



HISTORY OF THE GREEN DRAGON

INCEPTION

Noah N. Burkholder started the Green Dragon on March 11, 1932, but not as we know it today. The business, at that point, did not yet have its present day name. It all started in what we now call building number three as a garage and a repair shop. From there, it became a restaurant for a short time before turning into a tavern called "Schreck's". "Schreck's" was a speakeasy and dance hall that entertained many of the region's prominent business men of that era. Those two buildings still stand today.

NAME

One day Mr. Schreck was walking on the boardwalk in Atlantic City when he saw a Chinese restaurant named the "Green Dragon" and thought that would be a great name for his business. The speakeasy named Green Dragon took on an oriental decor inside and out.

PROHIBITION ERA

Mr. Burkholder, with his strong Mennonite faith, did not approve of what was going on at Green Dragon. The word would eventually get out about the Ephrata speakeasy and prohibition agents came out and soon put an end to the tavern. Mr. Burkholder then turned the business into more of a livestock auction with cows, horses, and other large and small animals. But the name "Green Dragon" still stuck with the locals.

1946 TO 1961

Mr. Burkholder then put a gentleman named Paul Stoner in charge of his livestock auction. Mr. Stoner was one of the cattlemen who always attended the livestock auctions and later purchased the Green Dragon in 1946. Mr. Burkholder did not have the time to devote to his business anymore because he was called to his church to become their pastor. The market grew under Mr. Stoner adding a few new buildings in the 1950's and some expanded auctions. But Mr. Stoner's doctor later told him he had to quit his job because of an ongoing heart condition he had. He was concerned about the future of the business so he sought out some local friends he knew and trusted who might be interested in buying the business. Their names were Karl Rohrbach, (Bill Rohrbach's father), and John Hamaker, (Larry Loose's father-in-law).

1961 TO 2006

So on April 1, 1961 Bill Rohrbach and Larry Loose took over the Green Dragon. The Green Dragon grew and grew in the next few decades into one of the biggest farmers markets on the east coast, with over 450 merchants on approximately 30 acres of land. Those merchants are a very diversified group coming from as many as eight states and ten countries.

TODAY

Then on January 1, 2007, Larry Loose decided to retire and now the business is owned and operated solely by the Rohrbach family. Bill's two sons, Rob and John plan to continue the market's legacy for years to come.

FEBRUARY 26, 1932 -

THE FIRST EVER GREEN DRAGON ADVERTISEMENT.

1932

FIVE

Stauffer. Mr. visitors among and the Amre entertained by the Ammon

Christ of week-end with Mrs. Sallie ina M. Christ. F. Steiner and W. Winehold A. R. Cathers

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Vilson Zwally. id Mrs. Clara Mr. and Mrs. and Mrs. R. P. jams attended abbling con- me of Mrs. Ine-day. So lar Jac up dar grigha keena.

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Farmers' Market and Auction

Will Open for Business

Friday, March 11th, 1932

By NOAH N. BURKHOLDER

On the Reading Road, about 1 mile north of Ephrata, on Route No. 222.

The place will be equipped to accommodate market men as well as an Auction Emporium, where people can bring anything they may have for sale, which will be disposed of at a nominal cost.

Every Friday Afternoon
and Evening.

REDUCED \$26⁰⁰