



Paul's parents, Edward Schwaesdall (1929-2014) and Brigida Vicky Florez Peréz Schwaedall (1927-2001.)



Paul's grandparents, Ambrose Schwaesdall (1888-1968) and Verna Mell Johnson Schwaesdall (1901-1981.)



Paul's paternal great grandparents, John Nicholas Schwaesdall Jr. (1853-1931) and Malissa Catherine Bryant Schwaesdall (1862-1918.)



Paul's maternal great grandparents, Barney M. Johnson (1864-1942) and Alice Cordelia Carnie Satterfield Johnson (1875-1938.)



Shakopee, and was buried at the St. Mary of the Purification cemetery in Marystown. Paul Pablo Schwaesdall decided to retire in 2015, and his two sons, Ed and Ron, took over the business, according to the *Shakopee Valley News* on October 2, 2015 by Christeta Boarini.

Ed Schwaesdall, who was 12 when he started working in the restaurant, noted that "All the great recipes that our customers come from, those will stay the same." His father's Hispanic roots are where all the family recipes have come from.

"Family is a key component to the Schwaesdalls and their business," said Christeta Boarini. "Not only do Ed and Ron work in the restaurant, but their wives and children participate as well. Ed and Ron's sister, Theresa Schwaesdall Ahlberecht, also works part time at Pablo's.

"It's nice to see. The kids, they serve the food our wives take and active role, We really are family orientated," Ed said. Ron, who has worked at Pablo's since he was 18, added "It's how we grew up!"

Today in Shakopee, many Mexican and Tex-Mex places have added to the restaurant scene, including El Toro, Don Ramon Street Tacos, El Huarache, Bravis Modern Street Food, as well as fast food places like Taco Bell, Taco John's, Chipotle Mexican Grill, and Qdoba Mexican Eats. But Pablo's Mexican Restaurant was the first Mexican restaurant in Shakopee, and continues to be a popular place since 1986.



SHAKOPEE HERITAGE SOCIETY  
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# SHAKOPEE HERITAGE SOCIETY



## Paul Pablo Edward Schwaesdall

### Pablo's Mexican Restaurant since 1986





**Pablo's Mexican Restaurant**

Mon. - 3 Tacquitos \$3.00  
 Tues. - Tostados \$2.50  
 Wed. - Super Taco \$4.50  
 Thurs. - Taco Salad \$2.90  
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 Fri. & Sat. 11-10; Sunday Closed.

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Paul Pablo Edward Schwaesdall opened Pablo's Mexican Restaurant in 1986 in downtown Shakopee. Pablo's support the people in Shakopee, and during the Covid-19 pandemic they donated a percentage of its proceeds to fund meals to those on the front line. Paul Pablo Schwaesdall must be proud of his children and grandchildren for their on-going support to the people in Shakopee...and the tacos are to die for!

Paul Edward Schwaesdall was born on April 24, 1949 in San Diego, California. So how does a name like Schwaesdall ran a Mexican Restaurant? It was easy. Paul's father was German American Edward Schwaesdall (1929-2014.). But his mother was Brigida Vicky Florez Pérez Schwaesdall (1927-2001), a Mexican American who was born in Newton, Kansas, and grew up cooking Tex-Mex food.

Paul Edward Schwaesdall's grandparents were Ambrose Schwaesdall (1888-1968) and Verna Mell Johnson Schwaesdall (1901-1981); and Jesús V. Pérez (1885-1967) and Amalia M. Florez (1894-1981.). Paul's great grandparents were John N. Schwaesdall, Jr. (1853-1931) and Malissa C. Bryant Schwaesdall (1862-1918); Barney M. Johnson (1864-1942) and Alice Cordelia Carnie Satterfield Johnson (1875-1938); and Manuel Pérez (1837-1907) and Pascuala Venegas Pérez (1850-1908); and Cristobal Florez and Natividad Marquez Florez (1864-1904.)

In San Diego, California, Paul Edward Schwaesdall married Ann Marie Menden, who was born on July 25, 1947 in Marystown. Ann married Flavian Ronald Geis on December 30, 1967, but was divorced on December 1967. Ann Marie Menden's parents were Ralph Mathew Menden (1924-1992) and Delores J. Geis Menden (1926-2006.) Her grandparents were

Jakob Menden (1901-1988) and Theresa Cecelia Klehr Menden (1902-1987); and Herbert Ambrose Geis (1891-1956) and Mary Mamie Kerber Geis (1897-1955.)

Paul Edward Schwaesdall married Ann Marie Menden on October 21, 1972 in San Diego. Paul and Ann Marie Menden Schwaesdall had three children: Edward, Therese, and Ron. Paul worked as a firefighter.

Paul, Anna and children would often visit Minnesota, and spent their time in Marystown and Shakopee. Paul noted that there was no Mexican restaurant in Shakopee in the 1980s. So when they returned to San Diego, Paul retired from firefighter, and worked with other Mexican cooks to learn about the restaurant business. According to the **Shakopee Valley News** on October 1, 1986, in an article by Beth Forkner Moe called *Pablo's has real Mexican food*, Paul Edward Schwaesdall noted that "I feel Shakopee's ready for a Mexican restaurant. The town's grown so fast...I'm surprised that so many people like Mexican food in this area."

When Ann Marie Menden Schwaesdall missed her family in Marystown, and so in 1986, the family

moved back to Shakopee and the family opened *Pablo's Mexican Restaurant* at 230 Lewis Street South. Located in the Huber building, across from the Shakopee Library, it was the last location for the *Strunk Pharmacy*, or the Old Drug Store, was located there after moving from the store on the north side of First Avenue, and was closed in June 1977 after 120 years of service. Then the place became *The Sweet Treat Ice Cream Parlour and Restaurant*, which opened on January 3, 1978 by manager and owner was Cindy Strand, and at age 18, was the youngest business owner in Shakopee. In 1986, the place became *Pablo's Mexican Restaurant*, and it has been in business for more than 37 years and counting!

Two authentic Mexican chefs, Tony Ortiz and Ernesto Gutierrez were Paul Edward Schwaesdall's right-hand person in the kitchen when Pablo's Mexican Restaurant opened. Everything in the restaurant has authentic Mexican ambiance. "The pots were made in Mexico, the paintings on the walls were painted especially for Pablo's by a man in Mexico" said Beth Forkner Moe. "The draperies in the window are also real. They are made out of sarapes which were brought here from Mexico."

Pablo's Mexican Restaurant serves over 700 patrons on any given night.

Ann Marie Menden Schwaesdall died on April 19, 2011 in

