

Myron Green

Restaurateur
1876-1953

by David Conrads

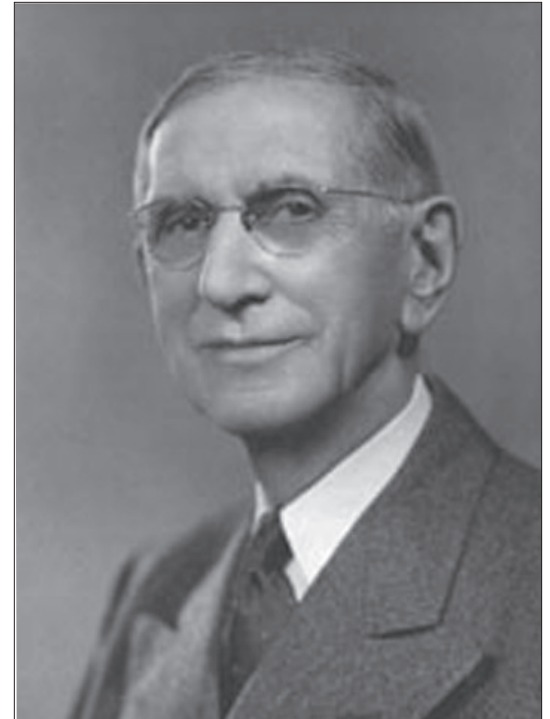
Myron Green set out to be a dentist in Michigan. Instead, he became one of Kansas City's leading businessmen and a nationally-known restaurateur. He was also a founder of the Kansas City Restaurant Association and the National Restaurant Association, which has become one of the most powerful trade associations in the country.

Green was born in 1876 and grew up on a farm near Charlotte, Michigan. After graduating from high school, he tried teaching and farming and then decided on a career in dentistry. He graduated from the University of Michigan Dental School in 1894. After practicing for six years in Kalamazoo, Michigan, he decided he disliked dentistry and became a toothpaste salesman, a job which required considerable travel and eating out. Appalled at the low quality of the restaurants he frequented, he decided to go into the business himself.

Green opened his first cafeteria in Denton, Texas, in 1907. Two years later, he relocated to Kansas City and opened a cafeteria, the Home Lunch Club, at 1013 Grand Avenue. He opened a second cafeteria, the Colonial, in 1911, and the Myron Green Cafeteria in 1916.

Green and six associates formed the Kansas City Restaurant Association in 1916 to advance their profession, as well as to fight governmental regulations and union-organizing efforts in the restaurant industry. One of the association's first achievements was averting a strike by restaurant employees. In 1917, the association organized a successful egg boycott, which gained national attention and pointed up the need and benefit of a national organization. Green was the primary force behind the formation of the National Restaurant Association (NRA), which was founded at a meeting in Kansas City in 1919.

Green was an early advocate for the employment of women in the restaurant business and employed all-woman crews to run his



kitchens. He became president of the NRA in 1924 and, during his tenure, brought women onto the board of directors for the first time, an unprecedented step in those days.

Green remained active in on the board of the NRA and in his business until his death in 1953.

Sources

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