

Founder of Fat Cat's created fun nightspot

Business innovator was drawn to city

SCOTT WILLIAMS

swilliams@lakegenevanews.net

During the 1960s, Bill Boroni and his friends made the drive from Joliet, Illinois, many times to revel in the Lake Geneva nightlife.

For Boroni, those nights were about more than just drinking and carousing. They were about hatching an idea.

In the early '70s, Boroni made his move, relocating to Lake Geneva and opening his own tavern, which he called Fat Cat's.

The tavern at 104 Broad St. quickly became a wildly popular attraction that drew crowds with upscale service, visiting celebrities, live entertainment, and quirky bar games.

"It was fun, it was really fun," former bartender Lynda Trester said. "His bars were always fun."

Boroni, who later owned another nightspot called City Slick-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO, REGIONAL NEWS

Bill Boroni, founder of Fat Cat's tavern in Lake Geneva, created a nightspot that became a favorite after-hours destination for employees and visiting celebrities at the Lake Geneva Playboy Club.

ers, died Sept. 12 at age 82 after a two-year battle with Alzheimer's disease. He had been living at a nursing home in Delavan.

Although originally from Illinois, Boroni developed strong ties to Lake Geneva through business and friendships.

Please see **FAT CAT'S**, Page A5