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Craft Sessions by Syble Brigham

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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 another.

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-

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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What Can We Do About Moles?

Ordinarily moles and shrews feed on soil organisms, which unfortunately include earthworms and other beneficial creatures. For this reason, moles and shrews are sometimes found where soil is rich in organic matter. But the gardener should appreciate that their presence in unusually large numbers may be due to a high population of soil pests, and serve as a warning that all is not well with the soil life. It is wise to investigate the reason for a greatly increased population of moles and shrews.

For gardeners overrun with these creatures there are certain useful aides. Daffodil, spurge, and castor bean plants act as repellants. A few plants of caper spurge strategically placed deter moles. However, if you introduce this plant into the garden, remember that it produces an abundance of seeds as well as vigorous deep roots. The effect of the castor bean plant may be indirect; its large root system reduces water in the soil, which in turn may decrease the insects on which moles depend. Some gardeners place castor bean seeds in mole burrows. Although these creatures are not seed eaters, the odor from the seeds may be re-

pellant. Mothballs placed in the burrows also act as a repellant. This aide may be useful on lawns, but should not be used where food is grown.

Sometimes moles can be induced to leave a vicinity by thrusting into the ground numerous tin windmills, similar to children's pin wheels. Apparently the vibrations from the rotary motion act as a deterrent.

Thorny Twigs and Traps

Since the blood of moles does not clot, they bleed to death from slight wounds, and avoid being scratched. The gardener can discourage moles from entering their burrows by pushing down small twigs such as raspberry, rose, hawthorns, blackberry, barberry, ocotillo, mesquite or other thorny cane into the openings. The moles abandon such places.

Being carnivorous, moles can be caught by baiting traps with fresh, raw meat. Ordinary flat mouse traps can be set at the entrance runways, but should be hidden from the view of birds. In addition, there are special commercial mole traps designed with choker loops. Wear gloves when setting and handle them as little as possible, since human scent may keep moles away. After one mole is trapped successfully, its body in the burrow may lead to a general exodus.

Shrews can be repelled by sprinkling dried blood around the roots of vegetables. — From *Gardening Without Poisons*, Beatrice Trum Hunter, pp. 157-8.

WRITE TO ME if you are troubled or heavy laden. Learn of Christ for he is meek and lowly of heart and he will bring comfort to your mind and soul. Write to me all your troubles and worries. No advice given unless requested. List of friendly Christian people, 75c. Basic Christian, 1837 Harri-man, Bend, Oregon.