

# The Cog Railroad in the Catskills

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The first time my parents came for a visit to Brooktondale was a great experience for all of us. They were scheduled to stay for six months, but extended it to a year, so they could experience as much of this country as possible. There was a time when I was quite jealous of them, for they saw more of this country than I.

On one of these trips, they rode down to the Catskills and stopped at the new defunct Animal Preserve and petted some exotic animals. There were waiting to board the cog railroad to travel up to the top of the mountain. There was quite a crowd, and my uncle Frank got separated from his wife. Being bilingual has many advantages, one of which is that you can say things in one language that you wouldn't in another. My aunt Elizabeth turned around from the middle of the crowd and urged her husband, my uncle Frank to come join her. She said this in Hungarian, uncle Frank responded, also in Hungarian "I will as soon as this fat woman gets out of my way". With that, the fat woman turned around and exclaimed in a loud and exuberant voice in Hungarian "Oh, you're Hungarians?" and was not offended in the least.