

# West Cape May eatery bridged gap in food service

By **CAROLINE DUPREE**  
For the Star and Wave

**WEST CAPE MAY** — In this quaint borough, so many old buildings and houses have a story to tell, even those of the more non-descript nature.

Located on the corner of Sixth Avenue and Broadway, the building that is

now the location of Cabinet Corner has a deep history that reflects how the community has evolved over more than 120 years.

Built in 1895 as part of a farm, the structure was sold in 1902 to J. Woodruff Eldredge, who sold bicycle parts by mail and later Maxwell automobiles. Eldredge sold the property in 1919.

In 1945, it became Springer's Ice Cream when Henry and Gladys Bennett bought it.

The current owners, Jim and Joanne Parker, bought the property in 1969 and initially used the building as a general store.

Parker's General Store sold school supplies, baby necessities, guns and ammunition, newspapers and an assortment of food, such as candy, potato chips, bread and milk. The store also included a deli counter that served sandwiches.

In 1971, a man entered the store and asked Jim Parker if the store served meals. Parker, who had no interest in operating a restaurant business, said no. The man told him a bridge was going to be built over the canal, the West Cape May Bridge, and the workers needed a place to eat, adding that there was no place in the area.

Parker was confused, believing that there were many restaurant options available for the workers. However,

the man explained that restaurants were closing during the winter months that year as owners could not afford to heat their buildings.

"For the first time in my memory, there were no restaurants that were going to be open that winter," Parker later said.

He told the man that he would think about opening a restaurant.

"I said to my wife, 'We've got to have a place to feed these people. They work every day,'" he said. "So, we put a restaurant in here."

He purchased 12 tables and 48 chairs from Hazel Dickey, then captain of the Cape May Fire Department who was also selling equipment from Acme and Safeway.

Joanne Parker's hairdresser, Marie Conway, was asked to be a waitress, based on her experience in restaurant work. She agreed to work at Parker's Restaurant and Grille for one hour a day during lunchtime.

The Parkers would prepare meals while Conway took orders. The restaurant served a daily special for \$1.25, a complete meal that usually included fish and french fries. The workers had an hour for lunch and would drive to the restaurant.

"It was tough. I would have 65 people walk in through the door at five minutes after 12, and they would walk out at one o'clock," Jim Parker said. "But we had made a commitment, so we had to build a business around to support what we had done. We did it for them."

The Parkers worked from 5 a.m. to midnight. The restaurant grew into a place where the greater community could gather and eat, including people on the road and local workers.

"It was a local business where everybody started their day here, and we'd do 150 breakfasts on a Sunday," Jim Parker said. "It became the community hub. You would come in the morning, and everybody



Caroline Dupree/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

The building that now houses Cabinet Corner, below, was Parker's Restaurant and Grille, operated by Jim and Joanne Parker, above, for decades.



you knew was here."

One day, in the mid-1970s, there was a tornado. Ralph Riggiano, then chief of police, knocked on the Parkers' downstairs door and said that there was no power around and the workers, who had been working all night and needed something to eat.

Jim Parker replied that he would be ready in 15 minutes. He and his wife then cooked meals for those

who needed them using a gas stove.

"That was the kind of business it became," he said.

The restaurant ultimately closed in 1977 because it was not generating enough revenue to sustain it, as the Parkers kept the prices low to be affordable to customers. He once noted that when he raised the price of coffee by 15 cents, due to a bean shortage, sales dropped by 20 percent.

What made the restaurant so special was how it brought the West Cape May community together, Parker said.

"We always helped each other do well. That was what made West Cape May great," he said.

The Parkers continue to be part of the community and now run Cabinet Corner, a kitchen and bathroom showroom in the same historical building.

**FLIGHT DECK DINER** Fly on in

OPEN DAILY • 7:30am – 2:00pm

Frequent Flyer?  
Join our **BREAKFAST CLUB**

Cape May Airport off Breakwater Road  
**609-886-1105**  
Flightdeckdiner.com

CIRCA 1912

**COLD SPRING GRANGE RESTAURANT**

**NEW MENU**  
"SOUP & SALAD BAR"

- Buffet Style Dining
- Beautiful Historic Setting
- Family Friendly Menu
- Free Parking
- BYOB

Soup & Salad Bar: Thurs-Sat, 12 PM - 5 PM  
Brunch: Sunday 10 AM - 3 PM  
Brunch Reservations Recommended (609) 848-0114

**735 Seashore Road, Cape May NJ 08204**

## Wall Street 2.0: A New Way Forward for Wealth Management

Written by John Gallagher, Co-Founder of Maverick Partners Wealth

For too long, the deal-makers on Wall Street have placed their own financial interests ahead of their clients'. Hefty regulatory fines for self-dealing and unethical practices seem to be just accepted as a cost of doing business. No matter how many times they are penalized, the behaviors and aggressive sales tactics used by these old Wall Street firms don't change.

### Our Time in Old Wall Street

The constant pressure we felt to push products onto clients, not because they truly needed them, but because the wirehouse we worked for profited from them, became unbearable. Rampant conflicts of interest permeate the Old Wall Street business model, tainting any pretense of working solely in the best interests of our clients - or our values.

So we said, "peace, out" to Old Wall Street and decided to build something new.

### A New Way Forward

Many of us have embarked on a quest not just to live, but to live with purpose and meaning. Have you ever wondered how the domain of wealth management could align with this spirited pursuit of a life well-lived?

After a few decades of pursuing what we thought would be the pinnacle of success, we realized we were on the wrong path. We both needed a new direction. As we had this realization and began to embrace new ways of being, we set out toward a new goal for our work: to help others pursue more joy and meaning in their own lives.

The result is Wall Street 2.0 - a transformative vision of wealth management for those looking to bring more joy and fulfillment to their financial goals. There's a reason that more than 75% of millennials are seeking advisors that align with their values. We're here to guide our clients as they work toward growing their wealth and strive for new levels of personal fulfillment.

### Wall Street 2.0: A New Vision for Wealth Management

It's time for a new paradigm in the wealth management and financial services industry - one built on a foundation of independence that truly puts individuals first. At Maverick, we've embraced this client-centric vision wholeheartedly.

Here, we've taken it upon ourselves to ensure that every policy, every strategy, and every consultation is designed with the ultimate beneficiary in mind: our clients. Our unwavering commitment to independent, personalized wealth management isn't just a promise—it's a practice that's reshaping financial futures, one visionary client at a time.

Drawing from years of firsthand experience, and collaborating with professionals rooted in integrity, we've built a network where trust is paramount, and our victories are celebrated collectively. When our clients win, we win—it's a simple, potent philosophy that is transforming how we think about finance. Join us as we explore the essence of this revolution, one where every handshake is genuine and every transaction is among friends.

We're standing right at the edge of a truly transformative moment, one that champions a noble cause: making sure our industry puts people front and center. With over six combined decades in finance under our belts, a network of diverse, talented partners, and deep dives into the latest research, we've personally witnessed the incredible impact of focusing on doing the right thing by the people who truly count - our clients. It's not just about helping others on their journey toward achieving better outcomes; it's about laying down the groundwork for a finance world that's both reliable and sustainable.

Take the first step towards financial freedom.

Email John Gallagher at [john@maverickpartnerswealth.com](mailto:john@maverickpartnerswealth.com) for independent, tailored advice.

**CAPE MAY SALVAGE COMPANY**

**PRE-DEMOLITION SALES**  
*No out of pocket costs to you!*

**609-665-5003**  
Call now to get a list for fall demo season

Licensed and Insured  
Get cash for your used cabinets, appliances, windows, doors & Contents.  
Buy out options also available

**PRODUCE PLACE**

3714 BAYSHORE ROAD AT TOWNBANK ROAD • NORTH CAPE MAY  
**609-889-9045**  
OPEN YEAR ROUND • SALE PRICES GOOD NOW THROUGH TUESDAY JULY 16th, 3PM

|                                   |   |  |  |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|--|---|
| <b>SWISS CHEESE</b><br>\$5.99 LB. | <b>SPECIAL Black Pepper, Cajun TURKEY</b><br>\$4.99 LB. | <b>SPECIAL PRE-SLICED TURKEY</b><br>\$3.99 LB. | <b>SPECIAL Homestyle, Smoked CHICKEN</b><br>\$4.99 LB. | <b>OUR OWN STORE COOKED TURKEY</b><br>\$11.99 LB. |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|--|---|

Domestic Ham.....\$3.99 lb  
Cooked Salami.....\$3.99 lb  
Ham Capicola.....\$4.99 lb  
Peppered Ham.....\$4.99 lb  
Smoked Turkey.....\$4.99 lb  
Virginia Ham.....\$5.99 lb  
Honey Ham.....\$5.99 lb  
Gourmet Turkey.....\$5.99 lb

**Special HOAGIE of the Week Honey Maple Turkey & American Cheese \$8.99**

NJ Cucumbers ..... 3/99¢ lb  
Tomatoes on Vine ..... 99¢ lb  
Green Leaf Lettuce ..... 99¢ head  
Black Plums ..... 99¢ lb  
Russett Potatoes ..... 5lb/\$1.99  
#1 Onions ..... 3lb/\$1.99  
Seedless Watermelon .... \$4.99 ea

**OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK FOR ALL YOUR RETAIL & WHOLESALE NEEDS**

Utz & Herts **Potato Chips**  
LARGE BAGS 2 FOR \$7  
MUST BUY 2

**PLEASE CALL AHEAD FOR ALL LARGE HOAGIE AND BREAD ORDERS SO WE CAN SERVICE YOUR NEEDS**

**TAKE HOME, STEAM & EAT**  
**SEAFOOD STEAM POTS**  
topsailsteamer.com

609-232-7687  
714 NEW JERSEY AVE, WILDWOOD, NJ

609-263-7687  
4211 LANDIS AVE, SEA ISLE CITY, NJ

**MAVERICK PARTNERS WEALTH MANAGEMENT**