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To Florida and Back, Part III - Students and Staff Operate School; Self-Regulation is Key to Freedom

Mildred Loomis

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THE GREEN

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



REVOLUTION

SCHOOL OF LIVING, BROOKVILLE, OHIO 45309
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Disruption of Coles' Home Schooling Stirs Our Readers

Active reader concern over the interruption of the home schooling of the Darrel Cole children, Bear Lake, Mich., (reported in May *Green Revolution*) began reaching us just before this month's deadline.

O. T. Plumb, Streator, Ill., offered to pay attorney fees and court costs for the Coles, if they contested the action of school and police officials who forced them to discontinue their first grade work at home. The three sons were progressing under Margaret Cole's teaching, with the Calvert Home Study Course and Phonovisual Methods. "It is time this issue was faced in the courts," wrote Mr. Plumb. "I wish the Coles would pursue it."

The American Civil Liberties Union wrote that home education was definitely a right of parents. While they had sent letters of encouragement and approval to some Detroit parents in similar circumstances, they had no record of actual support in court cases on this matter.

A Maryland reader said, "The May *Green Revolution* interested us because our thoughts are now focused on schools and education and their present unsuitability for many children. When I think of what our high-schooler must face during the next four years, I experience a mixture of nausea, outrage and anger. Our second-grader's problem will last just that much longer, unless we are able to find or create an alternate solution to compulsory education."

Need Organization

Rev. Eugene Kreves, Naperville, Ill., admires the peaceful individualist experiment of the Coles, and believes their experience should lead others who value freedom from coercion to plan effective organization to achieve better than public education.

"The state's power through

compulsory education to control the minds of children," writes Rev. Kreves, "and to replace parental influences and values is most difficult to counter. Part of the difficulty of the nonconformist is lack of working relationships with like-minded persons. I believe there is a partial answer in more effective organization, though we must admit that the state is still able to intercede and interfere with the rights of minorities even when organized, as in the case of the Amish in Eastern Iowa (and elsewhere). But our individual efforts can be much more effective if we relate them to the efforts of others who share our values."

Regional Schools of Living

Mr. Kreves continues: "Suppose that a pattern of regional organization for the School of Living was implemented. Divide the United States and Canada into regional units. Let member-families in these areas pay a membership fee to the School of Living (say, for instance, \$25 annually from individuals and \$50 per family, with a certain portion retained at the national center and a certain amount going to the regional office). Suppose each regional grouping were encouraged to set up a School of Living community in which families could cooperate on their own private school for children. Let each regional grouping also maintain contact with member-families not living within the School of Living community, especially those teaching their children at home.

"Suppose the state would disrupt their private family educational programs and such families could not afford a private school. Would it not be a creative effort for such families to find some very small out-of-the-way and off-the-beaten-path school (continued on page 2)

Intentional Community Conference Scheduled June 18-26 At Center

A nine-day meeting is announced at Heathcote Farm, School of Living Center, near Freeland, Md., for anyone experienced or interested in intentional community. Speakers have been invited, but attendants will choose discussion topics, plan the agenda and create the dialogue that thoughtful and concerned persons find meaningful today.

The initiating committee consists of Abigail Grafton, Bruce Elwell and Ben Zablocki. They anticipate that many types of intentional community will be described and evaluated—political, religious, non-religious, urban and rural.

Attendants are asked to be prepared to camp (bring bedding) or sleep in the Old Mill (some mattresses available); meal preparation will be shared and costs prorated, with a charge of \$1 per person as registration and service charge for use of the Center. Some creative work projects will be developed.

Youth Faces Problems

Abigail Grafton has been active in New York City School of Living meetings during the past winter. She says, "We live in a nation that has the material wealth to make everyone healthy, and uses it to keep everyone sick. We have the power to keep the peace and we

make war. Our people are cut off from their own life and feelings. However, we are a generation with greater knowledge of human psychology than any before. It is incumbent upon us to use our insight upon our disease. We must turn to the problem of well-being, and build communities in which people are ends, not means." For further information, write her at 170 E. 2nd St., New York City.

Ben Zablocki, editor of *Intentional Community Newsletter*, (Box 281, Baltimore, Md. 21303) adds, "Our ultimate goal is a world in which all people are involved with their entire selves in lives that are lived as ends in themselves. This is utopia. But the smallest social unit in which one can be totally committed to action which encompasses all human needs is the community. And since communities of this sort don't exist, it is necessary to build them."

Bruce Elwell (1134 Pine St., Philadelphia) believes that "Attempts at intentional community activity seek to be part of the answer (true social change) and must be started, supported and analyzed as never before. Unlike the ones that have failed, our 'revolution' must be human."

Take bus or Highway 83 to Maryland Line, Md. Farm phone, 301-357-5723.

To Florida and Back, Part III—

Students and Staff Operate School; Self-Regulation Is Key to Freedom



Scenes from Green Valley School, Orange City, Fla.

By Mildred J. Loomis

Green Valley School, directed by George von Hilsheimer, an adaptation for high-schoolers of the English Summerhill plan, centers in the 100 acres and building of a former monastery in north central Florida, near Orange City. Luke Carpenter, teacher and friend of youngsters there, described their program at our School of Living conference in Melbourne in late January. Three of us drove to the school later, for an overnight visit.

We didn't attend any classes. In fact, much of the work is done by the tutoring method, each student planning with a teacher and pursuing his work at his own pace and initiative. We noted various groups playing handball, preparing supper, setting tables, driving a stripped-down car, studying. In conversation we found them eager, friendly, intelligent. They helped us inspect and explore a student-constructed geodesic dome, which eight of them use for a dormitory. We visited the craft shop where students plan and carry out interesting projects. We did not find any gardening or planting going on.

Public Relations

I wanted to know how the local community felt about them, and was pleased to discover that the County Board of Education had asked to enroll three youngsters (incorrigibles, whom they couldn't handle) at Green Valley. This is quite a contrast from their first year (1962) in Tennessee, when neighbors descended on Green Valley at night, shot at them and forced them to move. That the youngsters are seriously concerned about public relations and the school's reputation came out in the student-staff meeting after breakfast, called House of Commons.

At the time of our visit there were about 75 students and 17 staff, both soon to be doubled

by addition of the New York Summerlane School to this campus. All staff members serve without salary, and share in the ownership and operation of the enterprise. Mr. Carpenter, math teacher, works in and manages the kitchen; Prof. Skip Rutherford has building and grounds; etc. Students pay a tuition in proportion to ability and assist in the work (cooking, management, cleanup and maintenance). A wealthy friend and contributor also works closely with Green Valley.

Formerly, when all students were on work crews, much time went to motivation and supervision of those not interested. So students and staff agreed to make work voluntary; those who did not want to work became the House of Lords and those who did formed the House of Commons. At stated times and conditions one could move from one to the other group.

House of Commons

In the larger dining room, some 40 persons gathered at 9 o'clock, Luke Carpenter presid-

ing. A student secretary called the roll, and Luke asked, "Any problems?"

"Larry had some beer on the grounds last night," announced Buckley. This was obviously already known to everyone but me. A student-made rule had been violated.

"What do you propose should be done about this?" (from Luke).

Ideas came quickly: "Give Larry an enema with beer." "Take away his home-leave on Washington's birthday." "Give him a room next to Skip (Rutherford) so he can check when Lar-

(continued on page 3)

May Be In "This Week"

In consultation with the editor of *This Week*, a widely syndicated Sunday supplement, Rose Smart, Sycamore Hollow Homestead, is preparing an article that may appear in the supplement during July, when a Homestead Festival is under way (July 1-4) at their and adjoining homesteads. (See program in the May issue of *Green Revolution*.)

Entitled "Modern Homesteading," the article will be illustrated by views from this new-old way of life from the Smart homestead, Lane's End and other homesteads in California, Iowa and Pennsylvania.

Indications are that a most interesting and worthwhile three days will develop at the Homestead Festival over the July 4 long weekend on the Smart, Loomis and Musgrave homesteads. From nearby and from afar, people are planning to attend. If you can share in this informal weekend (camping and roughing it for the most part), please send us advance notice (and \$1 per adult or \$2 per family), to: Rose Smart, 4998 Twin Creek Road, West Alexandria, Ohio. You will receive a map of the local area and a full program.

Plans Being Made For New Center

Readers and members are responding actively to the big news (in May *Green Revolution*) that School of Living trustees are committed to purchase part of Heathcote Farm, near Freeland, Md., for a new School of Living center and community. The 150-year-old, three-story stone building (one wing now habitable), known as the Old Mill, and an area of some 40 acres (previously reported as 30) have been offered by the owners, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Anacker, for \$15,000.

Significant Steps to be Taken

Officers and involved persons are now busy with plans, sur-

(continued on page 4)

The Owner-Built Home — Chapter 4 Planning Systems: Group Living Space

By Ken Kern

Many of the New House building concepts can be used to economic and esthetic advantage by the Owner-Builder. These notions cut through all the established criteria and standards, and for this reason naturally meet with consumer resistance. Mainly, these design-concepts influence way-of-life, and this is sacred territory to most people.

New House design concepts indicate that rooms should be planned for a complete range of activities, not for singular, specific functions: there should be several possible locations for any single action and one particular location should serve a number of different functions. We may do some hobby work, read a book, eat lunch and take a nap all in one room over a span of a few hours. Of course noisy and messy activities should not conflict with quiet, passive ones. The best solution to this problem is to provide alcoves and nooks that can be closed off but at the same time "linked" to adjacent spaces. A hallway doubles very nicely as an office, sewing-laundry, storage, or hobby alcove. The Japanese plan changed living functions by moving pieces of furniture from the storage into the rooms.

New House planning offers the prospect of closing off certain defined functions (located in halls, alcoves, nooks) or opening the total into one grand continuous (endless) space. This architectural feature runs consistently throughout the structure and includes all living functions.

Even the group-living fireplace can be planned around these new design concepts. The fireplace is traditionally located in the exact center of a wall. The mantel, raised hearth and fire-box opening are all properly designed and symmetrical. The customary over-stuffed couch directly in front of the fireplace cannot be used when the fire dies out. At least 14 feet required between fireplace and couch—but at this distance all intimacy and privacy are lost.

A fireplace supplies warmth or a sense of warmth, and solid backing to the adjacent seating area supplies a sense of shelter. Both are necessary for desired effects. This can be achieved by backing the seats against tall cabinets or bookcases, and placing the seats at right angles to the fireplace. A type of *inglenook* is thus created. The seats are best placed to the left (as one faces it) of the fireplace alcove, for the same reason that right-handed people prefer rooms that open to the right.

A more elaborate fireplace alcove can be created in the form of a *conversation pit*. An impromptu yet intimate atmosphere is effected in this recessed (about 12 inches) space. From a practical standpoint a conversation pit will seat a large number of people in a relatively small area.

The same New House design concepts that create group-living arrangements are also employed in developing individual-living and cooking-eating spaces. A description of these other functions will be given in following chapters.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Guide to Easier Living, Mary and Russel Wright.
Communitas, Paul Goodman.
Homes For Family Living, Gutheim.

Fiddlers, cont'd

(Joe does it alone with the aid of a tackle) to the next bin when one is full. This happens to be about a year for our family of five. Thus, when the third bin is full, the compost in the first one has aged two years. Although heating is probably sufficient to pasteurize the human wastes, this extra aging makes it more acceptable to many who might otherwise reject the idea. So long as we have materials at hand to keep it working properly—sawdust to absorb the urine and its nitrogen and earth to keep flies off—it is almost odorless. It usually smells of the garbage we have put in last (cabbage leaves, orange peels, rotten apples).

Sauna and Heating

For bathing, we plan on a sauna; it is warm in winter, most refreshing, and one gets cleaner than in any conventional American way of bathing. Besides that, it requires no plumbing and very little water — three can bathe with a bucketful, if necessary. The same fire that heats the sauna ought to be able to heat water for laundry. And we also have plans for using this same stove and outbuilding for sap evaporating and greenhouse in the spring, as sap evaporation about coincides with the time tender plants started in a greenhouse need heating. And the plants ought to like the moisture.

Other Thoughts

Washing machines may be worthwhile. We don't have one now. I use garbage cans, a wringer, and a metal plunger with a long handle. It does a very thorough job, but takes time I could use more efficiently on other things: children, sewing, craftwork, walking, reading, and

contemplating.

Freezers strike me as something planned to make women work more. It is no less complicated than open kettle canning, and for the most part I'd rather put vegetables into a root cellar at harvest time and take them out to eat raw, or just slightly cooked.

A wood stove we find far more efficient than any other kind; the whole stove is hot, so that a pot or kettle of any size receives heat over its entire bottom. I can pasteurize cider on one as fast as I can handle it — more than 50 gallons an hour. The same fire heats the oven and the top. A rack above dries apples, socks and mittens, and gives gentle bottom heat to hasten sprouting seeds.

In and Out of The Disease Hole

By Pauline Pidgeon

Upon spotting the May 1966 *Harper's* magazine and the article, "America's Unhealthy Children" (An Emerging Scandal), by Roul Tunley, my heart pounded to think, "They're finally going to openly admit that we are truly a sick nation." But no, it was only another limp hand held out to old Uncle Sam for more socialized medicine: more patches for roofs ruined in the storm of ignorance, more braces for the crooked teeth of our narrowing dental arches, more drugs to prop up kids so they can appear well as they continue in their self-destructive ways — encouraged by ignorant parents who believe food is entertainment rather than nourishment, more drugs to keep our pharmaceutical industries in financial health, more medical personnel and facilities to treat the

(continued on page 4)



KEN KERN is here seen developing an inexpensive, top-of-the-ground concrete cistern. An able homesteader, surveyor and architect, he plans to be present at the School of Living Workshop, Freeland, Md., Aug. 24-28, 1966.

School of Living Meetings Planned

June 12 — NFA Convention participants meet at School of Living Center, Freeland, Md.

June 17-26—Intentional Community Conference at School of Living, Freeland, Md.

July 2-4—Homestead Festival and Ohio Regional Meeting, Smart and Loomis Homesteads. Write to Rose Smart, 4998 Twin Creek Road, West Alexandria, Ohio.

July 5-Aug. 5—Intensive study for 8 to 10 qualified persons of Major (End All War) Problems of Living, at Lane's End Homestead. Mildred Loomis, discussion leader. Also training in writing, group process and personal dynamics. Students will maintain themselves in our building. Fee, \$10 a week.

July 16-17 — Bay Area School of Living meeting with Pres. Leo Koch, San Francisco.

Aug. 6-7—Los Angeles Area School of Living meeting with Pres. Leo Koch, in Los Angeles.

Aug. 24-28—SCHOOL OF LIVING ANNUAL MEETING AND WORKSHOP. Come early, set up camp, and assist in work and renovation projects.

Sept. 10-11 — Michigan Area School of Living meeting, near Traverse City, Mich.

To Florida, cont'd

ry comes in at night and if he's carrying contraband." Etc.

Each was discussed briefly, and to one youngster who showed some impatience at the whole proceedings, another said, "This is important! This could get us in trouble with the neighbors and authorities in Orange City."

Others suggested, "Limit Larry's spending money. See that he doesn't have any, and pledge not to loan him." "Tell the tavern people downtown not to sell to Larry." Etc.

None of the ideas seemed to please the whole group. At one point a staff member asked Larry how he was feeling. He made quite a response, but all I could hear included, "I feel angry."

Finally, an engaging youngster beside me turned to Luke and asked, "Luke, what do you think we should do?"

Luke transferred the "chair" to a student beside him, and then said, "I move we ask Larry to brew 5 gallons of beer and share it with the rest of us."

This did it. A hearty laugh indicated unanimous acceptance. Tension broke, the meeting adjourned, and everyone dispersed to wash dishes, clean garbage pails, etc., with the feeling that they had "handled" another sticky "problem" in their midst.

Send us names and addresses of your friends who might like to see a copy of *The Green Revolution*. We will mail samples.

Youth Opportunity This Summer

This year, tons of fruit, vegetables and grain will rot in fields for lack of harvesters, while more than a million and a half youngsters won't "find" summer jobs. A wise Californian became a "demonstrator." He led seven boys into the berry fields, and, working beside them, receiving the same remuneration as they, was able to show—not merely tell—them what should be done.

Dr. G. H. Earp-Thomas, a leading soil expert, reports that "in this country more food rots ungathered in the fields for lack of harvesting help than is shipped to market."

Why shouldn't this idea of small squads of American boys and girls, under competent demonstrators, spread? Why not a hundred thousand such units—seven boys from 13 to 17—each under the competent leadership of some person who not only knows and can tell them about the art of harvesting but can show his followers how.

Here's an idea for individual action, as well as for government departments.

New Book On Natural Healing

Reviewed by Rosetta Schuman*

Get Well Naturally, by Linda Clark, \$5.95, Devin-Adair, New York City.

This is a do-it-yourself book. Doctors do not make us well; we make ourselves well as we make ourselves ill. If we can believe, as did the 15th-century Italian, Cornaro, when he reached the age of 40 with health broken, that we can regenerate ourselves, we can find a blueprint for it in Linda Clark's *Get Well Naturally*. Dr. Royal Lee compared it to a well-organized menu. Beyond that, it is a complete repast (easy to digest) of health information which leaves out the "academic course."

Not "Is it orthodox?" but "Has it helped?" is her criterion for inclusion. Many are the orthodox sources, but there as many of the fringe: the Doctors Shute, Quigley, Knibht, Morrison, Sandler, Pottenger, Jarvis, McCay, Shadman, Gerson, Ratner, Bicknell and others. This is a resource book par excellence for the ailments that beleaguer mankind. Homeopathy, osteopathy, chiropractic, herbalism, acupuncture, radiesthesia, macrobiotics, autotherapy—all are given a hearing. For all have helped. In Russia, 40% of the therapy is herbal! As one reads the many arresting ideas, one should remind oneself of William Penn's plea: "Help us not to dispose or oppose what we do not understand." You will find out what Dowsing is. One eminent physician said of it: "I don't believe it; I don't understand it; but it works!" And five Nobel prize winners agree! Linda Clark vouches personally for Edgar Cayce, and tells us that there is a research organization for studying his work. He left behind a treasury of untapped health information.

Practical Helps

The chapter on infections will be of immediate and continuing use. It alone justifies owning the book. It is replete with empirical information — the somewhat simple cause of leg cramps, the value of using buckwheat and

*Mrs. Schuman is director of a three-county district home for elderly persons, Manassas, Va.

Read THE CONSCIENCE OF A RADICAL by SCOTT NEARING

Review from *New World Review*, January 1966

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BOY, 14, active, enthusiastic, interested in livestock. Needs farm, country experience, work for summer in Christian home. No heavy lifting. Mrs. F. E. Simpson, 4720 3rd Place, N.W., Washington, D. C.

LIVING HIGH by June Burn. Joyous homesteading classic. New illus. edition, \$3. Wellington Books, 346 Concord, Belmont, Mass. (y4)

WANTED—Someone to live on our homestead; food and lodging in exchange for work in garden, house and health food store. Lefever's Sonnewald Homestead, Spring Grove, Pa.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS FOR ALL by O. B. Johansen. Provocative essay on purpose of education. Why it should be conducted as private enterprise. 50c.—Committee of One, 825 Walnut St., Roselle Park, N. J.

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flaxseed, the fact that human blood parallels sea water in mineral analysis, a discussion of flatulence, a thorough-going discussion of arthritis, etc. You'll find out what "weapon salve treatment" is, and why it may be an illusion to feel safer at the practice of underground testing.

During the period I was reading this book I had a fall. Immediately I applied a cold compress to my leg. Inflammation (continued on page 4)