



Flat iron steak with a tomato veal Demi glacé and crispy potatoes and ramp chimichurri.

Photo courtesy of Walnut Street Kitchen

Ramp Chimichurri

CONTRIBUTED BY CHEF AND OWNER OF WALNUT STREET KITCHEN BEV LACSINA

Ramps are one of the signs in the Northeast that spring has arrived, and while have somewhat of a short season, are a true culinary gem if you can get your hands on them. You can find them at farmers markets or by foraging yourself in woody areas of New Jersey. This ramp chimichurri would go well with grilled meats, seafood, and anything else you like to pair with a chimichurri. This is such a versatile condiment.

Ingredients:

1 cup of Ramps including the white part, cleaned and roughly chopped

1/2 Cup of Italian Parsley, roughly chopped

1 Fresno Chile roughly chopped, or 1-2 tsp. of chili flakes

4 Cloves of Garlic

1/2 Cup of Red Wine Vinegar

3/4 Cup of Extra Virgin Olive Oil



Ramps in their natural state

Directions:

Place the ramps, parsley, garlic, Fresno chili and red wine vinegar into a bowl of a food processor and pulse to combine. Slowly add the olive oil to the mixture as you pulse until you reach your desired texture. Some may like it more loose, which can be achieved by adding more oil. ■

A Bow Window Looking Out Over a Pastoral Scene

CONTRIBUTED BY MIKE FARRELLY, MONTCLAIR TOWN HISTORIAN
PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANDREW WANDER

THIS MONTH'S FEATURED HOME is situated on a 1.4 acre double lot. The house is on the front lot which runs along Erwin Park Rd. Since no one ever built on the back lot (except for the garage) the rear of the house overlooks a large and tranquil back yard. In fact, Andrew Wander's book *Stately Homes of Montclair* notes that the back yard is a "perfect place to greet the day with your morning coffee and enjoy this pastoral scene". Toney's Brook bubbles through the property creating an even more soothing environment. This may be the reason why the back of the house is pictured, rather than the front.

The house has been enlarged significantly. The original house was three bays across. It has been increased to five bays and a large wing was added to the back. The original house was designed by the famous Montclair architect, Dudley Van Antwerp. The original architecture has been described as "Craftsman". The 1982 Junior League Preservation Survey calls the present design "Colonial Revival".

Wilfred J. and Eleanor (Hawkins) Funk bought the front lot and house on July 24, 1915. They got married a week later and intended to move in after a two-week honeymoon. The house wasn't quite ready. They returned to Montclair and had to stay at the Hotel Montclair until October when they finally moved in. The Hotel Montclair no longer exists. It stood about where the Rockcliffe Apartments are located now. In 1921 Wilfred and Eleanor bought the back lot, which extended all the way to Central Ave. and put up the garage. The garage has also been enlarged.

Wilfred's parents, Isaac and Gertrude Funk, moved to 22 Upper Mountain Ave. just before Wilfred left for Princeton University where he studied literature. He later received an honorary doctorate in literature from Oglethorpe University in Georgia. His father, Rev. Dr. Isaac Funk, founded the well-known publishing concern, Funk & Wagnalls. After college Wilfred joined his father's firm. He became president of Funk & Wagnalls in 1925 after his father passed away. His career revolved around publishing and language. He was the chief editor of the *Literary Digest*. He wrote five books of poetry and ten books of prose; the most famous of which was probably *30 Days To A More Powerful Vocabulary*. Every month he compiled the popular feature *It Pays To Increase Your Word Power for Reader's Digest*. His son, Peter, continued that tradition after Wilfred died. After fifteen years as president of Funk & Wagnalls Wilfred started his own publishing company, Wilfred Funk Inc. In 1954 he founded the Kingsway Press along with several health and personal improvement magazines.



A perfect place to greet the day with your morning coffee and enjoy this pastoral scene

Wilfred was active in Montclair public affairs. He founded Montclair's first Community Chest, a charitable organization which later became United Community Services of North Essex. He was a trustee of the Public Library for many years and became the vice president of the board. He was a vestryman at St. Luke's Episcopal Church.

Eleanor also moved to Montclair with her parents, Frederick and Sarah Hawkins. They lived on Gates Ave. and then The Fairway in Upper Montclair. Sarah moved in with Eleanor and Wilfred when Frederick passed away. Eleanor's 1989 obituary noted that she devoted 75 years of her life to public service. She spent many of those years at Mountainside Hospital where she was a member of the auxiliary. She was on the hospital board for a long time and is credited with creating the Mountainside Hospital Hospitality Shop, one of the first in the area. She thought of it as an "Island of warmth, gaiety and service" which "could exist in the often confusing and frightening world of a large hospital." Many years later people were still calling it the "House that Eleanor built". She was the chairperson of the Fresh Air Fund for Crippled Children in Southampton, Long Island where she and Wilfred had a summer home.

Eleanor was the chair of the Parrish Art Museum in Southampton. She was on the board of the Bonnie Brae Farm for Boys, a place to help "at risk" boys to reach successful adulthood. The farm was in Millington, NJ when she was associated with it. It is now located in Liberty Corner. She was one of the founders of the Montclair Junior League. Wilfred passed away in 1965. Eleanor remarried in 1972. Her second husband was a widower, Ralph Lounsbury, who also lived in Montclair. Ralph was the

founder and chairman of the Banker's National Life Insurance Co. which originated in California and merged with its New Jersey branch. Their original headquarters were on Park St., in the old Elk's Club Building which later became the "Technopulp" Building. Banker's National moved to a brand-new facility at the Montclair/Verona border. The building was later purchased by Hoffman-Laroche Pharmaceuticals who, in turn, donated it to the Spectrum 360/Academy 360 School for children with disabilities when they (La-Roche) closed their businesses in New Jersey.

Two couples lived in this house in the 1990s: George F. and Janara (Mabry) Bornstein, and Barry W. and Ann (Martin) Ridings. George Bornstein was a private practice lawyer. He was initially in partnership with his father, Benjamin Bornstein, and his brother, Alfred. He studied art and architecture before becoming a lawyer and is known for his artistic bent. He sculpted a life-size bronze bust of his father for Father's Day in 1968. George and Janara live in New Mexico now and he is known for breath-taking photos of the American Southwest. Barry Ridings is a financial expert. He was the assistant treasurer of Chase Manhattan Bank in NY when the Ridings lived in Montclair. Ann studied Early Childhood Education and was associated with the Union-Cong Nursery School. She was on the advisory board of South End Community Day Care. The featured house was sold to its current owners in 2000. It is our policy not to talk about current occupants in order to protect their privacy. ■

If you'd like to see more images of Montclair homes, they are featured in the book, *Stately Homes of Montclair*, which can be found at Montclair Booksellers, several local libraries and the [Stately Homes of Montclair Facebook page](#).