



FAQ / Trivia

WHERE DOES THE NAME COME FROM?

In England a “Cock ‘n Bull” is as common a name as a Steak ‘n Ale or Peanut Butter ‘n Jelly. It is more or less a local place, appealing to a meat ‘n potatoes crowd. An owner might attach the family name to the sign, e.g. Smith’s Cock ‘n Bull.

WAS THE RESTAURANT ONCE A BARN?

You bet it was! Built around 1852, it was the main building of a dairy farm that operated for over 100 years. The house next door was once the residence of the Simboli family that originally ran the farm.

DOES BILL TRUESDALE STILL OWN THE COCK ‘N BULL?

No, he does not, and actually, he never did. He once owned this property, however, and an abandoned barn. He sold it all to Don Staber who in-turn contracted Truesdale and the Wielt brothers to help renovate the barn into a restaurant and opened for business in 1976. Staber was the sole proprietor for 20 years.

WHAT’S IN THE BAG?

If you happen to be in the main dining room, look up at the highest beam in the front of the room. Up near the fireplace, way above the two round tables, there is a paper bag. It has been there since 1976 when George Palmateer accidentally left a bag of nails in that spot while working on the renovations. Since our work here is never quite finished, we feel it is appropriate to keep the bag in the place where George left it.

WHAT’S THE STORY ABOUT THE PLAYING CARD?

You may see a 5 of Clubs in the dining room on a high beam below the bag of nails. The story behind the playing card occurred when we hosted a wedding rehearsal dinner for Pat DiCerbo, a longtime friend of The Cock ‘n Bull (and former dishwasher). Pat had invited a magician/comedian from Las Vegas who, during his act, pulled a playing card from a full deck and threw it halfway across the dining room. It hit the beam with a flash and a puff of smoke and stayed there. He told the lady sitting directly below it to look up and verify that it was her telephone number written on the card... and indeed it was!



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WHO IS THE CHEF?

Michael Staber. Originally from Amsterdam, NY, Mike took over the operation of the Cock 'n Bull kitchen in 1981 after having already worked here for the previous five years. Mike took over the kitchen on **April Fool's Day** – appropriately so for those who know him! Mike is the Wizard Behind the Curtain who makes it all happen here.

IS THAT YOUR CAT?

Not really. More accurately stated, we are the cat's indentured help. He showed up one summer and enamored himself to the wait staff. Now has all of us taking care of him as he resides on the grounds and upstairs in the office. Named "Cheech" by Chef Mike. Feared by mice.

WHAT IS THAT MACHINE IN THE BACKYARD?

If you happen to be seated on the porch with a view of the backyard and stonewall, you may be wondering what that old contraption is on the North end of the wall. Well, it happens to be an old sausage stuffer. You are welcome to take a look at it if you'd like. It was made in Philadelphia, PA in the 1800's and retired in Galway, NY.

WHAT'S THE STORY BEHIND THE WOODEN CHAIN?

Over the counter, or bar, that separates the pub from the "lounge" there is a chain carved of wood – one piece of wood to be accurate. It was carved by owner Rick's friend, Ev Hartman (known as "Coach" or "Pops" to any kid who ever played baseball in Galway). Ev gave the chain to Rick as a gift for his 18th birthday. Not so long ago, a friend of Rick's posed a question to him, "If this place ever caught fire – everybody making it out safely – and you had a chance to rescue one artifact from the walls, what would you save?" There was no hesitation in Rick's answer, "Ev's chain."

IS THE PICTURE OVER THE FIREPLACE MANTLE A PAINTING OF THIS BARN?

Yes. It was done in 1976 by Sandra Brown, then a Galway resident. It was commissioned by Rick's father 'n given to original owner Don Staber on opening night that same year. The small photo next to it is of Rick 'n his dad picking up the painting at Sandy's home for delivery. Another gorgeous painting of this barn hangs directly in front of the hostess station. It was gifted to the restaurant by local artist Rachel Kitchen a few years ago. She had painted the picture before the renovations began and had it in her studio for years. Rachel was waiting for the right time to bring it down.