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Vermont Dissenters

Edith Bloom

Harold Bloom

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"So Many Things To Buy To Make Us Happy"

A reader reports the ways his generous income slips away: "A new car, college for the kids, the mortgage on the house—and so many things to buy to make us happy."

His situation is typical, and we deceive ourselves if we assume that many who endorse *A Decentralist Code* (see the May issue of *The Green Revolution*) do not share in it.

Why is this? What causes this exaggerated need for things over and beyond adequate survival?

Most people are aware of frustration, an emptiness, a restlessness. We believe this will be assuaged in buying what advertisers display or what the neighbors have. So we buy; the neighbors buy more; and we must buy more too. A seemingly endless cycle, for the inner need is not satisfied.

Psychologists say that the real source of this uneasiness is a dissatisfaction with our *selves*. An honest look confirms this. We doubt our worth, our adequacy as a person; we find it difficult to relate easily and warmly with others.

A new book *Normal Neurosis*,* explains and develops this concept unusually well. Every person has three basic emotional (self) needs. First he needs to know himself as he really is. This is difficult. For from babyhood we have probably been living out the standards and expectations of someone other than ourselves — Mother, Father, Teacher, Neighbors. So most of us do not, as adults, know what *we* really are; what we *really* want; what we are really *capable of*. All our standards of reference are outside us. In not letting us as children live out our own lives, in not letting us make choices and take their consequences, adults fail us. As perceptive Dr. J. C. Moloney phrased it at a School of Living session, "A child does not begin to want things until he has given up on people."

Authors Gail and Snell Putney clearly define and elaborate universal self needs in *Normal Neurosis*. They show why it is that our self-doubt, lack of real self-acceptance is cause for the "mess we are in": the conformism, the withdrawal from people, the aggressiveness, the need to have and possess things in affluence. Moreover, they show how to grow out of this — how to develop an adequate self-image. It will serve well as a daily companion.

**Normal Neurosis* by Gail and Snell Putney (Harpers, 1964) is \$4 from School of Living. It will be the basis for our daily session on Communication and Human Relations at the July 3-11 Workshop at Old Mill.

College Students Are Interested

Steve Frankhouser is a fourth year student at Ohio State University, and says he doesn't like the society "which education is trying to push him into." At different times he chose being a rebel, a beat and a complete non-conformist. Then he met Sue Ellen Williams, with whom he began talking about the problem of living a decent life as an individual. During this time he wrote the poem, "My Wedding Song," printed below.

Sue remembered that her uncle, Woodrow Williams, had told her about a magazine *A Way Out*, and Lane's End Homestead at Brookville, Ohio. They found copies of this magazine in the university library, which led to reading Ralph Borsodi's books. They provided the young couple fresh hope of finding a wonderful way to live independent of the "dark age" which seems to be

overcoming a majority of people "caught in the machine."

Plans for the Future

Recently Steve and Sue expressed their interest in more education for living. In the next three years as they work to repay the debts they incurred to "finish school and get a good start in life" they want to study School of Living concept of education and homesteading. They also hope to introduce as many people as possible to this alternative.

They have read *Go Ahead and Live!* and are reading it with some of their friends. "Isn't it amazing," they asked, "how few young couples ever think about their life problems, but just follow along in the general trend?" They want to visit Lane's End

My Wedding Song

By Steve Frankhouser

I have built for you, my love,
The house, from stone I quarried
With my hands, torn from
The mountain at your doorstep.
Roof-beams from the redwood
Giants I have hewn.
At your rear door a spring flows
Sparkling cool, the water as
Clear and blue as your eyes.
A meadow lies at your feet.
Soft grasses and fragrant clovers
For you to walk upon.
The orchard of plum and apple
And sour cherries,
Fields have I plowed and sown
With barley, maize and wheat.
To the south in a little forest
Flows a brook where the otters
play,
Trout flee the shadows
And the small birds of the woods
Sing all day,
Eating the sweet berries.
Here we walk, my love,
And here we lie,
Here we are married,
And here I give to you, my love,

The house,
The spring, the fields, my love
And my child.
Here we walked later and found
The new-budding leaves,
The tiny nests of the wood-birds
songs,
Here we built the house of our
son
From the mountain and forest,
Roof-beam of red-wood, walls of
stone.
My son's son you bathed here,
I told him of the quiet play
Of the forest dwellers, I gave him
The world of ideas from books,
And romance of songs.
Here he brought his bride,
And here on the hill beside the
Twisted pine I and my son covered
Your still-warm body.
Here an old man sits
And dreams the old-man dreams
Of love for you, my young love
Whom I married by the brook
In the warmth of the sun.

Letters to the Editor

Three H Suggests Course

To the Editor:

We are getting replies from our ad, and appreciate the account you gave in April *Green Revolution* of Three H Institute. When your new Center is well enough advanced, would it be of interest to your members to conduct a special Three H Planned course for School of Living members on a closed-group, reduced fee? We would need basic expenses paid, and may be able to contribute much to the Center in that way.—W. J. Arnet, director, Three H Institute, 10 Eglinton Ave., Toronto, Ont., Canada

Teacher to Homestead

To the Editor:

We have greatly appreciated our year's membership in School of Living and its publications, especially *Go Ahead and Live!* We found that readable, enjoyable, stimulating and thought-provoking and would recommend it for persons of any age. We are buying 10 acres, and will move as soon as we sell our town property. We have high hopes for our "homestead." —L. M. Loxley, West Milton, Ohio (a high school teacher)

Letter Brings 53 Replies

To the Editor:

Since you printed my letter offering plumbing help (November, 1964), I have received and answered 53 letters from all over the map. A few have plumbing problems. Most want to know about homes down here in the Virgin Islands. Have to tell them all, No. The climate is too dry for much gardening, and native citizens steal anything that matures in anyone's garden or on trees. They are mostly professional relief clients, and the government bureaucrats make it so unpleasant for white people who need to work for a living, it does not pay. Am Cherokee myself, so have no racial bias, but am fed up with these islands, and plan to leave in a few months. —O. R. Franklin, Fredericksted, St. Croix, V. I.

Home Production For Appalachia

To the Editor:

I wish we in School of Living could do something to influence the Washington officials about the immediate needs of the Appalachians. Why not use money for community programs, which is what idle mountain people need—help teach how to build root cellars for storing vegetables, how to keep house, how to cook and eat for health, how to set up sawmills and construct

Homestead, and other homesteads, to attend the 1965 School of Living summer workshop, and in 1966 to volunteer work on a homestead in exchange for time to study, talk and make friends.

beautiful cabins, etc. This won't be easy, but I think it must be attempted, for we are about two centuries late in doing it. . . . A young Wellesley student has been down there in nursing service, and has written a good paper showing that the "welfare" they are getting doesn't really help, but demoralizes them and makes them feel useless. —E. Haswell, 211 E. 18th St., New York City

Take Your Courage To the Woods

To the Editor:

We arrived here last year too late to put in crops; we suffered real privation during the last week of December, but a few people rendered necessary assistance to get us through the winter. My wife and I have completed a small book of children's poetry, now being printed; it depicts our rural life and I believe of interest to *Green Revolution* folks.

We are interested in getting an agricultural cooperative community going here. We invite people who want to work; we will make available a place to put up a cabin and we know how difficult things will be. Free-loaders we can do without. We will not examine their pocket-book, but hope they have vision and appreciation for building a good life for themselves and their children.

Those who merely like to come to the farm in the summer, putter around for a few weeks, sing songs around a campfire, take home the produce and then expound on the wonders of rural life are living only half a life, and exploiting others. I'd like to prevent the uninitiated gathering a bunch of romantic ideas about taking to the woods. It is extremely difficult, requires tremendous tenacity, physical and mental strength, and a dedication to an ideal such as one might find among the most devoutly religious. —Gary DeYoung, Cass Lake, Minn.

Filing GR Material

To the Editor:

I like to refer to material in *Green Revolution* and often can't find what I want. Couldn't you change the format to an 8 page, say 9" x 12" size, with punched holes in the margin so we could file it in a ringed notebook? And departmentalize the items, so we could know just where to look for material of specific topics?—W. Earwood, New Lexington, Ohio.

(Note. Printing is expensive and changing format costs money—and more margin for holes, for instance, would reduce the amount of material we could include. Our present *Green Revolution* has been carefully designed to give us an attractive publication for the least cost. We have, at times, considered various ideas for changing it, and will probably sometime be able to make changes. Major changes, however, can easily result in substantial increases in cost. We fold GR by hand, at Lane's End, for instance, to save on cost.

Our readers, of course, handle the problem Mr. Earwood mentions in various ways. For one, why not have a card file, in which you have departments — Food, Gardening, Building, Animals, Health, etc.—and when you get your new *Green Revolution* (or other journals) you jot down the items by page and date on a card and file in your card file for quick location later?

Have you sent Mr. Earwood information about you and your homestead for the *Green Revolution* directory he is making up?—M.J.L.)

Southwest Community

To the Editor:

Thanks to our good friend, Russel Jaque, for sending us your wonderful paper. We believe that the expressions in your journal are shared by many in our coun-

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

try, and there has long been a need to bring these people together. It is indeed a shame that this universe, given freely to fulfill the needs of all, should now be in the hands of a few to satisfy their own greedy needs. We sincerely hope all of you wherever you live who understand a more natural way of life will help expose what is called living for what it really is, the death of a people.

We would like to hear from any of your readers who would be interested in forming a community in the southwest, dedicated to natural living and the fulfillment of life. —Mr. & Mrs. Gary Reimer, 215 E. Oak, Ojai, Calif.

Report from Bryn Gweled

To the Editor:

Bryn Gweled Homesteads has certain cooperative aspects which may be of interest to you, however it is not an intentional community. At the quarter century mark, the 65 member families own the land in common, finance and care for the community center and sports facilities, take care of community business through the elected Board of Directors and a monthly general business meeting, and plan for other needs via committees. Norman and Betty Polster, 855 Woods Rd., Southampton, Pa., are interested in your work and would welcome any communications which you care to share with them. —M. D. Hurwitz, Chm., Public Relations., Southampton, Pa.

Vermont Dissenters

To the Editor:

My wife and I try to lead as simple a life as people can who still want to hear good music, buy a few books and see an occasional play down-country (that's New York City for us Vermonters-by-self-adoption). We are hoping and planning to reach the self-sufficient stage by the time we reach retirement age.

That may not be the real way to do it, but at least not having to get out of our hill country back road to go to work will eliminate a large part of our need for cash for transportation. We already raise a good bit of our food, primarily green vegetables in summer and root crops to see us through the winter. We heat by wood, at a much lower cost than any form of central heating could equal. And our quiet, peaceful old 100-odd acres of Vermont woods and fields and

(continued on page 3)

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Russel Jaque To Publish Ambrosia

Those who know the attractive printing and the basic life concepts of Russel Jaque, author of *Mankind*, *Go Home*, will welcome his plans to publish his memoirs and stories in a hand-printed edition, titled *Ambrosia*. Among his friends urging him to include his autobiography is Kirpal Singh, spiritual master of Delhi, teacher and mentor of Jaque. To begin this project, Jaque needs silk-screen equipment and supplies in the amount of \$400, which he will make available for other uses later. Friends, fellow disciples, book patrons and correspondents may assist him by advancing the amount to cover the number of copies they will want at \$5 each. At age 66, Russel Jaque lives simply at Star Rte., Box 32, Tecate, Calif.

The Owner-Built Home — Chapter 9
Volume III — Form and Function
Do-It-Yourself Painting

By Ken Kern

Nothing much has really changed today in the painting industry from the formation of the first medieval closed shop. Modern house painters have their own particular brand of price-fixing exclusiveness; and their union, too, is careful to enforce maximum-size brush widths and to outlaw fast-working renegade spray or roller equipment. Thank God, a man may still work on his own home. And thanks to a tremendous chemical advance in recent years with unbiased reports from countless agencies, the "secrets of the mystery" are no longer the private property of an inner circle!

The chemical advance has been very rapid. It has not been long since a painter himself mixed and ground his paints. His pigment was first zinc, then the improved titanium dioxide—first used in 1920. From earliest days he had used linseed oil as binder or vehicle.

Then in 1930 we had what is known in the industry as the *alkyd revolution*. Alkyd resin has all but replaced linseed oil in commercially prepared paints. More recently the synthetic paint industry has developed other remarkable vehicles such as phenolics, vinyls, urethanes, silicones, epoxies, acrylics, and latex.

Exterior wood siding should not have to be painted less than six years after the first application. Planed lumber requires more frequent treatment than rough-sawn or rough-planed wood. As a matter of fact, rough-sawn redwood and cedar weather beautifully without any preservation whatever. Experimentally-minded home builders have found that any number of *natural* finishes can be concocted from readily available inexpensive materials. To create an aged-appearing flat finish, a mixture of discarded crankcase oil and gasoline has been used with success on rough-sawn siding. A mixture of creosote and pigment-stain is another often-used natural finish. After several years a second coat of clear creosote and oil mixture is applied to restore protective qualities.

Conventional exterior paint uses titanium dioxide as the white paint-solid, and linseed oil and mineral spirits as the nonvolatile and volatile ingredients of the vehicle. But alkyds are more stain-and-blister-and-mildew-resistant than linseed oil paints. The finish coat should have zinc oxide pigments in it to control the rate of chalking. As a paint ages it collects dirt, changes color, and chalks. If the paint is correctly controlled, rain will wash off the dirt along with the chalking. The chalking effect is thus utilized to keep the paint cleaner and brighter, and so to prolong its usefulness. Applying a prime coat of shellac or aluminum paint over knotholes and flat-grained siding is an especially good practice.

Lacquer and varnish films break down sooner on outside exposure than do regular paints having protective pigments. The use of three coats of a high grade spar varnish is a minimum requirement for an outside transparent finish. Butyl phenol resin-based varnishes are definitely superior to the old type in hardness, durability, and water resistance.

Polyurethane-based, phenolic gum and phenolic tung oil are the best commercially available natural finishes, though they last only two years at the longest. An eight-year natural finish was developed some years ago by the Forest Products Laboratory, which publishes this formula for a 5-gallon batch, cedar color:

Raw linseed oil 3 gals.
Mineral spirits of turp 1 gal.
Burnt sienna, oil color 1 pt.
Raw umber, oil color 1 pt.
Paraffin wax 1 lb.
Penta concentrate 10:1 ½ gal.
Zinc stearate 2 oz.

Pour the gallon of mineral spirits into a 5-gal., open-top can. Put paraffin and zinc stearate in another pan and heat over flame, stirring until uniform mixture results. Pour this into the mineral spirits, stirring vigorously. Keep flame away from mineral spirits. When solution has cooled to room temperature, add pentachlorophenol concentrate, then linseed. Stir in colors until mixture is uniform, and it's ready for use. For redwood color, use ½ pt. burnt sienna and ½ pt. raw umber, plus 1 pt. pure red oxide color-in-oil.

Shingle stains can be used also on rough-sawn siding. Linseed or oil-modified alkyd coatings are the best here, as a porous paint film is necessary to allow moisture to escape and thereby prevent blistering. Regular shingle stain is composed of a color dissolved in oil-containing solvents and a wood preservative such as creosote. Preservation of the shingle depends upon adequate penetration of the stain rather than the formation of a protective outside film, while with regular paint, on the contrary, adhesion of the film to the surface is more important than penetration.

It has been found that 90% of all paint failures are due to the poor lumber used as the base—mainly the high moisture content of the wood, or moisture entering the back side of the wood after it has been painted—through condensation due to faulty gutter and flashing. Blistering is a common result of moisture destroying the paint bond. Paint will adhere best to slow-grown spring wood and will tend to peel from fast-grown summer wood. Paint will also last longer upon narrow-band, edge-grain boards than upon wide-band, flat-grain boards.

Alligatoring, the final stage of checking, is one common paint-mixture deficiency. It results from having too much oil in the prime coat. The prime coat should always be harder than the final coat. For this reason it is important to allow plenty of time between coats, as exposure to the air causes a hardening action (oxidation) to take place. The final coat should be elastic enough to respond to the expansion and contraction of weather change.

Lacquer, shellac, spar varnish, linseed, or alkyd can all be used on interior wood paneling and plywood. Alkyd is an excellent sealer for plywood. Alkyd gloss or semi-gloss paint will last as long and retain color as well as any paint now sold. If a colored surface is desired, one of the styrene-butadiene, polyvinyl acetate, or acrylic latex paints is an excellent choice. Already, the greatest volume of water-emulsion paint sold in the United States is of the latex type. Such paints dry rapidly, are easily applied, have no odor, have good scrub resistance (after hardening), excellent penetration, and good color-uniformity.

(to be continued)

What About Velvet Beans?

By O. A. Koepp
904 Michigan Ave.
Palm Harbor, Fla.

The velvet bean has been bean grown in the South for years as a standard livestock feed. I first became interested in it in 1927, and have been using it successfully as tasty human food for a long time. The standard practice here is to plant a row of velvet beans, a row of corn and a row of peanuts. All three are good protein foods, though both peanuts and velvet beans contain about three times as much protein as yellow corn. The corn serves mostly to hold the beans off the ground.

There are several kinds of velvet beans; some are bush beans, but I plant the old Florida, speckled, vine-growing bean which matures in 180 days. (Up north one would probably have to use the 90-day velvet bean.) We eat them in various stages of ripeness. When shelled green, they are pearly white, as large as large English peas. Soon small purpleish spots develop. I slit the pods with a knife, and it doesn't take long to shell enough large beans for a meal. Where the knife wounds a bean, a redish purple color appears. I believe this is prussic acid, but in such small amounts that it does

Letters, cont'd

pastures gives us all the pleasure and variety and spiritual enrichment that one could ask for.

We aren't roughing it, but when it gets to 25 below in winter and the road is snowed under, our respect for the almost non-existent old rugged Vermont individualist increases all the more. Economic dis-opportunity and the "big sell" are rapidly making the oldtime Vermonter a thing of the past. But for those who want to drop out of the rat race, and will make the requisite material sacrifice, as we are slowly going, there is still plenty of room left here.

We cherish each issue of our *Green Revolution*, and couldn't possibly think of not receiving it continuously.—Edith and Harold Bloom, North Montpelier, Vt.

Homestead, cont'd

ferred, or be sold out by the government of everything for taxes! After they pay the costs on borrowed money, the costs of producing and the taxes, there is too little left to live on. Taxation robs them directly and ruinously.

Q. Do you have any hopes for the green revolution?

A. There can be no true green revolution until human beings wake up and emancipate themselves from these things—the slavery of high land costs and high interests rates, and the tyranny of taxation.

Q. What do you suggest people do?

A. Most people see that there must be revenue for highways, and some common necessities. But this doesn't need to come via taxation. Why can't people see that the users, beneficiaries of such things, buy and pay for the services they use? If every person would tell his tax collector he prefers to buy what he wants of common services, and refuse to pay for what he does not order, there'd be some chance for a man to live on his land and make a go of it. I can envision a time when every man has his fair share of the earth free. He will be free to produce and construct to his heart's content. From that spot he can resist all exploitation. He can command the full value of any production he wants to exchange—or refuse to trade. This in my view is central to a green revolution.

(Note. The general economic principles that are pertinent to successful living on the land are discussed more fully in *A Way Out* and books and pamphlets available from School of Living. May 1965 is devoted to the Possessional Problem—the ethical possession of land and money, etc.—Editor)

not seem harmful to either beast or man. I prefer their flavor to green soya beans. They can be cooked with pork, or in any other way.

Beans Form Shaded Area

I am allergic to work, and the newest way to reduce work is to grow velvet beans and gather them from a shade they form beside our house. Beginning 40 feet from the house, I make a galvanized wire secure with a concrete block, and fasten the other end to the roof of the house. I place such a wire every four feet; then plant velvet beans near each wire. Soon they climb along the wires to the roof; the beans hang down, and I go out to pick them right outside the door. A good-sized family could live by making use of this fine velvet bean shade.

Seed can be obtained from the Hastings Seed Co., Atlanta, Ga., and more information can be obtained by writing me, or The University of Florida Agr. Experiment Station, Gainesville, Fla.

ADVERTISING RATES

Classified: 45¢ per line; minimum 3 lines or \$1.35; 30¢ per line for repeats of same ad.

Per inch (8 lines), \$3.20; \$2 for repeats. \$25 per inch for 12 consecutive insertions. Average line has 29 spaces.

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Write for yearly discounts, prorated on client's total year's expenditure with us.

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ROCK PHOSPHATE, Colloidal Phosphate, Hybrotite (a potash rock), Granite Dust, Nitomin; also A & E Hybrotite.—Paul Degler, 51 Bethlehem Pike, Colmar, Pa. (on Rt. 309). (6-5y)

Homesteads and Homesteaders

I WOULD LIKE a congenial individual or couple to help share expenses and responsibilities of a comfortable home near Lane's End, for the summer or longer. Write to Florence Newbauer, RR3, Box 224, Brookville, Ohio. n(5-65)

Books and Journals

JUNE BURN'S book, "LIVING HIGH." Joyous account of homesteading in San Juan Islands and "troubadouring" throughout the U. S. Illustrated edition with Postscript, only \$3.00 postpaid to "Green Revolutionists" (Reg. \$4.50). Wellington Books, 346 Concord Ave., Belmont, Mass. w(4-65)y

THE GREEN REVOLUTION — 3 June, 1965

CALIFORNIA HOMEOWNER, a 24-page monthly, alive with sound economics, and action to return to the citizen the control of his own affairs. \$2 a year.—1571 N. Gower St., Los Angeles, Calif. 90028 c(5-65)ex

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GO AHEAD AND LIVE! Even as world trends worsen, our 200 page book is the more needed. As people heed the counsel here, the causes of war are reduced and conditions for peace created. Your copy for \$4.15 from School of Living, Brookville, Ohio. (6-65)

LITTLE BLUE BOOKS — love, adventure, science, fiction, languages, etc. Seven for \$1. Free catalog of 2000 titles.—Plumer, 81-A Wacona, Waterbury 5, Conn. p(5-65)7

INTENTIONAL COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER for news, letters, plans and ideas among persons interested in intentional community. Voluntary contributions. — Ben Zablocki, Box 281, Baltimore, Md. 21203 z(5-65)10

LEARN Globaqa, a harmonic second language for all peoples... logical, consistent, simple. Order your Globaqa Wordmaster, self-help manual for clear thinking and plain talk with easy study course and vocabulary. \$1 from Russel Jaque, Star Rte., Box 32, Tecate, Calif. j(5-65)ex

FITNESS — The comprehensive natural health magazine which covers organic nutrition and health from the soil upwards. \$3 a year (monthly), 35c a copy. Fitness, 255 7th Ave., New York City. (Published by Newman Turner Publications, Ltd.). (5-63)ex

"PEACE OF MIND THRU NATURE"—guidebook to better nature living. Dr. Duckworth's Journal, Paradox 5, N. Y. (Journal subscription \$2 a year, sample 35c.) b(4-64)

HEALTH AND DAIRY GOATS. Many healthful products from dairy goats: milk, cheese, fertilizer. National monthly magazine, \$2 yearly. Dairy Goat Journal, Box 836, Columbia 85, Mo. d(6-63)ex

THE BUG BOOK: recipes for harmless insect controls. Illustrations identify insects. Cross indexed, recipes easy to find and make at home. Plants to repel insects and wild animals. Order from Philbrick, Box 96, Wilkinsonville, Mass. \$3.65 pp. 5 copies 40% off. p(11-64)y

ENJOY National Stock Dog magazine, now including small animals and fowls. Quarterly; \$2 one year; \$5 for 3 years; subscription including classified ad, 4 times only \$7.00.—E. G. Emanuel, Rt. 1, Butler, Ind. 46721 n(9-63)ex9-12-3-6

Miscellaneous

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CONSIDER beautiful northern New Mexico for homesteading. Invigorating climate, fertile soil, friendly people. Complete information furnished. Ella Hanford, El Rito, New Mexico.

I WILL PAY 60 cents for each copy of Sept.-Oct., 1964 issue of *A Way Out*. Please send copies to H. Roseman, 1452 E. 85th St., Brooklyn, N. Y. 11236

I AM A RAW FOODIST and would like to stay at an organic farm and eat directly from the trees. If you can accommodate me for short or long term please write. Herbert Bisen, 744 Broad St., Newark, N. J. 07102