



## PEAK OIL ADVICE FROM GERMAN POETS

By John Michael Greer

(excerpted from *The Archdruid Report*, by author's permission)

Fairly often, since these essays first began mapping out the topography of our de-industrial future, people have asked: but what should we do about it?

It's one thing, after all, to treat the twilight of the industrial age as an abstract possibility. It's quite another to grapple with it as a reality that can be expected to shape the rest of our lives.

One answer echoes the message received by the German poet Rainier Maria Rilke from the statue of Apollo: "**Du musst dein Leben aendern**" - "You must change your life."

But figuring out what sort of change to make is a complex process.

Most people who ask for suggestions are already sure that they need to take action, but not at all sure what they ought to do. It's a common state to be in just now.

But, first, it's crucial to remember that our predicament is anything but unique. The fantasy that today's industrial societies are exempt from the common fate

See **POETS**, continued on Page 4



From Cabot 2008 Annual Report  
Pennsylvania frac job

## YOUR GAS WELL: PART TWO

By Brian Brock

*This is the third in a series of articles on the extraction of our natural gas. The first discussed the formation of this gas. The second described the siting and drilling of your gas well.*

After the vertical length of the hole has been drilled down to the black shale and across the horizontal length within the layer of shale, the rig and the support equipment are removed. Next, this black shale must be fractured by water at high pressure to release the gas. Soon, a new fleet of trucks arrives,

many more than before, and eventually fills the drilling site.

### Fracking

A three inch plastic collection tube is inserted to the bottom of the hole. Inside this, cylinders a dozen feet long are lowered to the bottom of the hole on a cable. Each has an array of small shaped-explosive charges. These are triggered to perforate the steel and concrete lining. Two to four cylinders are used for each stage.

Several pumper trucks are connected to the well

head through a network of pipes. They pump thousands of gallons of water per minute down the hole at pressures of thousands of pounds per square inch. Sand is added to the water to hold the fractures open after the pressure is released. Chemicals are also added, for a variety of functions. First, chemicals are added to the water in a mixer truck, then sand is added in a blender truck. From there, the mixture goes to the pumps. Even these powerful pumps can only fracture the rock

See **GAS TWO**, continued on Page 5



## FRANKLIN'S CAT HOUSE

By Judy Gabey

(photos by the author)

Q. What is a New York State Supreme Court judge doing running a "cat house" in Franklin?

A. She's following her heart, saving cats at the Love & Hope Sanctuary.

Virginia Yancy has had two life long passions: children and animals. She spent 40 years as an advocate for children, first as a social worker with The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, then as a family lawyer, next as a family court judge and finally as a State Supreme Court judge specializing in family and custody issues.

Upon retirement, Virginia and her husband Mike Kopps decided to open Love and Hope, a sanctuary for cats. Love and Hope is a not for profit, no-kill shelter based on the model of Utah's Best Friends animal sanctuary. It is funded by private donations. The sanctuary is dedicated to the life-long care of cats,

most of whom are not adoptable due to health or behavioral issues.

Virginia's day starts at 5:30 A.M. with the care of her three dogs. 6:00 A.M. is "kitten time". The rest of her day is spent on administrative and supervisory tasks. Love & Hope employs two full-time and three part-time staff members.

The first thing this reporter noticed upon entering Virginia's office was the large cage with three lively, eight-week old kittens. These kittens were found in a box behind Butt's hardware store in Oneonta. They were tiny and in very bad shape. A fourth kitten didn't survive. Each kitten is scheduled for surgery to have one badly infected

See **CATS**, continued on Page 7

## SENIOR TRANSPORT INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

By Tom Briggs

July 7<sup>th</sup> marks the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of an event that has probably done as much to reshape the demographic profile of this country as the Industrial Revolution. It was labeled the First Transcontinental Motor Convoy (FTMC). It started in Washington DC, and amongst its participants was a young officer named Dwight Eisenhower.

This post-World War I initiative was undertaken by the army to test our nation's vulnerability, should an attack on our railway system force us to rely on traditional overland travel. 62 days, 88 destroyed bridges, 230 road accidents, 9 totally destroyed vehicles and 21 casualties later, and with countless roads made impassible in its wake, the convoy limped into San Francisco. Out of this rose the call for a national highway defense system. Less than four decades later, President Dwight Eisenhower signed the Federal Highway Act of 1956

In Delaware County prior to World War II, most of the hamlets and villages were sufficiently self-contained to be able to offer the services of a doctor, an attorney, a hardware store, a feed mill, possibly a clothing store, a district school, a couple of churches, a fire company, a fraternal lodge or two, as well as a typical general store. Many families felt themselves fortunate to own a car. Many more depended on neighbors to drive them to larger communities

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### REGULAR FEATURES:

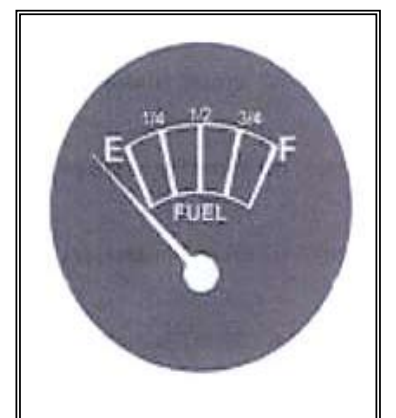
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# Your Neighbor's View...

## FOOD ON THE FOURTH

July Fourth saw some new vendors at the Franklin Farmers' Market. For the first time, we had plenty of prepared food for sale, which made for many happy customers enjoying the music, the produce, the beautiful weather and a welcome snack.

The Library had a successful fund raiser in form of a bake sale, with various delicious goodies. There were breads, rolls, pies, cakes, quiches, pizzas, scones and crepes, all homemade and prepared fresh that morning. There were the famous Fokish cinnamon rolls. The Market management sold coffee, tea and bottled water, a practice we began several markets ago, in response to popular demand. There was also a sandwich truck with pulled pork and French fries, and here, a problem arose. Their food was very tasty and sold like gang-busters, but a few of our members were unhappy that it did not fulfill all the requirements we've set for our market.

When we started the Franklin Farmers' Market, we promised to provide a venue for our farmers to sell their products, and for the people of Franklin to have access to fresh, healthy produce. Our stated goal is to sell only locally produced products. But the pork sold by the sandwich truck was not local, not purchased from a local farm-

er, and most certainly not grass fed or organic. The sandwich cooks did check with our market's meat vendors to see if the meat could be purchased from them, but concluded that they would have to charge \$10.00 for a sandwich in order to make any profit at all.

So, here is the dilemma. If we stick strictly to our goals, allowing only organic, locally produced items, we may not be able to afford the prepared food or offer a wide enough range of products to attract a large and loyal customer base for our farmers, especially during the months when there is little or no local produce available. We could end up being too expensive for our local families, with only the tourists and weekenders being able to afford the market.

The FFM management team would like to open up this discussion, to discover how both our customers and our vendors feel about this issue. We are aware that no one can please all of the people in all ways, all of the time, but we're willing to give it a darn good try.

Please let us know your thoughts.

Contact Ellen Curtis, our Market Manager, care of the Editor, New Franklin Register, at P. O. Box 258, Franklin NY 13775 or at: [franklin\\_local@frontiernet.net](mailto:franklin_local@frontiernet.net)

## FRANKLIN FREE LIBRARY UPDATE

The barcoding of our library collection is now complete. We will begin checking out books with our new computer system on Tuesday, August 11<sup>th</sup>.

All library users should apply for a new barcoded library card by this date. Otherwise, you will not be able to borrow library materials. Forms are available at the Franklin Free Library or can be downloaded from our website: [franklinfreelibrary.org](http://franklinfreelibrary.org).

In addition to checking out books at the Franklin Library and most other 4-County libraries with your new library card, your new number and password will allow you to:

- Save time and gas

by requesting materials online from most 4-County libraries 24/7, and picking them up at the Franklin Free Library.

- Avoid fines by renewing material online.
- Access a selection of premium resources including:
  - o Business and company information
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"We have less than ten years to reverse the current trend [of climate change], or we will be unable to avoid the worst consequences, and will leave our grandchildren a planet with conditions spiraling out of control."

- James Hansen, Ph.D, in a letter to New York governor David Patterson, as quoted in the *Sierra Atlantic*.

Dr. Hansen is director of NASA's Goddard Institute of Space Studies, and a leading expert on climate change.

## PEAK OIL

Earth eyes me with red anger through a hazy sunset

You did this, the stinking air the fetid water the aching ground

Comeuppance has come, the end that justifies the means

Power is not where you imagine, sundown grants no reprieve

- from A Loyal Reader

The Newsletter of the Franklin Citizens Commission on Peak Oil

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## What are we about?

The Franklin Citizens' Commission on Peak Oil was authorized on December 6th, 2005 by a Town Board Resolution. Our purpose is to assess the needs and resources of the Town of Franklin in the face of Peak Oil, and to report back to the Town Board and to the people of Franklin.

We are a group of Franklin residents who meet for one evening a month at a member's home. We begin with a pot luck supper before we get down to actual business. All are welcome to join us, to ask questions and help us answer them, to share thoughts and ideas

We have a number of projects that we hope to move from idea to action:

- Local food production network
- Skills and services exchange
- Goods exchange
- Ride sharing bulletin board and/or website
- Farm to School Program for school lunches
- Community Greenhouses
- Community Energy Production
- Community Health Network

In a nutshell, we are trying to imagine a more energy efficient habit of living, and to put it to work here in Franklin, for a brighter, more sustainable future..

We hope you will join us!

For meeting times, location and directions, email us at [franklin\\_local@frontiernet.net](mailto:franklin_local@frontiernet.net)

You can also join our Peak Oil AwarenessYahoo Group. It's [POA\\_CNY@yahoogroups.com](mailto:POA_CNY@yahoogroups.com).

That is, Peak Oil Awareness\_Central NewYork.

This group fosters discussion of local efforts, potential or ongoing, to deal with the effects of Peak Oil on our communities.

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# It's new, it's serial, it's... **MURDER AT THE FARMERS' MARKET!**

## **DATELINE: FRANKLIN, NEW YORK**

Seven vendors discover a body at the Farmers Market. Who is it and what happened? One vendor is trying to answer these questions...

Remember me? I'm Jack. I grow things. I've been telling you about what happened when I joined the Farmers' Market. More than I'd bargained for, I'll say that much. But stick with me while I'm looking into it, and maybe we'll figure it out together.

But only if you read on...

Small Potatoes. That's what they call the Mayor when he's not listening.

He's an enthusiastic gardener but the spuds he harvests are smaller than the seed potatoes he plants. Taste terrible too. Probably the only person ever kicked out of the farmers market. Heard he was on a golfing holiday in Scotland. On his salary?

Anyway, he hasn't been around for awhile. Not since they found the body in one place and the horse in another.

Did I forget to mention that part?

It was a hundred and two degrees out. There was a stink like you wouldn't believe on the third floor of the Masonic Temple. It came from a solid wall. Danny, the super (one of the seven of us who found the body) was up there in a gas-mask. He needed help tearing down that wall. We dunked kerchiefs in apple juice and tied them over our noses. We got through that wall in about half an hour and found an old slopsink

closet no one knew about. Piled around it were four black plastic garbage bags. The stench was unbearable.

We piled the bags into a larger bag, tied it tight, and dragged it downstairs and outside. It clunked and squished going down the stairs.

*Please don't let it be what we think it is.*

Underneath legions of maggots, we found flesh and bones. Dismembered, partially decomposed, juicy.

It was a horse.

We never did find out why. Something about nature drawing classes at the now-defunct local summer camp. The art teacher had run off with the riding instructor.

Couldn't even tell whose horse it was.

Here comes Delores. I'm sure she did it.

Delores is only four feet eleven inches tall and has an aversion to flies, mosquitoes, Daddy Longlegs, bees; you name it. Any insect. But especially flies. If you go to her house, wear a helmet with a facemask. She hangs clear one-gallon plastic bags of water real low over every single doorway, inside and out. It's supposed to repel flies. But I don't know if I'd rather swat flies or get smacked in the face by soft cold bags of water every time I turn around.

Before he ran off with an entomologist, Delores' husband had been a spring-water salesman. Last I heard, he got malaria and died. Some people think it wasn't the malaria that killed him.

She did it all right.

That summer camp used to be a nunnery called SOME, or Sisters Of Mercy & Empathy. There's still the ranch-style sign arching over the dirt road leading up to the place. It was recently purchased by a contrarian survivalist anti-organic organization. They 'reinterpreted' the sign to read, 'Smash Organic Market Efforts'.

Fun group.

There're lots of guns and an occasional explosion up there. They like to leave photos on the deli bulletin board of members holding AK-47's, bazookas, and using big knives to eat dead deer meat raw. They love the local annual 'Home of the Scarecrow' competition. It gives them an opportunity to build very realistic effigies. And hang them from trees, flagpoles, and streetlights.

They always win the competition.

I stole one of the photos from the deli because in the background there's an eerily realistic effigy hanging from a tree. The same red shirt as the dead guy.


Then again, they all wear red shirts so the paintballs won't show.

Oh, Jeez. I found a whole human finger in one of my sugarin' pails.

Now, I love maple sugar. Especially the part where you get to fall asleep cooking it down. Been doing it for years. But this finger couldn't belong to the dead guy! He was only missing half a finger!


Uh-oh...

*To be continued in our next issue...*








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## SAINT INNOCENT'S RETREAT

The Russian Orthodox parish of St. Innocent has purchased a 42 acre parcel on Henry Edwards Road opposite the intersection with Stewart Road. This congregation of 800 to 1,000 from downstate plans to build a retreat there, to be used mostly in summer. (It is not affiliated with the Orthodox Christian Brotherhood which owns a 153 acre parcel just south of the hamlet of Treadwell on County Highway 16.) Current plans are for two seasonal residences at the north end of the property. There are also plans for a chapel, either in one of the residences or as a separate building.

Much of the property cannot be built on, with a utility easement along the road, steep slopes down to the Oule-out flood plain, and acreage in the flood plain itself. The parcel is appraised at \$47,500 - just over \$1,100 an acre. St. Innocents intends to apply to have it removed from the tax roll, a loss of \$580 for the Town alone. This is a provision of state law, over which the Town of Franklin has no control.



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**POETS, con't from Pg. 1**

of civilizations must be set aside, along with the equally misleading fantasy that today's industrial societies are the worst ever, and are getting the cataclysmic fate they deserve. Our industrial societies are human cultures, no better or worse than most. They happened to stumble onto the reserves of carbon hidden in the Earth, and used most of them up in three centuries of reckless exploitation. Now, having overshot their resources, like so many other societies, they're following the familiar trajectory of decline and fall. Letting go of the delusion of our own uniqueness enables us to learn from the past.

One of the lessons the past offers is that the fall of civilizations is a slow, uneven process. None of us are going to wake up one morning and find ourselves living in the Stone Age. Thus, trying to leap in a single bound to some imagined future is not going to work very well. Instead, the most effective strategy will be a matter of muddling through, dealing with each stage of the descent as it comes along, being prepared to make plenty of midcourse corrections. Flexibility will be more useful than ideology, and making do will be an essential survival skill.

The long road down will not be easy. The future will always offer opportunities for happiness and achievement, and there will be significant gains to balance the inevitable losses, especially for those willing to live simpler lives at a slower pace. But the losses will be terrible and we must not sugar-coat them, or ignore the immense human tragedy that is an inevitable part of the slow death of any civilization.

But the harsh dimen-

# PEAK OIL FOCUS

sions of the future can be mitigated, and the positive aspects fostered, by preparations and actions well within the reach of individuals and communities. In many failed past civilizations, a relatively small number of people willing to commit themselves to constructive action have made a huge difference in the outcome. The same option is available today; the question is whether anyone will be willing to take up the challenge.

We can only guess at the details of the future ahead of us. Drawing up plans may be a source of comfort

**“Learn one thing,  
give up one thing,  
save one thing.”**

in the face of a relentlessly unpredictable future, but that same unpredictability makes any plan, no matter how clever or popular, a dubious source of guidance. Nor is consensus a useful guide; one further lesson of history is that in every age, the consensus view of the future is consistently wrong. Instead, the deliberate cultivation of diverse and even conflicting approaches by groups and individuals maximizes the likelihood that the broadest possible toolkit will reach the waiting hands of the future.

These points, and especially the last, make it a waste of time to offer a fixed to-do list to those who want to change their lives. What's needed is not a list but a template for taking action. It's simple enough: learn one thing, give up one thing, save one thing.

**Learn one thing.**

One of the greatest challenges we face is that the skills relevant to the current global economy of abstract paper wealth (which are also the skills that most of us have dutifully learned) will rapidly become useless in the far less abstract economy of the future. Our capacity to farm out the production of necessary goods and services to sweatshop laborers on distant continents is beginning a drastic decline, while many of the job categories that have employed people in the industrial world are going away. This does not mean that each of us will have to

provide all of life's necessities on our own. It does mean that each of us who can provide *one* of life's necessities for ourselves and our community will have a highly marketable skill in the localized economies of the de-industrial future. Getting such a skill is thus the first critical step in your personal transition to that future. This doesn't mean reading a few books on that skill; it means providing yourself with tools and materials, and getting to work here and now, growing vegetables, making soap, raising chickens, brewing beer, or doing whatever else you decide to learn how to do, until you can do it well enough, and reliably enough, that your neighbors are willing to barter whatever it is that they know how to do for a share of your production. Whatever you learn, learn it inside

and out. In ten years, you may be depending on that knowledge for survival.

**Give up one thing.**

Unless you're a rare bird, many of the things that make up your lifestyle are produced by a complex industrial system fueled by unimaginable amounts of non-renewable energy. Unless alternative energy sources are developed, your things will become unavailable at some point in the future. Choose one of those things, get rid of it now, and make the necessary changes in your life so that you can function without it. It can be some-

thing big - I know a growing number of people who have gotten rid of their cars - but it doesn't have to be. Choose something that will take effort and planning to do without, but something with an immediate payback. If you give up your car, for example, you'll have to make other arrangements for transportation, but you'll also end up with hundreds of unspent dollars from the payments you don't have to make, the gas you don't have to buy, and so on. Choose it, give it up, and don't look back; every dependence on the industrial system you can abandon is a vulnerability you won't have when that system comes apart at the seams.

**Save one thing.**

One of the consequences of the fall of civilizations is that cultures get shredded, and many things of value that aren't needed

for immediate survival get lost. Arts, crafts, music, literature, sciences, technologies, religious and philosophical traditions: none of these are invulnerable. When they make it through the breakdown of a civilization, it's because someone cared enough to keep them going as living traditions. Such people will be desperately needed in the years to come. To choose what you might save, sort through the cultural legacies that matter to you, until you find something that satisfies two criteria: first, the idea that people in the future might lose it forever seems intolerable; second, that you are willing and able to do something to keep this from happening. Make your choice, and be ready to share your efforts with others who share your passion. These are first steps, of course, and for some, they will be baby steps. Other changes will follow in their own time, chosen willingly or imposed by events. But the sooner you face the need to embrace the necessary, to change your life, the less overwhelming the more serious changes to come are likely to be.

As another German poet, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, said: "Whatever you can do, or believe you can, begin it. Boldness has genius and power and magic in it. Begin it now."

*John Michael Greer is the Grand Archdruid of the Ancient Order of Druids in America (AODA)*

**The Archdruid Report** is an on-line discussion of-Druid perspectives on nature, culture, and the future of industrial society. Find the full version of this article at: <http://thearchdruidreport.blogspot.com/2009/04/peak-oil-advice-from-german-poets.html>

## LOCAL HEAT: EARTH, WOOD, GRASS, & SOLAR

By Brian Brock

This year, the Cornell Cooperative's annual spring tour of alternative energy looked mostly in Franklin.

The Love and Hope Cat Sanctuary on Stewart Road draws heat directly from the earth. Two wings of the 9,000 sq. ft. Sanctuary are each supplied by separate fields of buried tubing 70 X 80 feet. Inside two heat exchangers concentrate the heat and circulate it through radiant floor systems. The original propane system serves as backup. The purchase of the two ECONAR Geothermal 2000 systems was financed with a 2% loan from NYSERDA. The monthly payments are less than the monthly propane bill was. Equipment to cool the Sanctuary in summer is being installed. For more on the Sanctuary, see the article on page one.

Just next door on Henry Edwards Road, the Pinnys (Jody and Cindy) burn wood in a Tullikivi soapstone fireplace to heat their 1,500 sq. ft. lumber framed home. (Soapstone is a heat resistant rock, which is soft and slippery like soap because of the talc in it.) A single firing in the morning heats-up the stone, which radiates heat for the rest of the day. The amount of wood needed for a firing is so small that Jody carries it in each morning. Only when the temperatures drop into the teens or below is a second firing needed in the evening. Two to three cords of wood are enough for the year.

Outside the village, the town garage burns grass pellets. The equipment bays are heated with an outdoor boiler, and the meeting room is heated with a stove. The original oil boiler serves as backup. A grant from the Catskill Watershead Corporation paid for the equipment and a year's supply of pellets. The Town has spent \$3,000 for installation.

The grass pellets were made locally at Enviro Energy's plant in Unadilla, which is owned and operated by the Miller family of Franklin. This operation has been described in an article in NFR, Volume II, #2. What is new since then is that the Millers can now reliably produce grass pellets from mowings, preferably from fields that have been neglected for a few years. A home might need 100 to 150 of the 40 lb. bags at \$4.50@. The higher ash content of grass can cause problems with some stoves and the Millers are experimenting with a grass/wood mix. Also grass pellets can be mixed with coal.

Back north of the village on the Otego Road, the Hebbards (Don and Louise) use solar to heat their 1,800 sq. ft. timber frame home. During the heat of the day, hot air is collected in the cupola and circulated through four feet of stone in the cellar. At night the circulation is reversed and warm air from the cellar is blown through

**See LOCAL HEAT, continued on Page 5**

**LOCAL HEAT, con't from Page 4**

the house. Propane provides backup heat. Solar panels on the south-facing slope of the roof provides much of the homes electricity. They are experimenting with a home-made solar hot water system.

Over the hill in the village of Otego, Flying Rabbit Farm heats their greenhouse with grass pellets in a Verner boiler. (This farm sells its produce at the Franklin Farmers' Market.) Also the boiler heats vegetable oil to make biodiesel, which powers some of the farm equipment. Ash from the boiler is used as fertilizer. The Dolans (Dave and Mary) also generate electricity and hot water from sun light.

In far off Sidney, the decade-old Quality Hardwoods has installed a furnace to burn some of its wood waste to provide heat for the two drying kilns. The Bio Mass Combustion furnace feeds wood wastes automatically, but the ash is removed manually. The rest of the wood waste is shipped to New England to make wood pellets, except for the shavings which are packaged for animal bedding. The Deckers sell most of the hard and soft woods wholesale, but some is sold retail at their plant on Route 8.

**GAS TWO, continued from Page 1**

around the hole for a few hundred feet at a time, so the horizontal hole is fractured (fracked) in several stages, starting from the far end and working backward – for some thousands of feet. Each stage of the horizontal fracking of shale requires 500,000 gallons of water, 250 tons of sand, and thousands of gallons of various chemicals. (This is a pound of sand for every gallon of water.) Scores of water tanker trucks are necessary to provide enough water for each stage.

Much of the fracture fluid is pushed upward by the gas and flows back out of the hole. This flow-back water is collected in those same tanker trucks that supplied the water, is trucked off-site, and should be disposed of as specified in the drilling permit. The fracking has taken only a week or so, but flow-back can take weeks or even months.

**Completing**

The supply of gas is measured by the volume released with the valve fully open. Released gas is burned at the end of a tall pipe in a flare off. Until the pipeline is connected, gas may be flared occasionally to relieve pressure.

Each well must be connected to a pipeline before its gas can flow to customers. You will have to wait until then to receive your royalty payments, but you will get a small shut-in payment.

If there is enough gas, and once there is a pipeline, then your well is readied for production. At least two months have passed, but it can take many months or rarely years. If drillers decide to drill more horizontal holes from this site but in different directions, just the drilling could last half a year or more. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, which regulates drilling, encourages multi-well

sites, such as the sites proposed for Hancock with six wells each.

In this final phase, the top of the collection tube is first connected to a set of pipes, valves and gages called a christmas tree, which stand four to seven feet tall. (Many are wider at the base, taper upward, and some are even painted green.) Before connecting the pipeline, a few pieces of equipment are connected from the christmas tree, such as a separator columns for any water that comes up with the gas, a water storage tank, and a flow meter. At last, the site is cleaned-up and regraded. Any water left in the reserve pit is hauled away. The plastic pit liner is folded over the rock chips, which are left in the bottom, and buried. The stockpile of soil is spread around the site and seeded with grass.

Your lease may provide that you are paid only after the gas is sold. Because the demand for gas is higher in winter, "your" gas may be stored underground for months before being sold.

**Production and Plugging**

Now that the well is completed, the only regular activity at the well head is emptying tanks of produced water. Occasionally, the equipment is serviced. As time goes on, the production of gas decreases – as do your royalties. After a few years, in order to increase production, the gas company may decide to refracture the shale. They might do this several times over the lifetime of this well.

The productive lifetime of a well in black shale can be decades, but eventually not enough gas can be produced to turn a profit. Then the well should be plugged by the drilling company, or by the DEC, using money that the company has previously bonded. The equipment and any recoverable tubing and piping is removed. In agricultural areas, all pipes are cut off at least 4 feet below the surface, the hole is plugged with cement and mud, and buried.

*The first three articles in this series are available on franklinlocal.org. The fourth will deal with the possible effects of natural gas extraction on our local environment.*

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## WHEN LIFE HANDS YOU ROCKS...

By Jim Mullen

Photos: Jim Mullen, Lynne Kemen

## MAKE A ROCK GARDEN - THE FREE STONE ART OF ROBERT JOHNSON



**IF YOU'VE EVER TRIED BUILDING** a simple stone fence, you know how difficult and frustrating it can be. It's hard, fingernail-crushing, skin-scraping, sweat-producing, back-straining, dirty work. And chances are, your amateur wall-building effort will look shabby and unstable compared to the miles of field stone fences that snake through our Catskill woodlands and border the many small family cemeteries dotting Delaware County.



**YOU MIGHT SAY, HEY,** I'm as smart as the hard-scrabble farmers who built these walls. I have a college degree - how hard can it be? But a few days later, with your fingers wrapped in gauze and slick with Maximum Strength Cortizone, you'll ask: how did those old-timers do it, without backhoes and skidders? Without Ibuprofen?

The truth is, they did it pretty much the way it's done today: by hand. Sometimes with the help of a horse or an ox. Like blowing glass, the technique of stacking free stone hasn't changed much over the centuries. It's a craft that must be learned. And after years of practice, in some hands the craft becomes an art.



**I STILL REMEMBER BEING GOB-SMACKED** the first time I spotted Robert Johnson's free stone construction in his backyard on Center Street in the village. One of its great virtues is that it's so unexpected. In this rock-filled part of the world, from a man who works with stone, from a painter and collector, you might expect a nice stone fence or a series of rock-bordered raised beds or even a lovely stone-lined pond. What you get is a Watt's Tower Stonehenge crossed with Robert Smithson's Spiral Jetty - it's so out-of-place, yet so perfectly in-place, that it makes you smile.



**WE THINK OF STONE** as earth-bound, but in Johnson's hands, the stones climb and twist and arch and point and curl and flow. It is a work in constant progress, always morphing, one section going up, another coming down, at a pace too slow to be noticed by the casual visitor, like continental drift, like the earth itself.

It's Willy Wonka in the Rock Factory.



### OLD FRANKLIN DAY

Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, from 9 to 4, promises a day full of great activities throughout the Village, including:

- Vintage Fashion Show
- Car Show
- Quilt Show
- Art Show
- Horse and Wagon Rides
- Doodlebugs
- Antique Tractors
- Sidney Community Band
- Folk Singer, John O'Connor
- Amy Vick's Swing Trio
- Orpheous Musical Kids on the Go
- Candace's Dance Troupe
- Officer DiLorenzo and K9, "Pit"
- SPCA
- Craft Vendors
- Flea Market Vendors
- Food Vendors
- Library Book Sale

Other activities are being planned. If you would like a booth call Cindy at 829-8694. If you would like to perform call Kim at 607-829-8820.

# “PARK ON THE MAIN”

By Kim Hyzer

This is now our community park's official name. We are hoping to have a permanent name sign installed soon.

If you've been by recently, you've probably noticed that some work is getting underway! Trees were taken down to allow the required grading. The Garden Club and Boy Scout Troop 8 were a great help with cutting them up, piling the tree tops and carrying the cut wood. Thank you all, guys!! The fountain is being picked out, and Mr. Prinz has started the grading. Robert Johnson will be going in soon to reconstruct

some of the stone walls.

By the end of this year, we should have a good start on Quadrant I. That is the area in front of the high stone wall. It may even be finished. Quadrants III and IV (the two back areas) have simple designs and should be done by the end of this year. A Veterans memorial will be placed in Quadrant III, including a flag donated by the American Legion.

Dillon Costello has chosen to work on a kiosk for Quadrant II as his Eagle Scout project. Designs are being looked at and we should have one picked out soon. His project planning will begin this Fall so that he will be ready next Spring to

start the construction.

We thank all who have supported us this far with donations and volunteer work. The Garden Club gave us a generous donation after their very successful and delightful Garden Tour. It was a great way to spend the afternoon that day! And, thank you all who let us visit their wonderful gardens! Of course, we are still gladly accepting any donations. We've almost matched all of our \$15,000 O'Connor Foundation grant. Your donation can be money, healthy plants (when we are ready to plant), benches, stone for the walkways, labor, etc.

If you have any questions about the park call Kim at 829-8820.

## TRANSPORT, continued from Page 1

to access specialized goods and services. Most took advantage of one or more of the five passenger train systems that passed through Delaware County. This was all to change with the Federal Highway Act.

With improved roads came a stronger demand for cars. With a stronger demand for cars came assembly lines and more affordable cars. With more affordable cars, more families were able purchase them and in turn seek a better selection of more affordable goods in larger communities. This rang the death knell for the hamlets in the 1950s and now, gradually, the villages are following suit. To the casual observer, it would seem that there's no cause for alarm. In history, this is the natural course of events. Deserts and jungles are abundant with the ruins of once-great cities. And, after all, we have Wal-Mart, Home Depot, CVS and other mega box stores that offer things that, heretofore, we never knew we needed. Unfortunately, those who cannot drive (in most cases the aged and the handicapped) are dependent on others to access these goods and services now that local commerce has regionalized.

We've experienced some scares in the past, such as the gas shortages in the 1970s with the ensuing much maligned and now appreciated alternative energy policies of the Carter Administration. Nothing brings home our need to change our ways like the threat of \$5/gallon gas. Last summer, terms like "peak oil", "carbon credits" and "ecological footprint" became part of the mainstream conversation. Old ideas were retrieved from the mothballs, and in Delaware County the idea of creating a coordinated transportation system was embraced with a fresh sense of optimism.

What makes public transportation in this county unique is that there are no primary destinations. We have no large cities, we have no primary place of employment, we have no major shopping destination within our boundaries, and we have insufficient tax revenue to fund a comprehensive public transportation system. To compound our problem, most of the perimeter communities tend to be tied to commerce in our neighboring counties and larger cities. The difficulties that we face more closely mirror the challenges faced by counties in southern Appalachia than they do rural counties in New York State. In a recent survey conducted by NYCONNECTS of Delaware County, it was discovered that



The first transcontinental motor convoy

public and private agencies spent over \$3 ½ million last year for transportation. This does not include the millions paid out by the 13 or so school systems that blanket the county. In many cases separate vehicles are picking persons up in the same community and delivering them to the same destination. We cannot continue to sustain this economically and we certainly cannot sustain what we're doing now ecologically.

Delaware County, through a grant awarded from the Community Transportation Association of America, has begun a new planning process that will help us focus on the special challenges that we face, not only in coordination, but also in how we view access to goods and services. This is exciting! But questions arise: are there strategies that can be undertaken to localize the availability of more goods and services?

In an environment where people are not disposed to accessing services, how can the culture be shifted? Shouldn't the conversation include those who are planning locally grown food initiatives, or healthcare strategies, or housing development? This is heavy stuff.

In some respects our challenges are similar to those experienced by the FTMC. There will be pitfalls, setbacks and casualties as our efforts to develop a coordinated transportation plan move forward. But it will move forward, and hopefully, when the specter of \$5 gallon gas revisits us, Delaware County residents will have smart, green, cost-effective options that will enable us all to enjoy a positive quality of life, here in this beautiful area.

*Tom Briggs is the Director of the Delaware County Office for the Aging and along with his wife Donna, is the newest inhabitant of the historic Turner Tavern on Main Street in Franklin.*

## CATS, continued from Page 1



Some recent rescues...

eye removed. When they recover, they will be available for adoption.

The sanctuary is now offering very low cost spay and neutering services for our community's cats. The cost - \$40 for males and \$50 for females - includes all veterinary care and medications, rabies vaccinations, two distemper shots, de-worming, parasite and flea control, as well as post-operative care. To make an appointment, call 607-829-2082. The intake is between 4:00 and 5:00 PM on Mondays. Males are ready to go home the next day; the females are held until Wednesdays. The sanctuary currently does between eight and ten cats per week. Virginia is currently applying for grants, in order to be able to provide even less expensive, sliding scale services.

Love and Hope is a state of the art, facility. Each of the rooms has an outdoor pen where the cats can sit and sun themselves in the fresh air. There is a room which houses cats who have HIV, another for those suffering from leukemia and

one for cats that can't eat dry food. Each room is disinfected twice a day. Every cat is micro-chipped, monitored daily, given regularly scheduled veterinary care and has full access to food, water and toys. The rooms have cat walks and perches as well as lots of windows and light.

The sanctuary currently houses 175 cats which is its full capacity. 50% of the cats are local rescues, some are sponsored cats and ten are "estate" cats, which means that owners left the cost of their care in their wills. Love and Hope has fifty cats from the Sidney and Unadilla areas alone.

The sanctuary works with the Animal Control Office in Sidney on a neuter and release program. Feral cats are trapped, neutered and released back into the area they came from.

As an added advantage, the entire facility runs on efficient, clean and inexpensive geothermal energy, replacing costly, fossil-fuel-derived propane.

*Judy Gabey is a teacher, writer, craftswoman and volunteer.*



## FALL FLING IN FRANKLIN

### SAVE THIS DATE!

The Franklin Fall Fling takes place on Saturday, October 3rd, 7 to 11 pm, at the Franklin Firehouse.

Dance music will be provided by Country Express: Rob Laing, Terri Whitney, Ben Sackleton, Randy Hulse, and Larry Janieson. The Fling will include food, silent auction, and a 50/50 raffle.

The Franklin Fall Fling is sponsored by the Greater Franklin Chamber of Commerce.

## A Ride Through the Countryside on the Syracuse & Chenango Valley Railroad



By John Taibi and Jim Georges

### A Ride through the Countryside on the Syracuse & Chenango Valley Railroad

This is author and museum curator John Taibi's ninth book about railroading in and around central New York, and his first collaboration with co-author Jim Georges.

John owns and lives in a restored railroad station in Munnsville, while Jim's Erieville homestead abuts the Chenango Branch right-of-way.

The book contains 248 pages and 318 photographs.

It is available in a hardcover version only from the authors. The price is \$35.00.



The Franklin Railroad Museum in process

Our 3rd year!

### Franklin Farmers' Market at Chapel Hall

Institute Street, Franklin, NY - Rte 357 Delaware County  
Local meat, cheese, eggs, produce, flowers, baked goods,  
herbal soaps, maple syrup, honey.

Entertainment, Demonstrations, Special Events.

2009 Schedule:

Every Sunday from 10am-2pm

Memorial Day weekend, May 24

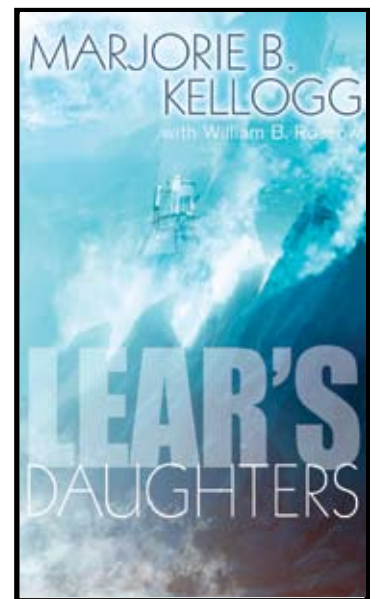
Through Columbus Day October 11!



Photo: Karl Heidenreich

## RECENT REAL PROPERTY SALES IN TOWN OF FRANKLIN

DATE	ADDRESS	ACRES	CLASSIFICATION	ASSESSED	PRICE	GRANTOR	GRANTEE
7/08/08	Freer Hollow Rd	6.38	Rural Vacant, <10 ac	\$15,000	\$26,000	Miskell, Marcia	Fiumera, Anthony
7/21/08	Snake Hill Rd	8.05	Rural Vacant, <10 ac	17,000	37,500	DeStefano, Louise A.	Lapp, Alan
7/23/08	2177 Pomeroy Rd	20.00	Rural Residence	200,000	335,000	Lemakos, Ruth	Drinan, John V.
7.30/08	501 Hodge Rd	2.00	1 Family Residence	86,000	121,000	Scott, Wayne	Cole, Richard C.
7/30/08	361 Center St	1.96	1 Family Residence	121,000	215,000	Boulay, Gilbert A.	Walker, Frank
9/17/08	3351 Merrickville Rd	2.60	Manufactured House	38,000	30,000	Ekseth, Ray A.	Taylor, Kenneth A.
9/20/08	Baker Rd	7.70	Rural Vacant, <10 ac	20,000	24,000	Sinsky, Donald A.	Bobryshev, Igor
9/24/08	Palmer Rd	31.31	Rural Vacant, >10 ac	98,000		Groat, Norman W.	Rosalbo, Stephen J.
9/26/08	Freer Hollow Rd	19.81	Rural Vacant, >10 ac	32,000	44,000	Asta Group, Inc.	Hartman, Jerry P.
10/08/08	Freer Hollow Rd	17.53	Rural Vacant, >10 ac	29,000	60,000	Jeanty, Henry H.	Carbine, William S.
10/17/08	368 Case Hill Rd	12.60	1 Family Residence	140,000	207,000	Schwartz, Barbara E.	Barckhaus, Wendy L.
10/24/08	1089 Otego Rd	1.50	1 Family Residence	51,000	65,000	Bowen, Lawrence D.	Morgan, George T.
10/30/08	2927 State Hgwy 28	0.50	1 Family Residence	60,000	41,500	Schulz, Ruth	Swantak, Robert J.
11/03/08	2735 State Hgwy 28	2.40	1 Family Residence	86,000	80,000	Hammond, Katherine	Roccotagliata, John
11/13/08	8495 Cty Hgwy 16	153.20	Rural Residence	200,000	470,000	Suttle, Richard F.	Ortho. Chris. Brother.
11/20/08	4030 E Handsome Bk.	12.02	1 Family Residence	102,000	140,000	Bruno, Alfred L.	Bruno, Alfred
11/21/08	County Hgwy 21	34.42	Rural Vacant, >10 ac	58,000	105,000	Jones, Richard	Zavaglio, Arcangelo
12/09/08	4614 Cty Hgwy 14	4.95	1 Family Residence	116,000	62,000	Beneficial Home.	Lastner, Bridget M.
12/19/08	7434 E. Handsome Bk.	53.42	Rural Residence	139,000	445,000	Stupakoff, Victor	Healy, Marc
12/19/08	Pomeroy Rd	57.70	Rural Vacant, >10 ac	75,000	82,500	Wallace, Michael S.	Mancuso, Louis P.
12/22/08	Brookout Rd	11.40	Rural Vacant, >10 ac	22,000	61,000	Griffin, Elsworth J.	Polster, Earl
12/22/08	7695 Cty Hgwy 16	4.00	Manufactured House	48,000	45,000	Bishop, Waylon	Schmitz, Rusty J.
12/29/08	125 Water St	0.29	1 Family Residence	96,000	70,000	Marsh, Clifford W.	Casey, Thomas



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## IN FRANKLIN:

To have your event listed, contact Brian Brock at this newspaper or at 607-829-3202

### AUGUST:

2nd Sun.	3-5 New Yorker Cartoons & Graphic Novels	Bright Hill	7:00 Doodlebug Club	Ogden's
	7:30 Franklin Explorers		8:00 Treadwell EMS	Treadwell Firehouse
3rd Mon.	7:00 Franklin Fire Department	Franklin Firehouse	6:00 Franklin Town Court	Town Hall
	8:00 Treadwell Fire Department	Treadwell Firehouse	7:00 Word Thursday \$3	Bright Hill Center
4th Tues.	10:00 Umojai	Franklin Free Library	7:30 Board of Education	Franklin Central School
	4:00 Friends of the Franklin Library	Franklin Free Library	8:00 American Fairy Tale (L. Frank Baum)	Chapel Hall
	7:30 Town Board	Town Garage	2:00 Opening: French Outsider Art	Treadwell Museum
	7:30 Recreation Committee	Village Hall	8:00 Reading: Untitled Play (J. Pintauro)	Chapel Hall
5th Wed.	7:30 Treadwell Explorers		7:00 Franklin EMS	Franklin Firehouse
6th Thurs.	7:30 Franklin Planning Board	Town Garage	7:00 Franklin Improvement Society	Village Hall
7th Fri.	2:15 Cybermobile	Treadwell	7:00 Irish Music Delights	Franklin Free Library
10th Mon.	7:00 Franklin Village Board	Village Hall	20th Thur.	6:00 Ouleout Valley Historical Society
	7:30 Washington Reading Circle		24th Mon.	6:00 Ouleout Valley American Legion
11th Tues.	10:00 Strings the Thing! (J. Signitzer)	Franklin Free Library		Post 1689
	7:00 Franklin Local	Marners	7:30 Washington Reading Circle	
	7:00 Treadwell Community Improvement Club		10:00 Silent Tales (R. Rivest)	Franklin Free Library
12th Wed.	12:00 Senior Citizens	Wesley Hall	27th Thurs.	7:00 Word Thursday (D. Bloom, R. Deluca), \$3
			<b>29th Sat</b>	<b>Old Franklin Day</b>
			30th Sun.	8:00 Reading: The Road Out (C. Cram)
				Chapel Hall