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Organic Gardener Needs Help

Lee Musgrave

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Women Working

An audience-participating radio program is sometimes part of our after-lunch rest. Listeners, mostly women, phone in comments to the guest of the day. Frequently they discuss the "woman question." Betty Friedan has been on twice, urging women to fulfill themselves outside the home. (See June and August 1964 *Green Revolution*.) They've had Phyllis McGinley whose book comforts women with, "It's O.K. to be a homemaker and enjoy it." Recently the program had Edith DeRahm, author of *The Love Fraud*, who repeats Betty Friedan's theme.

Interesting. But our dozen fruit trees needed their dormant spray. On our homestead, fruit-raising is the woman's job. Cold weather had persisted, and it was late for a dormant spray. Any day, in a sudden warm spell, the leaf buds would swell. Then it's too late for the dilute oil that smothers the mites and fungus. So I turned off Edith and her pals and went to investigate the sprayer. Praise be, it worked! Then, Ladder and I sallied forth. While I shot a fine mist into the trees I kept thinking about women "working."

Personal Inventory

Do I really prefer spraying trees on a chilly day to being a teacher, a doctor, a lawyer, a secretary, a "big" journalist?

The twigs snagged my scarf, the ladder tipped in the soft earth, and the briars scratched my legs. I should have brought the clippers and rake and got rid of the briars; I should have done this spraying when the ground was frozen. Take the consequences of your own mistakes! Didn't Emerson say something like, "If you don't work with Nature, you won't learn persistence"? Maybe that's why so many people are "soft" these days, and fail to tackle difficult "problems."

So take a longer look! What's a little discomfort today, when your work insures your not having to buy sulphured and poisoned apples next fall? Remember the thrill of that burst of Golden Delicious harvest will come again. And the satisfaction of bags of fresh, ripe Yellow Transparents in the freezer to pop into a brown betty when a carload of young people arrives unexpectedly. Nothing like inexpensive, and therefore carefree, generous hospitality! And don't forget the jars of sweet but unsugared sauce from the summer Wealthies, or the bushels of Rome Beauties to add to the winter daily carrot juice.

Modern Women Working

And what's so wonderful about teaching today? I had years of it, without much chance to present challenges such as the green revolution. If I were a doctor, would I, like most of them, have to dole out drugs and deal with symptoms? I'd rather practice and teach valid health regimens and a do-it-yourself prevention system. If I were a lawyer, would I then merely interpret (and charge for) laws that uphold an unjust land-and-property system? Secretary? I'd rather do my own writing than copy what others want done.

How about being an editor of an influential woman's magazine? Not if my livelihood depended on the advertising that keeps them in business. Take a look at the June 1964 issue of *Ladies Home Journal*, guest-edited by Betty Friedan. By my count some 60 pages of beautiful ads included 18 pages of Wow Hostessing and Party Foods; 13 pages of shampoos and cosmetics; 11 of fancy disposable paper products; 11 of glamorous house furnishings and appliances; and several each of cars, kodaks and jewelry. Only one page with an intellectual appeal (Great Books) was headed by the sex-rivalry tease: "The Woman Your Husband Works With" (she reads Great Books!). I found only two columns (note, *columns*) devoted to real necessities: one to diapers and one to sandals. I'm afraid my dealing with basic problems of living would be like a heavy downpour at a summer picnic.

No, in April 1965 I'd rather work with my fruit trees, garden all summer and eat our whole food all year—minus a big salary, of which a large percentage would have to go as taxes to support projects I don't like. I prefer Lane's End Homestead—with its association with the lively readers of *Green Revolution* and *A Way Out*—to any woman's work I can imagine. Ours is a good life of mental-physical-emotional balance. How about other readers? Are you finding fulfillment in your homesteading?

Let, cont'd

Note 1: We're holding \$865 in a savings bank for Headquarters Fund. \$155 is due this fund.

Note 2: Out of personal savings, Mildred Loomis prepaid \$2400 for 600 copies of *Go Ahead and Live!*, to get 2000 copies published. (After two years of searching for a publisher, during which Devin-Adair said they'd like to publish it if we could guarantee sales of 2500 copies, we thought the arrangement we did make was a reasonable one.) Half of our supply of 600 has been sold. After we sell the other 300, the

Letters to the Editor

Proposes Oregon Meeting To the Editor:

We would like to have an area Homestead Festival at our place during July, when our homestead is at its best. We would need help, and would like to hear from Green Revolutioners in the northwest who would like a get-together on a "pot luck" basis. . . . We are becoming more self-sufficient each year; now have three freezers full of home-processed food; a shed full of wood, and more for coming years in our woods. We used non-poisonous sprays last year, but are aiming at spray-free fruit and nuts. We would like to obtain a cider mill, to use our small and blemished apples, and also want to learn to process and use rose hips.

To keep the "villain from foreclosing on our homestead" I teach and Herman works out. But we have some time for homesteading and harvest, and soon it will all be ours without this outside work.—Nina Johnson, Rt. 1, Box 249, Newberg, Ore.

Homesteading Areas

To the Editor:

After long study, communication and some experience, I submit the following sections as ideal for homesteading, in this order:

Butte County, Calif., particularly around Oroville and Chico; mountains, lakes, streams; outstanding for farming year round.

Around Hendersonville and east of Marion, N. C., similar to above.

In Oregon, Grants Pass, Medford, Roseburg, Eugene; never hits freezing.

In Texas, Alpine, near Big Bend Nat. Park and the Laredo area; same as above.

In Arizona, the Douglas area in southeastern corner; great for everything.

I'd like to see the School of Living headquarters community ultimately in one of these sections, with the homestead movement and *The Green Revolution* as the prime mover. A true homestead village centered around your newspaper as catalyst and inspiration is the best way to insure prospects to participate. Location is important and it need not be isolation from the rest of the world.—Mel Ducat, 1003 Willmohr, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Dietrichs To Project

To the Editor:

We're just back from Richard Allen's Sylvania Ranch community which you mentioned in January *Green Revolution*. Mr. Allen is an honest, vital man of tremendous organizational ability and infectious enthusiasm. The amount of work he has accomplished in 10 years is almost unbelievable. We're now headed down there.

Arthur has found in the past few years that more and more the atmosphere of re-circulated tobacco smoke and industrial fumes where he works are intolerable, especially health-wise. So, by the time the February issue of *Natural Food and Farming* magazine arrived at our house, we had about decided he would quit his work and we would build on our property in the Fort Valley, Virginia, some 25 miles over the Blue Ridge Mountains from Sperryville, produce all our own food and use his workshop tools to earn a cash income. In January's issue of the magazine, we had already noticed Richard Allen's ad in the classified.

Then came the article "A Dream to Live By." We were so impressed by the whole story and the thought of how pleasant it would be to live among people who had a common belief in the organic way of gardening and

School of Living will have the dealer's discount of \$1.60 per copy for our treasury. Hence, we can all assist our financial status by active sales of *Go Ahead and Live!*

farming, and how advantageous it would be to be part of a group working together on marketing produce, that we decided to look into this community in Gordonsville. Over Washington's Birthday, we went down to Sylvania Ranch. Mr. Allen took us to four places of different sizes which he knew to be for sale and then we went home to think it all over once more and figure it all out on paper. The end result is that we went back to Gordonsville and contracted to buy a 26 acre place complete with buildings just suitable for our use. Art has handed in his resignation to IBM, our home here is on the market now and we are enthusiastically looking forward to a new and better life. Just when we will complete the deal in Gordonsville remains to be seen. In the meantime we will begin to take our things down there and make a start on planting the garden. Our house here has yet to be sold, and there are many things to do to accomplish this move. Praise be! This is our "way out," and we are on our way.

We have no doubt that the many years of reading *Balanced Living* and *A Way Out* influenced us and gave us the vision to find a way out. For your part in it, we thank you.—Art and Margaret Dietrich, Titusville Rd., Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

Caught In the Trap

To the Editor:

I work on an assembly line at American Motors (Rambler). Being an introspective person I observe life as it flows past me. I feel agonizing pity for all of us caught in the trap and even at the risk of being branded a communist, or a misfit or discontent, I sometimes talk about the *Green Revolution* or *A Way Out* or *Natural Foods*, or some aspect of what you are trying to tell the world. It is a very slow leaven, but it almost never fails to interest even the most hopeless cases. Very few have begun to realize what is really wrong, but everyone feels that something is very radically wrong, and they want to do something about it in their personal lives.

What I am trying to tell you is that, in my opinion, what you are doing is well worth the effort, and that I would like to help—endow you with a thousand or a million dollars. But I am caught in the trap and haven't a dollar to spare. Installments coming due, layoff imminent, shutdown probable. But I do send you a few hard earned dollars. You who are divorced from the rat race and showing us a way out do not realize how desperate so many of us are, and how disillusioned all of us are, and how much we need a way out.—L. T. J., Milwaukee, Wisc.

Action In California

To the Editor:

I have written to most of the persons you named in the March editorial as interested in a School of Living meeting in California. I'm suggesting that if they are really serious that we arrange a date to meet here at our homestead. We have no overnight accommodations but there are motels nearby. This is an invitation to any other interested Californians to get in touch with us. My letter was to the point: we have to do some "talking" yes, to work out some plan, but we need folks who are not all theory; who have some ability to put action to their plans. We would like to hear from them—not just a card, but a letter presenting ideas, plans, etc., what they really want. We need to know what we want and then go after it.—Lucia Biser, Box 71, Lucerne (Lake County), Calif.

Organic Gardener Needs Help

To the Editor:

Our Organic Gardens and herd of nine goats, rabbits and chickens is now in full production, and

The Green Revolution

Second class mailing privilege authorized at Brookville, Ohio 45309.

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Telephone: TE 8-4522 (New Lebanon, Ohio).

enjoying a growing market. We plan a market-and-picnic pavilion this year, and are going into freezing quality organic food for all-year-round sale. We need help, and can offer the right couple a four-room house rent-free, all the produce they can use, plus some cash wage. I am 31, my wife 29, and children are 7 and 4 years.—Lee Musgrave, 357 Wolf Road, Rt. 3, West Alexandria, Ohio.

Halvorsens To California

To the Editor:

We once lived in the San Francisco Bay area, but it was too smoggy. But my husband and I have been thinking about settling in California again. And I am definitely leaving in mid-April for the organic Graham Creek Ranch (33622 Globe Drive, Porterville, Calif.) for rest and recuperation. This was recommended by Dr. Randolph as inexpensive, with lots of space and organic food. Today, in spite of bad weather and consequent bad symptoms, I have the feeling of being on the right track, and that I'm taking a step in the right direction. Ralph will bring the children later, and we will try to find a place to homestead. Is there anyone I can contact in Southern California? —Rita Halvorsen, 1646 Glenwood Dr., Glenview, Ill.

Breathes Ocean Air

To the Editor:

To get out of smog and poisoned air we are building a home near the ocean so that the air we breathe comes off the ocean in prevailing onshore winds. Rita Halvorsen might find such an environment helpful. —Morgan Harris, 4530 Russell Ave. Los Angeles, Calif.

Inventor Answers Queries

To the Editor:

I am an inventor, engineer and tool and die maker. To those who inquired in your March issue:

Anyone has my permission to make use of the ideas in my *Patent Solar Heating Assemblies*. Send 25c to the Commissioner of Patents, Patent Office, Washington, D. C.

For hulling sunflower seeds, I use a "Corona" corn mill. First I open the plates to a space narrower than the thickness of the seeds, and feed them through sparingly; then sort out unhulled ones; then I decrease the space, run these through again and then

(continued on page 4)

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- ☐ Here is \$6.15 for 1 year of *The Green Revolution* plus the book *Go Ahead and Live!* (You save \$1.)
- ☐ I am sending \$6 for a combination subscription to both *The Green Revolution* and *A Way Out*.

Name _____
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School of Living Calendar
at
Heathcote Homestead
Maryland Line, Md.

JUNE 11, 12, 13, 14—
Youth Rally and Workbee.

JULY 3-10—Community
Workshop: work, play, discussions.

JULY 11—Annual Meeting,
School of Living Members.