

7-1-1965

Successful Young Homesteaders

Tom Coddington
Hennacy Farm

Nancy Coddington

Follow this and additional works at: <https://research.library.kutztown.edu/greenrevolution>

Recommended Citation

Coddington, Tom and Coddington, Nancy (1965) "Successful Young Homesteaders," *Green Revolution*: Vol. 3 : Iss. 7 , Article 13.
Available at: <https://research.library.kutztown.edu/greenrevolution/vol3/iss7/13>

This Letter to the Editor is brought to you for free and open access by Research Commons at Kutztown University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Green Revolution by an authorized editor of Research Commons at Kutztown University. For more information, please contact czerny@kutztown.edu.

Youth Rally, cont'd

nature and craft experience; communication along art and emotional lines instead of mere study and indoctrination; orientation toward peace instead of war; etc. Some persons welcomed this as essential; to one it was inadequate, "making the education we have a little more palatable, but not sufficiently radical nor capable of producing truly free individuals."

Ben Zablocki, a young graduate student of Johns Hopkins University, Dept. of Social Relations, led a session on community. He described in some detail two religiously oriented communities. In the Bruderhof members give up all personal property to the group on entering; decisions are made by the group as a whole and action taken only when consensus is achieved. In the Vale Community both Christian and Buddhist values operate side by side, with the two groups fearing the pain and difficulty of examining differences. To test the ability of those present to face differences, he asked what the group planned to do with the rule of "No Smoking at Heathcote." Followed exposure and claims of Smokers on the one side, and Non-Smokers on the other. One person left the room in protest; two later left in relaxed fashion to smoke. The result was the compromise, "OK to smoke outside, but not in buildings."

Government and Economics

Saturday morning Jackson MacLow presented Anarchism in terms of thirty points, which was a difficult assignment to handle. In general the concept of voluntary action without the interference of coercion by others (and particularly by the political state), constitutes the concept of modern-day anarchism. Individual initiative, following one's own purpose and goals where they do not harm others, and taking the consequences of one's actions are the basic principles. One young couple exemplified this—bringing their own food and preparing it on their own small camp fire for each meal. Some thought they were disadvantaged by not joining in group meals.

Saturday afternoon Mildred Loomis presented by graph form the underlying concepts of libertarian economics. She pointed out that as the political state regulates an economic system that system has "broken down" so far as our freedom is concerned. At two crucial points the political state enters the picture to distort a free flow of production back to producers. These are the legalizing of rent of land and interest on money. Out of these, a third "leak" away from producers develops in exchanging goods, through "profit."

These concepts seemed unfamiliar and therefore difficult to many. The discussion tended toward the intricacies of our present Federal Reserve System. This constituted a diversion from the somewhat simplified, but basic assumptions of a new, non-governmental frame of reference. Possible solutions and ways of organizing a free economic system, either in an intentional community or world-wide, were not examined. Etc.

Saturday evening was spent in discussing health and forming an agenda for the remaining two days. Some resistance developed around voting, but eventually evidence indicated need for discussing body acceptance, sexual freedom, education of children, revolutionary techniques, next steps for this group. After session into the late hours, several experimented with psychedelics. Reactions and attention next morning were somewhat diverse. Instead of following the agenda prepared, the session began by discussing community. Tension seemed at high point. Suddenly someone said, "Why not go clean the carriage house?" and started off. Half the group followed; some stayed to continue discussion, but later joined the work crew. Forty people were busy, carting off debris and manure, sweeping out dust. In two hours the carriage house was empty and clean, ready for crafts or other activity.

Most of the agenda was completed Sunday afternoon and evening, with extras thrown in: Kripp Sexton and Leopold Dande outlined extensive plans for a "New Life Movement," including the development of demonstration communities; Grace Lefever reported midwifing a home delivery of a baby girl by the La Maas method, the night before. Monday morning, those remaining had a significant probing into the psychology of pacifism and nonviolence.

Questions Unanswered

Some of the many questions which need further probing, expressed during small or larger sessions, include: What (and where) is a libertarian community? How much individualism and how much group action exists? What is a basic bond in community, other than religion or authority? How can we use psychedelic drugs to advantage? How implement libertarian economics in an intentional community? What kind of school would a community best have? What are useful techniques for outgrowing anger, hatred, feeling of pressure and obligation? In other words, how become a free person?

Some Evaluations

A precocious teenager: "Country people are so good; the way they spend their time is so much better than the way I do in New York City. . . . These four days at Heathcote have changed my life."

A college student: "I've got lots of new ideas. I'm going back to introduce them to our Action Group on the campus."

A socialist oriented youth: "I begin to see some validity in anarchism."

A mother: "I am more than ever wary of labels. I find that if we look upon ourselves as seekers we get farther than declaring our isms."

A minister: "The big job everywhere is education. I see much value in the School of Living."

Bill Anacker: "I'm amazed at the cooperation and accomplishment of so much with so little organization and planning."

Most everyone: "Let's have another meeting, in August if we can. By all means next year."

Comments On Discontent

L.T.J. of Milwaukee, in a letter in May 65 *Green Revolution*, notes the discontent in the United States today. But he fails to say why there is such discontent. I would like to bring out some reasoning for this.

First, we must realize that man is a natural being and regards his own survival interests above

any others. By natural instinct he is self-interested, and as a natural mammalian primate he has developed an added weapon, intelligence. Also, by nature he follows the path of least resistance.

Such a being must be competitive in relationship with others.

(continued on page 4)

Letters to the Editor

Ozark Land And Mobile Homes

To the Editor:

We own 20 acres in Ozark County, Mo.; Gainesville is the county seat; gas station, Howard's Ridge three miles away; completely vacant land with mostly oak and other indigenous vegetation. Any decentralist or Green Revolutioner is welcome to use the place with no charge, providing no permanent buildings. This would change the legal aspects, including the tax rate, which currently is less than \$5 a year. I would suggest tents or mobile homes, which is what I'm going to turn to when I make my break with Suburbia. Why not give this aspect more support? Most small families can be quite comfortable in the new models. Taxes are held down and if one doesn't like the area, can easily move on. I am a building tradesman, but I have no intention of erecting anything more than work sheds. Should a colony get going, we would naturally need a meeting and recreation hall, which could be designed and built when the need arises.—John W. Coursell, 7 S. Maple, Mt. Prospect, Ill.

Woman's Fulfillment

To the Editor:

In your May editorial, *Women Working*, you spoke for many of us Green Revolutioners who have developed a sense of what is really worthwhile in life. What greater fulfillment could a woman have than creative living on her family's homestead? . . . I think *Go Ahead and Live!* by School of Living counsellors is great! Send me some flyers describing it so I can help get this book known to young couples.—Jean Peavy, 77 S. P St., Merced, Calif.

(We welcome this cooperation. Brochures and testimonials on the book are available for anyone who will let us know.—Editor)

Appeal To Aged

To the Editor:

Here is a newspaper clipping of a 73 year old man who is tired of the city, automobile noise and polluted air. He wrote a letter to the *Detroit News* about his dream of living in the country and got a flood of letters offering him a place to be useful. . . . I feel the appeal to go homesteading should be made to older people—at least equally with the younger. They were once closer to nature and the simple life; they are more ready to make the change. The young seem to be the greater conformists, not the other way around. There may be potential for reaching the young through their older relatives who have some affinity for country life. Maybe more older people want to look at essentials.—Detroit Reader

Teacher Interested

To the Editor:

I have just finished reading your wonderful book, *Go Ahead and Live!*, which was brought to my attention during the NFA National Convention in Kentucky in April. I later borrowed the book through the Hatch library loan service. As a teacher I am especially interested in the chapters on the education of children.

Now I am anxious to learn more about homesteading, the program and activities of the School of Living. As a beginning I am enclosing a check for *A Way Out* and *The Green Revolution*.—Peggy Marstrell, 324 Fifth St., Elyria, Ohio

Youthful Free-Beings

To the Editor:

The younger generation will have to carry the world problems in the years ahead. We can help condition them now by capturing their interest in free-living, nature craft and gardening. How proceed? Via folksinging, folk-hiking, folk-dancing, folk-barter, etc. But to capture their active interest and coopera-

tion, we must hold out something dynamically new and intriguing, like, for instance, the new second world language, globaquo. . . . An initial phase could be globaquo folksinging. I now have the first globaquo ballad and melody on tape. In my untrained voice it brings happy response from those who hear it. If we could get several "beatle"-like bands going strong with globaquo lyrics we might drench the countryside with nature- and love-songs, gypsy lullabys, freefolk swing-along chanties. . . .—Russel Jaque, Star Rte, Box 32, Tecate, Calif.

Individual Above the State

To the Editor:

Nothing like taking issue with the disciples of Parson Malthus. . . . Before suggesting either China or India as representative of overpopulation, it would do well to see the statistics for the more prosperous European countries. After which let's ask why the prosperity there and not in the Far East? Henry George covered the subject well in *Progress and Poverty*. Wars will continue so long as the general opinion fails to hold the individual above the state.—J. E. Work, Framingham, Mass.

Successful Young Homesteaders

To the Editor:

We are in our twenties, and left the city two years ago to buy 10 acres with an old house. Neither of us had had any experience in homesteading skills. But now we milk two cows and a goat, have chickens, rabbits, pigs and a pony. We grow a large vegetable garden organically and have started young fruit trees and grape vines. We also keep bees. We get a great deal of satisfaction out of providing for ourselves and being independent. It's wonderful to sit down to a dinner of frozen, garden-grown vegetables, homebaked whole wheat bread and home-made butter.

We are not convinced that a community is for us. We enjoy our privacy immensely. We seem to work best and get more accomplished by ourselves. Our three children are learning to amuse themselves without depending on the diversions of a morally decadent society. We have no TV, and don't drink or smoke. We have many friends but would not care to live closely with any of them.—Tom & Nancy Codrington, Hennacy Farm, Rt. 1, Potter Valley, Calif.

Civilized Barbarism

To the Editor:

We have a general store on a highway intersection in a town of 60,000. Lots of youngsters pass our corner. Last October a side window was broken out. We sealed that off, painted both inside and out. Shortly after that, a cigarette was tossed onto a side awning and the fire spread over the side and into the roof before the fire department got it out. It took us three months to repair the damage. In that time in this city, over 200 cars had glass shot out of them by pellet guns. University students help in this vandalism, particularly setting off fire alarm boxes and bomb scares. Last night's paper reported 37 cars had windshields smashed in our capital city. We are thinking of going West to retire from civilized barbarism.—Name Withheld.

Community Trip Nets Newsletter

To the Editor:

We've been consolidating a huge sheaf of field notes from our very interesting trip to the School of Living, The Vale at Yellow Springs, and Celo Community, Burnsville, N. C. We stayed at Sunnycrest, the naturally air-conditioned home of Wendell Thomas at Celo and enjoyed talking with him. . . . The Community Newsletter we discussed at Lane's End is becoming

The Green Revolution

Second class mailing privilege authorized at Brookville, Ohio 45309.

Published monthly by The School of Living, Lane's End Homestead, Brookville, Ohio 45309.

Editor: Mildred J. Loomis.

Subscription rates: *The Green Revolution*, \$3 a year; *The Green Revolution* with School of Living membership, \$5 a year; *The Green Revolution* and bimonthly *A Way Out*, \$6 a year.

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

ing a reality—a sort of revival of the old Fellowship of Intentional Communities Newsletter, but we hope oriented toward a younger readership. It will print news of existing ICs, letters from and news about prospective communarians, etc. We would like to have permission to quote relevant parts of School of Living publications.—Ben Zablocki, c/o Social Relations, Johns Hopkins University, Washington, D. C.

Extra Dividends

To the Editor:

Let me tell you how much we appreciate *Green Revolution*. The inspiration, the examples of independent, resourceful living, the philosophy, the "spirit" of it all! And particularly we like the people—the fellowship. We read every letter and comment several times, trying to picture and make real the persons writing or mentioned. We who have set ourselves athwart the mainstream of culture need this sense of relatedness with persons of similar values. We of course value the specific how-to-do-it items but the other seekers we seem to be in touch with are the dividends which mean most to us.—Ann & Carl Adams, Wyandotte, Mich.

Booster Shots For Children?

To the Editor:

While we don't find too much actual homesteading help in *The Green Revolution*, we certainly want to support the movement. We want to do the best for our children under three years; do you advise the booster shots that everyone urges us to get?—Polly Gott, Marshall, N. C.

(Editor's Note. The healthiest children I know have not had the recommended shots for children, nor even vaccinations. I am thinking of five homesteading and one city family, and will invite these parents, and others, to report their experiences. The children get plenty of exercise, rest, and good food. With this program, why should a child ever be sick?)

Your editor appreciates lists of topics you'd like to see discussed; and welcomes comments, articles and reports from any who are willing to share their learning with others through our pages.—M.J.L.)

Youth Rally Was Great

To the Editor:

The most outstanding ingredient was the spontaneity displayed by a group of 60 young individualists and rebels (with a sprinkling of children and oldsters). They pitched in, cooperated, talked intelligently, mixed freely and physically worked—all without planned organization.

Most ideal weather enhanced the beauty of the Heathcote Homestead.

I was particularly pleased to see the teenagers enjoying my special recreation props made with various sizes of rope. I also enjoyed the fact that the young children were able to get so much fun from the rope swings and the creek.

The Anackers will be moved to Heathcote by July and ready to personally receive homestead-bound or interested families that will come to work, play and socialize.—Wm. B. Anacker, Heathcote Road, Freeland, Md.

Offers 4 Missouri Acres

To the Editor:

I would like to meet or hear from some natural living people.

(continued on page 3)