

82nd Street Cafe celebrates 25th Anniversary, reflects with gratitude

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82nd Street Cafe - Founders Larry and Sherry Pierson with son Randy in 1988.

As 82nd Street Cafe passes the quarter-century mark, gratitude will continue to be the theme of their song, just as it has been since they opened their doors on June 27, 1988.

Founder Sherry Pierson comments on the Cafe's 25th anniversary, "First, I have to consider all the memories with our customers and employees. It is still such a joy to come to the Cafe and be in this environment with so many people who have become our friends. We are so grateful that the South Plains has supported our family and our employees for this many years."

She adds, "When Larry and I opened the Cafe, I don't think we imagined it lasting 25 years, and were certainly unprepared for the blessing and privilege of getting to know so many wonderful people. To have Randy and John continue the business is a real plus as well. Our granddaughter MaKenzie is too young, but our oldest granddaughter Meghan is now working with us, and I enjoy that. It's been neat for me, as a grandmother, to see each generation stay involved."

Partner John Riney joins in, "I can still remember 20 years ago, when the Piersons gave me a job here. To now own a part of the business means a lot to my wife Chanda and I."

Randy Pierson, son of Larry and Sherry and current owner along with John, also reflects on the Cafe's 25 years.

“Mom and Dad really built a solid foundation for this company. The infrastructure they put in place has allowed John and I to not only make a smooth transition, but to also continue to grow the business. I agree with Mom, none of this would have taken place without great employees and supportive customers. And Mom is still here a few hours each week to keep us in line.”

Founder Larry Pierson adds, “I am proud that Randy and John are carrying on the family business. I could not be more pleased when customers tell me that the food is as good as ever.”

He laughs, “I guess the guys were listening better than I thought, all those years I preached consistency, cleanliness and friendliness. I agree with Sherry, though, the Lord really has blessed us for a long time.”

After 25 years, the founders and current owners have their favorite menu items memorized. For John, it’s the hamburger steak special on Thursday – “hands down,” he says. Randy is a fan of the Monday special, featuring southwestern chicken strips and baked vegetables. Sherry loves the Cafe’s fried chicken strips, which they cut and bread themselves – she says they’re as good as any you’ll find. And Larry agrees with Randy on the southwest chicken strips.

“Many years ago, I was just trying to find ‘something different’ to cook for my wife and son for lunch, and this dish was born. We bread the chicken and grill it with coconut oil, green chiles and onions. It quickly became our Monday special. You’ve got to come try it!”

82nd Street Cafe invites you to celebrate their 25th anniversary with them during the month of June.

Larry says, “If you’re a regular, we look forward to seeing you again, and if you’ve never been to the Cafe, it’s safe to say you have waited long enough. Thank You, Lubbock!”

82nd Street Cafe is located at 3416 82nd St., west of Indiana Avenue. Hours are 6:30 a.m. until 9 p.m., Monday through Saturday; the restaurant is closed Sundays. Call (806) 792-9497 to place a carry-out order.

‘THANK YOU, LUBBOCK!’ – When they opened their doors in 1988 (right), 82nd Street Cafe founders Larry and Sherry Pierson and son Randy were unprepared for the wonderful blessings in store. They never imagined they’d be here 25 successful years later! Today, Randy Pierson runs the business with John Riney, who has been with the Cafe for 20 years. For your support and friendship, the founders and current owners would like to say, “Thank You!”