

The Doucots said several neighbors joined work crews cleaning up the farm after the recent sale and many have approached them to say they are happy the farm is being preserved by the trust rather than falling into the hands of developers who are increasingly carving house lots out of eastern Connecticut's forests and fields.

Joanne Sheehan of Norwich and the New England regional coordinator for the War Resisters League, said the foundation of that relationship was laid in the days immediately following the 1968 raid.

"The Minutemen thought they'd be heroes," she said. "When the Minutemen went to prison, the people at the farm helped their families. The farm's residents didn't demonize them."

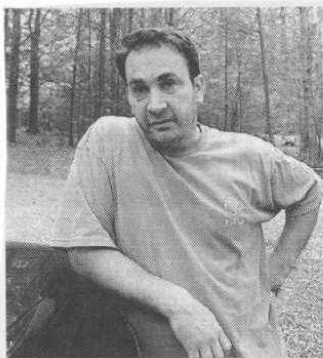
Several of those involved in the trust praised the Doucots' neighborly efforts. "The last thing we want is to be seen as a self-contained Utopia cut off from our neighbors," Mr. Kobasa said. "The history has sometimes been a difficult one. It is a defense-dependent area. All we can do is be frank without being confrontational."

Voluntown's first selectman, Thomas H. Wilber, said an anti-Iraq war sign was recently pulled off a Peace Farm lawn and dumped in the neighboring town of Griswold. A Voluntown resident spotted the sign and returned it to the farm.

"It's not like it was in the 60's," Mr. Wilber, who is a veteran with a family history of military service, said of the pacifists. "I might not agree with everything they say, but I'd certainly defend their right to say it."



Photographs by C. M. Glover for The New York Times



Ensuring 'kids can be kids' for many summers to come.



The Voluntown Peace Trust bought camp property that includes a stream and a log home, top, and several buildings, including a 1750 farmhouse, above, that is one of the oldest in town. Below, Chris Doucot, a member of the Hartford Catholic Worker mission, is part of the group running the farm, which aims to show children a way of life far from violence.