New Harmony

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Recommended Citation

Available at: https://research.library.kutztown.edu/greenrevolution/vol4/iss7/7
Giants of the Earth, the Fishers
Homestead on Idaho Paradise

By Mildred Loosin

Yarid Fisher, the famous novelist, and his wife, Opal Lalain, are giants of the earth who homesteaded 23 acres near Hagerman, Idaho. To people who wonder why, "of all places," they would choose such a place, she sends this enthusiastic letter:

"To the Editor:

Last summer we purchased the 23 acres of some fateful 10 months after we left the East. We have thought about it very carefully. If the Fishers had had the money they could have made it much more impressive—for instance, there could be as many forests as the owners wish to have, and more waterfalls could be brought out of the mountain side.

'Nothing is more unusual than the climate, perhaps the mildest in the hemisphere—milder than Boise's famous climate. We have the week 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 we could dig nearly a depth of 4 or 5 inches. It's a dry climate, with some autumn rain and a pre-vailing 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 20. As the annuals are long, livestock come early; farmers are often in their fields in February. The elevation is a little more than 2,000 ft.

Yarid Fisher has written more than 30 novels of tremendous emotional and intellectual content. His extraordinary writing has earned him a reputation for his extraordinary writing has earned him a reputation as a genius of the American novel.

(Return to Idaho)

To the Editor:

In 1962 we began our homestead on Idaho Paradise, and after a year of effort our isolation and loneliness persuaded us to seek a better place. People, especially if they have lived in the city for years we have searched—living much of the time in association at the Kennebeca, Kansas, so far from Western civilization. We have learned much, including how to build our own school and staff, in Idaho Paradise, Idaho 83838.

The Fishers planted thousands of pine seedlings on their wasteland. Their homeplace is now being engulfed.

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