

# Girl Camper

Going places. Doing things.

WINTER 2022

## WINTER MAGIC AT YOSEMITE

INTERVIEWS | CAMP FOODS | HOW-TOS | CAMP STYLE | COLLECTIBLES





# DID YOU KNOW?

## THE BIG CHICKEN

By *Caroline Eubanks*

**F**or residents of Marietta, Georgia, a suburb of Atlanta, the massive red triangular shaped chicken is more than just a landmark. It's a way of giving directions for those traveling down bustling US 41. Dubbed "The Big Chicken," the 56-foot tall structure now sits above a Kentucky

Fried Chicken franchise, with a beak that opens and closes and eyes that spin.

It was originally built in 1963 for a restaurant called Johnny Reb's Chick-Chuck-'N'-Shake as a way to bring in customers. The offbeat chicken was designed by Hubert Puckett, a Georgia Tech architecture student. In 1974, the owner sold the space and it became a KFC. According to past newspaper articles, Colonel Sanders visited the location and told the owners to tear down the chicken, but he changed his mind when he found out just how much chicken the popular location sold.

When that lease was up in 1989, there were talks about relocating it, but efforts stalled. A 1993 storm caused severe damage and the structure faced demolition. But the



community rallied around the chicken, including pilots at nearby airports that used it as a reference point, and funds were raised for it to be rebuilt.

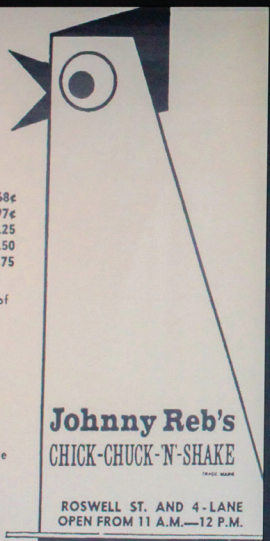


Pepsi helped to pay for restorations over the years and had its logo prominently displayed until 2017 renovations, despite Atlanta's status as the hometown of Coca-Cola.

Over the years, the Big Chicken has become a local icon, featured on postcards, Christmas ornaments, T-shirts and even birdhouses made by a local Marietta resident Jim Barnes. Some of this merchandise, including shirts, socks and plush versions of the Big Chicken, are sold inside the restaurant. While the décor is inspired by its iconic sign, the menu offers the standard KFC fare.



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