

# PIKE COUNTY DISCOUNT

THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 2004

MILFORD, PIKE COUNTY, PA 18337

No. 29

## Rohman's Olympics A Guy Thing

By Tara Cleary

**SHOHOLA** — It was all about the men at the 18th Annual Men's Winter Olympics held at Rohman's Inn in Shohola Saturday.

The event has grown from a simple cheesecake contest with a bowling tournament and foot race in its first year, to a complete day of revelry for most participants and spectators.

There are normal male-inspired contests like horseshoes and tossing a keg and some unique contests created for the event like bed races and four man skiing. The food contest has also grown to include four categories, a dessert (this year sponge cake), a main course (this year ravioli), a side dish (this year garlic bread) and a smoked meat (this year venison).

Amid the controlled chaos, owner of Rohman's Inn said the Olympics

has turned into the largest event that Rohman's puts on each year and provides a fun break from the winter. The crowd was well over 200 with cars lining the streets of

Farrell explained some of the

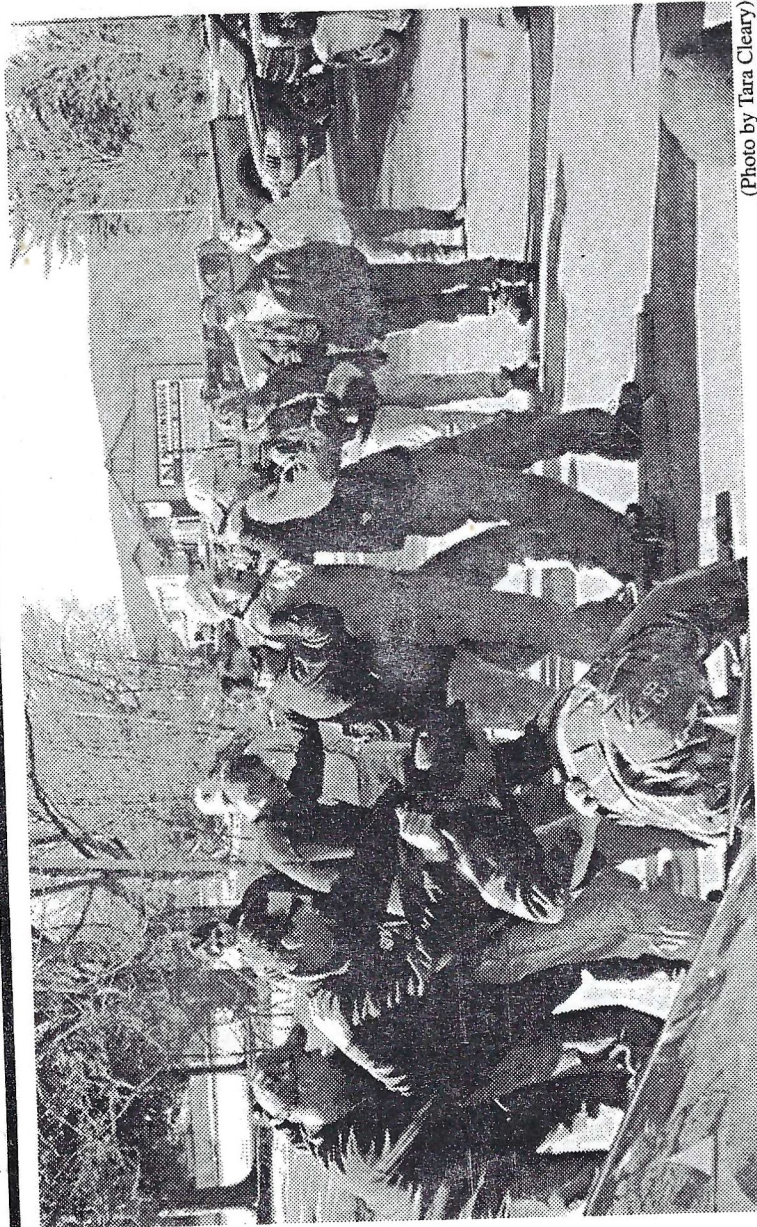
"downtown" Shohola. Farrell said she loves putting the event on, and it has turned into so much fun for the participants and spectators she couldn't think of not doing it.

Farrell explained some of the

Turning is not easy when you are "skiing" on two-by-fours, like these manly men participating in the Men's winter Olympics in Shohola Saturday.

unique contests. The bed race is a team of five men, with a bed on wheels, four push, one rides and they race from Narrowsburg Lumber to the front door of Rohman's.

(Continued on page 3)



(Photo by Tara Cleary)

## ...Olympics

(Continued from page 1)

The fastest team wins.

Another popular event is the four man skiing, this is where four men, stand on two 2-by-4's fashioned into skis and in unison must get from the bank around the corner to the front door of Rohman's in the fastest time. The corner is what kills it for most teams where generally they end up piled on top of each other.

There is also the Rohman's version of a triathlon, where the participant shoots a BB gun and an arrow through a target, then must run into the bar and drink beer. Whoever completes the tasks in the fastest times wins.

The Olympics is also a nice revenue generator to help the Inn through the long cold winter. But in 1849, Rohman's is not what you would call energy efficient. Originally known as the Shohola Glen Hotel and became known as Rohman's when Art Rohman bought the Inn and ran it from 1906 until his death in 1971. There is a long, colorful history regarding Rohman's that is accessible in a scrapbook down in the bar area for anyone interested.

# Rohman's Olympics smashing

By DAVID HULSE

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SHOHOLA, PA — With the 18<sup>th</sup> annual Olympic competition underway last Saturday, there wasn't a parking space to be found within a quarter-mile of Rohman's Tavern.

An overflow crowd at the Civil War-era pub poured out onto Rohman Road and across the tracks where competitions were underway throughout the afternoon.

Some of them included the "keg toss," heaving an empty metal beer half-keg container; "Polish Skiing," four contestants trying, often unsuccessfully, to synchronize their racing gate with their feet strapped to boards; the "triathlon" a timed event, including shooting a BB gun, a bow and arrow and drinking a 32-

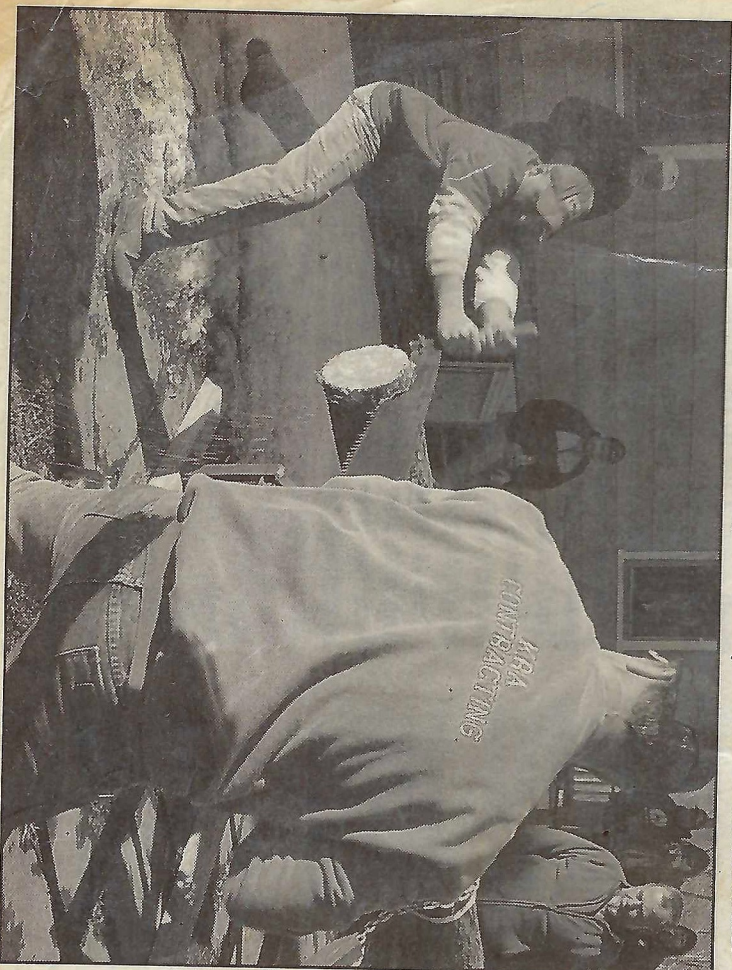
ounce container of beer.

Rohman's owner Sheila Farrell said it all began with a cheesecake baking competition, for something to do on a winter weekend. "The first year, we had the cheesecake, a bowling competition and two guys ran a foot race from the [nearby Narrowsburg] lumber company."

Other events were added over the years. Farrell said horseshoes was the first of those and it is a favorite. "Last year, it poured rain all day and those guys stayed right out there in it," she recalled.

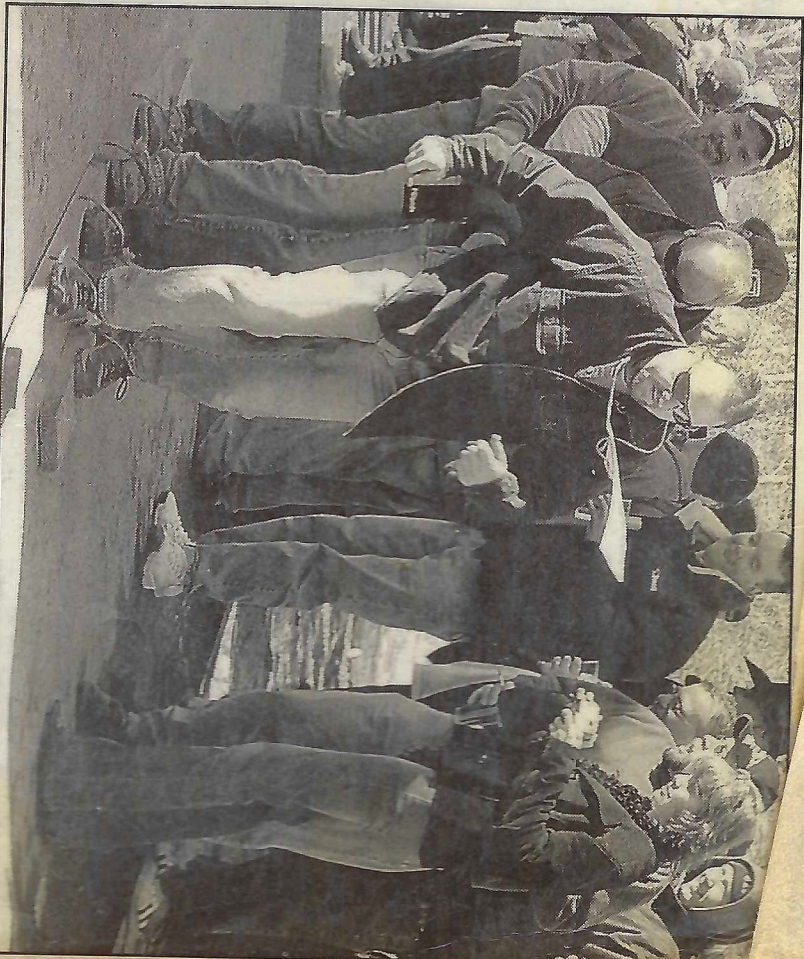
"Team Weber," this year's bed-racing champs, won with their custom-made "Budweiser" bed, complete with company logo.

It's all for fun, but it's also a serious competition, with medals and prizes provided by local beer distributors.



The two-man saw competition provided some blisters.

TRR photos by David Hulse



This is called "Polish" Skiing and we didn't make up the name.

## Awards list

The competitions and winners at Saturday's Olympics included:

- Horseshoes: Roger Van Tuijl, Jr. and Lance Van Tuijl
- Keg Toss:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> place: Kenny Arnoul
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> place: Bob Foster
- Triathlon: 1<sup>st</sup> Jerry Sommers
- Golf Chipping:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> place: Bob Phillips
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> place: Bill Warden
- Polish Skiing: Team Juliano
- Two-Man Saw: George Weber and Willy Hofaker
- Bed Race: Team Weber
- Ravioli Making: Kenny Arnoul
- Smoked Venison: Ed Hipsman
- Sponge Cake Baking: Mike Oset



The weather cooperated as hundreds turned out for Rohman's annual Saturday.

part of the event and this year's categories were any kind of rabbit dish, "wild card" fish and Boston cream pie. Rabbit dishes featured smoked rabbit, fried rabbit and stewed rabbit. Fish dishes featured spicy Ahi tuna with a fresh salsa of peppers and onions, fried Delaware River eel and bass and monkfish stewed in a fresh tomato sauce. There were also two entries for Boston cream pie.

Two of the judges for the food contests were local chefs, Steve Vocht of Pinehurst Country Lodge Restaurant in Greeley and Onorato Valic of Tre Alberi Ristorante in Barryville. Both took their job seriously, tasting and discussing the qualities of each dish before making their decisions later in the day.

Sheila Farrell and Martin Sheridan have owned Rohman's for 22 years. Farrell said in an interview at the event Saturday, "What else is there to do in February around here. This is a fun day for everyone."

She also said that the proceeds from the event help the historic property make it through the winter. Not only are there a lot of drinks and food being sold, but each year dated sweatshirts are sold and if you are there early enough you receive a commemorative plastic pint glass when you order a beer.

When all the events are over an awards ceremony is held inside the bar next to the warm coal stove. Matt Nelson emceed these years' events



(Photo by Tara Cleary)

**Steve Vocht, (bending over) of Pinehurst Country Lodge Restaurant in Greeley and Onorato Valic, (standing) of Tre Alberi Ristorante in Barryville, were judges on Saturday for the food contests during the Rohman's Men's Winter Olympics in Shohola.**

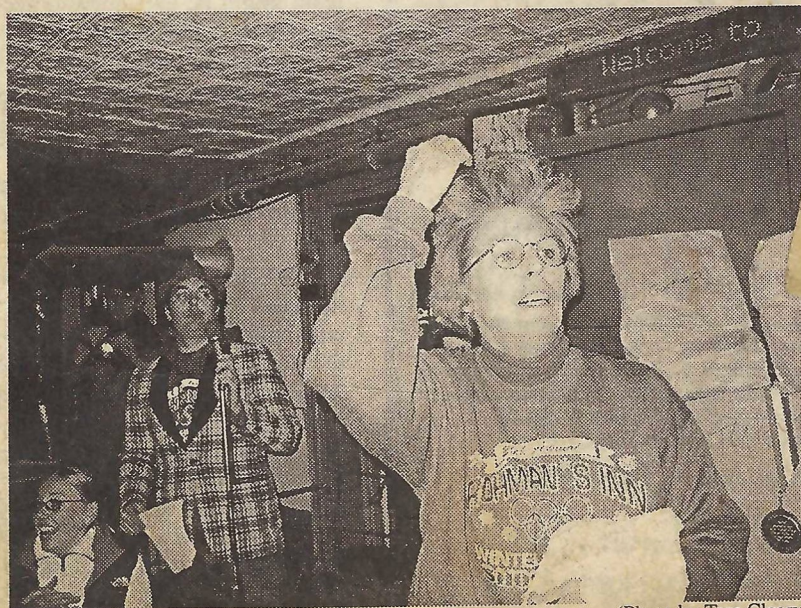
outside and announced the winners at the awards ceremony as Farrell handed out awards for first and second place, which included event sweatshirts for the winners.

The Olympics are always held the last Saturday in February and draw over 200 people during the course of the day. The weather this year was cold but that doesn't stop anyone from having fun. The same group comes back year after year to participate in the events or to just watch the fun. The event has been held in rain, snow and bitter cold but there have been some mild years as well.

If you have never been to Rohman's and you like interesting bars it is worth the trip on any day. Rohman's is located off of Route 434 in Shohola along the railroad tracks

before you go, over the bridge into Barryville.

People are attracted to Rohman's for the friendly staff and nostalgic charm the place seems to exude. The 54-foot-long, Brunswick bar is hand-carved and is over 130 years old. The railway type stools pull out from the bar. The ceiling is sagging tin and the wooden floor is slanted. There is a sign at the end of the bar that has been there since the days of Art Rohman who owned the business for over 70 years, it says, "Everyone can bring happiness into this room. Some by coming in, others by going out."



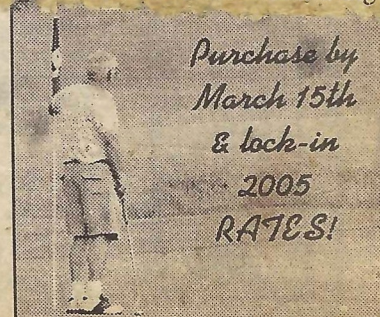
(Photo by Tara Cleary)

**Matt Nelson (at microphone) emceed this year's events outside and announced the winners at the awards ceremony. Sheila Farrell (foreground), one of the owners and organizers of the Rohman's Men's Winter Olympics handed out awards for first and second place, which included dated event sweatshirts for winners.**



...neese cake... 20 years ago... evolved into the Rohman's Men's Winter Olympics, a fun-filled day of men strutting their stuff in contests like horseshoes, keg toss, golf chipping, bed racing and four man skiing.

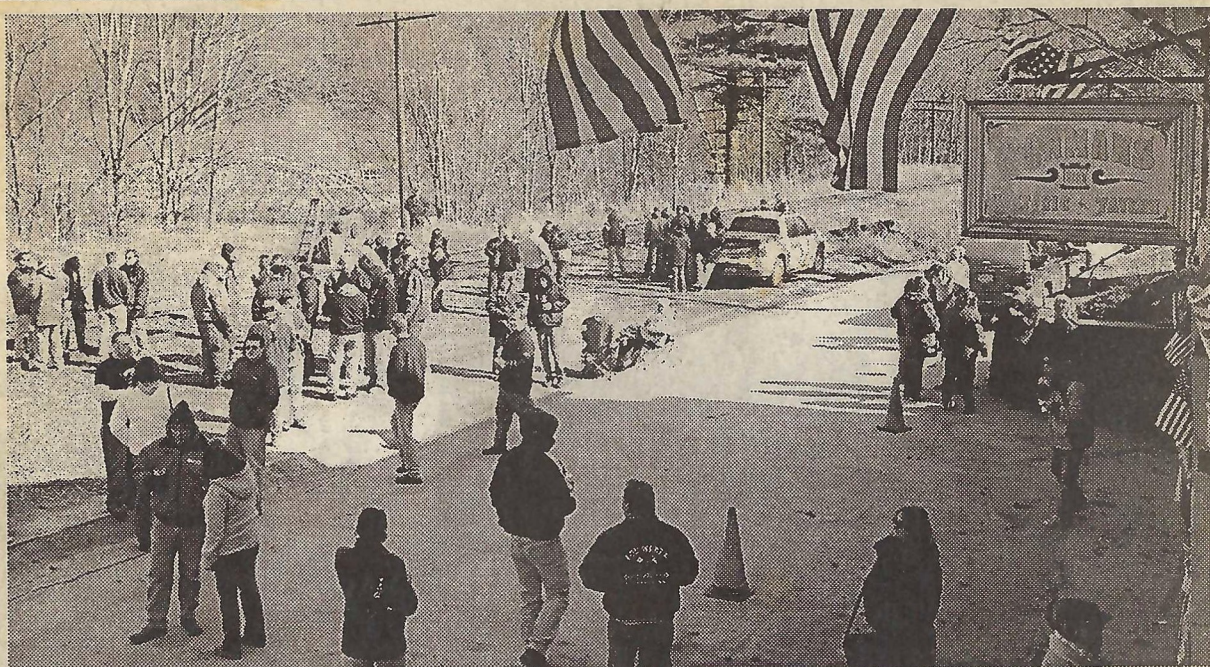
The food contests are still a big



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Off State Rt. 2001 in NY



(Photo by Tara Cleary)

The Rohman's Men's Winter Olympics are always held the last Saturday in February at the historic bar in Shohola and draw over 200 people to watch the fun filled day of men strutting their stuff in contests like horseshoes, keg toss, golf chipping, bed racing and four man skiing.



(Photo by Tara Cleary)

Four man skiing is always a popular event at the Rohman's Men's Winter Olympics.





