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135 Adults, Many Children - Ohio Homestead Festival on July 4 Weekend Was Overwhelming Event

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Three Trustees of School of Living Express Their Views on Old Mill

School of Living Can't Lose

The price of \$15,000 minus the money used so far in Mill improvements, minus the \$1,000 which the Anackers are contributing is, in my opinion, a very generous proposition on Mr. and Mrs. Anacker's part. I believe they want to help the School of Living put down roots for a permanent headquarters in the central part of the Eastern USA.

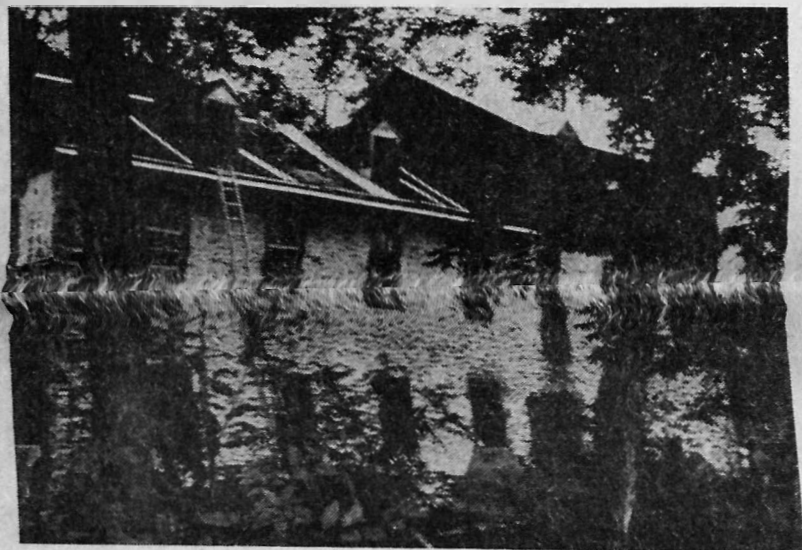
The location is excellent for all seaboard states and easy of access by the best highways for car or bus travel. Yet it is unique in being tucked away in a spot for maximum privacy, pure air, fine water and ample space in the 49 acres of native fertility for vegetables, fruit and flower growing. The price, considering all this, is very modest.

A great deal needs to be done on the buildings. A challenge to many workers for a number of years, but enough has been accomplished to make them and

is well done. The people who are close enough to the mill to work on it not only have the know-how but they care — a fairly rare thing today. The bulk of this work has been given gratis to the School of Living.

Another thing of great value about the Old Mill is the beauty of the building and the surrounding environs. It sets among trees alongside a stream, on a private road several hundred feet back from a quiet, black-topped secondary road that dips and winds by hills, trees and streams. I like the great gray stones and the massive hand-hewn beams from which the original artisans fashioned the Old Mill. The lines of the building—simple, honest, organic—inside and out—strip one of artificiality and superficiality.

Just coming from the great superhighways circling Boston and New York, I found the Old Mill healing the depression that had overtaken me in the long



Another View of the Old Mill

the premises quite usable in summer. The Sprague family, or some family, can be made more and more comfortable in the renovated section in winter. The roof is sound, and developing improvements are a worthwhile investment for both money and labor. How can School of Living lose?

I am sure that with a strong will the way for an Eastern headquarters that we can be proud of for our activities can be developed. Will and faith, backed by work and cash, are what is needed. Not a haven for those desiring to live at ease without work, but a golden opportunity for energetic, willing workers, tired of city grind and congestion, where their creativity can expand in results that will bring satisfaction — Philip W. Smith, Wayside Farm, New Hope, Pa.

Turn Old Mill Into School

Many possibilities at the Old Mill impress and inspire me: the reasonable price asked for the buildings and the 48 acres of woods and fields surrounding it, the ample size of the main building, the excellence of the basic condition of the mill despite its age, and the fact that School of Living members in and near the place have already devoted many hours of labor toward reconditioning buildings and grounds.

When I visited the Old Mill last October, the quality of the recent workmanship on doors, windows, fireplace, partitions, bathroom and kitchen stood out to me. I have spent enough years in building alongside my husband (Ralph) to recognize when a job

hours spent contemplating the horror that our large cities have become for so many of their occupants.

The Old Mill is from a more quiet, honest and human age than ours, and its influence upon those of us fortunate enough to visit or vacation or go to school there will be, I think, a big bonus, a big extra that no amount of dollars from our pockets could purchase at another site. — Rose R. Smart, Sycamore Hollow Homestead, West Alexandria, Ohio.

Subscribe \$6,250 by Aug. 27

Very soon we will be able to say, we of the School of Living have a center and headquarters suitable for many purposes and

Help Needed Help

In order to continue the present output of School of Living at Lane's End Homestead, at least one, and preferably two, more persons are needed to do clerical and related work. Opportunity to create one's own income is part of it. Housing is available at Lane's End or the Old Mill Center in Maryland. Please write if you are interested; help us locate one or two responsible persons for additional staff work of the School of Living. — M. J. Loomis, director, Lane's End, Brookville, Ohio.

135 Adults, Many Children—

Ohio Homestead Festival On July 4 Weekend Was Overwhelming Event

A green revolution flag — a flowering tree of life on a white background — waved from a corner of Rose and Ralph Smart's homestead, Twin Creek Road, West Alexandria, Ohio, on July 2. Inside the house, barn and shop, and outside on the lawns, terraces and creek banks, 135 adults and many children conversed, discussed, demonstrated and viewed exhibits, played, ate and danced. All this made up the first day of a most gratifying Ohio Homestead Festival.

People came to Sycamore Hollow Homestead (Smarts') from Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, South Dakota, California, Maryland, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, Georgia, and New Zealand (a School of Living member, G. R. Roberts, Oamaru, N. Z.). Many came from nearby and from other points in Ohio.

Saturday at Sycamore Hollow

They enjoyed the demonstrations of homestead crafts: the milling and bread baking by Ozro Everding, president of Richmond, Ind., NFA (Natural Food Associates); weaving and looms by L. H. Cole, Phillipsburg, O.; pottery making by Pierce Seranton, Dayton; soap making by Mrs. Bookout, Cincinnati; can-

There was an exhibit of juicers and kitchen equipment. The goats, rabbits, chickens and other aspects of the Smart homestead were discussed. They asked at least a hundred questions of Dudley Laufman about his simpler, wilderness homestead at Canterbury, N. H. They saw a film of ten School of Living homesteads. Some went on a swimming party at Hueston Woods (a state park). Some stayed later to enjoy folk music and dancing in the moonlight.

Many expressed appreciation for the informality and opportunity to meet and talk with other homesteaders. Regretfully some went unidentified and unmet in this unusually large attendance. The heat, they said, was more tolerable on a shady homestead in pleasant company. But some aspects were difficult, particularly that the homestead's copious well "went dry," emphasizing again that the School of Living needs a center that is more adequate to serve the numbers of people who now want to gather around its ideas.

Sunday at Lane's End

On Sunday nearly 50 people came to Lane's End Homestead (John and Mildred Loomis) and developed four rewarding sessions. Early morning they saw a film on Shared Leadership which showed how each member of a group can successfully function as a co-leader, by assisting with information seeking and giving, by clarifying, elaborating, asking questions, relieving tension and thus "assisting" in the group process. During the second hour the group formed a circle and tried out what they had seen in the film. A very rewarding discussion ensued on "What Contribution Can and Does the School of Living Make to World Peace?"

Mrs. Loomis congratulated the group on this performance and suggested that we continue to think of the whole School of Living in this frame of reference—members actively functioning in terms of what they

want and can give to School of Living, without too much dependence on or instructions from a "leader."

After a delicious lunch and rest, the group worked for three hours on specific problems of the School of Living:

1. What shall we do about the continuation of *A Way Out* and *Green Revolution*? (The work of two journals, particularly the records, promotion and mailing, is too much for Mrs. Loomis.) Some felt *A Way Out* had a special and significant contribution to make and they preferred it not be merged with any other journal. Some urged that it be "added to" the *Green Revolution*. Some felt we should get a sustaining fund behind it to employ a secretary to enable Mrs. Loomis to have more time for study and editing.

2. What shall we do about a staff to assist in the growing activities of the School of Living? Some urged that we renew a call for one or more volunteers with clerical skills who could live at Lane's End or the Maryland Old Mill Center on modest salary, to help in this work. (Some candidates for this work, who had seemed hopeful earlier, had to withdraw.) Anyone interested, please write to Mrs. Loomis at Lane's End, promptly.

3. What can we do to insure the success of the developing New School of Living Center at the Old Mill? This topic had lively discussion, after an enthusiastic report by Grace Lefever on work already accomplished there. John Bischof (N. Bennington, Vt.) volunteered to receive pledges and contributions for its support: \$249 was pledged, \$60 paid in from the group. At least one family, in addition to Mr. Bischof, indicated interest in being part of an education-centered community at the Mill.

At dusk, Barney and Pat McCaffrey enlivened the group with

their rousing folk songs learned on a journey through European and Israeli communities. Then on into the night we discussed personality reconstruction through deep personal interacting in existing communities. Abigail Grafton reported developments in New York City and Don Silberger in Indianapolis.

Monday Activities

By ten o'clock Monday morning a good-sized group was ready to tour the organic acres of Lee and Marie Musgrave near West Alexandria. While the Musgraves have considerably retrenched their activities, the evidence of composting, soil improvement, and effective work is there. Another delicious meal was served, in which watermelon went begging in favor of delectable goat milk ice cream, iced tea and orangeade. Two more sessions on community were held, more sharing on personality-building experiences and techniques, together with a search for a vision of a balanced, comprehensive community that would effectively come to grips with "all problems of living."

One member, who had become discouraged with previous "community efforts" reports that the discussions on community in these few days had "renewed and revised his concept of community."

Monday night the 14 remaining at Lane's End did what others had been doing in many small and sub-groups during the festival. They shared their feelings—positive and negative — about members at the festival and in the room at the time. Some new and helpful insights were the result, a deepening of bonds, and a reluctance to leave the next morning. We heard no expression that was not of highest appreciation for the 1966 Ohio Homestead Festival. We hope to have photos to publish soon.

To Florida and Back, Part V—

Do You Need Motivation For A Homestead? Be Mortgage Free!

[Editor's note: Sam Eisman, the homesteader and his homestead (1551 N. E. 158th St., Miami), I very much wanted to visit during my January trip to Florida. Mr. Eisman, a vigorous person, an enthusiastic reader of and contributor to *Green Revolution*, greatly enjoys his self-built home and garden, and "on the side" carries U. S. mail. He will himself give us here a picture and the background of his homestead, continued over three issues.—MJL]

By Sam Eisman

As our past points the direction of our future, so my childhood experiences have influenced what I have done and what I hope to do.

My father, with whom I was very close, worried constantly about paying the mortgage on the four-family house we owned (?) in Brooklyn. This was during the depression years when tension hovered without the additional aggravation of malcontents — the other three families who were our tenants. This is hardly the place to discuss the landlord-tenant system and its subsequent effect upon human relations and

its contribution to the dehumanization of the cities' inhabitants. I mention it merely to indicate a motivating factor in my own life. As everyone is affected by what he knows, even the rebel who rejects his lot therefore being influenced by the very thing he protests, so I determined to one day be free of mortgages, tenants and city environment.

Although he never knew it by name, my father was a wishful homesteader. All his days he yearned to return to the land in order to be self-sufficient. At one point, a year or two before I was born, he did venture out to the country. He bought a small hotel at the edge of a village in New York State. One of the first things he did was to utilize the years of accumulation from the

(continued on page 4)

Attend Workshop and Annual Meeting of School of Living, Aug. 24-28, at Old Mill Center, Heathcote Road, Freeland, Md. (near Maryland Line). Bring bedding. Stay after the meeting or come a few days before—to help in renovation of the old mill and the grounds.