

Frisch's Restaurants, Inc.
Big Boy fun facts and trivia
February 11, 1998

- The original concept of the Big Boy icon, created in the '40s, is modeled after a kid who swept the floors in a Glendale, Calif. restaurant called Bob's Pantry owned by Bob Wian (the originator of the Big Boy Restaurant).
- Rollman Advertising refined the original Big Boy sketches, and gave him an all-American look, including a shirt, saddle shoes and sling shot. This 8-foot model with the shoulder-high burger became known as the "running Big Boy."
- In 1992 the Big Boy hung up his rear-pocket sling shot. All Big Boys made after that came armed only with the Big Boy burger. *In 2000, the slingshot was re-instated due to customer requests for a statue as they remembered it.*
- Frisch's became the first Big Boy franchise in 1947 when Dave Frisch made a handshake deal with Bob Wian.
- The Big Boy empire is now a national phenomenon, with Frisch's the owner of the franchise in Cincinnati, Columbus, Dayton, Lexington and Louisville
- The Big Boy now gets the same UV protective coating as a Toyota Camry, according to the Glass Hand, which handles the creation and maintenance of the icon.
- How much does an 8-foot Big Boy weigh? The hollow, fiberglass icon only weighs about 100 pounds -- less than most 8-foot people!
- A Big Boy statue appeared in the movie "Austin Powers" as a secret storage container and rocket ship for the character, "Dr. Evil."
- The Big Boy icon was the subject of a feature story on the 1992 NBC Nightly News with Tom Brokaw. The history of the statue was briefly chronicled, and dubbed a "nerdy but enduring icon" by the field reporter.
- In 1994, nearly 60 years after its creation, new computer animation techniques allowed Big Boy to speak his first words in a television and radio advertisement campaign.