



OBJECT ID	2011.7.107
OBJECT NAME	Photograph
OBJECT COLLECTION	Alex's Candy Shop (is part of)
DATE CREATED	circa 1940
DONOR	Donated by the Rassogianis/Franks Family
EVENT	Staged Photo
MEDIUM	Photo Paper
OBJECT ENTITIES	Rassogianis; Alex, Paulina (is related to)
ACCESS POINTS	Alex's Candy Shop

OBJECT DESCRIPTION

Image of what appears to be Alex's Sweet Shop. Alex (left) and Gus (Constantine, right). The image is of the front counter along with the two men. There are many American flags in the background. Additionally, the image is pasted to the back of a piece of cardstock. The men's image is reflected in the mirror behind the counter. There is a little sitting area in the back of the shop.

ORIGIN

Paulina Franks' grandfather, John Rassogianis, came to Chicago in the 1890s. He began his life in the new city by peddling fruits and later, with the help of his sons Alex and George, would open a candy store. In the 1920s Paulina Franks' father Constantine became a part of the family business and the store was able to prosper. When the second business closed Paulina Rassogianis chose to hold as many of the candy store's items as possible and, later, donate them to the National Hellenic Museum.

The Rassogianis family began their candy business in Chicago proper, working out of their own shop named "St. Louis Ice Cream Parlor." Eventually, the shop was closed and the Rassogianis' chose to continue their candy store venture in Berwyn, Illinois. The new shop they chose to open was named Alex's Sweet Shop.

Paulina Franks' father was a key contributor to the success of the Rassogianis candy stores. While Constantine Rassogianis was a noteworthy entrepreneur, he also had many other accomplishments. Among these was his four years of involvement in the Greek national military during World War I wherein he obtained the rank of sergeant. Also, he was a published author and poet, an experienced mandolin player, a church officer and had extensive knowledge of psalti.

CITATION

Photograph, circa 1940, Alex's Candy Shop, *National Hellenic Museum*, <https://collections.nationalhellenicmuseum.org/Detail/objects/>. Accessed 11/13/25.
