



THE HISTORY OF THE  
**GRAND  
CENTRAL**  
*Hotel Belfast*





Telegraphic Address:  
"CENTRAL, BELFAST"

GRAND CENTRAL HOTEL.  
BELFAST.

The Grand Central Hotel opened on Royal Avenue, Belfast on Thursday 1 June, 1893. It was the brainchild of Downpatrick man John Robb, who had originally planned to develop a massive central railway terminus on the site based on New York's famous Grand Central Station but reluctant town councilors did not give him the backing he needed. Instead, Robb developed a magnificent hotel with over 200 bedrooms and suites over five floors.

Not surprisingly, the Grand Central became Belfast's social hub of Belfast and soon garnered a reputation as the finest hotel in Ireland. Following the outbreak of war, the Robb family learned that their beloved hotel was to be requisitioned for use by the Imperial Government in Whitehall. Reluctantly, the Robb family auctioned the entire contents of the hotel only to discover after several months that a mistake had been made and the requisition was meant for the Grand Central Hotel in Bristol.

Sadly, faced with the task of re-furnishing the entire hotel, the Robbs sold the business to a consortium led by the Scotch whisky distiller, John Grant, who, in 1927, reopened the hotel in which quickly regained its former status.

In the ensuing years Winston Churchill, King Leopold of Belgium, Billy Graham, Al Jolson and Mario Lanza were some of the distinguished guests who relaxed on the its magnificent ornamental bed of room 217 - the hotel's most celebrated suite.

Other celebrities from the world of entertainment included The Lone Ranger (Clayton Moore), Bob Hope and cowboy film star Gene Autrey. By the time the swinging sixties arrived, it was the Beatles and the Rolling Stones that brought crowds thronging once more to the Grand Central in search of something special.

As one might guess, the trouble that the city endured from 1969 onwards, brought the curtain down on this magnificent city institution, but now that we are looking forward to a more peaceful and prosperous future, it seems appropriate that the name of the Grand Central should once more become a byword in Belfast for splendour, service and style.



LUNCHEON  
UPON THE OCCASION OF  
THE LAUNCH  
OF  
THE WHITE STAR LINER  
"TITANIC"  
(45,000 TONS)  
SISTER SHIP TO THE "OLYMPIC"  
THE LARGEST STEAMERS IN THE WORLD.  
MAY 31ST. 1911.

GRAND CENTRAL HOTEL.  
BELFAST.

  
GRAND CENTRAL  
HOTEL BELFAST

**OUR LOGO**  
The Seahorse, part of Belfast's coat of arms, celebrates the city's maritime history. Old photographs from the glory days of the Grand Central show the seahorse motif featuring on menus and plates. Our new interpretation of this classic Belfast emblem is a permanent reminder of the new Grand Central's connection with its elegant past.



**BELFAST'S BEST HOTEL**



**GRAND CENTRAL**  
The GRAND CENTRAL HOTEL in the heart of Belfast offers every modern comfort to its guests.

Bedrooms (a number with Bathrooms), equipped with Bedside Switch and Hot and Cold Water; snow-white home laundered Irish Linen and comfortable Hotel Beds in Britain.

Restaurant and Grill with Orchestral Music Daily.

Table d'Hôte Dinner 5/-  
Luncheon 3/-  
Also à la Carte.

GRILL ROOM OPEN TILL 11-45 p.m.

**BELFAST**

Telephone: BELFAST 7090 (6 lines)  
Officially approved by R.I.A.C., R.A.C. and A.A.

GRAND CENTRAL HOTEL, BELFAST

**MENU** 5. 11. 63.

TUESDAY

TABLE D'HOTE LUNCHEON 9/-  
SERVED FROM 12 NOON - 2.30 p.m.

Hors d'Oeuvre Variés  
Orange Juice  
Rollmop Herring  
Consomme au Sherry  
Tomato

Telephone No. 21001 (6 Lines)

Telegraphic Address: "Central, Belfast"

**GRAND CENTRAL HOTEL**  
(Belfast) Ltd.  
18 Royal Avenue  
BELFAST

Room No. 565  
Adults, Children, Servants.

APARTMENTS	
STOCKROOM	
FRES	
SEWARTY BOARD	
BREAKFAST IN BEDROOM	
BREAKFAST	
LANGUAGES	

Q 13931

THE GRAND CENTRAL HOTEL LTD.

COIN OPERATED

WINE

SPICE

ALCOHOL

MOVIE

COINERS and TELEPHONES

GARAGE

LAUNDRY

Daily Total

Breakfast Fee

Total

GRAND CENTRAL HOTEL BELFAST