

OBJECT ID	2005.15.1
OBJECT NAME	Photograph
DATE CREATED	1920s
OBJECT ENTITIES	George Fifles, Peter Thermos (is related to)
ACCESS POINTS	Photographs Sugar Bowl Sweet Shop, Des Plaines, customers, candy shop

OBJECT DESCRIPTION

A black and white photograph of five men in a candy shop. The three men on the right side of the picture are wearing black suits, ties, and hats. The two mer on the left, who stand behind the counter, are wearing different clothing. One is dressed in white with a black tie while the other is wearing a white shirt, black tie, and vest. On the left side of the picture is the counter. Part of the counter contains a glass display case with various boxes of candy. On the other side of the counter, there is an old-fashioned cash register. Behind the counter are more shelves that hold glasses and bottles. There is wood detailing on the walls and the floor is checkered tile.

ORIGIN

Steve Morakalis and George Prassas reopened the long-struggling and intermittently shuttered Sugar Bowl, one of Des Plaines, Il.'s oldest businesses. The restaurant was nearly renamed "La Mellet," but after discovering how much the Sugar Bowl meant to Des Plaines, the pair chose to inherit a local favorite. They transformed it, redecorating and bringing in better food than the restaurant had served in many years. The attached Miner Street Tavern was similarly reinvigorated, with a new storefront and appeal to a diverse clientele.

This newest incarnation of the Sugar Bowl is drastically different from the one that served the city for over 75 years. After the restaurant closed in 1997 following a shocking series of events in the Fifles family, new owner Ted Vlahopoulos of Mr. Allison's, gutted the interior and built a more conventional restaurant in place of the longstanding Sweet Shop and Snack Shop, changing the now-removed neon signs from "Sweet Shop" and "Cypress Inn" to "Restaurant" and "Cocktails."

Almost from the start, the Sugar Bowl was three things: the Sugar Bowl Candy Shop, the Des Plaines Restaurant/Cafe and the Cypress Cafe/Inn. The building in this form dates to 1924, according to building records; but the Sugar Bowl has existed since 1921. It was only in 1958 when the Sugar Bowl really 'merged' with the restaurant and gained an energetic modern look. Before that, walking down Miner Street you would have seen a venerable establishment serving citizens and commuters in a brick-fronted building with small signs; the bar, snack shop, and sweet shop each had their own identities.

In 1949, an ice cream manufacturing plant was added. The candy kitchen even gained a moment in the spotlight in 1986, when it was used as a location for a Brach's candy commercial.

CITATION

Photograph, 1920s, *National Hellenic Museum*, https://collections.nationalhellenicmuseum.org/Detail/objects/. Accessed 11/10/26.