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Ken Writes and Homesteads

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THE GREEN

FOR HOMESTEADERS, ON-TO-THE-LANDERS,
AND DO-IT-YOURSELFERS



REVOLUTION

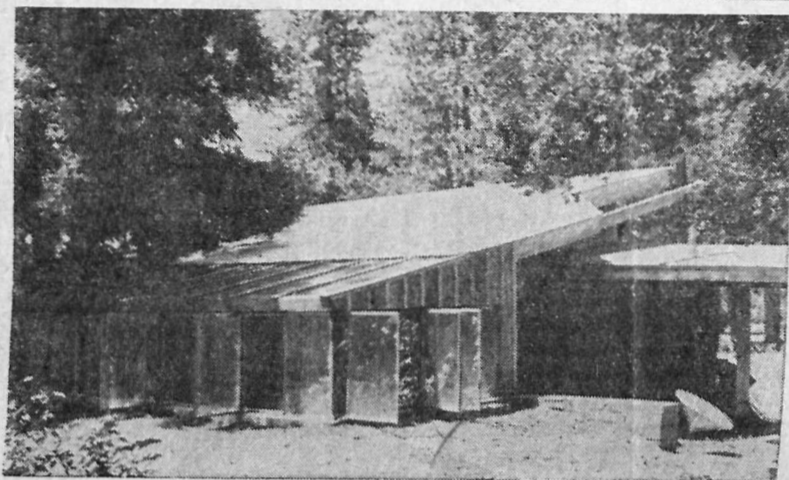
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Kern Writes And Homesteads



TWO VIEWS of the Ken Kern homestead, near Oakhurst, Calif. Above, one side of house, and, below, the handsome sun-pit, a kind of "cool" greenhouse.

Volume IV, the final one, of **The Owner-Built Home** will deal with the Design and Structure of Building. The research has been completed, the material is all gathered and outlined, and the first chapter will appear next month.

Some totally new concepts of contemporary space organization will be presented, including a free-form building constructed in Europe. This includes a bi-nuclear court garden and other bio-technic design features discussed in complete detail. Space

for cooking, living, and sleeping is analyzed in relation to its function in design and structure.

A special Homestead Planning Section will appear in the concluding chapters. The complete Volume IV will be printed (monthly) in **Green Revolution**.

The Kerns have now completed a beautiful and functional homestead near Oakhurst, Calif. But they are eager to try yet other new and experimental ideas, and will soon begin another homestead at the opposite end of their 25 acres.

California Homestead Sites Evaluated

By Bill Peavy*
77 S. P St., Merced, Calif.

In California, getting title to land is becoming increasingly difficult. In Los Angeles County and in the San Francisco Bay Area, people are packed like sardines; many want to get into the country; land is in great demand, and selling at fantastic prices.

Friends of ours in the Sierra

*Bill Peavy, teacher of horticulture in the Merced, Calif., High School, offers some data in response to letters published in past issues of **The Green Revolution**.—Editor

Colorado Meeting

Robert and Grace Wade, Box 6, Walden, Colo., are inviting do-it-yourselfers, homesteaders and School of Living people to a weekend picnic get-together at their homestead Aug. 6, 7, and 8. They welcome any Coloradans or others from surrounding states. Bring surplus from your gardens, and campers, trailers, tents, for which there is adequate space on their homestead or nearby. Come to Walden and call the Wades, 723-4560. Activities, discussions and projects will be developed among those who come. The Wades would appreciate a note or card from those who plan to be there.

foothills (4000 ft.), northeast of Fresno, bought 30 acres four years ago for \$4000. Today they can sell for \$30,000. Not very rich or well-watered hill land, but who can say what it will be worth five years from now?*

Mariposa County

Forty miles east of Merced, also in the foothills (2000 to 4000 ft.), rainfall 25 to 40 in., native Ponderosa pine, is a thriving subdivision business and realtor's paradise. One acre goes for \$1000; 10 acres for \$5000; 30 to 50 acres at about \$300 an acre. One could buy 10 acres for \$5000, divide it in half, sell for \$5000, get all his money back and still have 5 acres to boot. This is not bad homestead country, but about the only people able to afford it are retirees who have money coming in from the outside. Making a cash income (continued on page 4)

*The Bay Area in the 1800s was the scene of Henry George's experiences and reflections that resulted in his famous book, **Progress and Poverty** (now in nearly every library and for sale, at \$1.50, from Henry George School, 50 E. 69th St., New York City). Henry George's, and other, solutions to the problem of land and taxes are discussed in our companion journal, **A Way Out** (particularly in February and May issues).—Editor

Lord Love A Bug—

Pests Are A Part Of Your Garden; Have You Learned To Love Them?

By Hal Porter*

A homestead without a garden is no homestead at all; and the success of the garden depends to a great extent on mental and emotional attitudes. Of course a good case may be made that our success in living depends on the same thing, but for the purpose of this article we are mainly concerned with the raising of fruits and vegetables. And, even more specifically, we are concerned with our attitudes toward all things which creep, crawl, or fly; and eat, chew, suck, or dig up the things we have growing.

Any student of living who contemplates the establishment of a garden is faced with the problem of what to do about the pests. What he does depends on his attitude. Suppose he is one of those persons who says, "I hate bugs. I hate snakes, lizards, toads, and all those creepy, crawly things." This person will immediately start a war of eradication, by poison spray and powder, the minute something eats a tiny hole in one of his plants. If squirrels molest his corn he either shoots them or puts out poison; the same with the birds if they peck at his berries or fruit. He takes it as a personal affront when either insect or animal

pests bother his garden. He engages in relentless warfare.

But his campaign of hate is self-limiting. The more he poisons, the more insects he has. He kills all the natural enemies of the bugs and worms with his poisons. But the pests become immune, and with nothing to stop them they breed unchecked. The poison sprays pollute his soil to the point where his plants become more and more sickly. To cure this he puts on more and more chemical fertilizer. This also poisons the soil until eventually his garden spot becomes a weed-spotted plot of ground where nothing will grow and he buys all his fruits and vegetables and consoles himself with the belief that after all it is cheaper to buy than to grow.

So an attitude of hate will not make for a successful garden.

But neither will an attitude of indifference. No gardener worthy of his vine-ripened tomatoes can go out in the morning and find that a hornworm has eaten up half his choice vines and just shrug his shoulders and say "So what." Such a don't care attitude is a real impossibility. Anyone who could hold to such would never try to have a garden in the first place. A solution must be found because otherwise the gardener will become a prey to the destructive emotions of anger, hate, resentment and fear. He grows things both for his mental and physical health. The growing is soothing to the emotions and good for the soul. The home-grown vegetables help his physical well-being. Now, of course, he doesn't need to take it out on the bugs, he could take a pill, as advertised on television, except that continued dosage with drugs can cause annoying and dangerous side-effects.

So what to do? adopt an attitude of love. In this day and age among the sophisticates the idea

of love for your fellow men is considered square or corny. A statement that we should love our garden pests is likely to bring on derisive laughter. Yet it is a very practical attitude. And, as the punch line of an ancient joke goes, "We must love him, but we don't have to like the S.O.B." Really it isn't so difficult if we think of it in the proper manner. If we have a pet dog and we love him and he burys his bone in the petunia bed, we don't decide to dock his tail right back of his ears. We don't call for the exterminator when little junior's football finds its way into the lettuce bed, with resulting damage to small plants. Because we operate from an attitude of love, the mischief of our pets or our children is accepted as annoyance but a necessary part of life. The same way of looking at the depredations of the insect world can make them no more of an irritation.

If we believe that there is a divine plan for the universe and all that lies therein, there must be a reason and a place in the world for all these garden pests, big and small. This even includes the neighbor who comes over to inspect the garden and passes over the luxurious growth of the corn and sweet potatoes and only sees where the cut-leaf worm is eating up the beans. This same neighbor, if you offer him a mess of your mustard greens, will probably point to a small hole in a leaf and remark that bugs have been on them and that he won't eat anything that a bug or worm has chewed a hole in. We can always answer that the bug only ate a little bit. There's plenty left for us. The neighbor will reply that bugs carry germs, little realizing that there are good and bad germs and that if it wasn't for the germs there would be no other life.

(to be continued)

Come To Michigan

Mrs. Joy Valsko writes of the many attractions for vacationing and learning in northern Michigan, and encourages people to come for the sessions planned on her country property near Traverse City for School of Living people, the weekend of Aug. 21-22. She says she has already received notes from several who want to be part of the meeting.

She hopes a mutually satisfactory use can be planned for the land and several buildings which are in various stages of completion. She will welcome any who can come early to assist in making the buildings as comfortable and usable as possible for our August sessions.

"We have swimming at a natural beach on our place," she writes, "and 100 acres of woods for roaming (with 50,000 planted pines). Two improved beaches are nearby: every known sport is within driving distance; there are many arts and crafts shops. Interlochen Arts Academy and Music Camp give a festival here in August.

"I am finishing a guest house; can accommodate trailers and tents, with outdoor facilities and electric connections. And another building—if someone could arrive early to help clean it up—would do for bunk room; wood and electric stoves; water transported. We can use large rooms and lawns of another building for meetings. There are several baths and one-half baths in one building.

"Plans for this School of Living meeting have inspired me and renewed my hope that we can do something useful and constructive. I'm looking forward to it. Ask any questions."—Mrs. Joy Valsko, 516 W. 7th, Traverse City, Mich.

Youth Rally Initiates Old Mill; 60 Travel To Big Weekend

The Youth Rally, June 11-14, was the first of what we hope will be a recurring series of "educational" activities at the Old Mill on Anacker Acres, Heathcote Community, Freeland, Md. Here the old and new combined. The three-story, stone mill, standing since 1850, the result of the sturdy, hardworking independence of an earlier day, offered space and shelter but no convenience and little comfort. The participants were, for the most part, young and independent thinkers, not concerned with the amenities but with free expression and action on vital personal and public issues.

The Rally began a few months ago as a suggestion that School of Living young people gather to discuss and help prepare the place for summer use. Gradually notices and promotional materials emphasized pacifist-anarchist goals. A few inquiries came; no registrations. A crew arrived early to begin the work. Among them were the vigorous septugenarian Smith brothers, Pennsylvania farmers, who were in the garden each day at dawn, a party from Lane's End, and the Dee Hamilton family who have been residents since early May. By Thursday people began arriving by one, two and threes—including two from the Maryland Intelligence Service to check the nature of the meeting, to be able to give adequate assistance should any "trouble" develop. (None did.) That the attendance totaled 60 (highly vocal, intelligent persons from New York, Chicago, Ohio, Indiana, Baltimore and Virginia) was a surprise to us and an indication of the ferment, the searching and concern today. Ideas flowed freely, vigorous and hearty discussion ensued, adequate meals appeared at regular intervals at very low cost, some real physical work got done, recreational intervals enjoyed.

Spontaneity Predominated

The program was open to change and the needs of the group. Two students of Adelphi University presented a list of proposals for "Education For A Revolutionary Age" which included self-search by students, with teachers only as guides; no grades or degrees; more (continued on page 2)