

PLACES: Franklin Fountain Ice Cream Saloon



Julia Taich/The Daily Pennsylvanian

Ryan Berley, one of the owners of the Franklin Fountain, stands in front of his 1900-era ice cream shop, located on First and Market streets. The store offers a variety of old-fashioned ice creams and drinks.

A dose of ice cream and history

By **LARA KOBRIN**
The Daily Pennsylvanian

When stepping into the Franklin Fountain Ice Cream Saloon, one leaves the hustle and bustle of modern city life and enters the calm and friendly atmosphere of an early 20th century ice cream shop.

Franklin Fountain is located on Market Street in Old City. Brothers Ryan and Eric Berley opened the store in the summer of 2004 after spending over a year researching old-fashioned ice cream and sodas.

"We looked at old books that you can only buy in a trade show," Eric said. He added that the *Dispenser's Formulary*, with its 2,500 ice cream and soda recipes, was particularly helpful when creating the menu.

In addition to its classic ice cream flavors and gigantic banana splits, Franklin Fountain offers unusual beverages such as New York egg creams and phosphates.

Although originally created in Brooklyn, egg creams have become

a Franklin Fountain favorite with their unusual combination of soda and vanilla or chocolate syrup. All egg creams are served with a pretzel rod.

Similar to egg creams, phosphates are made with soda water and a wide array of syrups. Citric acid is added, giving the drinks a sweet and fizzy taste.

The menu is not the only authentic part of the shop. The Berley brothers searched all over the country to obtain materials that would match the characteristics of the building at the turn of the 20th century.

Their efforts become apparent as one sits on the antique wrought-iron-backed chairs with the new woodwork that frames the store windows exactly as it would have in the early 20th century. On the wall behind the soda fountain is a fully functional 98-year-old telephone.

Unlike at Ben and Jerry's or Dairy Queen, at Franklin Fountain customers enjoy ice cream in a small box instead of a cup while feeling the breeze from the early-20th-century fans and

Old-fashioned fun

■ The shop is located at 116 Market Street. To get there take the Market-Frankford Line to 2nd and Market streets.

■ In addition to ice cream, choose from 25 flavors of soda, including specialties like the Maryland Mint — made with Creme de Menthe, ginger, and phosphate.

listening to the music of decades long passed.

Berley feels that college students can enjoy the atmosphere of Franklin Fountain.

"A lot of sororities and frats love to do rush events here," Berley said. Whether for the rugby team or a book club, there are "so many options here."

College sophomore Deena Levine raved of her experience at Franklin Fountain.

"It felt like walking into a '50s ice cream parlor," she added.

She enjoyed the shop's decor, as well as the amiable staff.

"Places" is a biweekly feature on an interesting location in the city. It appears alternate Tuesdays.