

Ohio Homestead Festival July 1-4

THE GREEN

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



REVOLUTION

SCHOOL OF LIVING, BROOKVILLE, OHIO 45309
PUBLISHED MONTHLY

Volume 4, Number 5

May, 1966

25c per copy, \$3 per year

School of Living Trustees Agree On Plan To Buy Mill For Center

Members of the School of Living board, in session April 16 and 17, voted to purchase the old stone mill and 30 acres around it, Freeland, Md., from Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Anacker. This will become the school's active center and headquarters.

Taking part in this official step were trustees Leo Koch, president; Mary Koch, secretary; Harold Lefever; Hugh Graham; and Phillip Smith. Also present besides Mr. and Mrs. Anacker were Ken and Dee Sprague, Grace Lefever, Mildred Loomis, J. I. Smith, Abby Grafton and Wayne Grimm.

After seven hours of planning and discussion, all present were in cordial agreement on the decision: to purchase for \$15,000 approximately half of the 77-acre Anacker farm (lying west of a dividing road), the portion on which the Old Mill is located. (The Anackers also offered to deduct from the purchase price the sum of \$1600 used in the past year on renovation of the Old Mill, made up of contributions from School of Living members.)

Contract Being Drawn Up

Mr. Anacker was asked to have a contract drawn to implement these terms. When ready it will be presented in detail to School of Living members and friends, as a basis for their gifts and pledges of support.

Accordingly, the trustees now invite and encourage all members to set aside at least 1% of their annual income for this important purpose. "Many of us feel that the School of Living is a very needed and comprehensive program," said Harold Lefever. Purchasing and developing a more adequate headquarters is our chance to put our action in line with our beliefs."

One \$50 check was promptly forthcoming, and pledges of \$750 were made by three others present, before departing.

Hugh Graham, Building Fund Treasurer, reported that all current bills had been paid, with

\$94.48 remaining in the treasury. Immediate needs for garden, paint and lumber for summer projects run to \$500.

Contributions for these purposes are tax-free. Checks (or money) should be sent to School of Living, Brookville, Ohio. Seeds, tools, kitchen and garden equipment, etc., can be mailed or taken directly to School of Living Center, Heathcote Road, Freeland, Md., near Maryland Line.

New Look and New Occupants

Improvements on the Mill and premises are substantial. All who knew its disrepair when voluntary workbees began New Year's Day, 1965, will be surprised and delighted. Now the whole South Wing is clean, comfortable and functioning living quarters, under the skill and cooperation of Dee and Ken Sprague. Between these two, the former Dee Hamilton and W. K. Sprague, friendship developed during the 1965 activities at the Mill, resulting in their marriage a few weeks ago, on March 19. Their many friends are sending best wishes, and will welcome the news that these two remarkable people will live in, and coordinate activities at, the new School of Living Center in the months to come.

On the ground floor of this wing there is a neatly-stocked storage and utility room (last summer it was a damp hole full of debris). A dark, flea-ridden room has been converted into a cozy living area and efficient kitchen, both enhanced by a sturdy fireplace (operating beautifully, thanks to Mr. Graham's work). The kitchen has counters, an electric stove and a hot-cold water sink. Upstairs there are five bedrooms with closets, a good Ashley wood stove, and a modern bathroom engineered by Mr. Lefever. The handwork of many others was enthusiastically pointed out and appreciation expressed at the time of this meeting. Especially to be mentioned

(continued on page 4)

Father Is Arrested, Fined—

School Officials, Police Interrupt Cole Children's Schooling at Home

Margaret and Darrel Cole, Rt. 1, Bear Lake, Mich., have run afoul of the law for what to them and many others is taking seriously a major parental responsibility: the education of their children.

Alan and Brian Cole, 7, Glenn, 5½, and Wayne, 4, were unhappy when Daddy didn't come home after work on Thursday, March 3. And when Mother explained that he would spend the night in jail because she had school for them at home—which they enjoyed immensely—they were more puzzled than ever.

Homestead-Centered Life

Darrel and Margaret and the boys live at Sylvan Glen Homestead, near Bear Lake (see story on it in *Green Revolution* for November, 1965). The parents are in their early 30s, high school graduates with some college training. Resourceful and creative, their reading and learning, traveling and experiencing, put them above most college grads in ability and intelligence. Their health is above average, their family rapport unusually good and their homestead a delight.

Preparation for Home-School

They made plans for adequate schooling at home. Their homestead is somewhat isolated and they wanted a more creative "school" with less sitting, more child-initiative, less emphasis on patriotic and commercial values. They decided to have kindergarten and first grade at home. Accordingly they secured the Calvert Home Study Course, available to non-school children; and the Phono-Visual material, which is now a basic course in Washington, D. C., schools. The three older boys enjoyed this work regularly, and Wayne joined in much of the time.

Public School Action

Traut officers called in the fall, stating that the boys must

be in school. Family travel and absence kept the home-school intact through the holidays. The Coles explained their position to the principal and other school officials. The principal suggested a compromise: "Put the boys in school and you can have the privilege of teaching them what you wish when they get home." The Coles countered with, "Why not the school test the boys periodically to see if they can do work comparable with others their age and grade in school?"

The principal pointed out that "The children's education has nothing to do with the situation. We are dealing with a law that states that they must be in attendance at a public, parochial or approved private school."

The home school went on. The principal announced that he would not be responsible for consequences. The twins were 7 on Feb. 23; they were about two-thirds through the first grade Calvert Studies, and making excellent progress.

Arrested and Fine Imposed

On March 3 Darrel Cole was arrested at his place of work. The police took him to the station, removed everything from his pockets (later returned) and then allowed him to phone his wife. He spent the night in jail, the next day fined \$38 and sentenced to 45 days in jail for non-registration of his children in school. This sentence would be suspended on condition that the parents register the boys the following morning in the Onokama school. There was also the implied threat that the parents could be claimed "unfit," and the children taken from them.

The Coles had just read of a couple in Detroit who were put in jail on a similar charge, and their children placed in a foster home. The Coles yielded to the pressure, registered the two

older boys for half-days in kindergarten. They continue first-grade work at home.

The Coles are still feeling the impact of this experience: the "terrifying power" of officials to pass laws; their insistence that every law, whether moral or not, must be obeyed; the judgment of neighbors and acquaintances who "can't understand why parents wouldn't want to take advantage of free public schooling;" and pondering of future moves that will insure their children the quality of education they prefer.

Ohio Homestead Festival July 1-4

From July 1 to 4, 1966, the Smart, Loomis and Musgrave homesteads near West Alexandria, Ohio, will be hosts to interested people for fun and sharing ideas about the homestead way of life, and education for it.

July 1 (Friday): Arrive afternoon and evening and set up camp at Lane's End (Loomis) or Sycamore Hollow (Smart) homesteads. At either place you may camp in the woods, carry water from a well, and use old-fashioned sanitary facilities. At Sycamore Hollow, the campsite is along a river where you and the kids can wade, swim, fish or boat, if you bring a boat. Covered shelter for cooking. Bring your own bedding, towels, cooking equipment, food, etc. Get acquainted Friday evening.

July 2 (Saturday): At Sycamore Hollow (4998 Twin Creek Rd., 5 miles south of West Alexandria). Demonstrations of many kinds: weaving; soap, candle and bread-making; mills and flour milling; churning. These demonstrations are especially to show the children how the things they take for granted today used to be done and made at home: how some of them can still be done at home if you're imaginative, creative, energetic and a bit of a heretic. There will be two shared meals; bring and share what you can. We will start the day at 9 a.m.; discussion of homestead values, late in afternoon; homesteading film after supper (followed by folk-dancing). Whatever the weather, we promise good food, good talk and shared ideas.

July 3 (Sunday): At Lane's End (1½ mile north of Johnsville, east off the Johnsville-Brookville Rd.). 9:45 a.m., meditation on nature and country life; 10:15, the future, and School of Living; 12:30, picnic lunch (main dish supplied); 2:00, homesteading and the social situation; 8:00, folk singing and film on group process.

July 4 (Monday): At Musgrave Homestead, ¼ mile south, on Wolf Rd., and 1 mile west of traffic light in West Alexandria). 10 a.m., tour Musgrave organic 5 acres; 10:30, talk and discussion on homesteads are for families; 12:00, lunch in Musgrave's large picnic shelter (milk, ice cream, strawberries, saladings and vegetables from Musgrave's Organic Gardens); afternoon, informal gatherings and good-byes.

Plan now to attend this festival. Let us know. Send registration, at \$1 per adult or \$2 per family, to: Rose Smart, 4998 Twin Creek Rd., West Alexandria, Ohio.



THE OLD MILL, near Freeland, Md., is being renovated for a School of Living Center. South wing (left) has been re-roofed and comfortable living quarters built inside it. —photo by W. Brigham