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The Good Life

Ross W. Anderson

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Three Trustees, cont'd

with much potential for development.

The legal agreement being completed suits both parties equally. I have not talked to anyone who does not think that Bill Anacker has offered us an exceptionally fine proposition. What better demonstration of a free way of life than a mutually agreeable transaction?

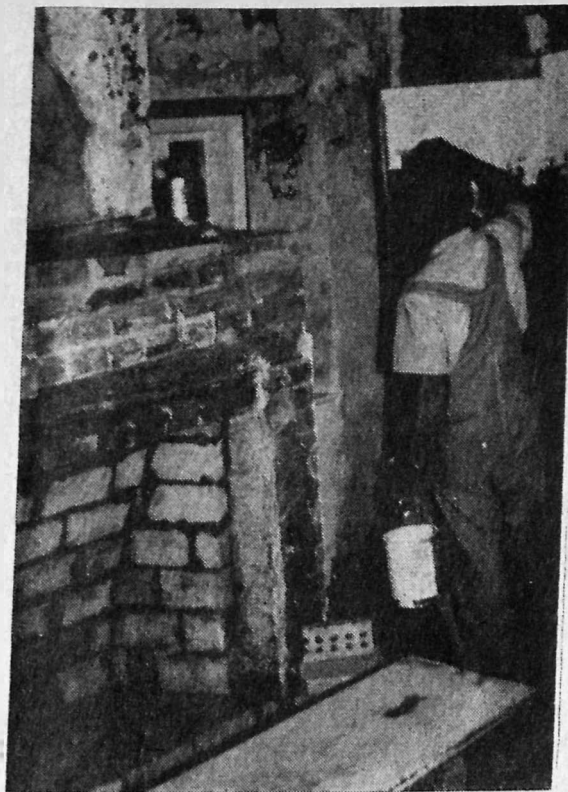
The need now is for all of us to supply sufficient pledges and investment to reduce to the barest minimum (or none at all, ideally) the necessity of borrowing money or paying interest. A good target, I think, is to have, as has been suggested, an absolute minimum of half taken care of by initial gifts and pledges. This would amount to \$6,250 (half of \$15,000 minus cash spent on the building and minus the Anacker contribution of \$1,000). Let's work to secure this amount by Aug. 27, annual meeting date

at the center this year.

Once we have such an amount in hand, I feel the remainder will be forthcoming as more people are able to visit and see our tangible results. It has been suggested that all School of Living members contribute annually 1% of their income until this project is paid off.

Operating expenses should be kept to a minimum, and the whole project made as nearly self-supporting as possible, (including student fees, service charges to groups using it, and by special projects). We should be thinking about setting up some activities there to provide goods and services which people need and are willing to pay for.

Let's all plan to be at the Annual Meeting and Workshop, Aug. 24-28, in "our new headquarters." — H. Lefever, Sonnewald Homestead, Spring Grove, Pa.



A Volunteer Refurbishing Interior of Old Mill

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 \$ _____

Letters To The Editor

No Need to Worry

To the Editor:

I see little reason for School of Living members to worry about a price of \$15,000 and possible indebtedness on the proposed Old Mill headquarters. For moderately good soil, good air, water, rolling terrain, scenery, historical setting—all that would cost \$30,000 or more within 50 miles of where I live.—Gus Goltz, Milwaukee, Wis.

Sunday Service On A Homestead

To the Editor:

It's a beautiful Sunday morning. I sit in my wooded sanctuary writing and listening to the birds, among uplifted boughs of stately firs. No dressing up to receive a minister's passing down

—just jeans, a 99c shirt and nurse's oxfords.

We've been thinking about another School of Living meeting in our area. Our 1965 gathering brought a few together, but many to whom we wrote never replied. We had an informal time, and possibly not as much in the way of progress as people expected. And it was somewhat disorganized by the death of a relative the day before and arranging for unexpected house guests. There was good fellowship and one remarked, "These people aren't kooks as I had thought." So maybe it did some good. This year we are not organizing a meeting, but any may come and camp and enjoy the homestead informally at their convenience. The facilities are the same as last year.

My husband is working at the fruit company and helping a nephew get started on his 15-acre homestead 2 miles from us. It's a dream nook with woods, creek, good house and fruit orchard, which he will handle organically. I hope I've signed my last teaching contract, and that our debts will be all paid next year, and then we'll be on our own "poverty program." I guess ignorance is bliss. I didn't know until I saw the standard in the papers that we were poverty stricken. But like June Burn, I like its advantages — no Joneses, few taxes, good health, our own work hours, creative work and uncluttered mental attitudes.

Teachers have to be a Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde to follow the planned program. My whole being rebels at some of the things I'm supposed to teach. Somehow I forget to announce candy and cookie sales, etc., by Girl Scouts, Bluebirds, Campfire, 4-H, etc. Nor am I approving of what goes for hot lunches in our school. Canned and dehydrated foods and white bread are used exclusively; seldom a fresh green salad. I take my own lunches, and others look on enviously. When I quit teaching I want to conduct a loan library.

We have a lovely granddaughter, now 7 months. They followed Adele Davis from conception to birth; the mother, Janice, is a member of La Leche League, and had a natural birth. We spent Thanksgiving with them, and when shopping in a health food store a gentleman remarked, "A perfect picture of a healthy baby as I've ever seen. This really reassured the baby's father. They've now moved to Salt Lake City and plan to build when they find a suitable acre of ground.

We've had experience that makes us think some young people think homesteading is a carefree existence, where you come and go, write poetry, stay up all hours, sleep all day if you wish. They seem to think it is a place where they can take without giving, or that courtesy is not necessary. Such people

The Good Life

By Ross W. Anderson

Homesteading is part of the good life but it is by no means all of it. To be satisfying, life must be lived in harmony with its "full, rich and complete environment," as the late Rufus Jones wrote. To make it specific, we can summarize Alfred Adler who says we must have useful, rewarding work, a biological family unit, an adequate social-intellectual environment, and right relations with the Ultimate Source of Being.

Let me here refer only to the need for an adequate social life.

Man has to live in a group in order to have his needs for fellowship supplied. He needs a larger group than the simple family unit just because he is gregarious, but he also needs help in many of his day to day activities. His children need those of their own age with whom to associate in play, work, study. Moreover, the group gives a sense of permanence which is not present in the one family arrangement, even the good homestead. Let us be aware of the danger in the homesteading movement of taking over the social poverty which has always plagued the isolated family farm group.

Why not aim at ideal homesteading communities? I think this would mean some form of cluster housing for some 15-20 families: it could be less and still be good. There should be some individual tracts of land and some for common use (perhaps for pasturage, play and other purposes as needs are studied). There would be buildings for social use, study, worship, recreation. Also there should be some small production units, both for production for use and for training and enriching the life of the community, with basic education rooting right in both agriculture and crafts. Of course music, the dance, and the other arts would be present always.

tion, farming, job-hunting, etc.

But shelters which are thus portable would have other advantages as well. They would enable their inhabitants to have lived in them previous to setting them up on the community site, and thus to have already made all necessary modifications upon them, and to have established an efficient and easy routine of living within them. Once upon the site, therefore, they would immediately provide their dwellers privacy, comfort, and familiarity during the times when the endeavor of establishing the community, and forming satisfactory relations with its other members, will make for a hectic and emotionally-taxing life outside their confine.

*Steps in preparation for community mentioned in Part I included the need for capital of perhaps \$2,000, and access to more; and experience in country life through camping, apprenticing on homestead, etc.—Editor (to be continued)

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How Can We Prepare For Community Living?

By Gordon Yaswen
c/o Sheldon, Maloney Rd.
Wapp Falls, N. Y.

Part II

Thirdly, general knowledge and preferably experience concerning farming, building, mechanics, nutrition, home medicine, design, group therapy, etc., would prove at least useful. Many of these skills could be easily acquired and practiced by each individual on his own or in study groups, long before they need be put to the test in a functioning community, thus considerably easing the inherent difficulties in the initial year or so of a community's existence.

Finally, I would like to suggest that, if at least some prospective members of a homesteading community could bring with them their own shelter, in the form of a towable or collapsible home, it would greatly expedite the setting up and success of that community. If, during the next few years, such of us as are definitely interested in forming communities could be preparing our shelters for such an endeavor, many of the traditional problems of starting them such as: housing requirements in land prerequisites, initial mortgages and loans to buy or build houses, building those houses and outfitting and de-bugging them once built; could be greatly alleviated or even eliminated before getting foot upon the land. I envision communities capable of setting up basic functions in a matter of days, and thus being able to immediately turn to problems of site-developing, common-building and utilities construc-

Contact Corner

Here we list (and will continue to list) names and addresses of persons who want to be in touch with others about the use of land and development of community. Send your data for listing.

School of Living Center, Heathcote Rd., Freeland, Md. 48 acres.

Ferdi & Rebecca Knoess, Pennington, Miss. 145 acres.

Mrs. Joy Valsko, 657 7th St., Traverse City, Mich. 100 acres (near Suttons Bay).

Paul Marks, Box N, Los Banos, Calif. 4 acres for trailers (near Ripley, Calif.). Planned community in Central America.

Chester Dawson, Box 2468, Belo Horizonte, Brazil. Small acreage in Arkansas.

Ed & Mary Borsodi, Star Route 1A, Smithville, Okla. 74957

Don & Annerose Rollins, Rt. 1, Box 149A, Rathdrum, Idaho.

Chas. McAdams, Box 1165, Chautauqua, N. Y.

Briefs From Brazil

By C. S. Dawson

[Editor's note: Chester S. Dawson, friend and reader of *The Green Revolution*, teaches English literature to adults in the American Institute, Belo, Horizonte, Brazil. He comments with such interest and wisdom that we'll share his thoughts from time to time.]

Never time nor sufficient energy to tackle half the thoughts that dance about when *Green Revolution* arrives.

The resume of Do Sports Build Character? (May 1966) is just one more prodding of my own sluggish mind along marvelous paths. Of course. Of course it is so, all of the inanity that engulfs the community when a game, a great game, is to be held. It's really a sickness, isn't it, a kind of madness none the less mad for being transient. It is good to have one's own thinking and suspicions so delightfully confirmed, but I wonder how popular the author is with the young people around him.

The Old Mill, shown in this issue, looks perfect and I wish—but for real—that I could have a hand in actually DOING some of the toil needed. The more I live the more certain I become that the absence or reduction of physi- (continued on page 4)

Our Book Is In University Library

Numerous letters have come from North Carolina with comments on *Go Ahead and Live!* by M. J. Loomis and others of the School of Living (Brookville, Ohio). It seems that most of the letter writers found the book in the library at the University of North Carolina, at Chapel Hill.

It Integrates

Writes Max M. Lund, Cary, N. C.: "I am intensely searching now for a more satisfying life for my family—wife and son (16) and daughter (10). For years I have passively wondered why few human relationships develop beyond the lowest level. But the obvious world trend toward wholesale suicide has awakened this bystander. I know we can't blame scapegoats... the trouble is within ourselves, and our ideas about ourselves and each other. I have been doing graduate work, and searching the library for studies on the human problem — and find considerable development of ideas, but the different com- (continued on page 3)

will soon learn they've been misled somewhere.

Now I must leave my nook. Our little Hereford bull has just said "Amen" to my comments, and has walked away with the 5 heifers. So I guess the "service" is over and I return to the other hill and the tasks I left behind. Enclosed is our renewal and a little more.—Nina Johnson, Newberg, Ore.