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Fund Drive Begins in Earnest - Contributions for New Center are Needed; \$6,250 is Goal by Aug. 27

Milred 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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Some Thoughts on Homesteading, Part V—

I Will Cooperate With Nature; Who Will Go and Do Likewise?

By Hal Porter

Instead of fighting the soil, the insects, the weeds, the weather, and the small animals which crawl, swim and dig, I would live and let live, and concentrate my efforts on building up the beautiful dirt in which things would grow.

I would haul vegetable matter, such as lawn clippings, leaves, and particularly palmetto leaves which others threw away, and spread it on my land. I would haul seaweed like mad whenever it appeared on the beach, for its mineral content in my mulch and compost. I would materially assist the chicken farmer, the horse raisers, the dairy farmers, and other growers of animals to dispose of their wastes. I would also add rock minerals, like dolomite, ground phosphate rock, and ground granite, to the soil. Fertile soil, mineral rich, would produce healthy plants, which would mean health for me and my family and my chickens and animals and would also protect my crops from insects, drouth, and cold.

Nor would I be concerned about so-called filth and germs. The designation of animal manures as filth is another form of snobbery. Anything which is as necessary to life cannot be filth. There is no such thing as beauty in the eyes of the beholder. One could say with equal justification that a stink is in the nose of the smeller. Those who object to the smell of manure wrinkle their noses not at all at the stench of trucks and busses and enter a cellar bar where the horrible smell of stale cigarette smoke, stale liquor, and stale perfume assails the nose without even thinking of it as a stink. There they sit and listen to a so-called singer whose noises would make any rooster cower in the hen yard, yet speak with ill nature of the neighbors' chickens disturbing their sleep. These same people worry themselves sick over germs and spend millions of dollars for disinfectants and seem not to be disturbed by the poisons in their cigarettes, food, and liquor. Knowing that without bacteria, germs, and all the other myriad tiny unseen animal and plant

Two Meetings On West Coast

Paul Marks (Box N, Los Banos, Calif.), chairman of the West Coast area of School of Living, reports a lively interest in two meetings to be held while Dr. Leo Koch, president, and Mrs. Mary Koch, secretary, of School of Living, are in that area this summer.

A Bay Area meeting will be held on July 16 and 17, at Friends Center, 2160 Lake St. (at 23rd). Contact Pat Herron, 600 Stanyan, No. 11, San Francisco, for further information.

A Los Angeles area meeting will be held Aug. 6 and 7, at the Anderson Research Center, 437 N. Kenmore, Los Angeles.

Dr. and Mrs. Koch are eager to meet as many School of Living members and friends as possible, to consider plans there.

Members are asked to present their own concerns and suggestions. Further, plans are to present and discuss **A Green Revolution Manifesto** (to be first presented and read at the July 4 weekend festival in Ohio).

life there would be no human life either, and that even the germs which are considered harmful can't attack a healthy body, I would accept these minute forms of life as part of nature and be glad the good ones would help me and protect me from the bad ones.

And thus I would fear nothing in nature, feel no hate or resentment, and be so secure that my only worry would be that life is too short and the days too short for me to do all the things I wish to do. Because I not only want to grow all these things but also observe and study them. I could pass up a lot of plays and musicals and other entertainment necessary to the cultured citizen for the untold pleasure and wonder of watching a butterfly formed and colored so much like an autumn leaf that it was invisible when at rest on the ground. Like a small boy transfixed by the wonder of nature, I would run back into the house, from an inspection tour of the woods, fields, and garden, to tell my wife about a new plant in bloom, or a new bird seen. Life would be full.

But I wouldn't live as a hermit. Probably since there would be nothing of interest in homes of those in city and town I would insist that my friends come and see me. I would cultivate the friendship of those even vaguely interested in these things which I find so all-absorbing. I would hope that by example I might convince some to follow my path: that when they saw how healthy and happy my wife and I both were in our homestead existence, they might go and do likewise. I would continue to keep up a voluminous correspondence with like-minded folks for moral support and greater knowledge and with some who were not of my particular outlook, but whom I might interest.

And what more could I ask of life?

July Activities At Lane's End

Lane's End Homestead will be a small "grand central station" this summer, as many persons come and go in an all-out effort to assemble and train a core of helpers, staff or co-workers to take over and develop activities that have been "piling-up" on the director, Mrs. Loomis.

Richard and Phyllis Stanewick, particularly, will be living at Lane's End this summer. Former teachers, they want "to find work more to their goals and liking than public school teaching. Their skills include craft, office, music and literary abilities.

Intensive July Seminar

The following have indicated plans to take some part in the month-long "End-All-War Seminar" at Lane's End: Eleanor Woods, Blue River, Ore.; O. T. Plumb, Streator, Ill.; Barney & Pat McCaffrey, on a tour of the U.S.; Mr. & Mrs. Josh Milner, Cleveland, O.; and Richard & Phyllis Stanewick.

We would be very happy to hear from any others who want to share in "assessing modern culture and defining and discussing 17 major problems of living." Experience in useful writing, group dynamics and personal inter-relating will also be part of the month's project.—MJL

Fund Drive Begins in Earnest—

Contributions For New Center Are Needed; \$6,250 Is Goal By Aug. 27



On left, wall of Old Mill north dormitory needs repair; old wheelhouse to be removed or converted (perhaps into a sunheated growing pit). Three Lefever boys on road. On right, workshop banquet in July, 1966. Dee Hamilton Sprague is serving salad featuring day-lily petals.

Inquiries, comments and suggestions about the new School of Living Center being developed near Freeland, Md., have been numerous. Plans are progressing, a huge garden is producing, work is continuing on the property, a successful open house was held in the Old Mill on Sunday, June 12, and an invigorating conference on intentional community was attended by nearly 100 persons, June 17-28. The Old Mill has already become a busy, significant center.

Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Anacker are willing to turn over five buildings, the mill site, and surrounding acreage of their farm to us at a price of about \$260 an acre. Further good news on the proposal comes from recent events and further considerations:

- A survey shows that this portion of the farm contains 48 acres — one large flat meadow, but most of it partially wooded hillsides, for homesteads, camping and summer cabins.

- The original offer of this section for \$15,000 has been reduced by the \$1,500 cash already contributed and spent by School of Living members in renovating the mill.

- A contribution of \$1,000 has been made by the Anackers.

- Buildings on this section of the farm include the old stone mill, a good chicken house that can be remodeled for living quarters, a stone springhouse with usable quarters above, a carriage house and toolshed, and a corn crib and storage building.

It would be difficult to find a comparable value in a comparable location for this total figure of (now reduced to) \$12,500. All trustees and all actively concerned members are hoping other members and friends will respond generously to quickly liquidate the total.

Officers and members are launching a vigorous drive to raise a big down-payment by the end of August, and to complete full payment within a year.

Several persons now seem to be available to act as chairman of the fund for the new School of Living Center. It appears that this may develop into a business manager for all our activities. A person will definitely be in training at Lane's End this summer for this work.

Send your contributions and pledges to: Building Fund, Lane's

End Homestead, Brookville, O. (Also, of course, subscriptions, book orders, etc.)

The president of the School of Living, Dr. Leo F. Koch, issues this call:

A Call For a School of Living Center

For some years the School of Living has been hoping and planning to establish a center to serve as its educational and business headquarters. This goal is now in sight.

The old mill owned by Mr. William Anacker, near Maryland Line, Maryland, has already been improved and for the better part of a year occupied in the name of the School of Living. This summer all of you are invited to visit it and avail yourselves of its facilities.

Negotiations with Bill Anacker are nearing completion, and, hopefully, final details of a purchase agreement will be presented for approval at the annual meeting Aug. 27. Members of the Board of Trustees who voted in April to proceed with this transaction have already pledged \$50 each toward the purchase of the Old Mill property. The name proposed for it is

the "School of Living Center."

As president of the School of Living, I hereby ask each and every member to make a pledge in accordance with your means. NO MATTER HOW SMALL, each pledge will help to make the enterprise successful.

The purchase price for the Old Mill and some 48 acres is reduced to \$12,500. We hope half this sum, or \$6,250, will be given and pledged by our Aug. 27 annual meeting. Every dollar that can be raised before that date, for a down payment, will save all of us carrying charges and interest in the future. Now is the time to make that extra effort to put the School of Living on the map. The total sum received before 10 p.m., Aug. 27, will be announced at that time. Let us know your contribution on the accompanying form. Do it now! Help us reach our half-way goal!

As the international crisis deepens, and the United States itself becomes more regimented and intolerant of dissent, each of us must search his or her conscience and decide to be counted as libertarians. Your membership in the School of Living is a com-

(continued on page 2)

BUILDING FUND
New School of Living Center
Heathcote Road, Freeland, Md.

Date _____

Building Fund
Lane's End Homestead
Brookville, Ohio 45309

I want to participate in and support the New School of Living Center at the Old Mill Farm, Heathcote Rd., Freeland, Md., as checked below:

\$ _____ gift to New School of Living Center Building Fund.

\$ _____ pledged to New School of Living Center Building

Fund, payable on _____ (terms or date)

\$ _____ loan to Building Fund at _____% interest.

Signed _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Fund Drive Begins, cont'd

mitment to libertarian ideals. To implement these ideals a School of Living Center is a vital necessity. Your proper share is whatever you can muster. Your contribution will be evidence that your commitment to a libertarian way of life is more than lip service.

A School of Living Center can help to stem the tide of conformity and centralism which threatens to engulf all of us. Let each and every one of us stand up as individuals and as members of the School of Living to be counted in opposition to that threat. Send pledges and contributions to: Building Fund Drive, School of Living, Brookville, O. Can you do it immediately? Very soon? Before Aug. 27? — Leo F. Koch, Stony Point, N. Y.

Kern to Help with Center

Ken Kern (trustee, homesteader, surveyor, architect, builder), writes:

"I am excited to learn of the proposed Mill purchase. From what I read, you made a terrific deal: seems that \$15,000 is a low price for all that you are getting. It would cost many times that much out here in California.

"I definitely want to help with the program, and will spend at least a week at the new center in August, helping perhaps with preliminary surveying, topography mapping and general layout planning. I would certainly like to see a dozen or so potential homestead sites available there for 'faculty' members; I should think one-acre sites would be sufficient.

"Some sort of leasehold arrangement could probably be worked out; there definitely should not be outright sale of the land to such holders.

"I'm looking forward to seeing

you again, and many School of Living members and friends." — Ken Kern, Oakhurst, Calif.

Suggests Financial Arrangement

Eleanor Woods, Blue River, Ore., has given much careful thought to the developing new School of Living Center in Maryland. Frequent letters from her have shared detailed and penetrating suggestions on education, community, and financing. On the latter she wrote, June 7:

"I should think the cost should be paid off as quickly as possible so that we do not have to pay interest. Actually, \$15,000 should not be so hard to collect.

"If 250 people gave \$5 a month for only one year we would have this property free and clear! After that we could take our time about constructing the necessary buildings for school and staff. In fact, building from local materials a la Kern should serve as projects on which we can all learn, and thus be more equipped to teach others. The School will then be able to offer housing free to its future staff. Staff members would be those qualified and willing to work and teach their particular skills.

"Regarding division and use of the property, it seems to me the best, simplest, and most obvious thing to do is to have the entire land, buildings and improvements belong to the School as a whole. I think this would make possible everyone giving what he can afford, rather than having a few people sink their life funds into it as an 'investment,' and being disappointed if things didn't go the way they wanted them to."

[Note: Other members and trustees will be heard from next month.—Editor]



Vardis Fisher
Self-Portrait at 70

Letters To The Editor

New Harmony

To the Editor:

Last summer we searched the Bemidji, Minn., area for a homestead. We rode, slept and ate in a 1951 delivery van bought for \$125. Despite three flats, ignition trouble and other malfunctions our venerable wagon did the job. I had a winter job in Gary, Ind., at \$3 an hour, and waited and worked out the eight dreary months until May Day 1966 when we pushed off for our homestead (named New Harmony).

We have quite a lot of land, and the surroundings offer much more. We intended to get a much smaller holding but ended with buying 157 acres of woods, cleared land and lake. It's an ex-farm with a barn and shed, which we fixed up for a cabin, and we got it for only \$15 an acre. With unexpected financial help we were able to buy and start on our goal this spring. We've cleared, planted and mulched. A neighborly farmer gave us 100 bales of spoiled hay, lots of milk and advice!

People are important to us, and we have land, space and goals to share. We are young and hope eventually to have a community of people interested in essential, simple living join us. We invite interested people to write, visit and plan with us.—Ferdinand & Rebecca Knoess, Pennington, Minn.

[Ed. note: We plan to carry a full story, with illustrations, of the beginning of New Harmony. Here is a couple with ideas, determination and energy; we want to see them succeed.—MJL]

Return to Idaho

To the Editor:

In 1962 we began our homestead here in Idaho, and after a year of effort our isolation and loneliness prompted us to seek a better place, better people, closer relationships. For three years we have searched—living much of the time in association at the Kern homestead in California. We have learned much, increased our skills. (Besides homesteading skills, Don learned surveying and Annerose learned nursing.) We've met many wonderful, sociable, well-read, community-loving people and are still alone. We have realized more about ourselves and our incurable willingness and drive to live on our own beautiful 80 acres. We have come back to the only place which seems to give us any hope for realization of at least some of our life's dreams. Our knowledge of nutrition, gained by reading, visiting, trading recipes and trial and error gives us more appreciation for the fine soil and virgin environment of this place.

We are living in an old log cabin built in the thirties. It's inconvenient to carry water, wash by hand, battle with rodents and ants, but we take it all gladly for it is our own place. We've come to hate renting, leasing and all the restrictions on creativity and expression that go with it. We are collecting material for our new house and out-buildings. We would like to exchange ideas on all phases of homesteading, especially with readers in a climate like ours—

Giants of the Earth, the Fishers Homestead an Idaho Paradise

By Mildred Loomis

Vardis Fisher, the famous novelist, and his wife, Opal Laurel Holmes, are giants of the earth who homesteaded 23 acres near Hagerman, Idaho. To people who wonder why, "of all places," they live in Idaho, they send a brochure. The fantastically lovely scenes shown from their area and the description lead us to call it "Paradise."

"In April 1940 the Fishers bought the 23^{1/2} acres of mountainside, springs and falls, and wasteland. Their buildings, of lodgepole, erected by them, are a modest 2-bath cottage, a small guest house, 2 single garages, small shop, and a small barn. They have put 26 years of hard labor in the place—a water system, walks, walls, roadbed, plantings. Nearly all the visitors from the East have thought it very beautiful. If the Fishers had had the money they could have made it much more impressive—for instance, there could be as many fountains as the owners wish to have, and more waterfalls could be brought out of the mountainside.

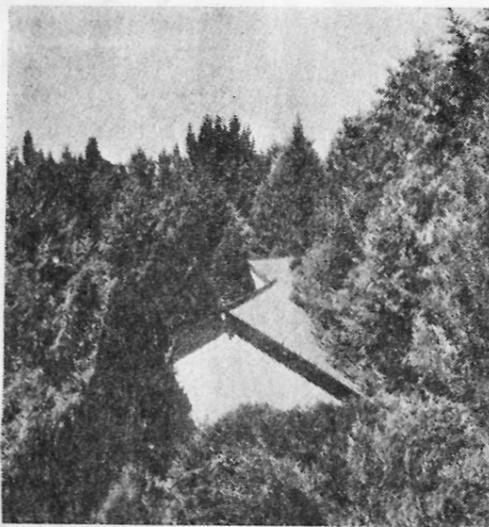
"Nothing is more unusual than the climate, perhaps the mildest in its latitude in the northern hemisphere—milder than Boise's famous climate, 100 miles west; much milder than Salt Lake

City's over 200 miles south. More than half the winters in 26 years the Fishers have been there have had practically no snow; in severer winters it did not reach a depth of more than 4 or 5 inches. It's a dry climate, with some autumn rain and a prevailing western breeze. Even in July and August sleepers want a blanket over them. The months of December and January are cold, with temperatures now and then falling to zero, rarely below. The autumns are long Indian summers to Dec. 1. Springs come early; farmers are often in their fields in February. The elevation is a little more than 3,000 ft.

Vardis Fisher has written more than 30 novels of tremendous emotional power and extraordinary learning. While novels of any author do not appear frequently on my reading list. I greatly regret that it wasn't until a few years ago that I came to know of Fisher's novels. His *Man of the Mountains* and *Orphans of Gethsemane* have shown me that he is a man attuned to nature and to liberty; in fact, a *Man*, whom it has been our loss not to know much longer. Mr. Fisher has contributed important ideas to recent issues of our *A Way Out*, and we're proud to have him as a friend of the School of Living.



A lovely small waterfall, fed by a group of springs.



The Fishers planted thousands of pine and spruce on a wasteland. Their homeplace is now being engulfed.

3,000 ft. elevation, 30 below zero at times.

We still feel isolated from like-minded people and we welcome visitors, single or married, young or old, and particularly folksingers. We are open to and searching for new ideas, discussions, projects. We'd appreciate sharing books with others.—Don & Annerose Rollins, Rt. 2, Box 149A, Rathdrum, Idaho 83858

Dandelions to You

To the Editor:

We like *Green Revolution* and if other readers are like us everyone must read it very eagerly. But we especially appreciated the February issue with its statement on Moral and Withholding Action. I gave that copy to a friend hoping to win another supporter of the green revolution. Here's our renewal and a contribution.

You are doing a very great work. Over many generations it

The Green Revolution

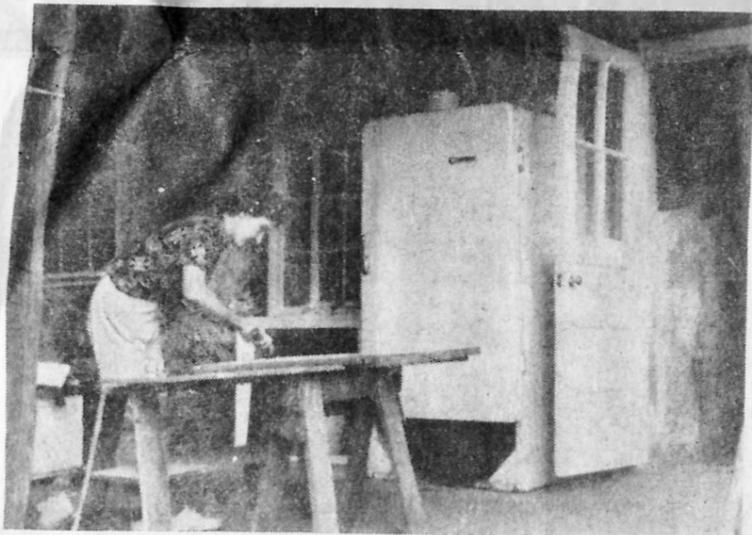
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Telephone: TE 8-4522 (New Lebanon, Ohio).



Sophie Rainer putting old window frames. New door and window bring more light into general living room.

How Can We Prepare For Community Living?

By Gordon Yaswen

339 E. 94th St., New York City

There seem many people desirous of withdrawing from the urban-mass society onto exurban land in intentional, self-sustaining communities; and I for one am fairly certain that we will, within 15 years, see the number of such communities easily double. We in the School of Living should take little credit for this when it comes: Johnson and those who think like him are seeing to it for us. Therefore the problem is not so much "will we"; but where, when, and how we will. It is my impression that few are ready now for such a move, but I believe preparation must now be going on nonetheless, even before tangible communities are in the offing.

I am aware that some people would consider such advance preparation needless. I, however, feel that the problems which face a group of people seeking self-sufficing community are frankly tremendous, as is borne out by the high mortality

rate of such ventures. Therefore I would wish to solve as many of those problems IN ADVANCE as possible, so that when the community actually forms, its members can turn their full energies to those multitudinous problems as will inevitably remain. I am not much intrigued in Man's present reaching out for Outer Space; but I am profoundly impressed by the thoroughness and methodicalness (as well as with the ingenuity) with which He approaches the awesome dilemmas that that reaching presents. Before any system, no matter how insignificant, is installed in the finished space vehicle it is thoroughly tested in as close to ACTUAL CONDITIONS (with all their foreseeable events both planned and unplanned) as is possible on Earth, and it is so tested not merely once, but possibly over hundreds of hours. I admire this kind of not only pre-thinking but pre-doing, and I think it should be applied to the preparation of intentional communities as well, which are far
(continued on page 4)