



Down to earth living

HOMETOWN TOURIST

*Green 'Giant'
is nestled
between —
and under —
the trees along
Fall Creek*

"Do not worry if you have built your castles in the air. They are where they should be. Now put the foundations under them."

— Henry David Thoreau, from "Walden"

By Zach Dunkin

zach.dunkin@indystar.com

PENDLETON, Ind. — Vic Cook stood before the small group seated on hay bales surrounding a diminishing campfire and asked for a show of hands.

"How many of you think I'm crazy?" polled the music teacher/musician/builder/artist/environmentalist.

A dozen of us have just toured Cook's energy-efficient home/museum/recording studio/bomb shelter called "The Giant." Buried deep within a forest along Fall Creek about a mile southwest of downtown Pendleton, the free-form structure juts 38 feet skyward and stretches 254 feet in length. Half of it is underground.

The Giant blends in with the forest because it *is* the forest: Cook built the home with his own hands, foraging trees >>

JOE VITTI / The Sta

Vic Cook, a musician, architect and artist, sits on his vintage U.S. Army Jeep parked in the middle of a virgin forest in Pendleton, where for the past 25 years he has been building "The Giant," a home inspired by his and his father's love of nature.

MICHELLE PEMBERTON / The Star 2006 file photo

THE INDIANAPOLIS STAR • INDYSTAR.COM
THE INDIANAPOLIS STAR • INDYSTAR.COM

