

The Golden Age of Summit County Restaurants

1930-1975

In 1951, *Akron Beacon Journal* reporter, Ken Nichols reported that Akron restaurants had the capacity to feed 30,000 people at one time. From the 1920s through the 1960s, Akron was known as a restaurant town. Whether you wished to experience fine dining at one of the area's many "white tablecloth" restaurants, or were simply in the mood for a plate of spaghetti or a juicy burger, eating establishments in Akron and the surrounding area offered everything a hungry diner could possibly desire.

Few of these locally and family-owned restaurants exist today, however. As fast food and chain restaurants found their way to our community during the 1960s and 1970s, independent restaurant owners struggled to compete, and many shut their doors. Some found a way to survive, however, and still offer those tastes of yesteryear that bring back fond memories of this era.

This display was inspired by Sharon Myers, a local historian and daughter of Marcel Moreland, one of the owner's of Marcel's Restaurant, considered, in its day, to be one of our community's finest dining establishments. Sharon's interest in her own family's restaurant motivated her to learn more about other restaurants that are recalled with such fondness and nostalgia. During her research, she met with many former restaurant owners and their families. An *Akron Beacon Journal* article calling for memorabilia resulted in scores of calls and emails to Special Collections from folks who graciously loaned or donated their precious items to us. We are grateful to Sharon and everyone who contacted us. Thank you for helping us to preserve the remarkable history of Summit County restaurants.

