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Mildred Loomis

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Homesteaders Face The Future: An Economic Depression?

An increasing number of readers are now inquiring, "Is a depression around the corner? What should one do?" Some persons—including a Rhode Island bank president—recall and buy our study, published in 1939, entitled *Inflation Is Coming!*

These readers have probably been skeptical of the promises made when the Government bailed the country out of the collapse of the Thirties that "depressions can never happen again." Such people tend to do their own observing and reading of economic trends.

They have been aware for years, of course, of the easy money, government debt and deficit spending, with its concurrent inflation, high wages and prices. They have noted the investment spree, with resulting "prosperity." They have seen "euphoria" spread like an intoxication throughout our society. Nearly all people who profit (temporarily) from inflation are tempted to believe the "prosperity" is real. Politicians, who profit most, are most deeply committed to the illusion.

Danger Signs

Close watching has revealed to realists the signs that inflation must be checked. They have seen the decline of the British pound; and the outflow of gold from the U. S. They have seen a Dow-Jones report in mid-summer that the leg of a down-trend in stocks was longer (for the first time in years) than the up-trend, forecasting a change in the market. They may have seen that Chm. Martin of the Federal Reserve Board said in June that inflation must be halted; or his speech last fall that showed the similarity of our economic situation today to that of mid-1929. (In early 1929 the Federal Reserve Board warned that credit was over-expanded. Stock market prices, resting on this inflated credit, were not supported by actual wealth. Nearly everyone protested, including the president of the nation's largest bank. Stock prices went higher—and crashed in October 1929! Millions of people were bankrupted in minutes!)

Today's Dilemma

On Dec. 6, 1965, Chm. Martin's vote decided that the rate which the Federal Reserve charges its member banks for credit should go from 4 to 4½%. This was a signal to the banks and the public to trim their sails (sales?). An immediate outcry—from business, and particularly the Administration. Did we not have a Poverty Program, a Great Society and A War in Asia to finance? This battle over the interest rate will continue to be fought in Congress.

In 1929 the credit resources of speculators, business, banking and industry were shattered, but the credit of the Federal Government was unimpaired. Under F. Roosevelt the Government came to the rescue with expanded credit through the Federal Reserve System. In 1966 Government credit is not good. (Deficit for this year to be 7 billion!) Total debt is beyond the total wealth of the country. New Dealers and Statists have spent hundreds of billions (taxes and debt) to get us in the mess we are today.

Homesteaders?

Can anyone doubt that the homesteader — particularly with land, buildings and equipment paid for — is in a safe and rational position? He can calmly go about producing and eating; he can stay largely outside the inflated cash cycle; he can avoid interest charges and loss in mortgages and debt. To those who have a homestead, can the advice be anything but "Hang on to it; improve and cherish it"? To those who do not have one, "Get on a Homestead as soon as possible; make sure you do not carry too heavy a load of debt; get a piece of land and improve and equip it gradually."

While others without the security and freedom of a homestead are frantically trying to make ends meet, let those with homesteads put time and energy into understanding and teaching sane answers to our modern dilemma. Read Murray Rothbard's *America's Great Depression* (van Nostrand) and the discussions of land, money, war and peace in School of Living's *A Way Out*, Jan.-Feb., Mar.-Apr. 1966 and later. (\$2.25 a year; 35 cents each.)

Let's remember that in a time of change and crisis, people are more open to new ideas. During the Thirties, "statism" was "new" and people listened. Now it has been "tried and found wanting." This time let's introduce true libertarianism; let the truly free, unmonopolized market, along with the sanity of a family homestead, get a real hearing. We can all help in that.

Letters to the Editor

Hospitable Homestead

To the Editor:

We didn't have any luck with our planned summer get-together here. We invited all Colorado School of Living members, but

only two took the trouble to answer. We'll try again next year to get together, get acquainted and enjoy good garden sass. We did enjoy a summer stay of two students from Goddard College in Vermont. They were interested in some parts of our life,

but they didn't respond to friendly gestures from young and old hereabouts, and we feel they missed some real opportunities. We feel there is a chance for the right person or families to learn here, and we're willing to give what we have to offer. . . . The hunting season is on, but the weather is dry and the hunting poor. I'm cooking for ten this season, and corresponding with several *Green Revolution* readers.—Grace Wade, Walden, Colo.

Second-Generation Reader

To the Editor:

I'm very interested in the School of Living and hope I can visit Lane's End sometime, now that I'm in college in Ohio. My father has been receiving *A Way Out* and *The Green Revolution* for many years, and last year I began reading a few of them. I've also read your book, *Go Ahead and Live!*, and Borsodi's *This Ugly Civilization*.

Our family (five children) lives on a small Connecticut farm, which was a result of Dad's reading *This Ugly Civilization* and his interest in ideas from the School of Living. We have a sheep, donkey, German Shepherd and bees. When my parents moved there 19 years ago, they started a large garden and we had chickens, pigeons and calves. My father has an art shop in Newtown. Finally the garden dwindled, chickens were killed by foxes, pigeons flew the coop, and when my sister got hurt by a calf we stopped raising them. Now we raise berries, rhubarb, tomatoes, asparagus and grapes.

However our home still has the fun of being a small farm, and I can compare few things with the pleasure of raising a lamb by the bottle when his mother died. We don't have TV and Daddy has raised us on good, healthy foods and outdoor hikes and fresh air. In many ways, then, we have all been influenced by the School of Living, and I feel I know you all.

I'm 18, a freshman at Western College for Women and I love everything about it—the people, the courses, the apple orchard (I never expected to be able to run down to an apple tree, climb it and pick apples between college classes), the large lawns and six stone bridges which crisscross the campus. I love the outdoors, canoeing, hiking, camping, skating, riding and of course walking. As yet I don't know what I'd "like to be" but I'm interested in many things. Enjoy your Christmas! 'Tis the season to be jolly. —Trudy Muller, Westwon, Conn.

Doctor Regrets Fluoridation

To the Editor:

I enclose a letter from E. A. McLaughlin, M.D., who was Rhode Island's Director of Health when fluoridation was inaugurated for some three-fourths of the state's 800,000 population. He now says, "I regret very much that in 1952 I approved having fluoride put in our drinking water system. . . . It is my firm conviction that acute fluoride poisoning does result at times due to human or mechanical failure in operating the system by which fluoride is put into our drinking water. I firmly believe that there is a danger of chronic fluoride poisoning resulting in bone disorder, not only in adults but in children. When other means are available (such as application of fluoride to children's teeth and tablets in milk), I do not believe that the whole population of our state should be subject to the inherent dangers which putting fluoride in the water entails."—Mrs. Mitchell, Sioux City, Ia.

Materials on Fluoridation

Free double sheet. Nine reasons for opposing fluoridation, signed by 2,000 physicians, dentists and scientists, from Ohio Pure Water Assn., 72 N. Main St., Akron 8, Ohio. (Contains the statistic that 50% of the persons over 26 years of age in naturally fluoridated St. David, Ariz., had lost their teeth and are wearing dental plates.)

Free sheet, offering \$1,000 to the person proving false any one of six facts listed as to the dan-

ger of fluoride in drinking water. From Greater Milwaukee Committee Against Fluoridation, Box 103, Cudahy, Wis. 43110

National Fluoridation News, bimonthly, \$2 a year (Box 487, Hempstead, L. I., N. Y.), with listed Medical, Dental and Legal advisory boards.

Quote: "Sodium fluoride, incorporated in the diet, produces melanic tumors in drosophilae. This shows a change in the metabolism of tryptophane similar to that shown in children suffering from mongolism." —Dr. Ionel Rapaport, *Bulletin de L'Academie de Medecine*, Vol. 145, 1961, pp. 450-453.

Go Ahead and Live!

To Libraries

To the Editor:

I suggest that you appeal to your readers and members to send the price of a *Go Ahead and Live!* to be given to a college library or public library.—Morgan Harris, 3959 Shedd Terr., Culver City, Calif.

The Joke's On Darrel

To the Editor:

On our way into town mid-November, my wife was reading from *The Green Revolution* we had just picked up at the mail box. Since I had been complaining about the cold weather and suggesting that we move south, she was telling me about the homestead reported on the front page. I said, "Gee that sounds nice! Let's join them." Then she tells me, "They're the Coles at Bear Lake."—Darrel Cole, Rt. 1, Bear Lake, Mich.

On Gym Floor

To the Editor:

Your organization came to our attention through a sample copy of your paper lying around the gym that my wife and I work in. Lucky for us! We have come to the understanding over the last few months that our growth cannot continue if we remain in "civilization." We have strong bodies, excellent health and some of that inner strength that is needed to live "naturally" instead of as a "lab rat" propagated and made to oscillate for profit. I am 31; my wife 28. We have looked ourselves and our civilization in the eye and can no longer find anything real here except dissatisfaction. It is time for us to go over the hill. . .

We have the funds for purchase of land and would prefer to build our own home. We want a minimum of 10 acres, wooded with a meadow, along with real people close by. We would appreciate being in touch with others. We hope to start looking next April for the land and the people to continue our lives with. We salute the "Paper Doll People" and Ken Kern's Planning Systems and your publishing them. —Ronald Magnusen, 1585 20th Ave., San Francisco, Calif. 94107

'37 Homestead Community Gone

To the Editor:

Only now do I learn that the two men from whom I bought land in 1937 had been influenced in their development by a book written by Ralph Borsodi. Small world? Mr. Bronson and Mr. Erickson of Minneapolis (two gentlemen if ever drew up a sales contract) made it possible for even post office subs to escape the pre-Hitler rat race to an "intentional community" in which we bartered labor, brains, bread, beans—and my violin.

Funny how one neglects over the years to dig into motivation such as prompted these two elderly men to create a haven for ingenuity. As No. 13 home builder (a printer with a press) it now seems only yesterday that we enticed people to buy acreages, to dance and work with us, and share potluck; later share produce, birds, eggs and calls from the volunteer fire brigade as well.

Funnier still that we should benefit from Borsodi without knowing it until decades later. . . . But the wells are no longer in use where we once homesteaded—nor the cesspools we so laboriously constructed. City

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water supplies the 20-odd thousand homes where once less than two dozen families wintered at cards and dancing and feasting. —Gus Goltz, Milwaukee, Wis.

Site for Walden Center

To the Editor:

Gary De Young has provided 40 acres of land and a house at Cass Lake, Minn., as the start of a Walden Two-Life Science Center. Adjacent land and other houses can be acquired in the area. Waldonites around the country have been invited to come immediately to construct buildings and help produce a newspaper. Most of the food consumed at the center will be raised there. Outside income will come from the sale of the newspaper and donations. Construction of the center must be started soon, so people coming when schools are out in the spring can be accommodated.—Gerald Baker, Cass Lake, Minn.

Community in Wisconsin

To the Editor:

My wife, Judy, and I (22 and 23) have been studying at several colleges and universities for three years. My interests are too diverse to specialize on a degree, and am currently working with a construction company. My brother-in-law and I started a cooperative humanist society here of about 35 people, and hope to form a community on a farm near Madison in the early spring. It will be pretty open, drawing on ideas of great thinkers—Kropotkin, Thoreau, Skinner, Mumford, Fromm, Neill, Goodman, etc. It will probably be anarchist in structure, non-sectarian and pacifist, and generally humanist rather than religious. Besides a farm community we hope eventually to have a Summerhill-Montessori school for children, a Blake-Black Mt. free university, a book shop, and a free news letter emphasizing community. I have been in correspondence with many and am hopeful that so many are interested in community. I hope ours can be a partial influence on others. We appreciate your good publications. —Jon Stickle, 514 E. Johnson, Madison, Wis.

Ozark Opportunity

To the Editor:

When I lived in the city I used to long for a place on the land. Actually it was your New York City meeting that brought back those horrible longing years I spent among those canyons. But when I got my land and had put down a payment I was in a car accident and here I am with a large garden (not able to work it properly) and a spare bedroom that could be used by someone. Also a couple is needed for those four acres with a two-room house and a drilled soft water well, with school bus at the door. Will be willing to let someone use it alone or go on half shares, with me paying for the materials to be used, and they doing the work. The man could work the place, and a wife could work in town for cash needs. I'd suggest strawberries and bees, both of which bring quick returns; then grapes, fruit trees, legumes, and truck sales at the highway junction in front of the place.

Our place is 35 miles from Sons of Levi. Now I get their newsletter and it makes me more eager to find some willing couple and give them a chance to put into practice their dreams before they get too old like me. I'd like to hear from man or

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