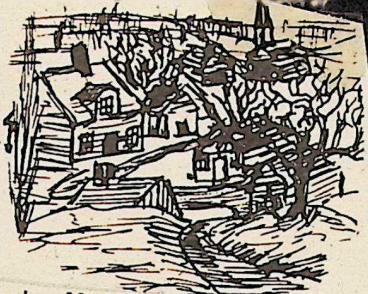


# Village View by Andrea Leonard



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With all the talk about water, its quality, availability, pollution, and whether the weather man will or will not send us some from the skies, it's hardly strange there's renewed interest in dowsing.

According to the dictionary, to dowse is "to use a 'divining rod' as in search for water or ore; to seek something with meticulous care, especially with the aid of a mechanical device."

For centuries the principle of finding water, or other substances buried beneath the surface of the earth, by dowsing has been practised. Some swear by it; others swear it's a fraud.

Only a few months ago I first heard of the American Society of Dowzers, Inc., and the more I hear about it the more fascinated I become.

The Society headquarters at Danville, Vermont; near enough to visit over a weekend, far enough to make it worth a trip, in an area of New England which attracts many Cape Codders "just for the ride".

The Society boasts over two thousand members from all parts of the world. There are members hailing from Europe, South America, and the Far East.

What's more, there are other dowsing societies. There's one in England, the British Society of Dowzers, and one in New Zealand, the Radiesthesia of Radionics, Inc., in Auckland. There are dowzers who are Vietnamese, dowzers who are French. Some are German, some are Russian.

In this country local chapters are scattered from Maine and Florida to California.

People in the Soviet Union, in India, in Hong Kong, and in Africa are involved with dowsing.

What are all these people searching for? Some look for water, but many seek other things as well. In Russia an archaeologist reports using dowsing techniques to locate caverns, subterranean passages and chambers, heating ducts, vaults, mass graves, former ditches and holes, wooden remnants of walls, foundations and palisades; remnants of store or brick walls, pillars and foundations, and architects dowse to locate drainage systems or subterranean streams which might threaten a structure about to be built.

According to a Candidate of Technical Sciences at Moscow, the location of certain objects of considerable dimension may be determined from inside an automobile traveling over level ground at a speed of ten to thirty kilometers per hour.

He does admit, however, that a detailed study of such abnormalities must be made on foot, and says it's essential the dowser clearly understand the physical nature of the abnormality he is looking for, and that he concentrate totally on the search and not be distracted by his surroundings.

Studying the phenomena of dowsing, this Russian believes such things as cold windy weather, feeling physically exhausted or in a bad mood, the need to reply to questions of casual observers, or dangerous obstacles in his path, can all have negative effects on his efforts.

In addition to finding objects buried beneath the ground, there are dowzers who locate things above the earth's surface, or on it, with the aid of a map and a pendulum. Map-dowsing, it's admitted, is a psychic phenomenon presently beyond human comprehension.

In the current Quarterly Digest of the American Society of Dowzers, a man describes his experience in map-dowsing in East Africa. He reports tracing a fellow-officer into a mountainous area, after that person had left on a three-week safari.

"I had," he writes, "a good idea of the general route he would take, but his camping grounds could be one of many.

"My first attempt to trace him seemed to be a complete failure. I could get no reaction whatever over the map, but I wasn't disappointed for I was very skeptical of map-dowsing at this time, and it seemed to prove my point that the whole thing was a lot of nonsense.

"I tried again, however, and this time I noticed the pendulum oscillated in a direction which, when followed, took me right off the map. I procured an adjoining map, and at a point over the town of Mbeya the pendulum gyrated vigorously."

Of course that's where his fellow-officer was, at the very moment he was dowsing for him.

In another article a description is given of a Vietnamese Naval Officer who used map-dowsing to locate missing persons in South Vietnam, and who also was able to locate, and follow as it drifted, a disabled patrol craft escort lost at sea.

Within 24 hours an air search found the survivors of the stricken craft exactly where he had pinpointed them by following the precise course he had laid out through map-dowsing.

Furthermore, the rescued crew reported that two of them had floated away on a wooden raft, and after dowsing for it, a plane sighted the target raft where the dowser directed them to look. The two badly-wounded seamen, however, were no longer aboard the raft.

What's all this to you? Maybe there's more to this dowsing business than you -- or I -- ever dreamed possible. It might be fun to find out more about it; it's almost guaranteed people so deeply and sincerely convinced that dowsing "works" would be both mighty interesting to meet and actively engaged in a fascinating study.

Wouldn't it be fun to talk with some of them? You can!

There's to be a convention of the American Society of Dowzers in Danville, Vermont on September 21st and 22nd.

If you're intrigued by the subject and would

like to know more about it, here's your opportunity.

Danville is located about seven miles west of St. Johnsbury on U.S. Route 2. It's a four-to-five hour drive from Cape Cod, and not far from Montpelier.

That's an ideal weekend's jaunt, now that summer's over and you really need to get away for a couple of days' relaxation.

It's possible you'll discover something about yourself you never knew before...maybe you're endowed with the talent and don't even know it!

There are to be panel discussions on Saturday evening at which questions on all aspects of dowsing will be welcome. There'll also be organized dowsing instruction and demonstrations on the Village Green on Sunday, and films about dowsing will be shown.

Will you be there to hear the speakers, ask some questions, see the movies and watch the dowsers do their thing? Will you, perhaps, try it yourself?

I did, And I believe it works. Just don't ask me to explain it because I can't.