

Disruption of Coles', cont'd

district? Could they not settle into such an area, and by working together get elected to the local school board, hire the kinds of teachers and bring in the kinds of influences which would offset the depersonalizing and dehumanizing bureaucratic regimentation? Much of the effort might take the form of volunteering to assist in the local school program, i.e., gifts of books, serving as librarian, recreational or noon-hour assistance, help with nature study projects, etc.

"Such experiments would not succeed overnight. It would take a few years, but my experience is that anyone who has clear goals, persistence and an ability to communicate enthusiasm and values to others is difficult to stop."

Influence Community

Rev. Kreves lets his imagination play. "Needless to say," he writes, "each regional School of Living group could buy out or create some small newspaper or duplicating business simply to infuse values into the larger society. We must not underestimate one factor: we live in a society which lacks rational planning,

a sense of ethical purpose and a dedication to a vital individualism. Within it is much disorganization and regimentation. When a small group is organized and its members know what they want, are persistent and able to avoid creating antagonism; when such a group pushes into a chaotic situation in which there is a vacuum, the small organized group will prevail."

Three Essentials

Mr. Kreves concludes with an evaluation of and gift to the School of Living, and lists prerequisites:

"Anyone who is at all aware of modern-day trends cannot help but realize the importance of the School of Living. It has a potential which is awesome, but the realization of that potential requires (1) intelligent, enthusiastic, cooperative members; (2) money; and (3) effective planning and organization which will create a strong international, national, regional and perhaps state or provincial units. Progress will come when those three situations exist. Please accept the enclosed \$30, and count my wife and me as members, greatly wanting to be of help."

Letters To The Editor

Congratulations!

To the Editor:

Hoorah! I've found a nature girl. I thought it an impossibility. We envelop and consume organic gardening, nature study, poetry and philosophy with gusto!

Where, oh where, are sunlit sprawling wooded dells, and few shingled windowed cells? We have an eye beamed toward the Arkansas highlands, but nothing definite. An encouraging word is welcomed from fellow naturalists. The Green Revolution will most certainly flourish. — David Arnold, R. R. 2, Iron River, Mich.

A Salute to Adequacy

To the Editor:

Bless the June and Farrar Burns of the world! The account of their homestead in the April *Green Revolution* nudged me to reread their "unconventional autobiography," *Living High*.

I would like each member of our local SCOPE (poverty program) committee to read this book and this story of their "Place" with June Burn's 8-point program for rich living while being, what she calls, poor. There is no poverty of spirit, nor of the pocketbook either. Simple, thrifty living, yes; but with land, shelter, equipment, knowledge and health, the Burns are surely adequate to the general needs of life. And what homesteader isn't in this "good" condition? Why don't we use the School of Living term "adequacy" to express our material level of living, as quite different from either poverty or affluence?

What is needed is more of the Burns' philosophy — they have something not bought with dollars — time to live and to enjoy their living. Sometimes I have a sneaking suspicion that the "poor" in our rural Ohio county whom we do-gooders are so bent on helping have this straight and are living "the good life" in their own terms.

Would that our national "poverty program" had more of the philosophy and practice of the Burns, the Hal Porters and other homesteaders. Isn't a good goal one in which the "poor" become creatively and joyfully "adequate"?—Rose Smart, Sycamore Hollow Homestead, West Alexandria, Ohio.

You Are 18

Dear Trudy Miller:

Your letter in February *Green Revolution* provokes a response and I would like to talk to you.

Probably I am about as old as your father — since I've been aware of Mildred Loomis' activities for more than 20 years. Just

about everything that you find so good, so zestful, so honest, so kind I have never known. I have never lived on a farm, nor milked either cow or goat, I've known no bees, had no cats, rarely saw a piece of wood, seldom driven a nail, never swam nude in a creek, found no turtles, saw no geese, picked no berries, found no eggs, built neither shed nor shack. Furthermore, I've but once ever touched a donkey, never had any pigeons, never saw a calving and wouldn't recognize rhubarb.

Your father is a very intelligent man; I am merely educated. His are the true ways, his daughter the sane and fruitful proof. Mine are the barren ways, the tired pursuit of dull money, the dying courage to do half of that which your father accomplished. He, as I see it, has enriched the earth and the race, and men like me have merely occupied space, making noises and gestures and many promises all of which are as hollow as our hearts.

You are 18! Imagine; I was once 18. Mildred was once 18. The years tarnish, so you must love, Trudy, with a raging exuberance, your father to whom you owe so much more than the trite things one finds on Christmas cards. Things that go way back, when America was herself young and clean and glad and free. You are a fragment, paradoxically, of the glorious past of each of us. And you are the radiance we all search amidst the gathering gloom.

May all your years be forever 18.

Chester Dawson
Box 2048

Belo Horizonte, Brazil

Student For Homesteading

To the Editor:

I am a student at Goddard College, who for a long time has been interested in natural living, organic farming, homesteading, etc. Would you happen to know of any jobs on a homestead for this summer? I enjoy all types of work, especially ones in which I come in contact with the earth. — Virginia Gilmer, Northwoods campus, Goddard College, Plainfield, Vt.

Anti-Stress Cocktail

To the Editor:

We have experienced real help from nutrition in overcoming emotional depression. In her latest book, Adelle Davis tells about an anti-stress cocktail. Before I read it I had worked out one for us consisting of rose hip powder, brewer's yeast, bone-meal, soy flour and sesame seed meal. Whenever I get blue or discouraged I immediately start

doubling up on this stress cocktail, especially on the rose hip powder and yeast, or desiccated liver tablets. I find that this helps me snap out of it within 24 hours.

As for news of our Farmette:

We have nine new bunnies. In one cage of four we're experimenting on feeding weeds, garden produce and much comfrey (completely home-fed organically). Our 16 hens (cross between Rhode Island Reds and Plymouth Rocks) are averaging 13 eggs a day, fed mostly on weeds. I won't rouse your envy by reporting our present (April 24) harvest in the garden, but blackberries and strawberries surely taste good—with a pint going in the freezer for every one we eat. Sweet corn is tasselling out. — Hal Porter, Rt. 1, Box 1742, Port Orange, Fla.

Plans Home School

To the Editor:

To our family of two children, we have added a nine-year-old boy. Their education poses a problem, and we are thinking of starting a homestead school. Three years of teaching in public school (upper, middle and slum class neighborhoods) plus hearing what goes on in our local schools, combined with my own theories and reading convince me that I could do a better job in less time and with less cash outlay than a not-so-nearby private school. State law forbids teaching children at home here unless it is a school which others attend. Hope authorities won't require many facilities we don't have or want. We would be interested in hearing from others who have tackled home education or small schools. — Helen Ryan, Fiddlers Choice, Rt. 1, Box 91, Franklin, N. H. 03235

Free Space For Help

To the Editor:

We offer spaces for 3 to 6 trailers at our 4½ acre property in Ripely, Calif. There is rich sandy loam garden soil there, a fine sunny winter climate and excellent fishing within two miles. In order to get some improvement under way we will not charge for trailer people of the right quality to stay there. They could help, in return, in building a bath house and possibly a swimming pool. Weather is ideal October to May. — Paul Marks, Box N, Los Banos, Calif.

Publications For The Homesteader

National Stock Dog magazine, quarterly, \$2 a year, \$5 for 3 years. E. G. Emanuel, Rt. 1, Butler, Ind. 46721

Peace of Mind Thru Nature, \$1. Backwoods Journal, Paradox 5, N. Y. \$2 a year, sample 35c.

Hygienic Review, \$4 a year. Herbert Shelton, Editor. Box 1277, San Antonio, Texas.

California Homeowners, quarterly, \$2 a year. 1561 N. Gower, Los Angeles 90028

Dairy Goat Journal, monthly, \$2 a year. Box 836, Columbia 35, Mo.

American Rationalist, \$4.50 a year, liberal religious viewpoint. Box 742, St. Louis, Mo.

Mankind Go Home, by Russel Jaque, simple life, handcrafted, \$2 from School of Living.

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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).

Some Thoughts on Homesteading, Part IV—

Do We Want To Live Or Are We Satisfied Just To Make A Living?

By Hal Porter

Necessary supplemental homestead income could very easily come through raising high-priced ornamentals or even scarce luxury food. It might even come from raising organically-grown vegetables for the increasing number of followers of the natural food program. I know one man, over 80 years old, who makes an average of \$900 a year just raising big tomatoes and selling them right from his home on a suburban street. Flowers, nursery stock also present opportunities. (However, the last one has its dangers; in Florida they have a licensing and inspection system which is supposed to prevent the spread of nematodes and other plant diseases, though of course it doesn't do this because the only protection from nematodes and other plant diseases is healthy soil filled with organic matter which itself destroys such pests and troubles.)

Things get irritating to a person who wishes to avoid laws and law enforcers. One of the tragic factors of modern life is the way in which the body politic passes laws to cure all troubles, especially in the fields of morals, health, economic welfare and traffic. Of course this is very convenient. We can pass a law which says we must not do so and so and should do such and such, and then can forget about the whole matter. The fact that the law is unenforceable and even if it were enforced would help matters little is largely ignored. After all, we can virtuously say, "We made it against the law for people to be sick; if they would respect the law they would all be well."

A Working, Unfinished Entity

To get back to the dream homestead. With a house built, containing a harvest-kitchen, a well for water, septic tank for human wastes, animals for eating and to produce manures for the soil (and even these manures would have to be supplemented by others hauled in for many years to build up the soil), vegetable and fruit growing, the homestead would be a working entity. But it would not be finished. I would never want it finished, everything all done up neatly, shrubbery trimmed, lawn manicured. If the day ever came when there was no more expansion, change and beautification (oh yes, I would raise lots of flowers and flowering vines, trees, and shrubs; I would like to have as many as possible also to provide food but would want some just for looks, to perfume the air, and to furnish food and shelter for birds, bees, butterflies, and other animal life of the ecology), if it was ever finished, then I, too, would be finished. With nothing left to do except maintain the status quo I would be ready to lie down and die. It is a law of nature that there must be growth or death ensues.*

Farming vs. Homesteading

I am not really worried about this happening. Building a homestead is a never-ending process. If one thinks of it that way, there is an enormous amount of work to be done. But I do not think of gardening, growing things, tending and feeding animals and other chores around the homestead as work.

Such an attitude defeated our ancestors. To them life was a matter of dreary toil and a continuous fight for existence. Part of this was due to the fact that to them the farm was a business. They raised crops to sell to get the money to buy the necessities of life and a few luxuries. Their main effort was what is called "making a living." If the homestead is the living, the work becomes not toil but a pleasant way

of spending time.

Part of their attitude was due to the before-mentioned notion that farm chores were degrading and that there was some mystical advantage gained if one provided for that which is needed to maintain life (like food, shelter, and clothing) by using the brain and letting others do the work. The fact that such a way of life was in actuality a retreat from life still escapes millions of people.

One of the most ridiculous ideas of modern life is expressed by the dweller of the suburbs who works hard in an office to make enough money to pay someone to mow his lawn so that he will have time to play golf for exercise.

Work With Nature

Such an attitude toward work is only one of the many that is not compatible with successful homesteading. In a recent issue of *A Way Out* I find a reference to Man's struggle with nature. I fail to see why there should be any struggle. In any fight with nature I am sure that man would lose; but I am also convinced that if a man works with nature he can't help but win.

This is well illustrated by the attitude of members of Alcoholics Anonymous toward alcohol. They believe that a man who fights alcohol is bound to lose but one who surrenders will win. The first thing he must do is to admit that he is powerless over alcohol. Taking it from there, he can maintain sobriety.

To be successful with my homestead I will have to take the attitude that if I fight nature, or the ecology in which I live, I am doomed, but if I live as a part of that ecology I will survive.

(to be continued)

"Fiddlers' Choice" Homestead Notes

By Helen Ryan
Franklin, N. H.

I've just read Hal Porter's lively account of what he'd do if he were beginning homesteading now, and it makes me ask some questions. (And give my answers.)

Why bother to try to hide a house? Why not pick a community that has no building permits or codes? There must be others, besides the one we live in, that have none of these restrictions. I cannot imagine any rural community where comings and goings into a previously unsettled area would go unnoticed. Word would get around before your second truckload (or backpack) of materials was brought in that someone was building in there. However, one can avoid a lot of taxes by being inaccessible. We still pay only the taxes for our land, \$8.80 per year, as the town has not accepted our abandoned road yet. They plan to, and we need to be accessible to others, so eventually we'll be taxed for our buildings, too.

Composting Outhouse

Why are plumbing, flush toilets, etc., so important? Some I agree would be convenient and worthwhile — running water would speed up the time to do the laundry, and electric lights would increase the number of things one could do in the winter. Also, my electric sewing machine enables me to do more mending faster. We plan on electricity eventually.

However, our composting outhouse operation is far more efficient and less wasteful than a flush toilet—and takes less care. We have three concrete bins, each about 6 sq. ft. with a concrete pad bottom to prevent seepage. (We wanted to experiment with something that could be used in less isolated situations where seepage might cause complaints as well as loss of fertilizer.) A small outhouse sits over the bin in use, and is moved (continued on page 3)

*[I have heard there is an old Chinese saying which, translated, is: "When the house is finished, the master dies"—Ed.]

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

The Art of Comfort, William Masee, 1952.
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)