Drilling has long history in Tompkins Co.

By John Young and Lawrence Cathles

While natural gas was discovered in New York in 1821, the story of gas drilling in Tompkins County starts in 1888 with the "Ithaca Deep Well," located in what's now the parking lot for Eastern Mountain Sports along Route 13 in the City of Ithaca. Drilled to a depth of 3,185 feet, it passed through the Marcellus Shale but found only a non-commercial show of gas. It was the first of almost 100 mostly gas but also brine and geothermal wells that have been drilled to date in Tompkins County — some in every town in the county but most in Lansing and Groton.

It wasn't until 1939 that the county got its first commercially productive gas field — the Danby Field. The discovery well, the Mary Taubman No. 1, had an initial production of 5 million cubic feet of gas per day from the Oriskany Sandstone, and it wasn't abandoned until almost 30 years later. This well was located near the intersection of Comfort and Gunderman roads in the Town of Danby. Then in 1942, the county's second commercial gas field was discovered — the Peruville Field, located along the Groton/Lansing town line. These wells also produced from the Oriskany Sandstone (just below the Marcellus). The best production reported in this field was 3.5 million...
by the late Dr. Richard Wirthlin, who from 1968 forward was Reagan’s trusted pollster, trusted advisor and personal admirer. In those exhaustive sessions with the 250, Wirthlin encountered the pessimism and crankiness so pervasive among voters in 1980. But he concluded that the nation’s low morale was due to a loss of public confidence in the nation’s leadership and did not indicate loss of confidence in the nation itself.

Emphasizing Reagan’s innate personal optimism, that 1980 campaign had as its premise that Americans wanted to believe that the country — with its confidence restored by a leader — they could believe in — could solve its nagging problems.

On a personal note, I always both liked and trusted Wirthlin, who while always fiercely loyal to the Gipper, could be generous with his findings. As an example, he revealed to me that, during the 1984 re-election campaign, when Reagan carried 49 of the 50 states against Democrat Walter Mondale, the Reagan campaign had

Mark Shields
Commentary

Today is July 31, 2012. On this date:

- In 1777, the Marquis de Lafayette, a 19-year-old French nobleman, was made a major-general in the American Continental Army.
- In 1919, Germany’s Weimar Constitution was adopted by the republic’s National Assembly.
- In 1930, the radio character “The Shadow” made his debut as narrator of the “Detective Story Hour” on CBS Radio.
- In 1942, Oxfam International had its beginnings as the Oxford Committee for Famine Relief was founded in England.
- In 1957, the Distant Early Warning Line, a system of radar stations designed to detect Soviet bombers approaching North America.

DOONESBURY

SO WHICH OF THE OLD CHARACTERS WILL BE SHOWING UP IN THE STRIP? WELL, MY HANDSOME HUSBAND, OF COURSE...

AND MY BEAUTIFUL BEST BUDDY...

STANDING BY FOR MORE GOOD TIMES!

...AND BECAUSE HE’S ONE OF THE FOUNDER DURES, WE’LL ALSO OCCASIONAL CHECK IN WITH THE POPSTERS!