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Rod Smith was a long-time business owner in Callicoon, operating Rod's Taxidermy for more than 30 years. Rod was also a big supporter of the Sullivan County Democrat Big Buck Contest, providing the complimentary Championship mount every year. Here's a tribute to Rod.

On the Cover:

Any hunter would be happy to see this trophy Whitetail buck in the woods. Check out pages 8 -21 to find out more about hunting – and cooking – from experts Kate and Pete Fiduccia

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My first Big Game rifle



Bolt-action rifles are touted as the most reliable rifle action available.



This is my first deer rifle. I hunted deer throughout New York with it for several years.

By Peter Fiduccia

It does not matter at what age, owning ones first rifle is an exhilarating experience. It is an event the brain records with the smallest details for future recall.

For instance, in 1963 my dad bought me my first rifle. I can still distinctly recall the entire experience. The rifle was a Marlin EST 1870 - Model 336, R.C. Cal. .30-30, gold trigger in a lever action. We bought it at E. J. Korvettes, a New York-based department store, located in Bay Parkway off the Belt Parkway highway, a few miles north of Coney Island, New York.

From the second I took the rifle out of the box at home, I forgot about girls. Well, not really, but somewhat. I vividly recall holding the rifle for what seemed like hours smelling its newness, feeling its stoutness, and repeatedly working its lever action. I was mesmerized. The rifle was really mine. I remember thinking, “this rifle will open the door for me to become a deer hunter,” and that is exactly what it did.

Before my first deer hunt, I equipped the Marlin with a Weaver scope and

bought a couple of boxes of Remington .30-30 130 grain Core-Lokt Round Nose cartridges.

For my first few years of deer hunting, my .30-30, (which I nicknamed Deadeye Dan), and I hunted whitetails from the southern tip of Orange County, New York throughout most of the northern zones of the Adirondack Mountains. See what I mean about remembering the smallest details of buying your first rifle?

For a few years I hunted with Deadeye Dan through the 20,000+ acres in Sterling Forest in southern Orange County, New York to the tens of thousands of acres owned by International Paper Company in the tiny hamlet of Childwold, New York. Childwold is located on the western side of the town of Piercefield and 15 miles north of Tupper Lake.

In a newly-fallen two-inch snowfall, I found a large, flat rock that overlooked a bog. I placed my “Hot-Seat” on the rock and sat on it (you have to be at least 60 years old to know what the original Hot-Seat was). Today, a similar product

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

is called a "ThermASeat-Heat-a-Seat" which is not as noisy or clumsy as the old Hot-Seat.

My hunting tactic was simplistic. I would wait for an unsuspecting buck to pass by my stand. As Lady Luck would have it, a couple of hours later, I saw a buck approaching from the bog.

It was a six-point with a wide, high sweep to its antlers. The buck was easy to see in the snow as it slowly meandered its way through the thick woods that paralleled my rock stand. It was no more than 100 yards away. I placed the crosshairs on the buck's shoulder and fired. At the report of the shot it took a few steps and dropped.

On the several hour drive back to Brooklyn, where I was born and raised, I realized that although I enjoyed hunting with Deadeye Dan, I had to admit I did not put much forethought into buying my first rifle. While the rifle was an excellent choice for the type of New York forest terrain I hunted, it had its limitations.

I wanted to expand my big game hunting to include game including mule deer, elk, moose,

caribou, and antelope. To achieve that goal, I needed a rifle to match the game and types of terrain I would hunt throughout the West and Canada.

As I drove, I ruminated about magazine articles I read, written by the legendary Jack O'Connor, a well-known outdoor journalist of the time. In his big game hunting stories, O'Connor often wrote about his passion for the Winchester .270 bolt-action rifle.

In almost all of his articles he regularly mentioned that a bolt-action is "the most reliable rifle action" there is, and the .270 is "the most versatile rifle caliber" as well.

The following day I took O'Connor's advice and bought a 1964 Model 70-.270 bolt-action Win., at Fred's Sporting Goods Store on 8th Avenue in Brooklyn.

It was to be the rifle that would broaden the types of big game I wanted to hunt. Once I owned the rifle, I made a commitment to learn more about the intricacies and vernacular of rifles, several types of

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A Newfoundland bull taken with Ol' Betsy, my .270, with a 150-grain bullet. I hunted with Ol' Betsy for more than 35 years.

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ammunition, and optics.

Over the next 35 years (or so) as I hunted throughout the country, my .270 and I were inseparable. She was to become known to me as Ol' Betsy and it was my favorite big game rifle during that period.

Ol' Betsy was my "go-to" firearm for hunting whitetails, mule deer, elk, moose, bear, antelope, and caribou. Only the types of ammunition changed for the game hunted.

Sometime around 2003, I bought a new rifle: a Kimber 8400 .270 Winchester Short Magnum (WSM) Classic. The WSM is 130 fps faster than the .270 Win. with muzzle velocities of 3,100 and 2,970 fps, respectively.

Making The Right Choice

Herein lies the crux of this article. Before choosing a rifle, whether it is your first firearm or an additional rifle, choose a caliber and action for where you will hunt most with it. Think long and

hard about what will work best for you and your primary style of hunting and for the possibility that you may expand the big game animals you hunt.

Considerations are numerous and some include the rifle's caliber, action, weight, available bullet types, its fit and even its finish.

For instance if you hunt mostly long-range open areas, like farm fields found in upstate New York, choose a flat-shooting caliber that offers more room for error in range judgement. If you hunt in thick woods and other heavy cover, bullet drop is not a crucial element. You can choose a heavier cartridge to acquire more efficient downrange bullet mass.

As O'Connor wrote in the 60s and 70s, the best rifle caliber for deer and other big game is the .270 Win. Other popular calibers include 7 mm Remington Magnum, .30-06 Springfield, 6.5 Creedmoor, .243 Winchester and my second favorite caliber for hunting every species of deer from whitetails to moose is the .308.

However, if you are a die-in-the-wool northeast deer hunter, a .30-30 or a .35 caliber rifle is another excellent choice, particularly when hunting in heavy

cover.

Here are some important points to consider when buying a rifle.

The Fit

First and foremost is what is known as the "fit." You must make sure the rifle fits you. Gun Fit is the ability to ensure that the firearm is tailored to the shooter. It is difficult to shoot a firearm that is too long, short, or heavy. A firearm that is not fitted to the shooter will increase the recoil which ends up causing poor accuracy.

The easiest way to tell if a rifle fits you is to shoulder it quickly. The butt of the stock should fall into place in the crease of your shoulder and your cheek should make comfortable contact with the stock. Your eye must also fall in line with the sights. If these few elements (and others) are answered as yes, the rifle should fit you.

The Action

A rifle's action should definitely match your hunting style. For reliability it is nearly impossible to

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beat a bolt-action rifle. Of course, there are other actions to choose from, but for my money none match the dependability and ease of a bolt-action rifle.

The Ammunition

The success of any hunt begins by selecting the appropriate bullets. The fact is no one cartridge is designed to be ideal for all types of big game. Penetration, expansion, weight retention and range have to be assessed and selected based on the type of game hunted and the location of where it is hunted.

Over the last few years ammo availability has become a major issue due to the shortage of ammunition types. So today, it is wise to choose a caliber that is popular enough to have reliable availability of ammo no matter where you hunt.

Anymore, it is often difficult to locate different cartridges. For instance, my second most favorite rifle is a Kimber 84M .338 Fed Montana, which is an extremely light firearm weighing in at just over 5 pounds. Cartridges for this rifle include 180-, 185-, and 210-grain bullets. Finding the 180-grain and 185-grain bullets, however, can be exceedingly difficult.

The Firearm's Finish

Choosing a rifle's finish may seem a frivolous point, but it isn't. If you hunt in areas with consistent damp, wet, snowy, or frigid weather it may be wise to consider a synthetic stock and a waterproof finish, particularly on the bare metal. These weather factors can swell a wooden stock that could change the accuracy of your rifle.

The Optics

An often-over-looked factor is matching the best rifle scope you can afford to your hunting style and locations. A rifle scope is a crucial part to seeing and impacting game super accurately, particularly when shooting at long distances on western game.

So choosing the best scope option you can afford is a critical point – even if it means having to save up for an extra year before outfitting it with an inexpensive scope. Some top choices include Swarovski, Tract Optics, Leupold, Zeiss, Trijicon, and Vortex.

So, no matter what rifle or rifles become your favorite hunting tools, remember to give careful forethought to the above considerations mentioned. Others points to think about include the price of the firearm, its out-of-the-box accuracy, the barrel length, its balance, stock design, trigger quality and pull, and the rifle's overall handling features.

Together these features are what separate a good hunting rifle from a terrific one. All these elements often end up in determining whether you will consistently make one-shot kills or need additional shots. By paying attention to the finer points when buying your first or another new rifle, it most assuredly will start a long-term relationship with you and your favorite rifle.

I would be sorely remiss here if I did not mention that, for sentimental reasons, I still occasionally gravitate back to hunting whitetails with Ol' Betsy now and then.

As an old adage states, "One seldom gets over a first love!"



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My first whitetail rifle Dead-Eye Dan, was a lever action 30-30. Below: Ol' Betsy - my favorite big game rifle. I hunted big game throughout North America with it for nearly 35 years.

About the Author: Peter Fiduccia is a noted deer hunter who hosts/ authors "Woods and Water" TV series. He has also published two dozen books on deer hunting, including The Definitive Guide to Plan-

ing Food Plots, The Definitive Guide to Deer Rifles, Ammo & Optics, Butchering Deer, from Field to Table and White Tactics, Cutting Edge Tactics.



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Cooking in the Kitchen with Kate Fiduccia

Whether it's hunting in the field, or cooking in the kitchen, Kate Fiduccia is a marksman all the way.

She has joined her husband, Peter, on many of his hunting journeys and bagged many different varieties of big game.

But once the hunt is successful, Kate really shines. It is her ability to cook up some delicious recipes that really adds to the flavor of hunting camp or enjoying a warm meal after the season is over.

Enjoy her recipes, and rest assured, if you make them, your friends and family will like them, too.

About the Author: Kate graduated Cornell University's Hotel School. She is a renowned wild-game cooking authority who has authored seven (7) wild game books that are sold throughout the country in traditional book stores as well as Bass Pro Shops, Cabela's and other big box stores. Her latest book, "The Jerky Bible" is going to be released this fall and is currently available as a pre-sale on Amazon. Kate is the long-time host of Woods N' Water TV Series. Her "Going Wild in Kate's Kitchen," segment has been the most popular part of the program for many years.

Venison Chili Stuffed Bell Peppers

This is a twist on the classic stuffed green peppers. Ready-made venison chili (also known as leftover chili) comes in handy when preparing this scrumptious recipe.

Serves: 6
 Prep Time: 10 minutes
 Cooking Time: 45 minutes

Ingredients:

6 large green or red bell peppers
 1 pound venison chili, slightly drained if watery (leftover chili is ideal for this recipe)
 2 cups cooked white rice
 2 cups tomato sauce
 ½ pound cheddar cheese, grated

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.

Remove the tops of the peppers and seed. Parboil the peppers in a pot of boiling water for about 3 to 5 minutes. Drain and rinse with cool water to stop the cooking.

Mix the cooked white rice in with the venison chili. Divide the chili mixture into 6 parts and fill each pepper. Pour tomato sauce on the bottom of a 13-by-9-by-2-inch glass baking dish. Place the stuffed

peppers in the glass baking dish on top of the tomato sauce and bake for about 40 minutes. During the last 10 minutes, top the peppers with cheese. Serve while hot.

Venison Steak with Caper-Mustard Sauce

Serves: 4
 Prep time: 10 minutes
 Cooking Time: 20 minutes

Ingredients:

1 cup all-purpose flour
 ½ tsp. salt
 ½ tsp. pepper
 4 boneless venison steaks or cutlets (about 6 oz. each), well-trimmed
 2 tbsp. canola oil
 1 medium onion, finely chopped
 1 shallot, minced
 2 tbsp. red wine vinegar
 ¼ c. low sodium beef broth
 ¼ c. nonfat plain yogurt (room temperature)
 2 tbsp. drained and rinsed capers
 1 tbsp. whole grain mustard
 2 tbsp. chopped fresh parsley
 Place flour in a large plastic food-storage bag; add salt and pepper and shake well to mix. Pat steaks dry, and dredge steaks in seasoned flour.

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Wayne County SHOP

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In a heavy-bottomed skillet, heat oil over medium-high heat until hot but not smoking. Add steaks and cook for about 2 minutes on each side for medium-rare, or as desired. Transfer steaks to a platter; set aside and keep warm.

Add onion, shallot, and vinegar to same skillet. Sauté until vinegar has cooked away. Lower heat to medium and add broth, then yogurt. Before adding the yogurt, mix in a small amount of the warm seasoned broth to the yogurt to raise the temperature of the yogurt before it is added to the rest of the mixture in the pan. Simmer until the mixture is reduced by half; do not allow it to boil.

Remove the skillet from heat. Stir in the capers and mustard. Blend together thoroughly, then pour over steaks. Sprinkle with parsley and serve warm.

Salmon Croquettes

If you are fortunate to fish New York's famed Salmon River and land a succulent salmon this fall, here's a neat way to use any cooked leftovers. Although I like to make these tasty tidbits as a lunch meal in camp, they make delightful holiday starters as well.

Serves: 2 or 3

Cooking time: Less than 15 minutes



PHOTO CREDIT: © BORIS RYZHKOV | DREAMSTIME.COM

Ingredients:

- 2 eggs
- 2 cups flaked leftover cooked salmon
- 1 tbsp. minced parsley
- 1 tbsp. finely chopped onion
- 1 c. crushed cracker crumbs or breadcrumbs
- ¼ c. vegetable oil, approx.

In a mixing bowl, lightly beat the eggs. Add salmon, parsley and onion and mix gently but thoroughly. Form into cylindrical or round croquettes. Roll in cracker crumbs to coat entirely. Heat about ¼-inch of cooking oil in large skillet or Dutch oven over medium-high heat. Panfry the croquettes for about 3 minutes, turning occasionally until evenly browned on all sides. Serve warm.

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Serves: 8 to 10

- 1 4- to 5-lb. venison roast
- salt and pepper
- 2 lemons, 1 halved and 1 sliced
- 12 slices bacon
- Cooking Time: 1 hour or so
- 2 onions, chopped
- 2 tbsp Worcestershire sauce
- a few tbsp. water

You will also need: Dutch oven and string if making a roast

For Dutch Oven Cooking: Prepare campfire: preheat Dutch oven lid in coals. Remove all fat and connective tissue from venison roast. Season roast with salt and pepper to taste. Squeeze juice from halved lemon all over roast. (If you're using a chuck roast or other cut that will be rolled, flatten meat and pound to even thickness throughout. Season with salt and pepper and squeeze lemon juice over the flat meat, then roll and tie in several places.)

Place several slices of bacon in bottom Dutch oven. Place roast on top of bacon. Arrange onion and lemon

slices around the roast; sprinkle Worcestershire sauce over all. Place a few more slices of bacon on of the roast, tucking remaining bacon around the roast. Place preheated lid on Dutch oven. Position Dutch oven over small bed of coals; place additional hot coals on top of the lid. Bake for 1 hour, replenishing coals as necessary. Check after the hour and add water if necessary to prevent burning. Re-cover and back for 30 to 60 minutes longer or until the roast is tender; replenish coals as necessary. Remove roast from Dutch oven and let sit for 10 to 15 minutes before carving to let juices distribute evenly.

For Camp or Home Cooking in an Oven: Heat oven to 325F. Prepare roasr as noted above, placing into Dutch oven or casserole. Bake for 2 to 2 1/2 hours, checking occasionally and adding water as necessary. If using a meat thermometer, remove when the center of the roast is at 125F for rare or 130 to 135F for medium-rare. As the roast sits, it will continue to cook and the temperature will rise another 5 degrees or so.

Venison Sausage Omelet Delight

- Yields: 2 omelets
- Prep Time: 15 minutes
- Cooking Time: 15 minutes

I often prepare this filling breakfast recipe during the cold snowy winter months. It really hits the spot after a morning of shoveling and plowing the snow.

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INGREDIENTS

- 1/3 lb. bulk venison sausage
- 4 tbsp. butter (2 and 1 and 1)
- 1/3 c. fresh mushrooms, chopped
- 2 tbsp. onion, minced
- 4 eggs (2 and 2)
- 2 tbsp. milk (1 and 1)
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 1/4 c. aged cheddar cheese, shredded

In a small skillet,auté the sausage until it is browned. Remove the sausage and set aside.

Melt the 2 tbsp. butter in the skillet and sauté the mushrooms and onions over medium heat. Sauté until much of the juice from the mushrooms has been cooked out, about 5 to 7 minutes. Set the mushroom/onion mixture aside and keep warm.

In a small bowl, combine 2 eggs, 1 tbsp. of milk, and salt and pepper to taste. Beat gently with a fork until just blended. Melt 1 tsp. of the butter in an omelet pan over medium heat (when the heat is too high, the egg toughens too quickly). When the butter begins to sizzle, add the egg mixture and tilt the pan to spread the eggs over the bottom. As soon as the eggs set on the bottom, pull the cooked egg from the edge of the pan with a rubber spatula and tilt the pan to let the liquid egg flow underneath to cook. Set the pan back on the range top to continue cooking, repeat the process if necessary.

Sprinkle half of the cooked venison sausage, half of the mushroom/onion mixture, and half of the cheese over one half of the omelet. Tilt the pan to one side and fold over the "empty" half of the omelet with a rubber spatula. Cover the omelet pan with a lid (or piece of foil) for 20 to 30 seconds to make sure all the cheese has melted. Remove, plate, and serve with hot biscuits and butter.

Cook the second omelet following the same procedures as the first.

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The Fall Line: Skiing tips for parents and kids

STORY AND PHOTOS
BY COACH BILL PAMMER

Skiing is a life sport. Once you have the skills and confidence, it opens up a whole new world and a way to explore that world from many angles. Skiing is a sport that you can enjoy alone, as a family, with friends or as part of a team. It is never too late to get on skis; but starting younger or with your children is a great beginning. Ski programs impart confidence, team building, and decision-making to young skier which help them because competent adults.

Skiing with Children

As we approach ski season, parents with small children often ask me, “When is a good time to get my child on skis?” Age 3 is a great time to introduce kids to skiing. If you are a parent who skis, get a ski harness with a mini backpack for your little one. The harness allows you to ski behind your child because it

has leashes that permit you to help your child practice turns and control speed. You can also use the leashes to help slow or stop your child. The backpack also has a little handle to lift little ones onto the chairlift, which can be high for growing legs.

Using the ski harness allowed Ian to progress quickly; learning balance he was able to ski on his own and use a snow plow (pizza) in under two weeks. Although Ian was skiing on his own, we had him wear the backpack so we could use the handle to help him on the chairlift; or if we needed the leashes.

After using the harness, you can play “follow the leader” or have your little one trace your tracks to help them initiate turns. The key here is making it fun while teaching them to make turns on the slope.

Ski Lessons

Ski lessons are a great way to start the ski season for skiers of all levels - beginner, intermediate, or advanced. Lessons review the key fundamen-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27



**Ian Pammer,
age 3, skiing
independently
after using the
harness.**

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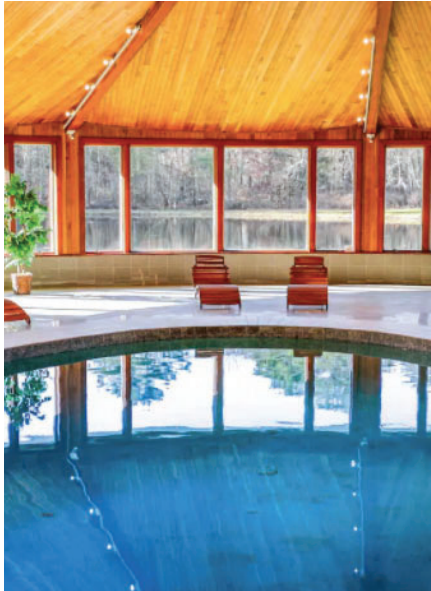
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tals of skiing, which are balance and athletic stance, direct pressure toward the outside ski, and how to create an edge angle through a combination of inclination and angulation.

Both skiers in the photos are balanced over their skis while moving downhill with both hands forward. Their outside legs are “straight” and applying direct pressure on the outside ski. They are exhibiting “angulation” to create an edge angle on the skis. “Angulation” means a separation of upper and lower body where the legs move laterally (across the hill) to produce pressure on the outside ski while the upper body (above the waist line) remains relaxed and faces downhill.

I also advocate enrolling your son or daughter, particularly if they ski on high school alpine race teams, in a week-long mountain or race program during the winter holiday break. These programs are designed to teach skiing skills that

allow the skier to master all terrain, including black and double black diamonds, in a proficient and confident manner.

The only major difference between a mountain and race program is that the latter introduces training environments that challenge the skier to exhibit a variety skills through the use of brushes, gates, and slalom poles. Several ski hills in the area offer these programs. Early fall is the time to inquire about these programs as they fill up fast.

Find Your Fall-Line

The cornerstone of “great” skiing is pressure in the fall line. The fall line refers to an area on a slope that runs straight down the hill where gravitational forces are the greatest. When working with skiers, I help them visualize the fall line by rolling a tennis ball down the hill. Next, I tell them to enter the fall line by getting their skis parallel to the line (ski tips facing down the hill)

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Plattekill Renegades Racers, Illiana Paidas (background) and Marko Skoratko (foreground), exhibit how to pressure in the fall line during a race practice.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

created by the tennis ball and then exit the fall line, using the fundamentals I explained above, and reenter the fall line. The purpose of this exercise is to have the skier use gravity to their advantage. Two-time U.S. Olympic Gold Medalist, Ted Ligety, refers to this application as "running downhill." The picture below illustrates this con-

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cept in action.

Notice how the ski tips are facing straight down the hill (i.e., in the fall line) and both skiers are pressuring the outside ski into the fall line with the upper body facing down the hill. These body movements are producing high edge angles on the skis allowing them to initiate a clean turn. This position is not static; it is held only for a split second. Both skiers exit the fall line once they pass the gate and they repeat the same movement for the next turn.

Making skiers aware of the fall line allows them to “feel” the pressure, and acceleration, of the skis as they move across the hill when they come out of the fall line. Once they feel this sensation their skiing is taken to a different level.

Ski season is on its way, and it is a short season, so “seize the moment.” Think snow!

Ian Pammer enjoys a practice run on the slopes last winter.



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STORY AND PHOTOS BY KAITLIN HAAS

Annie's Ruff Cut is famous for its Roast Beef. Served rare and cold, sliced thin and piled high on your choice of bread. Add lettuce, tomato, and horseradish for a true experience! Sandwiches are served with homemade chips and a pickle, or add fries.

Antoinette "Annie" Grome is the woman behind it all at Annie's Ruff Cut. She helps design the specialty cocktails, greets the regulars, makes homemade desserts, and keeps her Bar and Grill running smoothly for regulars and new customers alike.



Like many other Sullivan County gems, Annie's Ruff Cut in Cohecton has a storied history. Everything from the location, building, bar, and menu are part of this story and add to the allure of an otherwise unassuming bar and grill.

The current location of Annie's was built in the early 1980s, getting the name Ruff Cut from the type of lumber milled on location and used to build the bar and grill. The bar, rescued from the demolition of a local Sullivan County hotel that entertained many famous and infamous guests in its heyday, adds to the nostalgia. Antoinette "Annie" Grome worked for many years as a server and a bartender, and in 2019, with her husband Erwin, took over the Ruff Cut and christened it Annie's.

The bar and grill boasts a loyal following, but



A favorite of kids and adults alike, Annie's homemade mac n' cheese is served with Panko breadcrumbs and parsley. A perfect appetizer or side dish.

also welcomes new faces often as the travel to the area to enjoy concerts, camping, outdoor recreation, leaf peeping, and much more in the year round visitor season in Sullivan County. The menu offers pub style comfort food, homemade soups and desserts, salads, and of course the famous in-house made roast beef. Pair with a cocktail, draft or bottled beer, or wine by the glass served at the historic bar, and you can't go wrong!

Annie's Ruff Cut offers daily specials, seasonal and specialty cocktails, and delectable desserts to add to the menu of appetizers, wings, signature sandwiches and wraps, burgers, and of course roast beef. Wednesday is Burger Day, where you can get a ½ Pound Burger for \$9.50. On Thursday, Annie's has Wing Night with traditional wings offered at \$8 and boneless at \$9,

with a variety of specialty flavors to try. Homemade soups like loaded potato, chicken corn chowder, chili, beef stew, or French onion are hearty starts to your meal. Try an appetizer like the fried cheese curds, banging shrimp, loaded dry rub nachos, chicken quesadilla, or wings!

Lunch and dinner options include hot open roast beef served cold rare or hot well with gravy and mashed potatoes or French fries, chicken tender or fried shrimp basket, and salads like the wedge (a wedge of iceberg with blue cheese crumbles, blue cheese dressing, balsamic glaze, tomatoes and bacon crumbles) or Cobb (iceberg lettuce with blue cheese crumbles, bacon, avocado, boiled egg, red onion, tomatoes and honey Dijon vinaigrette). Annie's custom subs (served with chips and pickle) like the #1 Bulldog (roast

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34

beef, mozzarella, bacon, and French onion may on a hero) and #2 Philly Cheese Steak or signature items like the Ruff Cut Roast Beef (cold and rare, your choice of bread), Pastrami (fresh steamed) Pastrami or Turkey Reuben (with Swiss cheese, sauerkraut and Thousand Island on toasted rye) Avocado BLT, Roast Turkey (on multigrain with Swiss, bacon, alfalfa sprouts and cranberry mayo) are favorites. Other best sellers include the Chicken wrap (crispy or grilled) and Chicken Pita Pocket (blackened chicken, shredded cheddar, lettuce, tomato, bread and butter pickles and Boom Boom sauce) or the vegetarian wrap of avocado, lettuce, tomato, onion, cheddar, and ranch. You can add French fries, sweet potato fries, or onion rings to a sandwich for \$3 or as a side.

If nothing from the signature side sparks
CONTINUED ON PAGE 38



Fall Sangria, garnished with seasonal fruits, is a great cocktail to enjoy during any part of your experience at Annie's.

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Annie's Wedge Salad, an iceberg wedge with blue cheese crumbles, bacon blue cheese dressing, balsamic glaze, and tomatoes is a meal just as a salad but can be kicked up with added grilled or crispy chicken.

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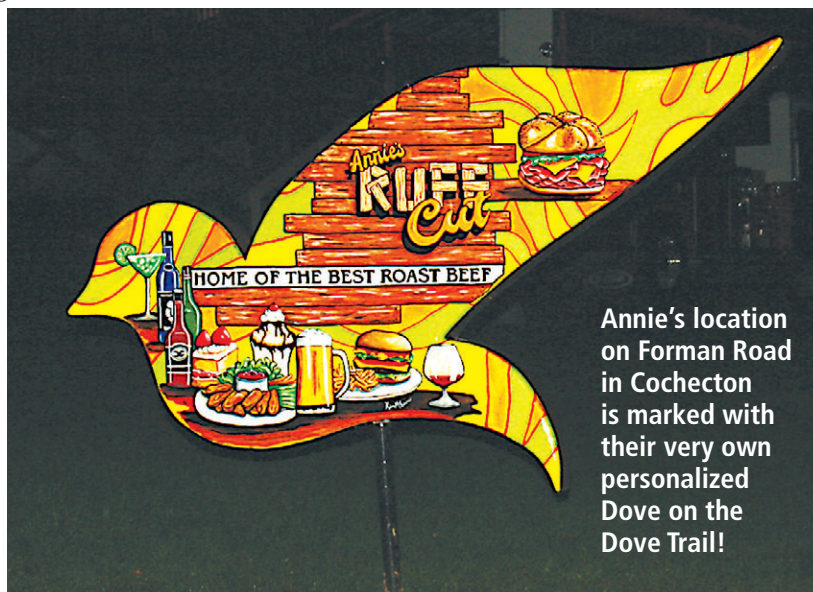
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your fancy, there Annie's offers a French dip or chicken bacon ranch panini, and a variety of burgers including the Cowboy burger (onion rings, cheddar, bbq sauce, bacon) Bacon Blue, Mushroom Swiss, Black Bean burger with Sriracha Mayo, or the Patty Melt (on grilled rye with Swiss, sautéed onions and side of 1000 island).

Round out your visit with a homemade or specialty dessert, with a variety of seasonal options to choose from.

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their website at anniesruffcut.com, or stop in at 90 Forman Road Cochection, NY (off of 17B before Fosterdale). Outdoor dining is available seasonally. Annie and all of the staff would love you to come in and enjoy, and you might meet a neighbor or new friend.



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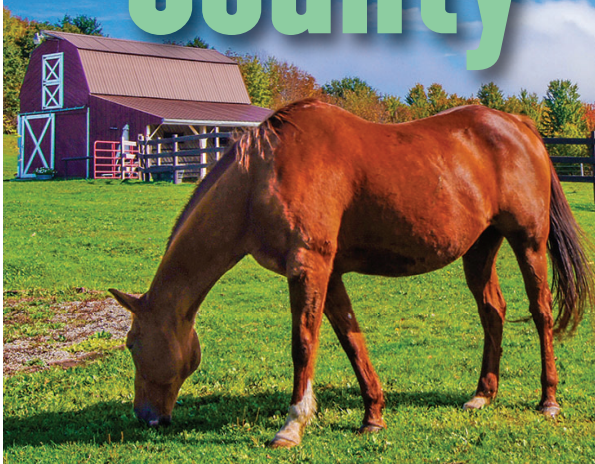
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Stop by the Marino's Outdoor World storefront to visit the 100 years of history still in the making at 95 E Front Street in Hancock.

Marino's Outdoor World enters 100th year

STORY AND PHOTOS BY DEREK KIRK

A long-standing staple of the town of Hancock, Marino's Outdoor World of Hancock in Delaware County, keeps family tradition alive as it entered into its 100th year of supplying the residents of Hancock and beyond with outdoorsmen products and more.

Originally, the store operated as only a fine clothing store. It was opened in 1922 by Dominic J. Marino, an Italian merchant who immigrated to the

United States at 17 years old, and whose early expertise in tailoring allowed him to start the business.

Before opening the store, Dominic entered into an apprenticeship at a tailor shop in New York City. In August of 1922, he purchased the store, which has since relocated to its present station, 95 E Front Street, Hancock, and officially opened later that same year.

Since then, the Marino family has continued on with owning and oper-



On display are original early 20th century calanders created by Dominic J. Marino, which still hang proudly on the walls at Marino's Outdoor World.

ating the store.

When Dominic passed away in his late 80s, the store transferred hands to his grandson, Donald in the mid-1980s. Following tradition, the store

stayed in the family.

In 1990, Donald's brother, John, and father, Donald Joseph, were brought on board to help with the store.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 46



Co-owner John Marino keeps a record of the past 100 years of documented history for shoppers to see immediately upon entry of Marino's Outdoor World. To the Marino's, history and family take top shelf.

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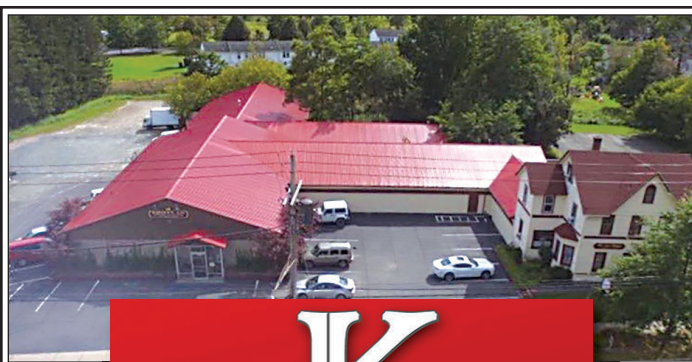
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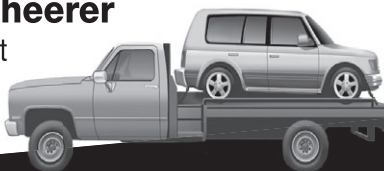
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Donald Joseph Marino passed away at the age of 82 on May 12, 2009.

Continuing the dreams of their grandfather and their father, current co-owners John and Donald have been running the store since.

The brothers have taken the helm with fresh ideas that honor the aged seniority of the original store.

“I am proud of my grandfather and my dad, who are always watching over me here, and that we’ve been able to stay in business this long and serve the community,” John said. “We do so many raffles and benefits for folks with cancer and fire departments. We have given a lot back

in the one hundred years to this town.” Under their guidance of 32 years, the store has grown from what it was. In addition to selling clothing, behind the shelves there are firearms for sale and an array of hunting and outdoorsmen products, with the spirit of service that has lasted a century.

John and his wife, Stacey, were recently married and share seven children among them. In the space beside the store, Stacey operates a fitness center called Empowered By You and is a personal trainer. More details for that service can be found on Facebook at Empowered By You Fitness, and contacted at EmpoweredbyYouFit-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 48

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SEE PAGES 44-46



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Co-owner of Marino's Outdoor World, John Marino, and his wife Stacey celebrated 100 years of the business serving the Hancock community.

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ness@gmail.com.

In addition to selling firearms and other products, the Marino's maintain a collection of antique weapons and other local relics that tell stories of local history, including musket rifles and other historic weaponry, and handmade 20th century calendars by Dominic Marino himself.

Not only does Marino's sell firearms in-house, but online as well at www.gunbroker.com.

To find their products and support local business, search on the website for "Marino."

Reflecting on his own family's personal struggles as well as maintaining the business through historic challenges like the Great Depression, World Wars, and other major events, John said proudly, "We've survived a lot."



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Pages 48-49



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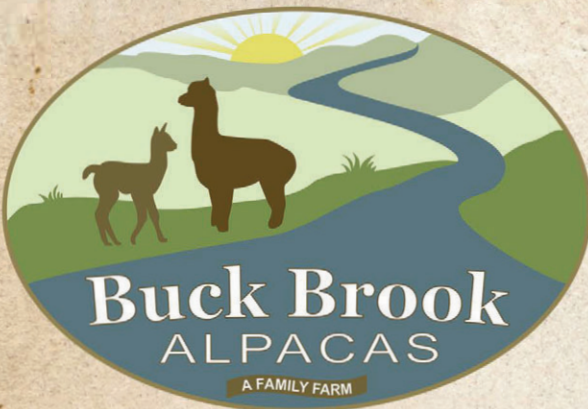
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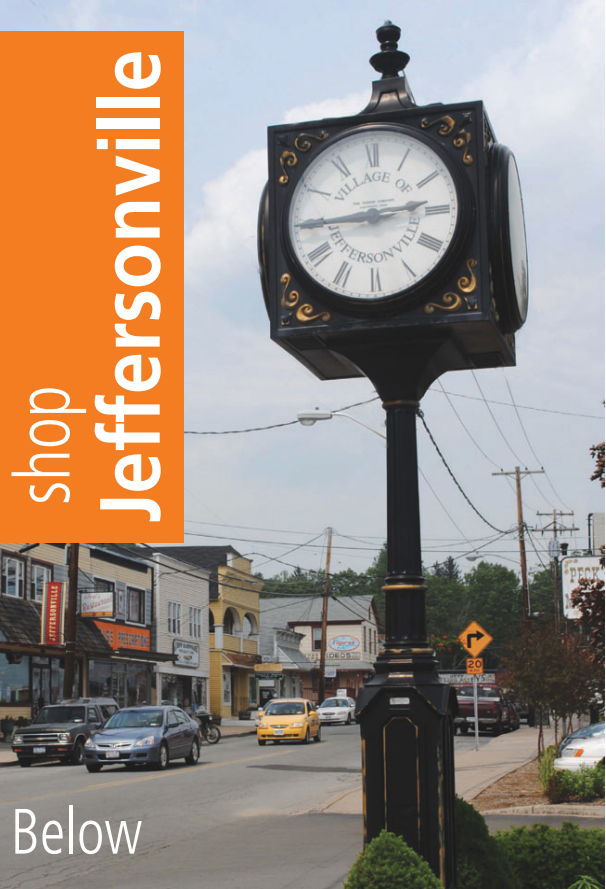
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Below



Still keeping watch over the store is a portrait of Dominic J. Marino, founder and original owner of what is now Marino's Outdoor World.

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Education and general history are also important to the Marino family as behind the shelves is a museum-level collection of antique weaponry and firearms with some even dating back to the American Revolutionary War!

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A tribute to Rod Smith; Friend, taxidermist, sports fan

Story and Photos by Fred Stabbert III

Rod Smith loved a good laugh and enjoying a good time, whether on the baseball diamond, at a hunting camp, at work or just having a beer with friends and teammates at a local watering hole.

This year will mark the first year that Rod Smith won't be reading the **Sullivan County Democrat** to see who is winning the newspaper's long-time Big Buck Contest.

"Rod was a true friend and he supported the contest full bore for more than 30 years," Democrat Publisher Fred Stabbert said. "My dad loved going into Rod's Taxidermy to tell Rod his hunting stories and catch up on all the local scoops.

"And we can't thank Rod enough for his 30-plus years of providing the free mount for the



Rod Smith

champion of the Big Buck Contest," Stabbert said. "What he did was make great memories for people for years to come."

Hal Roeder, who owns Buddenhagen Ford in Hortonville, knew Rod for close to 45 years.

"I started playing softball for Peck's Penguins when I was 15," Hal recalled. "We had some team, Rod Smith, Dave Sherwood, OB (Bill O'Brien), Jim Nichols, Lee Reimer, Frenchy (Pete LaFleur), Ricky Meyer, Bison (Bob Smith), Fran Henke, Bob Head, Ron Canfield..."

And the names go on.

Hal said those days were filled with great laughs and great times as the Western Sullivan Men's Softball League was a competitive group that played nearly 30 games a summer plus half a dozen weekend tournaments.

And Rod would be either at second base or right field, always ready.

A true baseball fan, Hal said Rod was looking forward to this year's Mets season.

Unfortunately, Rod passed away on April 18 at the age of 66.

Hal also knew Rod from deer hunting and Rod was the taxidermist who mounted many of Hal's trophy bucks, whether they were from Sullivan County or Nebraska.

"Just last week Chris (Rod's wife) came down to the house and gave me the picture of Rod and I when I won the Democrat," Hal said. "Chris said that Rod had that picture on their refrigerator for a long time – and now it's on mine."

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Rod was a long-time Callicoon businessman, owner and operator of Rod's Taxidermy for more than 30 years.

The shop first started in the back of D & K Sports Shop on Upper Main St., in the former Popolillo's Shoe Store, before moving to its present location on 17B.

"Rod operated the taxidermy studio and Don and Kathy Meckle had the sports shop," Louis Milucky, current owner of Rod's Taxidermy, remembered.

"Sometimes Donny would be out hunting or

Continued on next page



Hal Roeder, left, was all smiles when he received his Democrat Championship mount from Rod Smith after the 1997 deer season. This picture was on Rod's refrigerator for many years and now it is on Hal's, a tribute to their long and enduring friendship.

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fishing,” and Rod would watch over the store, too,” Louis said.

Louis remembered Rod as a handshake type of guy, whose word was his bond and who always had time for a friend.

Louis was working in Lander’s River Mart in the late 1990s when one day he walked into Rod’s Taxidermy with Rod’s coffee – he always delivered him coffee – and asked if he was hiring.

“I am hiring, but only part-time,” Rod said.

“That’s fine,” Louis said. “And the next day I had a job.”

Rod was old school.

Rod taught Louis the tricks of the trade, how to deal with customers and how to provide customers with outstanding mounts, no matter the game.

After about 8 or 9 years in the business Louis asked Rod if he would consider selling – and the rest is his history.

“Again, it was a handshake deal and a one-page contract,” Louis laughed. “I worked for three more years under Rod and then bought the business outright.”

That’s who Rod was.

Louis said Rod always had friends in the shop, including long-time fishing and hunting guide Bill Fraser, who loved to play jokes on Rod.

One day Bill brought in a remote fart machine and slipped the microphone into Rod’s jacket. When Rod



Rod Smith, left, and Don Meckle together for many years and in 1985 Rod mounted Don’s Democrat Champion buck, which scored a then-record 75.75.

was with a customer, Bill kept sounding the fart machine and the customer and Rod kept looking at each other.

“We had some laugh over that one,” Louis said. “When that customer left he told Rod he should try Roloids.”

We’re sure Rod laughed, too, and waited his turn to get back at Billy down the line.

A little more

Rod and his wife, Chris, lived in Tyler Hill, PA and after selling Rod’s Taxidermy, he owned Rod Smith Firewood and worked at Tyler Hill Camp.

He also was proud of his sons, Joshua and William, and coached them on their championship Little League teams when they were little.

Over the years, Rod enjoyed trips to Big Sky Country – Montana – to hunt and visit family.

And while he will no longer be measuring deer and mounting trophies for hunters throughout Sullivan County, the countless bucks he mounted are a constant reminder of his craftsmanship and will bring back many good memories for years to come.

God bless Rod.

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