

Greenville Local History Group Newsletter

May 2003, Issue 139

Greenville Slide Show

May proved to be a busy month for the GLHG with both the pot-luck dinner and the regular meeting within a week of each other. Both sessions drew about twenty-five, a sizeable turnout for us. (Forgive me for not recording the names for either meeting.)

The pot luck dinner saw many of the regulars, and many thanks go to Phyllis and Betty for making things go so smoothly. I hear Dave and Judy helped with the setting up, and thank you to both of you. No one went away hungry with all our culinary specialties. We probably could have fed almost half as much! I tried to be careful not to overeat but I had to have a piece of Betty's elderberry pie, for Ray Bennett's sake, of course. For those of you attending, May seemed to be a kinder month weather-wise for the pot-luck but it made for a busier month also, so when asked, be ready to suggest March or May for next year.

The regular meeting was a slide show presenting the history of Greenville, with about 90 slides of maps, typical events, familiar and long-gone structures, people, and other trends that shape Greenville. In addition to the 10-15 regulars, we had about 10-12 community members we usually don't see. I won't go into the slide by slide account but if technology ever gets within easy range that is both easier for me and manageable for community members to see, I should try to put something together that is viewable on the computer or Internet.

Our next meeting is June 9th, and will be a share session. Bring in a story, a clip-

ping, an artifact or two, or just come to listen.

This year's Greene County Home Tour is scheduled for June 7 for Greenville, appropriate for our bicentennial. Houses included the Prevost Manor, the Carlsen house, the Botsford/June Clark/Angle house, Episcopal Church, the former Ellis house, and the new house on the lake in the Greenville hamlet, the Dr. Karl house in South Westerlo, and the Freehold Church, Ruby's, and the Teator house in Freehold. Headquarters will be at the Library Community Room. Come on out and see the tour.

Included in this issue are copies of pages from a business directory that Rosemary Lambert gave to the files at the April meeting. The original document, a little worn for wear, measures about 9x12 so fitting two pages on one of my sheets is quite a reduction in size, but still readable I believe. As with other business directories, the names of the business tell a story that has become history in retrospect. This directory dates from about 1958 from what I could figure out. (If someone figures a very different figure, let me know.) (Also, not included in the re-copying are the covers – two women by the pool and an ad by the Game Farm.)

See you on the home tour, next meeting, or next mailing,

Welcome to Greene County!

This Business Guide is one of several projects being sponsored by the Greene County Unified Promotion Committee, as part of an overall program.

Other activities include advertising Greene County in metropolitan newspapers, the resort directories and the operation of an information booth near Catskill. The Resort Directories are available at the Greene County Information Booth, just a quarter of a mile west of Thruway exit 21.

We are glad that you are visiting this scenic, friendly vacationland of the Northern Catskills. Greene County will do its best to make your stay enjoyable. Resort owners and business people throughout the area will endeavor to serve your every need, to cater to your comfort and desire for rest and recreation.

Enjoy the ever-changing scenery, the good food, the clear mountain air, conviviality and good fun. We want your stay to be delightful and one that you will long remember with pleasure, so that you, like thousands of others, will want to return year after year.



Looking for Your

PLACE IN THE SUN

The Greene County

Unified Promotion Committee
Extends A Cordial Invitation

To Visit The

GREENE COUNTY

INFORMATION BOOTH

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Open Daily from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

— GREENE COUNTY —

As the tourist drives through our mountains he sees many comfortable farms, neat bungalows and livable homes. Villages have modern stores, museums and attractive churches. Homes are painted, kept up and there is a good standard of living. People are healthy, friendly and prosperous.

In the Catskills modern factories are located along the river; brick, clothing, auto, cigars, paper, and cement are manufactured; lumber, lime, fruits, farm and dairy products are shipped to large nearby cities. Much of the land is fertile and lends itself to ready cultivation—grains, apples, peaches, berries and small fruits. There are hilly lands for foresting and pasture lands for dairy and beef cattle. There are low, moist valleys along the river and creeks for truck gardens. Communications are logs with modern telephone and telegraph systems. The area is served by dependable electrical service and high power lines. Roads are excellent; most of them concrete, macadam or other hard surface. Bus lines connect with all large centers and school children ride to modern schools—schools that are staffed by competent faculties, have auditoriums, gyms and other up-to-date facilities.

The Catskills are the second largest recreational area on the eastern seaboard and contain 20% of the resort houses in all New York State. Often this area entertains 500,000 visitors in a season.

Many former vacationists have "Returned to the Catskills to buy homes. Taxes and cost of living are moderate. The Catskills are near enough to New York City and large cities near it to make a summer home within the reach of many families. A few acres of ground and a little house will be a source of health, comfort and security to such people. A small vegetable garden, some hens, a few trees and a couple

of deer, as in numerous seasons in the past, Greene County has prepared itself with customary hospitality to receive its annual, as well as perennial, summer guests. Resorts all over this beautiful county of New York State have been improved and spruced up to an unprecedented extent to assure the happiest-bound vacationist of an enjoyable and comfortable stay among our picturesque mountains and delightful countryside.

Thus, having gone to such length to provide our friends and guests both new and old, with the kind of a vacation the memory of which they shall long cherish, a word or two of advice which is intended to prevent their sojourn with us being marred by any unpleasantness, is surely not amiss.

And the advice is this: By all means, enjoy the countryside, as well as everything else our hospitable county has to offer; but, also "do practice safety!"

Bear in mind that, once you are off the State Highways, our county roads do wind and curve about and are not designed for speed. But this is the very thing which makes a drive through the countryside so attractive. There are no traffic signals to stop you, it is true, but open your eyes and let the scenery impress you sufficiently to induce you to go easy with the accelerator. Think that now you are on your vacation, away from the hustle and bustle of your fifty weeks of toil in the city, where you have had to catch trains and buses and Lord knows what else besides; and that, for a brief spell you can truly say as the sun rises: oh, Lord! it really doesn't matter whether I get there five minutes sooner or later. And mind

— GREENE COUNTY —

berries will provide much fresh food for the table. Besides it will prove a source of exercise for Dad or keep fresh Junior about Nature, forming excellent habits with regular duties. A lawn is not much trouble when once established and makes a small croquet field or a cushion for a refreshing siesta.

HISTORY

The Indians of the old Catskills were sub-tribes of the great Algonquin Nation, one branch from old burial grounds and the type of stone arrow-points found.

In the early 17th Century the banks of the Hudson were occupied by the Leni Lenape (Delawares) and the Mohicans. The head tribe of the Leni Lenape was the Minnis, who lived in the foothills of our Catskills, in parts that are now the dividing line of Greene and Ulster Counties. The Warranawongks were a subdivision of this tribe. These Indians lived in circular wigwams, ten to twelve feet in diameter. They raised corn, squash, tobacco, beans and sunflowers, cultivating their little plots of ground with the shoulder blades of moose or deer, or clam shells fastened to a stick of wood.

An old Indian trail followed the Catskill Creek from the Hudson River to the Schoharie Valley. Some traces of it may still be found.

The first "summer visitor" to the Catskills was Hendrick Hudson when he anchored north of Catskill on the evening of September 15, 1609, while sailing up the river that now bears his name. His ship was the "Half Moon," an eighty-ton capacity ship of the Dutch East India Company. Hudson, like most of the sailors of that time, was seeking a shorter route to the Indies, and little realized he had found a fertile countryside that would one day become one of the first centers of agriculture and manufacturing in Eastern New York.

— TAKE IT EASY! —

You these extra five minutes which you can now afford to expend in practicing safe driving, judiciously as they may appear, do present you with all these possibilities. They may prevent a deified fender which surely is an annoyance to say the least, or more serious damage to your car, or even injury to your person, an occurrence which may utterly ruin the two weeks of vacation, relaxation and recreation you have looked forward to with so much yearning during the other fifty weeks of the year.

And your reward for taking it easy on our country roads? We assure you it is rich; because you will view our beloved country with renewed interest, no matter how often you have been here already, for it rarely pays to pause to watch a fleecy cloud sailing serenely across the sky and to admire the pattern of its shadows as it moves down mountain top to embrace the valleys below. Or, you may see a partridge here and there, a chipmunk or a squirrel scurrying along a stone wall or up a tree. Viewing you with the same interest as you are viewing them, or you may even encounter a deer which crosses the road, in search for greener pastures, and which may pose for you if you take the trouble to slow down. And, too, you may also miss hitting a skunk, that was too slow to get out of your way and then, instead of your car being scratched by your friends and enemies alike in case you had hit him, you can walk him, black and white as he is, waddle into the bushes.

So please, for your sake and ours, and all the birds and animals with which our country abounds and which are also God's children, do take it easy when you are behind the steering wheel. Enjoy yourself while you are in Greene County and do come back, again. It was so nice to have had you with us!

CAIRO

Nestling peacefully at the foot of old Blackhead in the Catskills lies the Township of Cairo, comprising the Villages of Cairo, South Cairo, Acra, Purding and Round Top. Here you will find a modern central school, a variety of stores which provide shopping facilities equal to large communities, a movie theatre and Catholic and Protestant Churches.

How the Town Received Its Name

It is interesting to note how the town received its name. As was said previously tanning was one of the first occupations in this locality. This required a great quantity of hides. The thrifty New England people could not see the trees left after they had been denuded so they began making stave piles which were sold far and wide. It was only natural that the place bank on a creek should be called Shinglekill or the place of shingles on the creek. In 1800, the people who submitted the name of the name of Canton but when they submitted the name it had already been adopted to another locality. In 1803 the name of Cairo was chosen which was to be pronounced Kairo making it distinct from other places of the same name.

Some 100 years ago the people of the community entered their livelihood from the forests and farms. The streams were dotted with tanneries and paper mills. Water was the main source of power. Today, the millwheels have all disappeared and the streams have been well stocked with fish and offer a haven to the thousands of followers of Isaac Walton who visited our area each year.

In this summer season, the vacationist is able to choose any type of accommodations he may wish. There is a wide scope of modern resorts accommodating 100 to 200 guests; the smaller resort accommodating 15 to 20 guests; resorts with private bath, swimming pools and recreation facilities of every type.

Cabins and hotels line the highway and offer the most modern accommodation. Cottages are also available for the family who may wish to spend their vacation in our area. All these modern accommodations are at reasonable rates.

The scenery is unsurpassed. For those who wish to motor, there are miles of concrete and macadam roads leading through mountain coves and passes while a breath taking panorama unfolds on either side. For the hiker, there are the lava beds, Shingokill Falls, Polly's Rock and many other natural beauty spots that are well worth visiting, including Point Lookout from which location five States may be seen. For those who have more endurance and enjoy mountain climbing, there are well marked trails leading to the top of Round Top and Blackhead Mountain.

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Cairo 9-9616

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Cairo 9-9551

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LUNCHEONETTE
Newspapers - Souvenirs
Cairo, N. Y. Cairo 9-940

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ROLLER RINK - PARTIES
Purling, N. Y. Cairo 9-998

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DEPARTMENT STORE
And 5 and 10
Cairo, N. Y. Cairo 9-249

HOTEL WALTERS
HOTEL - RESTAURANT
Coffee Shoppe
2 Acra Parking Area
Cairo, N. Y. Cairo 9-230

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GROCERIES - MEATS
HOUSEWARES
Cairo, N. Y. Cairo 9-241

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ITALIAN BAKERY
Athens, N. Y. Hudson 8-310

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YONKERS HOTEL
Hotel - Bar and Grill - Soda Fountain
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Cairo, N. Y. Cairo 9-9871

GREENVILLE

Greenville is a progressive section with an interesting historical background. The Township consists of the village of Greenville Center, Norton Hill, Freshford, Surprise, Grapeville and Lamb's Corners. The Greenville settlement was begun by Augustine Provost in 1794. A native of Geneva, Switzerland but educated at Harrow, England, where he became an officer in the British army. Later a patriot and soldier of our own Revolutionary army. In 1794 he was considered the patron of Greenville.

EARLY ROAD AND R.R. DEVELOPMENT

The Catskill and Catskill Railroad was started in 1836, but only reached Cobleskill. It was made of wooden rails capped with iron straps. It was not a success. It is possible to follow miles of the old road-bed along the Catskill Creek today.

You are invited to visit us any time of the year. Spring is more definite during April and you will feel the age old slowness of its approaching. You will drink in the balmy air and thrill at the songs of returning birds, green buds and grass or finding a wild-flower in some sheltered, mossy nook. You'll spend hours in one of our many rapid-running streams, fishing or just lazing on the sunny bank. You'll see the new additions to farm-animals: calves, lambs, kittens and fluffy baby chicks. Your farmer friend is setting busy and you'll marvel at the clean furrow turned by the plow and smell the richness of newly-turned earth. "See, it's great to be alive!" May brings the apple blossoms—pink, white and fragrant; lilacs around most of the older homes; violets in full, the gullies, Robins, bluebirds, swallows and song sparrows fill the day with cheery notes and gay colors. Gardens seem to grow over night and you'll get a kick out of planting some vegetables and seeing them lift green sprouts in a 15-20-hour days.

You'll be able to go for a swim or two early in June. Warm days, while long in a hammock you'll hear the soothing clack-clack of a lawnmower, that is if you're not out there pushing it yourself. Fields will be spotted with daises and buttercups and every downward will have its quota of roses. It's great to take a spin in a car. Maybe you'll go roving or play a few rounds of golf. Or perhaps get some marshmallows and hot dogs and go on a picnic. Evenings are long and glorious and as the moon said, "What is so rare as a day in June?"

One of the favorites, months in Greenville is October. All Nature seems dressed in her gayest robes. The first frosts turn the woodlands and mountain sides, into a kaleidoscope of color: orange, red, yellow and subtle shades of brown. The air is brisk and bracing and the sky very blue. There is a true autumn feeling in the air. Grapes are hanging in purple clusters, nuts are mature, choice winter apples are put out and corn is put into shocks.

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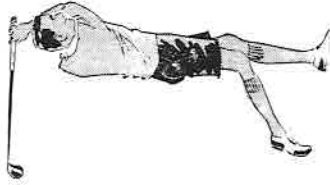
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In The Land Of Rip Van Winkle

A New Song

By BON WALKER

In the Land of Rip Van Winkle
Where the mountains kiss the sky
And the old man with the whiskers
Rubs his lanky, winky eyes
Where the sunshine lights the valley
And the hearts of John and Jane
And the fireflies hang lanterns
Over paths to lovers' lane
Night and noon, sweethearts spoon
'Neath the sun and the moon
Happiness never ends—
Strangers meet and leave as good friends

In the Land of Rip Van Winkle
Where the mountains kiss the sky
In the Land of Rip Van Winkle
That's where you'll find Paradise.

Rich was a bit envious. "What's this I hear," she asked,
about your having a seductive perfume to suit the men?"
—That's right," Grace answered. "I took corned beef and
cabbage for them."

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If you have never seen Greene County, come and see it!
If you have seen it, see it again—
It is one of the Beauty Spots of New York State!

The Dan'l Boone of the Catskills was Barney Bluff. Born near Hensenville in 1759 he was a man of powerful physique and a build that made the maidens swoon. He established the reputation of being a mighty hunter and trapper. He captured over 100 black bears and killed countless wildcats and many wolves.

WHAT TO SEE OF INTEREST

Greene County

Bronek House: Near Coxsack. Headquarters for the Greene County Historical Society. Built about 1663 by the family for whom the Bronx is named.

Carson City: "A Roofin' Toothin' Cowboy Town" where East meets West. Lots of action—plenty of entertainment.

Catskill Game Farm: Outstanding attraction. Animals and birds from all parts of the world. You can walk among the deer and ibex. A wonderful experience for the entire family. Situated high on a mountain side between Palenville and Cairo (Route 23).

Catskill Mt. State Park: At North Lake. One of New York's finest forest preserves, with miles of well marked hiking trails—camp sites—well stocked lake for fishing. Grandest hotels ever built here. Built in 1925, high above the valley near the edges of North Lake. Commands a spectacular view. Once visited by presidents and crowned heads who reached the summit by an elevating railway.

Colonel's Chair: A natural formation on a majestic mountain.

Durham Center Museum: See Little Red School House.

Golf Courses:
Catskill Country Club
Palenville Country Club
Greenville Country Club
Windham Country Club

Haines Falls: Falls drop 180 feet into the Palenville Gorge in a scene of exquisite beauty.

Kaaterskill Falls: In the Kaaterskill Creek Palenville.

Leeds Bridge: Stone arched bridge, the oldest bridge in state in continual use. Stage coaches rumbled over this bridge in 1760.

Little Red School House: You can step back a century or more in "Yesteryear" if you stop at the little museum on Route 145, north of East Durham. The Durham Center Museum is open during the summer, on Sundays, and Naturalist Vernon Haskins is glad to show you the collection of early Americana housed in this quaint, little-red-school-house of bygone days. No charge is made; voluntary contributions help defray the costs of maintenance; the proceeds.

Point Lookout: On the Mohican Trail (Route 23), one of the finest views in the Catskills. View of five states. Near East Windham.

Rip Van Winkle Bridge: Impressive steel span carries Route 23 from the New England states into Greene County vacationland. At Catskill, the county seat.

Rip Van Winkle Trail: Route 23A, Catskill to Prattsville. Winds up the mountain, around Horseshoe Curve. Breathtaking scenery and Greene County's own Grand Canyon.

What to Do!

A quick look at the map on the opposite page will show you that you are in an area where there is lots to see and do, right here in the Catskill Mountain Vacationland of Greene County.

But more than that, all our area businesses have been preparing for your summer visit. Our resort and motel owners have been making improvements, this year spending more than \$1,000,000 in getting ready just for this season.

Area merchants have stocked their shelves with the kind of souvenirs you will want to bring home.

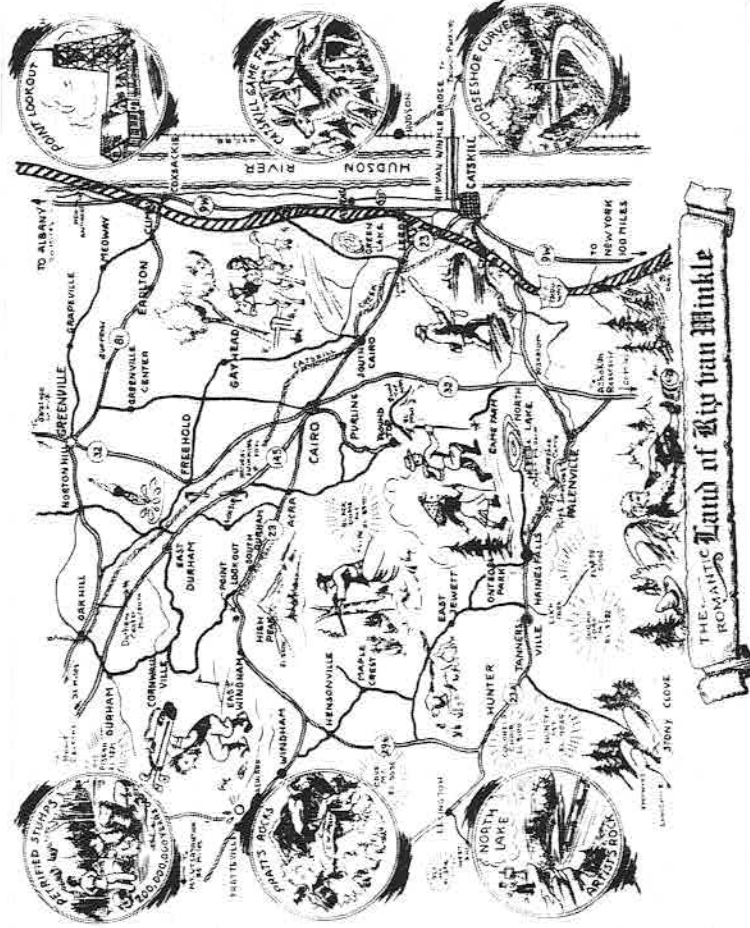
Entertainment, direct from Broadway, has been provided at some of the better known resort casinos while our restaurants and taverns await your visit with the friendly greeting that is Greene County.

If you are one of these motorists tired of traveling from area to area, pin-point yourself on our Vacation Time map. See how many things there are to do, right here, all within an easy hour's drive or less.

We hope you will plan to stay with us. And more than that, return again. The resort business is important to Greene County, and our vacationists are important to us.



Scenic Greene County In The Northern Catskills



Many Points of Interest Within Short Radius of Greene County

The following points of interest, which rank among New York State's finest, are within a few minutes or a few hours' drive from Greene County.

	Miles
Albany—State Capitol—Education Building	28
Beauregard Mt. Scenic Chair Life	58
Copertown (Baseball Hall of Fame and Farmer's Museum)	75
Howe Caverns	45
Hyde Park (Roosevelt Home and National Shrine)	50
Saratoga Springs Race Track, Spa and Raceway	65
Theacher State Park (Indian Ladder)	25

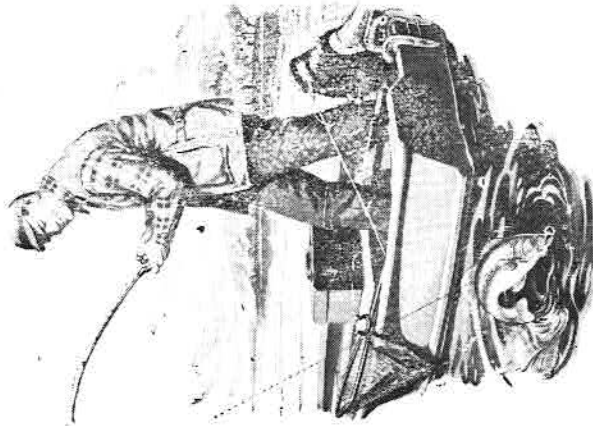
CATSKILL

Catskill is located in Greene County in the picturesque foothills of the famous Catskill Mountains, and is the gateway to the wonderful scenic area stretching to the West. This section has ever been the mecca for the vacationist seeking rest, recreation and a change from the turmoils of city life. Its location on the west bank of the famous majestic Hudson, with the high rolling hills on all sides, gives it a romantic and a pleasing panorama of quiet green valleys on the one hand, surrounded by the high mountain peaks of the Catskills, making it an ideal area for the vacationist.

Excellent highways emanating from Catskill, lead through the historic land of Rip Van Winkle and over the lofty mountain peaks of the glorious Catskills.

Score of excellent hotels and summer resorts dot the pleasing county-side, offering to the vacationist and tourist alike, accommodations considered to be superior in cost and attractiveness.

Motels, cabins and housekeeping bungalows, with up to the minute appointments are available to the fastidious traveler.



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NATURE NOTES - Vernon Haskins

To those of you who love to delve into the past, the Catskills offer a rich ground for the student of geology and paleontology. Fossilized remains of the oldest known forests were found in the Catskills and form a unique exhibit at the State Museum at Albany. In my collection are some excellent specimens of a club cross tree estimated to be more than 250,000,000 years old. Indisputable proof of the glacial and ice age; and the fact that this land was once all under water, is written in the tell-tale shell imprints found on our highest mountains. To one who earnestly studies and searches, rich finds await the fossil hunter in the Devonian rocks and the so-called red-beds of the Catskills.

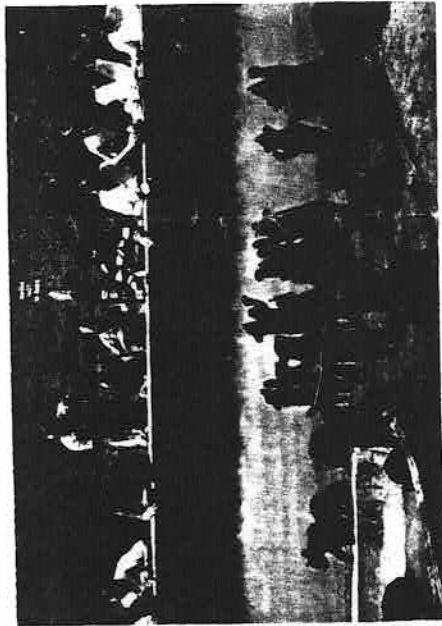
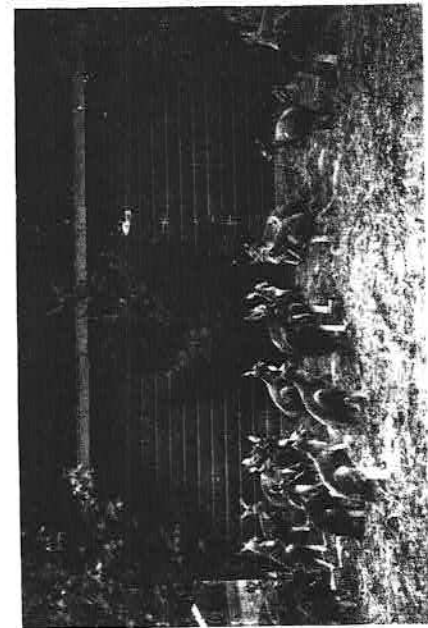
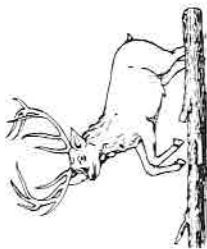
To the prospective archaeologist the past, Indian history will prove attractive. The Hudson and Schoharie Valleys, on either side of the region are rich in Indian history. The Catskill Valley, connecting the two, was once well trod by muscular feet of the red men as they waged war or traded in peace.

The pioneer history of the Catskills will go down in annals as a monument to those who wrested from a wilderness, a home and a livelihood. Hardy settlers from all over the world, fleeing from oppression, found in the Catskills a peace and contentment that must have well repaid them for any sacrifice they made.

Until you have stood on a hill top and seen the sun in all its glory, arriving to herald a new day, or marvel in its beauty at the day's departing, you have truly missed much of the richness of life. With all due respects to a beautiful, beautiful America, I honestly believe that no greater variety of all the beauties of life are to be found than here in the Catskills of Rip Van Winkle.

At the
Catskill Game Farm
 See the Largest Collection of
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The Catskill Game Farm is the principal supply base of horned and hoofed animals for zoological gardens and public parks. It supplies, imports and exports animals for the largest zoological gardens and societies in the world.



During the summer months when animals are giving birth and bucks have soft antlers and are in velvet, the shipping of animals is discontinued. It is therefore that we have, upon the demands of thousands of visitors, opened our Farm to the public.

We are the only mountain zoo exhibiting over 1,000 animals, out of which 300 are bottle-raised, so that you can pet and feed them. Never before, to our knowledge has any attempt been made by any zoological park or private enterprise to tame and domesticate such a great variety of wild animals and then have them roam freely in spacious feeding grounds, mingling with visitors. Due to improper feeding by well-meaning visitors we occasionally lose some of our tame pets, but we have had as many as 327 tame, bottle-raised animals—deer, five species of antelope, live species of mountain sheep, llama, alpacas, guanacos, bison, yaks and monkeys, all roaming happily and greeting the visitor to the Catskill Game Farm. All of our animal friends are well cared for, hence there is no fighting among them and we have made an attempt to teach them well-behaved manners when coming in contact with our visitors.

The Catskill Game Farm is quite different from anything you have ever seen, because you see the most unusual collection of animals, unafraid of man. You walk among them, pet and feed them. As for children—there is almost every club—tennis, fire engine rides, merry-go-round. You will agree with us, there is just nothing like it and you, too, will enjoy it, like thousands of others.

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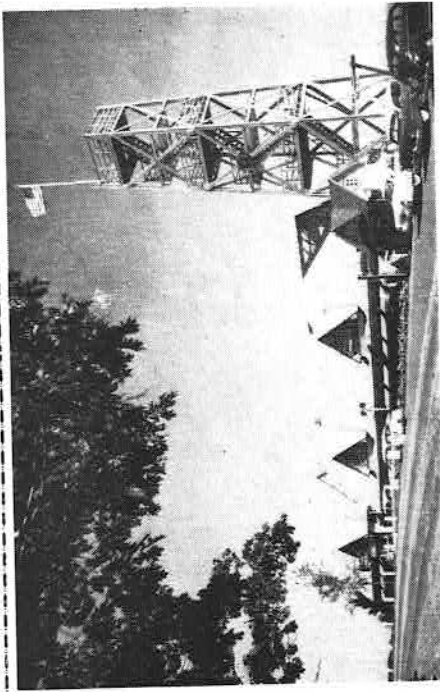
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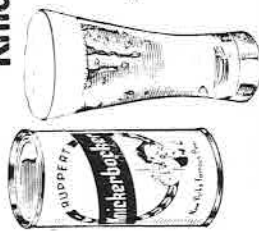
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