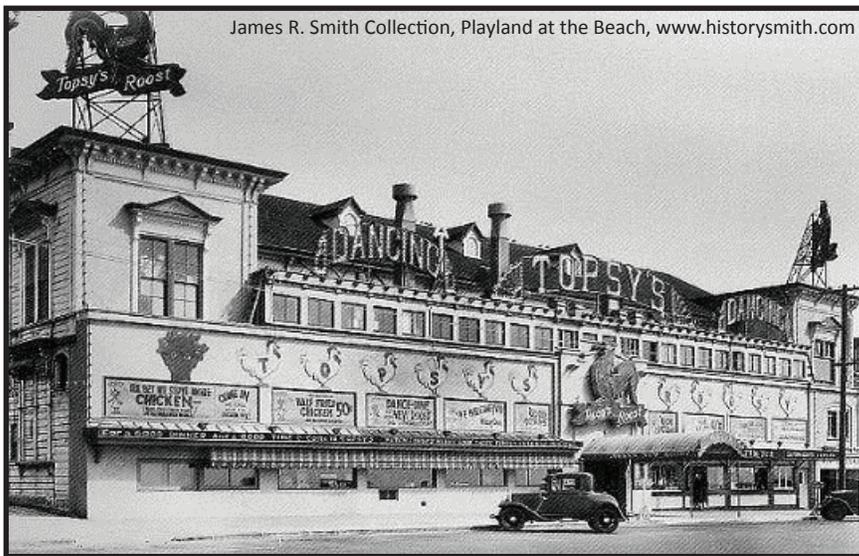


# VESTIGES of *Lands End*

## Topsy's Roost

This popular restaurant and nightclub on Ocean Beach was opened by the Whitney Brothers in 1929 in what was once the Ocean Beach Pavilion. Topsy's Roost was famous in the 1930s and '40s for its colorful décor, live bands, and southern food.

Inside Topsy's, a dance floor on the ground level was ringed by open balcony seating "roosts" shaped like chicken houses. Slides lead from the balcony to the dance floor. Diners were encouraged to take the slide from their roosts to the floor to dance to the music of Red Nichols and his Five Little Pennies. By the 1950s Topsy's had closed and the "Surf Club" rental hall operated in its place.



James R. Smith Collection, Playland at the Beach, www.historysmith.com

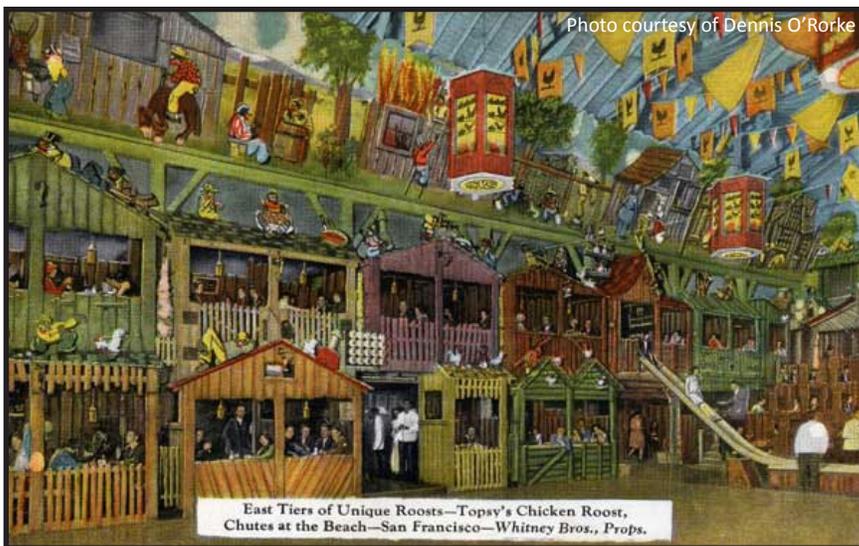


Photo courtesy of Dennis O'Rorke

East Tiers of Unique Roosts—Topsy's Chicken Roost, Chutes at the Beach—San Francisco—Whitney Bros., Props.



Image courtesy of Jim Cassedy

Clockwise starting at the top left: Topsy's Roost as seen from Ocean Beach; a 1930's Topsy's Roost menu postcard; a color postcard showing the inside of Topsy's Roost.