the project, future airdates, or anything else, please contact Shea Shackelford (202.669.9023 or shea@bigshed.org).

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