

Open for Business

Country Restaurant Under New Ownership as Rické Len's



by Jane Wood

The closed *Country Restaurant* at 7604 Rte. 209, in the former **Grand Union Mall** in Napanoch, re-opened its doors on December 4th, 2002, as **Rické Len's Country Restaurant and Pizzeria**.

Open seven days a week, starting at 6:00 AM, for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, the restaurant is owned and operated by Desirée and Lenny Castro. Lenny, who does the cooking, is an experienced chef who previously cooked at two restaurants in Kingston. Desirée manages the front end of the restaurant.

Specialties of the house include everything from Greek and Italian favorites, to standard American fare such as steaks, hamburgers, seafood, and every variety of pizza. The restaurant is often full, and does a brisk take-out business as well, in spite of the current reduced number of other businesses in the shopping plaza.

The atmosphere at **Rické Len's** has a distinct family quality. Many of the diners are regulars who know each other, and people often go from table to table talking. One evening this past winter, some patrons started joking about who baked the best cake. Desirée decided to turn it into a contest, and a tradition was born! The restaurant now holds a competition every other week with customers bringing in their creations. Two non-participants judge the contest, and the winner receives a free meal. Recent contests have been for the best cake, pie, cookies, cheesecake, bread, and brownies. There has even been a men's baking competition!

On a recent Monday at 6:00 PM, the restaurant was completely packed; the atmosphere was friendly, and everyone seemed to be having a wonderful time. The contest that night was for the best fudge, and the winner was Brenda Van Leuvan from Boiceville.

Desirée and Lenny have kept on some employees from the old *Country Restaurant*, have brought in some staff they worked with in Kingston, and have also hired some new local people. Michael, who is going into the 11th grade at Ellenville, has worked at **Rické Len's** since April, and thinks it is a great place. With a warm atmosphere, friendly staff, and fresh and well-cooked food, the restaurant has been getting a lot of business from the *HITS* horse shows, as well as from summer and local residents. **Rické Len's** was recently featured on the "Taste of America" show at *HITS*.

For more info, contact **Rické Len's**, 647-2334.



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