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Public Lands Free?

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MILK AND HONEY—

What Kind of Efficiency?

By John Seymour
Orford, Woodbridge,
Suffolk, England

on British Broadcasting Co.

Part IV

"If everybody wanted to live on small plots of land, like you do, England could never compete, against China, Russia, America—against the Common Market." This is another thing people often say to us.

Well—why do we want to compete? We're shoved down on this earth for our limited lives—so long as we have enough food to eat, enough artifacts to keep us warm and dry and moderately comfortable, and this from our fair share of the planet, and as long as we pay for what we use, and live decently and sensibly and don't leave too many children behind us to overpopulate the planet—what do we want to compete for?

Include Me Out

I wish to be included out of all this competition, please. If the Americans make an airliner that can carry a thousand fools around, I don't want to ride in it. And I don't want to have any part in building an even bigger crop after crop of spring barley and nothing else, and kept no animals.

Well, it's a question of what are we trying to be efficient about? Just making money? And if so, money for whom? Just for a few men who already have too much money? These efficiency lovers are always in favor of larger farms, larger factories, larger units. I suppose it will stop when the whole of England is owned by one man. He will have a monstrous amount of money, and so I suppose the efficiency lovers will feel that their theories are vindicated.

Other Aims

But I'd like to consider other aims to be efficient for. What about happiness—for everybody, not just for a few larger farmers? What about health, for animals as well as people? What about spiritual satisfactions? Yes, spiritual satisfactions even for one. Let the Americans and the Russians compete away to their heart's content at that sort of caper. Let us lead the world in true civilization—in art and lit-

erature—good farming, good living, good manners, and leave the mechanical rat race to others. And all good art, all good living, all good manners, in my view, spring out of the fertile soil. Periclean Athens was a civilization of small farmers.

Specialize?

The farming papers nowadays have one parrot-cry; we must all specialize. Specialization means efficiency. A farmer who grows only one kind of crop, or keeps only one kind of animal, becomes better equipped for it and can beat the Danes. No one has ever noticed, by the way, that the Danes are all small farmers and very few of them specialize at all. Techniques are even now being worked out in England so that a man can grow nothing but winter wheat year after year—not even to change occasionally over to barley. For years some so-called farmers have grown hens. I don't mind wringing a hen's neck for food, but I'd die before I'd shut one up for life in a wire cage.

People say that Sally and I are against progress. I suppose the word means to move. But if I am to progress, I would prefer to progress in a sensible direction. Not in the direction of a world of automata—men so specialized they only know how to press one button.

The Full Life of a Man

During the course of a day I often use: a spade, a plough, an axe, a saw, a horse, a hoe, a chisel, a typewriter, a plane, a pitchfork, and perhaps half a dozen other tools. Frittering

Do-It-Yourself Pays—

Food Money Stays At Home

By Carolyn Guy
East Calais, Vt.

Part III

I try to grow many things which may or may not succeed here: lima beans, mung beans, melons, sweet potatoes, etc. However, I rarely gamble more than \$3 to \$5 on seeds for them. I also raise many herbs and am building up old-fashioned perennial flowers. The permanent vegetable garden is added to each

year; one year I started artichokes, another asparagus, and last year camfrey.

Nuts and wild plants are gathered here free, but I count their harvesting more pleasure than work. We consider berries and fruit a long-time investment. We lost many of our first plantings of plum, pear and apples, but some of the apples and cherries show real promise now. I am cultivating some wild raspberries and blueberries as well as starting tame ones.

Strawberries

Plants \$18; cheese cloth \$7; total \$25. This plus the cost of sugar equalled the exact amount of our first crop of berries if I'd bought them at the store. However, the original plants have given us many times their own number in young plants. This year I'm starting new kinds and will keep an account of work and time given this one crop.

Root Crops

These are very easy to grow. One-half ounce of seed for carrots, kohlrabi, parsnips, turnips and beets total \$1.25. We start using them when small, and as relish, and store large supplies in the cellar for winter. And we have enough for chickens and rabbits, with many to give away. The cost is so small compared to store prices, that if I didn't have a garden I couldn't, probably, buy an equal supply. One bunch of carrots per day would equal \$6 to \$10 for the period of time we use our own supply.

Winter Squash and Pumpkin

We have to protect these both spring and fall, and harvest about a dozen of each. Their seeds and hotkaps for them total \$1.75; our supply would cost about \$4.20 in the store.

Tomatoes and Peppers

Fireball, Yellow Ponderosa, Roma, Tiny Tim (to pot and keep indoors). Even in summer, fresh tomatoes in the store can be as high as 70c a pound, and aren't worth buying. Peppers are a lot of trouble, but I keep trying. Have to ripen them indoors.

Roots

We came here to this windy land,
Cleared this field with our own hand,
And with rough wood and granite stone,
And with help, we built a home.
We've raised a tribe of children four
Who play around the garden door,
While I put my shovel to the soil
To turn it over with honest toil.
I've planted trees to bear us fruit,
And day by day, deep go our roots.

But here's the tragedy of it.
We'll work hard with love and sweat,
Only to have it turn to dust
When our children be leaving us.
For that's the way they teach today.
"On the farm you'd best not stay.
Head for the town where the dollar is,
Where the culture and white collar is."

But it would be lovely if my son
Would wish to stay here on his home,
Perhaps raise berries or honey bees,
Or deal with cattle or apple trees.
But I can't choose his life for him,
No more than choose a wife for him.

—Dudley Laufman
Canterbury, N. H.

Camp For Summer, cont'd

vail, a pipe is run up from the box through the roof. We used an asphalt impregnated, 4 inch fibre pipe, commonly known as Orangeburg..

The hole should be shallow, about 24 inches deep and fairly small. This is for future convenience in cleaning out. Then we proceeded as though starting a compost heap. Rich earth dug out from around the spring, containing plenty of earthworms, was layered 2 inches deep on the bottom of the hole, followed by 4 to 6 inches of dry forest leaves. This was repeated just once and after the structure was built around the hole, the privy was ready for use. The digesting pow-

Craft Sessions By Syble Brigham

Syble Brigham (Mrs. W. B.) of Westlake, Ohio will conduct the craft sessions at the July 3-11 School of Living Workshop at Heathcote Haven, near Maryland Line, Md. Attendants at last year's workshop were delighted with her lovely framed dried flower arrangements, the dried apple, acorn and pine cone dolls, etc.

Mrs. Brigham suggests that persons bring supplies from home for such items; or paraffin and wax for candle making, corn husks for door mats, sandals and dolls. Those wishing to make dried flower pictures should save old phone books in which to press flowers during the workshop.

"And anyone with a hobby he wants to teach—like silk screen printing—bring your supplies and give us a lesson," writes Mrs. Brigham. "Let's make it a real fun project as well as educational."

Those with questions or suggestions, write Mrs. Brigham at 26733 Rose Rd., Westlake, Ohio.

cases, our sanitary disposal systems are quite inadequate, and many of our municipal authorities are guilty of criminal negligence. For so many years, they have been content to pipe the wastes out of the city, dumping them in the most convenient place, usually a river.

We can't conceive of a sewage disposal system being complete, unless the "Law of Return" as Sir Albert Howard called it, is obeyed. Namely, the fluid part returned to the ground water supply while the solids are returned to the earth. This should be the aim of every well designed system, but our mounting pollution problem tells us that is not so.

We obey the "Law of Return" when we periodically clean the privy and use the compost therein for our crops. If one is hesitant to use such composted matter directly on food crops, it could be used on a mulch or green manure crop so as to eventually benefit our food crops.

Success via Personal Action

Where the privy is used continuously, it would be wise to either build it lightly so as to be easily moved to an adjoining hole or to build two privies. This would enable one to allow the compost to age properly before being used.

In building and using an outhouse properly, we take upon ourselves the responsibility of solving one more problem, a problem which is usually so poorly solved in a centralized fashion.

Map and Directory

The one-sheet Green Revolution map showing 24 locations with listing and address on the back, can be had from Gus Goltz, 1515 N. 27th, Milwaukee, Wis. The more complete pamphlet form, with descriptions of the entries, advertisements, etc., will be ready in August.

A directory of 50 persons and their interests for correspondence is available from W. E. Earwood, Rt. 1, New Lexington, O.

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