



# Bourbon Street Candy Co.

by Diana Kayser



Walking into the Bourbon Street Candy Company can only be compared to an ethereal scene from Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory; one part nostalgia, two parts innovation, and three parts creativity. Not only do they carry oodles of classic candy from Pop Rocks to Jellybellies for individual purchase, but owners Dale and Beth Mills also pride themselves on their ability to create unique special order gifts and favors for any occasion. Selling traditional candy favorites, while seeking and stocking candy specialties from all around the world, is this store's trademark and has made it one of the most inviting specialty shops in Corpus Christi.

"We want every person who walks into our store to feel welcomed. We do this by creating a wholesome environment that allows every customer to find a candy they can enjoy and afford," says owner Beth Mills.

And she is not kidding; carrying about two-and-a-half tons of candy in the store at any given time, truly does offer something for everyone. Over 550 varieties of candy from sour patch watermelons to Texas shaped lollipops stock the shelves daily. This store is definitely something to be seen, and for this reason Beth invites anyone to visit, if even just to look.

In addition to an extensive candy selection, Bourbon Street Candy Company features a gourmet counter featuring heavenly treats to die for. Texas made truffles, fresh chocolate dipped strawberries and apples and fudge dipped pretzels are only a portion of the delicacies they carry. Plus, the shop makes its very own in-house fudge. Mixed by Beth's husband, Dale, 33 pounds at a time, he pulls out one single small tub at a time so that it stays fresh. They typically have over a dozen flavors on hand from white chocolate peanut butter, chocolate cheesecake, and vanilla, to sucrose free chocolate. With all of this in the store, it is no wonder that they go through about 5000 pounds of product each week.

The delectable experience does not end with the plethora of items for walk-in purchase, because the Bourbon Street Candy Company centers a lot of its energy on special orders. Beth creates a truly unique look for every customer who comes into her store.

"Give me half an idea, and I will show you what I can do." Working within any budget, Beth works to make innovative wedding favors, centerpieces and gift baskets. Need a two-foot tall Tiffany's diamond made out of silver wrapped bubble gum or a baseball bat made completely out of chocolate nut fudge for your father's birthday? The Bourbon Street Candy Company is the place. Light up centerpieces with colorful rock candy and a bouquet of strawberries dipped in chocolate are only a few of Beth's past creations. Working with any theme or color scheme to create something different and new for every customer is always her goal.

"I never do any two orders the same. I don't want a Bride to see the same thing she had at her wedding, at someone else's event," she says.

With this goal in mind, Beth takes very few photos and instead goes to great lengths to find unique candy, even ordering from abroad from sources in Italy and Canada.

So how does one get Beth Mills to sweeten their event with her creativity? Well, she prefers to begin at least a month or so before the event, though anything may be possible, she assures clients. For large orders, working months before the event allows her to get to know her client's needs and work around their interests and budget to create a prototype.

Then, after ordering the product, her staff of six go to work. No Oompa Loompas here, but almost just as good are her employees. They tie bows and stuff containers side by side with Dale and Beth.

The couple bought the store eleven years ago. Unexpectedly, they felt a calling from God to move from their small town in Kansas to Corpus Christi, Texas.

"Not knowing anyone here in Corpus, we felt pushed to move here. There were a series of events that seemed to point to Corpus Christi," Beth says.

Though they feared the unknown, they made the leap of faith and followed the advice of their pastors to never look back. "We do not regret it one bit." With each day of their lives here, they are validated by their decision. Self made business owners; they put their hearts, souls and faith into their store.

So whether it is a husband's birthday, a corporate business meeting or your wedding party, do not hesitate to call the Bourbon Street Candy Company. Look at the options. From favors and hotel room baskets featuring gummy frogs and margarita jelly beans, to red and green holiday appreciation gifts for employees, Dale and Beth have truly succeeded in their goal by creating something for everyone.

Bourbon Street Candy Company is located in the La Palmera Mall, upstairs in the corner near Dillards. Call 361-985-6077 for more information.



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