

# SUSQUEHANNA TIMES

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Aimee and Dr. Ferguson at the site of the "new" Nelson

## He designed a town

Dr. Frank Ferguson, who lives in Maytown with his wife Eileen and children, Mike, Aimee, and Jack, has planned the moving of an entire town in Tioga County on the northern border of Pennsylvania.

The town, Nelson, was slated to be inundated by an artificial lake being constructed by the Army Corps of Engineers on the Cowanesque River. The Corps' plan was to compensate the residents of Nelson for their properties, so that they could move elsewhere. But the residents of Nelson, under the leadership of Mrs. Ila Wiley, protested breaking

up their community which goes back many generations.

Bucknell University took an interest in helping the residents of Nelson in preserving their community and called in Dr. Ferguson, who teaches environmental design at Penn State-Capitol Campus in Middletown.

Ferguson went to work planning a new town for Nelson.

It was a hard struggle. First the funds from Bucknell ran out; Ferguson kept working for the people of Nelson without pay. He went to Washington and testified before Congress on their need to hold their community together.

Congress approved a bill authorizing a new town for Nelson.

Ferguson had to come up with a complete plan for the new town in only five months' time.

Working day and night he managed to produce the plan on schedule, including designs for a town center, two residential areas, a recreational area, water and sewer systems. The project was so exhausting, Ferguson said it took him six months to recuperate.

Construction of the "new" Nelson started this spring.

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## Donegal football last week and next —story on back page

## Local Landmark destroyed

College students charged with vandalism

There has been a wave of vandalism in Falmouth. A covered bridge has been destroyed, and so has the statue of a hang-dog white horse, which stood along Rte. 441 near Falmouth for 30 years.

The builder of the statue, Carl Lewis, is bitter about the mindless destruction wrought by the vandals. "It doesn't make any sense—but then, what does anymore?" Mr. Lewis rhetorically asked a reporter who visited him last week.

The statue was made by Mr. Lewis out of welded steel rods, covered over with metal lath and plaster. Its feet were imbedded in concrete: the destruction was apparently accomplished by wrapping a chain about the statue's neck and ripping it out with an auto.

"People came from art colleges in New York and measured it all over once," Mr. Lewis related. "People would bring their kids here and let them sit on it. And it was a landmark."

Mr. Lewis told of how truck driver Bob Brandt, brother of representative Ken Brandt, was at a truck stop in the Midwest when he was asked where he hailed from. "I live along the road that runs between Columbia and Harrisburg," he replied. The other driver shot back, "How far from the white horse?"

When an article about the horse appeared in the Lancaster paper, people phoned Mr. Lewis and offered to rebuild the horse for him. But he declined the offer: "I guess the point is, that's the way they want it. I'm not going to have it fixed.

"Maybe if you leave it here, people who have read about it in the papers will see it and think about it."



Carl Lewis of Falmouth stands next to the broken remains of the horse he built 30 years ago. It was recently ripped out and smashed by vandals.

In the background is the building where Mr. Lewis formerly ran an antiques shop, its windows also smashed by hooligans. The sign, offering \$100 reward, was put there by neighbor Scott Sargen.

Lewis's neighbor, Scott Sargen, put up a big sign behind the broken statue. "THE HORSE VANDALIZED—REWARD \$100" it reads. Sargen, upset about the rampaging vandals, called all the local newspapers to help bring the problem to the attention of the community.

"I'm going to put up a sign, too," Mr. Lewis said. "A big one—and it won't offer a reward. It'll be a warning.

"I don't care if they lock me up," he added.

For many years Mr. Lewis ran an antiques shop

in the tiny concrete block building behind the statue, which he made as an advertising gimmick. He eventually gave up trying to do business there, he says, because of repeated vandalism and robbery attempts. All the windows were broken out of the store on several occasions.

—As we go to press, we have learned that three college students were arrested for vandalizing the horse and charged with criminal mischief. The students wanted to put the horses head in their dormitory.