Saying Goodbye

Ask any Geneseo native about Roy's and they will most definitely have something to say. Roy's has been a fixture in this small town for almost 45 years, and you can't help but smile when you think about the memories that have been created in this small restaurant. For those of you who do not know Roy's, they are a small Mexican American Restaurant situated near Hammond Henry Hospital and the Masonic Lodge. Situated in a building made from two WWII train cars, they have been cooking, cleaning, serving, and laughing for 45 years whether you knew it or not.

Founded by Roy Garza in 1971, the business was purchased by John and Kayleen Fulcher in 1982. The Fulchers have definitely left their mark on the Geneseo restaurant industry, having previously owned Little Red Riding Hood from 1983 until 1987, and the Geneseo Happy Joe's. In 1987, they added Liz Holt, a food supervisor to their team. Liz had previously worked at Little Red Riding Hood, and was a welcome addition to the Roy's staff.

Roy's is not just a restaurant, but a family legacy. John and Kayleen ran the restaurant with their children, and the Country Fried Tenderloin or CFT was created by their daughter Margo. After the death of John in 2002, many thought that there was no way that the business could go on. Liz and Kayleen had other ideas, and persevered, making it 14 more years in the restaurant business on their own.

It may be the end of Roy's but it is a new beginning for whatever will reside in the historic building. Kayleen asks the question, "Who knows what fabulous thing will sit on this property in the future" and we all wonder the same thing. Feel free to say goodbye to Kayleen and Liz, who announced their retirement in 2015, before they shut their doors permanently in January of 2016.

