

BREAKFAST AT JACK'S: TIFFANY'S OF FISHING

"People come dressed up. People come in their bare feet. It's that kind of place. It's homey. It's part of the charm." - Jack.

The man who ordered the old country ham breakfast with grits and biscuits and coffee was not dressed well. But it didn't matter to Jack Thomas, who operates Jack's Skyway Restaurant near the Sunshine Skyway. Jack is accustomed to seeing terribly-dressed people. In a world of crummy dresses, this man would have embarrassed a hobo.

He wore a ridiculous brown fishing hat with brims that protected his neck, ears and eyes. He wore a faded yellow shirt that displayed a picture of a canoe on the front. His long white pants were spotted with fish blood. They looked wet and muddy and they were wet and muddy, because the man had earlier waded the bay for spotted seatrout.

That also explained his white jogging shoes, which squashed when he walked through Jack's glass doors. He did not remove his sunglasses when he sat down on a stool and accepted the menu from Kitty, the waitress who was kind enough not to wrinkle her nose at the smell of fish or talk about personal hygiene when he later dripped egg in his beard.

Sitting next to the slob was a man who could have come from 11 o'clock Mass at Blessed Trinity. He looked like he had stepped from the pages of *Gentlemen's Quarterly*. He wore a three-piece suit and ate two eggs, sunny-side up and sausage and hash browns. Sitting behind him, at one of the tables, was a commercial mullet fisherman who wore no shoes and no shirt. His shoulder-length hair was brown and he wore a sweatband around his head and a gold ring in his left lobe. He ate fried apples and pancakes.

We are one of the few restaurants that boil our own potatoes. I've been told that I make the best home-fried potatoes in town." - Jack.

The parking lot out front was filled and a number of diners parked behind O'Neill's Skyway Boat Basin bait house. They waited in line to enter Jack's little place and they stood, waiting in the sun.

Jack stood at the cash register, a good place for the owner to stand and he accepted money and compliments. Behind him was the sign that Bern's Steakhouse in Tampa has not deemed necessary.

No hotpots or bathing suits allowed in dining room. Please remove them before entering.

The sign was a joke. Jack Thomas, 49 doesn't care how people dress. Or undress. As long as they come and eat. He feeds them all, mostly inexpensive breakfasts, from 5 a.m. until closing at 4 p.m. Shrimpers like Pappy Kelley are waiting when Jack opens at 5 a.m. and so are sport fishermen anxious to use Pappy's bait for trout in the bay. Shark fishermen who've spent the night on the Sunshine Skyway like to stop at Jack's before heading home. So do mullet fishermen. Jack's place is visited by truckers, tourists, Eckerd College professors and novelists like Sterling Watson, who wrote a book called *Werp No More My Brother*.

On a typical Sunday Jack Thomas serves 500 breakfasts in his 20 by 50 foot restaurant that seats no more than 49 diners at a time. In a good week Jack's customers swallow 2,500 eggs, 400 pounds of sausage, 45 pounds of bacon and 4,000 cups of coffee. They are served by waitresses named Kitty, Elma, Mary and Becky who seem to do the work of eight people.

Jack Thomas never thought something like his restaurant would happen. Until three years ago, he was a successful mechanical engineer who worked for Tampa Electric. "There was a lot of money, a big expense account, but I didn't like it," Jack said. "I tried to quit for two years. Finally, I did it and I wanted to take about six months off. Then a relative asked me if I wanted to take over a restaurant."

Jack did. Jack had cooked while in the National Guard in Indiana and he had wanted to be a mess cook while serving in the navy, which wanted him to be an engineer. So Jack took over the restaurant in 1976. The place was so run down Jack closed seven weeks for remodeling. He painted his walls green, refinished tables and chairs, bought himself some no-nonsense checkered tablecloths and laid plans to serve fried catfish and smoked mullet.

"I smoke a nice fish," Jack said the other day. But he never smoked a single mullet. He needed too many permits to operate a commercial smoker. So he stuck to his breakfasts.

"One thing I couldn't eat in the service was what we called candled eggs. They were eggs that were preserved in wax. But the eggs had a strong sulphur odor when you cooked them. Awful." - Jack.

Nothing fancy is served in Jack's restaurant. His specialty is something called SOS, which are initials for a dish hated by many servicemen. SOS stands for S... On A Shingle. "I don't use chipped beef like we did in the navy," said Jack, who actually enjoyed SOS during two service hitchhikes. "I use sausage, it's one of our most popular things." Jack's customers devour 20 gallons of SOS each week.

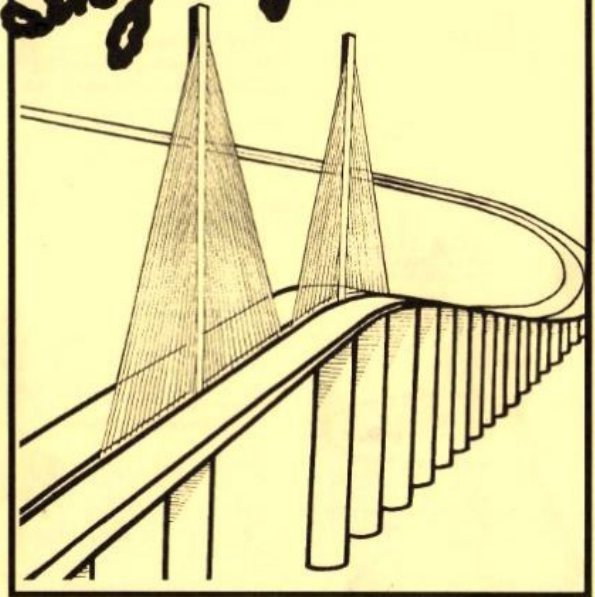
Jack employs no French chefs named Pierre. His cooks are named Jim and Tom and with their eyes closed they can crack open an egg without breaking the yolk. And when trout stop biting, a crusty commercial fisherman named Johnny Graham sometimes helps out with the French-fried grouper, the chili and a breakfast called Fisherman's Filler that includes pancakes, two eggs and sausage. One of Jack's customers regularly drives from Dunedin to devour his fish chowder.

Jack doesn't get to go fish much anymore. That's been the bad thing about his restaurant. "Even though I don't go fish, I've gone through two boats and I'm having another one built," said Jack, a bearded man who wears a white shirt with his name printed on the pocket. On his left arm is a tattoo of a black-haired woman. A belly dancer wiggles on his right arm. My problem is I'm in the habit of loaning out my boats. "That's something you shouldn't do."

The sign behind Jack says, The two happiest days in the life of a boatman is the day he buys his boat and the day he sells his boat. To the left of the sign is a set of shark jaws. A bass that Jack caught in Lake Rosalie near Lake Wales hangs from the north wall. Behind the cash register are some of Jack's big sellers: nautica lotion, cigars, mints, Jack's Skyway Restaurant T-shirts, cigarette papers, combs, chewing tobacco and 3-D postcards of a winking woman.

An entrepreneur, Jack is planning for the future. A new item will appear on his menu when he returns after his vacation this fall. "Baked beans, sausage and cornbread for breakfast," he said. "That was another service dish I liked. It was as good as SOS."

Skyway Jack's



SINCE 1976

2795 34TH ST.

ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33711

TELEPHONE: (727) 866-3217 (727) 867-1907

EVERYTHING AVAILABLE FOR TAKE-OUT



BREAKFAST



OMELETTES

Try Our Variety of 3 Egg Omelettes Served with Fried Potatoes or Grits, Toast, Biscuit or Corn Muffin

- PLAIN 4.60
- BACON 5.50
- HAM 5.50
- SAUSAGE 5.50
- CHEESE 5.50
- MUSHROOMS 5.50

All Omelettes with Egg Substitute - 75¢ Extra

'NO CHOLESTEROL' BREAKFAST

3 Egg White Omelette, Mixed with Green Peppers, Onions, Potatoes and Tomatoes, Grits and Biscuit 6.50

TEX-CHEESE OMELETTE

Chili & Cheese (One of our creations!) 6.95



STEAK & CHEESE OMELETTE

With Green Pepper, Onions and Mushrooms 6.95

MEXICAN OMELETTE

Sausage, Green Pepper, Onion & Tomato Topped with Salsa Sauce and Side of Sour Cream 6.95

VEGGIE OMELETTE

Mushrooms, Green Peppers, Onions, Tomatoes, Cheese 6.95

WESTERN OMELETTE

With Ham, Green Peppers and Onions 6.95

SEAFOOD OMELETTE

Shrimp & Crab Meat with Green Peppers and Onions, Topped with Hollandaise Sauce 6.95

SPINACH & FETA CHEESE OMELETTE

6.95

CORNER BEEF-SWISS OMELETTE

Cornered Beef Hash and Swiss Cheese 6.95

OMELETTE ADD-ONS

Add Tomato, Onion, Green Pepper or Cheese .95
Add Mushrooms or Feta Cheese .95
Add Meats 1.25

Apple Butter and Homemade Jelly Available

PASTRIES & BREAD

- TOAST 1.75
 - RAISIN TOAST 1.85
 - ENGLISH MUFFIN 1.85
 - BISCUITS (2) 2.75
 - CORN MUFFINS (2) 2.75
 - CINNAMON SWEET ROLL 2.25
 - CINNAMON SWIRL 2.50
- Cinnamon Roll, Sliced, Dipped in Butter and Grilled

EGGS

Any Style You Like

Served with Fried Potatoes or Grits, Toast, Biscuit or Corn Muffin

- 1 EGG 3.40
- 2 EGGS 3.95

2 LARGE EGGS WITH:

- BACON - 3 Strips 5.50
- CANADIAN BACON 5.95
- SAUSAGE PATTIES - Two 1 1/2 oz. 5.50
- SAUSAGE LINKS - Three 1 oz. 5.95
- HAM - 5.95
- STEAK - 8 oz. Ground Beef 6.50
- HAM - Chopped & Scrambled with 2 Eggs 5.50

ADDITIONAL EGG WITH ABOVE Add .70

Egg Substitute with above 60¢

PANCAKES

- | | (2) | (3) |
|---------------------|------|---------|
| PLAIN | 3.50 | 4.50 |
| APPLE | 4.60 | 5.50 |
| BLUEBERRY | 4.60 | 5.50 |
| BANANA | 4.60 | 5.50 |
| BANANA & PECAN | 5.00 | 6.00 |
| BANANA & CHOC. CHIP | 5.00 | 6.00 |
| PINEAPPLE - COCONUT | 5.00 | 6.00 |
| CORN MEAL | 3.50 | 4.50 |
| SAUSAGE HOT CAKES | 5.20 | Lg 6.25 |

The sausage is in the pancake!

Sugar Free Syrup Available

CEREAL

& FRUIT



- FROSTED FLAKES OR RAISIN BRAN 1.95
- With Banana 2.50
- OATMEAL 2.25

FRUIT MIX

A mix of Apples, Bananas, Pineapple, Celery, Marshmallows, Raisins & Pecans in a Special Dressing. 4.95

BEVERAGES

- COFFEE 1.40 To Go 12 oz. 1.50
- DECAF 1.40 To Go 12 oz. 1.50
- HOT TEA 1.40 To Go 12 oz. 1.50
- HOT CHOCOLATE 1.60
- MILK 8 oz. 1.75 12 oz. 2.00
- CHOCOLATE MILK 8 oz. 1.95 12 oz. 2.25
- ICED TEA 16 oz. 1.70
- LEMONADE 16 oz. 1.70
- SOFT DRINKS 16 oz. 1.70

JUICES

- ORANGE 8 oz. 1.50 12 oz. 1.80
- GRAPEFRUIT 8 oz. 1.50 12 oz. 1.80
- TOMATO 8 oz. 1.50 12 oz. 1.80
- APPLE 8 oz. 1.50 12 oz. 1.80

UNIQUE DIFFERENT TASTY BREAKFAST



EGGS FLORENTINE
2 Poached Eggs on a Bed of Spinach, with Canadian Bacon or Link Sausage. Topped with Hollandaise Sauce. Biscuit or Toast 6.95



CORNER BEEF HASH
2 Poached Eggs, Grilled Hash, Sliced Tomatoes or Potatoes, Biscuit or Toast 6.95

EGGS BENEDICT
2 Poached Eggs & Canadian Bacon on an English Muffin. Topped with Hollandaise Sauce. Sliced Tomatoes or Potatoes 6.95

HAM HASH
A Blend of Ham, Potatoes and Onions, Grilled & topped with 2 Poached Eggs & Sauce. Tomato Slices, Biscuit or Toast 6.95

BREAKFAST PIE
A Blend of Sausage, Swiss Cheese, Eggs, Peppers and Onions, Baked in Pie Crust. Topped with Hollandaise Sauce. Served with Potatoes and Tomato Slice 5.25

POTATO-HAM CAKES
2 Cakes, 2 Eggs with Sliced Tomatoes, Biscuit or Toast 6.75

GRANNIE'S SPECIAL
Couple of Corn Meal Cakes, Covered with Creamy Sausage Gravy. Served with Home Fries 5.60

COUNTRY FRIED STEAK
Topped with Sausage Gravy, with Eggs, Potatoes or Grits, Biscuit 7.25

REAL HE MAN'S
4 Eggs, Two 8 oz. Steaks with Home Fries, Topped with Sausage Gravy, Side of Baked Apples, 2 Biscuits, Honey 16.95



AN APPLE A DAY
(Keeps The Doctor Away)
Baked Sliced Apples with Sausage Patties, Corn Muffin 5.25

PHILADELPHIA SCRAPPLE
Corn Meal Mush & Ground Pork, 2 Eggs, Grits or Potatoes, Biscuit 6.50

SOUTHERN FRENCH TOAST
Cream Cheese, Orange Marmalade & Pecans Between Two Slices of Bread, Grilled, Served with Honey-Orange Sauce 4.60

SCRAMBLED BRAINS
Pork Beans Scrambled with 2 Eggs, Potatoes or Grits, Biscuit 4.95

HOBO HASH
Scrambled Eggs Mixed with Potatoes, Bacon, Cheddar Cheese, Onion and Green Pepper. Served with a Side of Sausage Gravy & Biscuit 6.95

SIDE ORDERS

- HOME FRIED POTATOES 1.95
- GRITS (Bowl) Sm. .95 Lg. 1.15
- BAKED APPLES Sm. 1.95 Lg. 2.50
- BAKED BEANS Sm. 1.95 Lg. 2.50
- SAUSAGE GRAVY Sm. 1.95 Lg. 2.50
- BACON (5 Crisp Slices) 2.95
- SAUSAGE (3 Patties) 2.95
- SAUSAGE LINKS (3) 2.95
- FRIED EGG SANDWICH 2.95
- BACON & EGG SANDWICH 4.25
- OLD COUNTRY HAM AND ONE BISCUIT 3.60
- SAUSAGE PATTIES AND ONE BISCUIT 3.60
- TOMATO SLICES 1.95

SHARING \$1.50 FOR EXTRA PLATE



HEARTY BREAKFAST

HAM-WHAT-AM
Large Slice Smoked Ham, 2 Eggs, Grits or Potatoes, Biscuit or Toast 7.95

SMOKED FISH
(When Available)
Filet Served with Two Eggs, Grits or Potatoes, Biscuit or Corn Muffin 7.95

SALT CURED & AGED COUNTRY HAM
Large Slice Ham with 2 Eggs, Potatoes or Grits, Biscuit or Toast 7.95

GEORGIA BOY
2 Pork Chops with 2 Eggs, Grits or Potatoes, Biscuit or Toast 7.95

STEAK & EGGS (8 oz.)
2 Eggs, Home Fries or Grits, Biscuit or Toast or Corn Muffin 9.25

SMOKED SAUSAGE
2 Eggs, 6 oz. Link, Fried Potatoes or Grits, Toast, Biscuit or Corn Muffin 6.95



ANCHORS AWAY 6.25
Best Old Navy Breakfast
Baked Beans, Smoked Sausage, Corn Muffin

JACK'S SOS 5.60
(Save Our Ship - Or)
Creamy Sausage Gravy over 2 Biscuits with Potatoes or Sliced Tomatoes

CREAMED CHIPPED BEEF 6.75
Served over Toast, Potatoes or Tomato Slices

POTATO CAKES & GRAVY 5.60
Ten Potato Cakes Covered with Sausage Gravy, Tomato Slices & Biscuit

FISHERMAN'S SPECIAL 7.95
Fish Filet - Breaded & Deep Fried, 2 Eggs, Potatoes or Grits, Biscuit

EGGS & CAKES 6.75
2 Eggs, 2 Pancakes, 2 Sausage Patties

IOWA PORK
FILET MIGNON 7.25
Country Fried with Sausage Gravy, 2 Eggs, Potatoes, Biscuit

BELGIAN WAFFLE
1 Inch Plus Thick-Crisp-Tasty

REGULAR 4.50
With Strawberries and Whipped Cream 5.95

WAFFLES
REGULAR 3.95

FRENCH TOAST
GRILLED TO A GOLDEN BROWN 3.60



SALADS

All Salads Served with Crackers and Your Choice of Dressing
Italian - Ranch - 1000 Island - Honey Mustard
Blue Cheese - OE & Vinaigrette - Greek

TUNA SALAD PLATTER

A Generous Portion of Tuna Salad on Lettuce with Tomatoes, Cheese Slices and Hard Boiled Egg
6.95

TOSSED SALAD

Lettuce, Tomato, Onion, Cucumber, Choice of Dressing
2.50

FRUIT MIX SALAD

Apples, Bananas, Pineapple, Celery, Marshmallows, Raisins, Pecans in a Special Dressing. Served with Banana Nut Muffin
4.95

CHICKEN CAESAR

Romaine - Grilled Chicken Breast Strips, Homemade Croutons
6.95

CHICKEN SALAD PLATTER

Chicken Salad & Macaroni Salad on Lettuce with Tomato, Onion, Green Pepper and Hard Boiled Egg
6.95

GREEK SALAD

Our Potato Salad on Lettuce with Feta Cheese, Black Olives, Cucumbers, Peppercornis, Onions & Tomato Wedges. Special Dressing on the Side
6.95

SOUPS

	CUP	BOWL
NAVY BEAN	1.60	2.00
SOUP OF THE DAY	1.60	2.00
FISHERMAN'S CHOWDER	1.95	2.25
CHILI-THE-BEST!	1.95	2.25
HOBO	1.95	2.25

SIDE ORDERS



APPLE SAUCE	1.95
BAKED APPLES	1.95
COLE SLAW	1.95
COTTAGE CHEESE	1.95
PICKLED BEETS	1.95
MACARONI SALAD	1.95
TOMATO SLICES	1.95
TOSSED SALAD	2.50
POTATO SALAD	1.95
HOME FRIES	1.95
FRENCH FRIES	1.95
ONION RINGS	3.00
BAKED BEANS	1.95

SANDWICHES

Beer Goes Great with a Hot Lunch

PATTIE MELT
6 oz. Hamburger & Swiss Cheese with Grilled Onion. Served on Rye
4.75

LET'S PIG OUT



CHILI MAC

Chili & Cheese on Macaroni Pasta. Served with Cole Slaw and Garlic Bread
6.25

CUBAN SANDWICH

Cuban Bread Filled with Ham, Turkey, Sausage, Cheese, Pickles and Dressing
6.25

STEAK HOAGIE

Steak Grilled with Green Peppers, Onions & Cheese
6.25
Add Mushrooms 85c

JACKBURGER 6 oz. 3.85

With French Fries 5.80

CLUB TRIPLE DECKER

BLT Stacked with Cheese and Ham or Roast Beef or Turkey or Tuna
6.75



REUBEN

Cornd Beef on Grilled Rye Bread with Swiss Cheese & Sauerkraut & Dressing
5.75



Lettuce & Tomato .30 Cheese .40

HOT DOG (1/4 lb.) 2.95
Chili or Kraut .50 More

BACON, LETTUCE, TOMATO 4.75

TUNA SALAD WITH LETTUCE 4.75

FISH FILET (5 oz.) 6.50
Breaded and Fried

GRILLED CHICKEN BREAST 5.70

CHICKEN SALAD SANDWICH 4.75

SMOKED HAM 4.95

BAKED HAM 4.75

CORND BEEF 4.75

ROAST BEEF 4.75

BBQ PORK 4.75

GRILLED CHEESE 2.95

GRILLED BACON & CHEESE 4.60

GRILLED HAM & CHEESE 4.95

TUNA MELT 4.95

WESTERN SANDWICH 4.25

LET'S PIG OUT



HOT LUNCHES OR DINNERS

All Meals Served with Your Choice of Any 2 of the Following (Except Where Side Items are Specified)

French Fries * Home Fries
Mashed Potatoes with Gravy
Macaroni Salad * Potato Salad * One of Several Vegetables of the Day * Baked Beans * Baked Apples
Coleslaw * Pickled Beets * Cottage Cheese
* Apple Sauce * Tossed Salad
* Plus Choice of Biscuit, Bread or Corn Muffin

FISH FILET	7.95
Grilled or Breaded & Deep Fried. A House Favorite Served with Hush Puppies	
SMOKED FISH (When Available)	7.95
Smoked Mackerel Filet Served with Cole Slaw and your choice from above	
CLAM STRIPS	5.75
Breaded & Deep Fried. Served with Hush Puppies	
CHICKEN BREAST (Debonned)	6.95
Grilled or Breaded and Deep Fried	
VEAL PATTY (Breaded)	5.75
Deep Fried. Served with Brown Gravy	
SPAGHETTI	5.75
Tomato-Meat-Mushroom Sauce Over Pasta. Served with Tossed Salad and Garlic Bread	
VEAL PARMESAN	6.95
Spaghetti with Veal Patty and Cheese	
OLD COUNTRY HAM	7.95
Salt Cured and Aged, Grilled	
SMOKED HAM SLICE	7.95
Large Center Cut Grilled	
PORK CHOPS (Two)	7.95
Grilled or Breaded and Deep Fried	
SMOKED SAUSAGE (Grilled)	6.95
Served with Sauerkraut and Mashed Potatoes	
GROUND BEEF STEAK	6.95
8 oz., Grilled with Onions and Brown Gravy	
MEAT LOAF	6.95
2 Large Slices. Served with Brown Gravy	
ROAST BEEF	6.95
Sliced Beef Served over Bread with Mashed Potatoes and Brown Gravy. Choice of One of the Above	
CHOICE STEAK	9.25
8 oz., Grilled to Your Specification	
LIVER & ONION (Best in Town)	6.95
Grilled with Onions. Brown Gravy if you like	

DESSERTS

HOUSE SPECIALS
HOMEMADE
FROM SCRATCH



FUDGE PECAN PIE	2.95
A La Mode	3.75
STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE	4.00
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VANILLA ICE CREAM	1.50
With Chocolate Syrup	1.75

BEVERAGES



ICED TEA	16 oz. 1.70
LEMONADE	16 oz. 1.70
SOFT DRINKS	16 oz. 1.70
SHAKES, CHOCOLATE, VANILLA	3.00
STRAWBERRY MILK SHAKE	3.25
ROOT BEER FLOAT	3.00
BEER	2.50
Budweiser, Budweiser Light, Michelob, Michelob Light	

KIDS MENU (8 years old and under)



BREAKFAST

1 Egg, 1 Bacon or Sausage and Toast
1 Pancake and 1 Bacon
1 Chocolate Chip Pancake & Whipped Cream
1 French Toast and 1 Bacon
3.50

LUNCH

Chicken Nuggets With French Fries
Grilled Cheese with French Fries
Hamburger with French Fries
Spaghetti
3.95

Everything Available for Take-Out Sorry No Personal Checks or Credit Card Accepted
We Reserve the Right to Refuse Service to Anyone

Consuming raw or undercooked meats, poultry, seafood, shellfish or eggs may increase your risk of foodborne illness, especially if you have a medical condition.