

An ounce of experience...

A thousand mile journey is begun with one foot put down.

An ounce of experience is worth a pound of theory.

Age listens to the voice of experience.

Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

For the soundness of ideas must be tested finally by their practical application. When they fail in this-- that is, when they cannot be carried out in everyday life producing lasting harmony and satisfaction and giving real benefit to all concerned-- to oneself as well as others-- no ideas can be said to be sound and practical.

The mystery of life...

We are all torches from the same bonfire.

The paradox of reaching the summit of being is that you were already there before you left.

The Tao is close at hand, yet people seek it afar.

All day in grey rain hollyhocks follow the sun's invisible road.

The mystery of life is not a problem to be solved, but a reality to be experienced.

No one knows the story of tomorrow's dawn.

This part of the journey is again as natural as the development of the chrysalis into butterfly, and any attempt to force this growth egotistically is like trying to open the chrysalis with tweezers.

Things will open up according to their own nature..



226. *Grandma Moses's Childhood Home*. 1946. 36 x 48". Cat. 575

Durham Village

"A Slow Lane That Works"

Learn how to:

Grow grains, vegetables, fruit, herbs, etc. • Get seeds from the crops • Thresh and mill grain • Milk a cow or goat • Store food without refrigeration • Make tools and basic machinery • Build simple living structures • Slaughter, butcher and dry meat • Manage woodlands for multi-purpose use • Build a windmill • Plow with draft animals • Apply solar heat and hot water innovations • Make candles • Recycle human and animal waste • Recycle anything • Keep water clean and drinkable.

Visit and Experience

A living working village and its inhabitants, as they carry out their daily chores • Cobblers, Blacksmiths, Bakers, Weavers, and their products • Fields, gardens, woodlands, and many varieties of animals • Aquaculture facilities • Bee-keeping • Cheese House • Canning Factory • Root Cellars • Ice Houses • Composting Toilets • Greenhouses • Seed Bank, etc.

Durham Village is:

- *Large enough to offer every advantage of modern living except the privilege to waste resources.*
- *Small enough for everyone to know where the resources are and who is responsible for maintaining them.*
- *Diverse enough to be offering styles of living simply rather than one religious way of living simply.*
- *Durham Village is an apprenticeship center, a social center, and a health resort and achieves a balance of trade every year by maintaining for others, and its inhabitants, a valuable resource which will always be in demand: peace.*

Locally grown food, homespun clothing, and simple lodging available.

"No other experience can substitute for a healthy relationship with the land."

For more information, write:

Durham Village Support Center

P.O. Box 401 Durham, NH 03824

[Note: This flyer is included as a way to help the reader "picture" a modern agriculture-based village. "Durham Village" does not actually exist. However, there may be other villages already in existence that are similar. If there are, I would like to be in contact with them.]

A 'branching' of American culture

By Stefan C. Pasti
Durham

The issues which affect the voters in America are too complicated for the majority of the voters to be democratically involved.

How can we sell weapons, bury radioactive waste, spray herbicides, mechanize farms, spew hazardous waste into rivers, clean almost everything with water, attempt to isolate the causes of cancer, vote for people we have never met, be taxed for projects we don't understand, be analyzed by people who have never had to live where we are living, be alienated by 25 religions for every one religion we associate with, be expected to believe we now know how nature is supposed to work and, finally, have any idea how all this is going to turn out? What experts know how all this is going to turn out?

There are limits to how much anyone can say they know for sure. If the "experts" do not really know that all these complicated projects, with both their benefits and potentially hazardous by-products, can blend together without causing "unacceptable risk," we all ought to be making our decisions based on such an understanding. Our decisions would then be based on a responsible understanding of our situation. Can we say this now? No. We must admit that issues are in many ways decided undemocratically by the

Guest Commentary

"experts," and these decisions are often lost amid a chaotic mass of information provided by television, newspapers, radio, and just about everything else.

One consequence of all this which we can be sure of is that it represents an abuse of human rights all around — ironically, even of the "experts" own rights — as economic, ecological and social systems become unstable and create understandable anxiety. Is anyone responsible for what is going on anymore?

More education is not the answer. We already unknowingly acquiesce to many significant decisions which affect us because we are overwhelmed by the chaotic mass of information we are now expected to swallow. We need simpler economic and ecological systems. We need to be closer to where our basic necessities of food, clothing, and shelter are produced. We cannot hope to re-establish a healthy environment of honesty and integrity — and therefore stability — without simplifying our economic and ecological systems enough so that we are all, once again, democratically involved.

However, it must be admitted that the possibility of voters in America reaching such an agree-

ment together, without a split, seems extremely unlikely... for even as individuals we seem to be torn between a yearning for a simpler life and a secret wish that the many advertised wonders of science can be had for a price which is not too high to pay. In other words, it does seem that these desires are mutually exclusive; that is, they are impossible for people to resolve in their own lives, in the world as we now know it.

Based on this observation, I have to wonder why we do not suggest a "branching of American culture." Why do we not plan as if that part of us which yearns for a simpler life has as "legitimate" a desire as that part of us which is curious to discover all there is to discover? The way I see it, both wishes represent real desires — no matter what is "legitimate" or "verifiable" — and both wishes have proven benefits behind them and unknown risks ahead... which is about the best that can be said about any prospects on Earth.

If we plan for a "branching of American culture," then both instincts can be satisfied — and recognized from the beginning as mutually supportive — and both environments will be available... in case people want to switch affiliation from time to time. When the time comes to decide between "I know" or "I don't know for sure," honesty is the best policy.

"When in doubt, tell the truth."
— Mark Twain

Hopefully, the thoughts and illustrations gathered here will generate discussion and activity in support of modern agriculture-based villages. Personally, I am looking for a project related to modern agriculture-based villages that I can contribute to. Anyone who would like to contact me is welcome to do so.

Stefan C. Pasti
26 Orchard Way South
Rockville, MD 20854
(301) 762-7439