

# Road Kill Cafe Attracts Fun-Loving Clientele

**LINDA WILLIAMS**  
*Bedford Co. Correspondent*  
**ARTEMAS** (Bedford Co.) — Way back in 1985, Barbara Snider had a dream to open a country store in picturesque, but very rural, Artemas located in Mann Township.

Artemas is 27 miles south of the small town of Everett and about 20 miles north of Cumberland, Maryland. It might best be described as in the middle of nowhere.

Passersby are usually on their way to one town or the other for various chores or shopping expeditions. In the fall, Mann Township becomes a haven for leaf peakers and hunters. The Potomac River is nearby for fishing.

Prior to the store, there wasn't any place to purchase even a store-bought lunch in the area.

Barbara saw the need for a lunch place. She loved to cook, so she put a few picnic tables in the back of the store and began to sell some sandwiches, homemade soup, and her speciality, home-baked pies.

When her son, Mike, came into the business with her, he persuaded her to add more picnic tables and broaden her menu.

Her fun-loving clientele were delighted to have an "eaten" place in Artemas and, for a practical joke, found a piece of old barn wood and painted the words, "Road Kill Cafe" on it. Barbara was so amused, she hung the sign and thus, a "star" was born.

Barbara expanded her menu even more by offering daily specials and a line of giftware with the slogan Road Kill Cafe printed boldly on the shirt fronts, ball caps, and coffee mugs.

A fun menu offers such items as "Center Line Bovine Tastes real good, straight from the hood;" "Flat Cat," "Collie Hit by a Trolley," and "Round of Hound."

A daily special treat was "Guess That Mess" and late night delights included rack of raccoon, smear of deer, awesome possum, or cheap sheep. A wall full of road kill memorabilia and cartoons donated by guests help decorate the walls.

Barbara and Mike's real menu offers simmering pots of homemade soups and stews. Sausage gravy and biscuits is to die for. Monday offers hot roast beef sandwiches, Thursday, it's ribs, and Friday, fish and chicken, baked beans, and macaroni and cheese. Once or twice a year, fresh rabbit, bought from local growers, is offered.

Everything is homemade and Barbara does all of the pie baking herself.

"I make about 50 pies per week," she said.

Some days no pies are served; instead, an employee makes a special homemade dessert.

Mike and Barbara attend local county fairs at Alleghany and Bedford and purchasing most of their meat from the ribbon-winning "on the hoof" animals shown by local kids.

During the summer months, fresh vegetables and fruits are purchased from local farmers.

"We try to keep as much business in the area as possible," Barbara said. They have 15 part-time employees.

Word of mouth spread the word of the Road Kill Cafe located in an area so difficult



**Mike and Barbara Snider, mother and son, own the Road Kill Cafe.**

to find even a map isn't much help. Half the fun is undoubtedly getting there.

"We get folks from everywhere," Barbara said.

In one week, they had two couples driving from Glen Burnie, near Washington D.C.; a square dance group from Altoona, and other guests from Frostburg, Bedford, and Needmore. There are busloads of senior citizens who come for the afternoon and church groups who come for an outing.

Hours are 8 a.m. until 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Breakfast is served until 10:30 a.m. Sunday hours are noon until 2:30 p.m. but no hot food is served.

The retirees from Potomac Edison meet at the Road Kill on a regular basis and sometimes a social group or perhaps a group of visiting nurses will hold a meeting lasting most of the afternoon.

"We love these groups, they are so interesting," Barbara said. There are many birthday or anniversary parties held here.

Hunting season brings a bounty of customers and some choose to stay at the Snider cabins, which rent for \$25 a day and are far from primitive with air conditioning, heat, refrigerators, microwave ovens, and primestar television. They also have several

campsites. Green Ridge and Buchanan State Forests are only five minutes away.

Last summer, the Sniders added an ice cream shop.

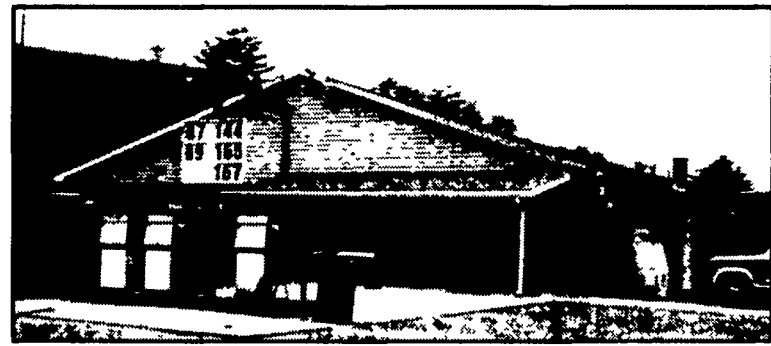
The store offers general food, hardware, guns ammunition, hunting and fishing licenses and all sporting supplies.

Barbara and Matt have proven the age-old adage: "Build a better mousetrap and the world will beat a path to your door."

It might be a difficult path to follow, but Road Kill Cafe is that good — people find it.

For reservations for groups of ten or more call (814) 784-3257.

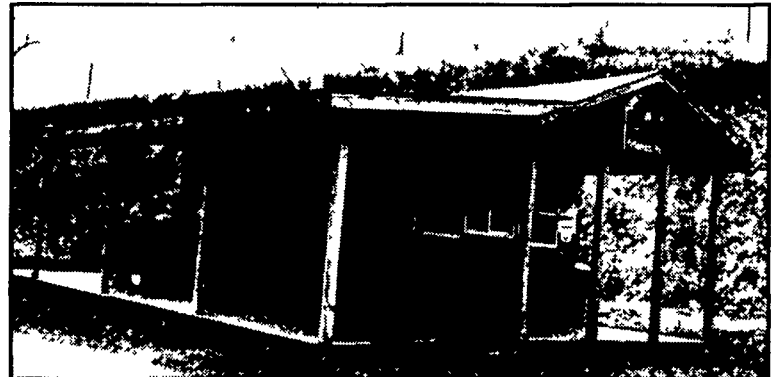
Directions from Breezewood:



**An outside view of the Road Kill.**



**Customers eat inside the Road Kill Cafe.**



**The ice cream stand was added last year.**

Follow Route 30 to Everett. Take Route 26 south. At Clearville, do not follow Route 26, but go straight ahead. Take the first right past the Clearville school and stay on the main road to the Fairview Church. This will be about 25 miles. At the church, turn right and stay on the main

road (the road will veer to the left, do not go straight ahead). Road Kill is on the right. It is about two miles from the church.

From Maryland, take 68 west to scenic route 40.

Turn left on Green Ridge Road and look for Road Kill on the left.

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