



KAREN'S OUT WEST CAFÉ
195 25th Street
Ogden, Utah 84401
801-392-0345

Karen Waters loves to cook which came in handy while raising 11 children. She learned to make bread when she was in the 3rd grade and still likes nothing better than being elbow deep in dough. Karen and her husband Troy were living in Tennessee as his retirement approached. Their daughter called and told them about a small restaurant for sale on Ogden's 25th street. Knowing her mother loved to cook, it seemed like a great way to move them back home. Karen and Troy thought it was a good idea - a little hobby, cook some burgers, close early, and make some mad money.

Karen was at the café every morning at 4 a.m. baking for the day. Soon the word was out - Karen made all the hamburger buns, rolls and biscuits fresh daily, meals tasted homemade, and prices were reasonable.

During the lunch rush, about 30 people were turned away daily. Ogden City was doing some redevelopment and approached Karen about moving to a larger building down the block. Karen thought the chances of getting a loan for a larger facility weren't good but she pursued it and she received an SBA 504 loan.

On March 6, 2006, she moved the business to the new location on a Sunday and opened Monday morning as usual. The first day they were totally overwhelmed, as they didn't have enough cooks, servers, or dishwashers. Karen immediately sent an SOS to workforce services.

Several elderly customers eat there daily and have become part of the Café's family. Karen says the waitresses are like surrogate children. One waitress told us Karen is like her grandmother, always there for her. Karen can still be found early in the morning Monday through Friday with her hands in dough. She loves baking the rolls and cakes that go with the daily specials. She works in the kitchen until about 11 a.m. then spends her time out front with her customers. Her husband helps with the bookkeeping and runs errands - she calls him her "gopher guy".

Karen has a talented assistant, which allows her to kick back on weekends and take a few days off. Their home is located above the café so they are available if needed. When asked about retiring, she states "maybe when I'm seventy, or never!"