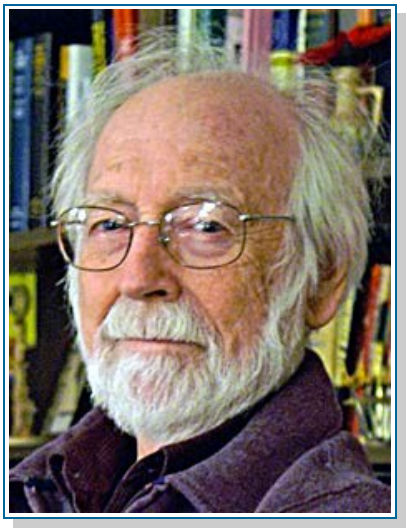
Jon Roe Biography

(prepared for Marie Herbst Memorial Dinner, 04/24/25)

Jon Roe grew up in a small town in far northern New Jersey, where his family lived for 200 years and there were more dairy cows than people.



Graduating in 1961 with an engineering degree from Penn State, he left New Jersey for Connecticut to work at Pratt & Whitney. The following year, Jon married a Jersey girl and in 1963 they moved to Vernon's Tankerhoosen River Valley.

About 1985, Jon became interested in natural health and spirituality. He found his organizing and planning skills were of value in an area where he could make a difference. In 1993, Pratt offered a generous retirement package and Jon left at age 53 to publish a magazine and help holistic practitioners move into the mainstream.

In 2003, Alan Slobodien of the Vernon Youth Services Bureau wanted to bring awareness to people locally of the benefits of holistic medicine. Jon joined him, working with the holistic community, and in 2004 they held the first Greater Vernon Holistic Healthfest at VCMS. The 12th Healthfest was held this March, 2025.

In 2009-10, TicketNetwork attempted to put an outdoor concert venue at Exit 66, and Jon joined the group that won that battle where he met people passionate about protecting the Tankerhoosen Valley, in particular Ann Letendre. Jon then read everything available on the Tankerhoosen Valley and its people.

To share what he learned, he created The Tankerhoosen website and e-newsletter. He also began working with volunteer nonprofits in town and, as with the holistic groups, helped them communicate by forming the Vernon Volunteers Collaborative in 2014. He facilitated the group, created their website and promoted VVC activities. Jon joined most of VVCs nonprofits participating in many of their activities.

Over the past 15 years he has written and given talks on the valley and the early families who lived here. To preserve our history for future generations, his book on Vernon's first 90 years was published a year ago with several others planned.

Jon and Janet have lived in Vernon for 62 years; they have two children and three grandchildren living nearby.

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