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HI HO – OLDE SILVER

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MANALAPAN: After nearly 27 years of service to its loyal customer base, The Olde Silver Tavern located at 149 Freehold-Englishtown Road, Manalapan, Monmouth County, New Jersey has been sold, as reported by *Richard R. Santore of Bielat Santore & Company, Allenhurst, New Jersey*, the broker for the sale.

Ludwig “Lou” Von der Fecht, the founder and proprietor of the Olde Silver Tavern, decided to give up the reigns at age 75 and retire. At the closing, when the sale was finally completed, Lou said “I don’t know whether to be happy or to cry,” states *Santore*. The Olde Silver Tavern has been Lou’s life’s work since he purchased a piece of land, an old farm house, and a liquor license in the middle of nowhere in the late 70’s, and as the years went by, transformed it into one of the most popular eating and drinking establishments in Monmouth County.

The restaurant was sold to a local businessman and restaurateur, George Sapirstein. Mr. Sapirstein lives in Manalapan and is very familiar with the Olde Silver Tavern. “I received a telephone call one day from George,” continues *Santore*. “We had been talking on and off about possible acquisitions. When I picked up the telephone George said, ‘Rich I hear the Olde Silver Tavern is for sale and I want to buy it.’ Five months later, he is the new owner.”

For those who have not been there, which I take are very few within the State of New Jersey, The Olde Silver Tavern is a bustling bar and restaurant with seating for 250. The menu is traditional “tavern-style” with its signature item being a tender, juicy, fresh-cut, thick Delmonico steak. “The Olde Silver Tavern sells the hell out of those steaks. Every time I’ve been there 3 out of 5 dishes are steak dishes,” states the new owner. But in addition to steaks, the restaurant is well-known for its pizza, burgers and ice cold beer.

Situated in western Monmouth County, the Olde Silver Tavern draws most of its clientele from the Freehold, Manalapan, Marlboro and Englishtown marketplaces. But many guests travel from as far away as Bergen and Atlantic counties to grab a steak and a cold beer. “The place has been a restaurant phenomenon for years, and under the tutelage of George Sapirstein, I can only see it getting better over the next 27 years,” finishes *Santore*.