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Publications for Homesteaders

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Do You Need, cont'd

hen house to start a garden. Not content to merely run a hotel and care for a garden, dad soon had a still going and in his spare time kept his finger in his original trade by making mattresses. Because he had no financial reserves, when winter came he had to go to the city to work. My mother objected to being left alone too long and the country venture ended quickly, and with it one man's dreams.

Big Project Begun

Perhaps to fulfill my father's hopes—or perhaps because his hopes had become mine—it might be said that I inherited my homesteading inclinations. At any rate, as soon as I was free of my WW II military obligations, I moved to South Florida determined to have a mortgage-free home where I could plant a garden. My background explains my determination and I guess my youth (23) explains my courage to tackle a three-bedroom block house without previous building experience.

In 1946, my 21 year old brother, my mother and I bought a 1¼ acre plot about 12 miles from downtown Miami. (My father had died several years earlier.) At the time, the area was decidedly rural—dirt roads (if any) and low taxes (if any). In addition the area tolerated, then, the owner-builder. Would that I had known of the School of Living in those years. Groping and inexperienced, unaware of possibilities as a modern homesteader, I designed a house too much in the current fashion; not suited for home production.

Learning By Watching

My brother shared equally in the work and in a few months we erected a concrete block shell and moved in. There was plenty of construction going on all around the Miami area, so our unsuspecting instructors were everywhere. We had only to go and snoop. When an uncertainty arose as to how to form up the bond beam or perimeter lintel, we just watched a comparable portion of a construction job by professionals. Certain government publications were helpful too, especially one on laying concrete block and another on mixing concrete.

Generally a wood frame house would be much simpler for the amateur builder, but code restrictions in this part of the country make such construction almost impossible. Or shall I say we are in an area where the concrete interests are all-powerful?

Plumbing Encountered

As plumbing and electrical work seems to be of a more technical nature than the other trades, most people are afraid to tackle these. This brings to mind an interesting experience on how we learned to do rough plumbing. I'm referring specifically to the waste piping composed of heavy cast iron with its ridiculous bell and spigot joints that have to be caulked with oakum and then filled with molten lead.

Here was one phase of building we hadn't confidence we could do, so we called a local plumber for an estimate. Said craftsman came, estimated, ridiculed our use of copper for supply piping (he happened to be a galvanized iron man), and was to return on the morrow to start work.

The next day he arrived, not ready for work but with a new estimate. He claimed his original estimate had been too low in spite of the fact that there had been no competitive bidding and we accepted his first estimate.

Anger is often a stimulating impetus. We were so incensed at the plumber's lack of ethics that we were determined to do it all ourselves. Today I have no lack of confidence in my ability to do all the plumbing in a home. We watched plumbers on other jobs, received a surprising amount of instruction and the loan of tools from a plumbing supply house, and had little trouble getting the work passed by the plumbing in-

spector.

Once we were able to move into the house, the rest was easy by comparison. In those days local officials tolerated such rash behavior as allowing people to live in unfinished houses. Today it is strictly forbidden. Of course there are people living in old houses within the municipality in which conditions are far worse than our was in the unfinished house, but the officials are more apt to allow squalor than to ease the problems of the owner-builder.

(to be continued)

Community Ideas Spark Conference

The ten day (June 18-28) conference on intentional community at the School of Living Center, Freeland, Md., initiated by Abigail Grafton, Ben and Elaine Zablocki and Ruth and Bruce Elwell, drew a total of some 100 attendants. They proceeded in a spontaneous, member-directed fashion, with a result of 20 persons entering a trial of community.

It took a somewhat stiff discussion, a square dance and a late party to break the ice, but after a day or two there was a flow of ideas and feelings that increased in depth and tempo. Alan Hoffman, Dr. Arthur Gladstone, Ben Zablocki, and Calvin DeFillipus were among the scheduled speakers, but for the most part the discussions were planned and held around emerging, current needs. Meals were planned and executed by the attendants, and while irregular and untraditional, were adequate and enjoyed. A dam in the creek provided welcome swimming; a camping shelter was started; and a "good time was had by all."

After a week, Mr. and Mrs. Bryce Ford offered their 93 acre farm as a center for any who wanted to actually start a community. Twenty persons left with them on Saturday for another week on their farm for a trial of actual community living. Last reports are that many of them are committed to continue it, though some decided to withdraw.

I wonder if readers would be sure to send a self-addressed and stamped envelope when they write a letter to the School of Living that requires or is likely to get a personal answer. This will save us money, but most of all it will save time.—Editor

Briefs, cont'd

cal labor is possibly man's greatest and gravest mistake. It is perhaps utterly impossible to be fully alive or sane minus daily physical work—good, hard, muscle work. But to GR readers this comes as hardly news, agreed. To me, a respectable, i.e., virtually useless, teacher, it comes as a blow across the neck.

The woes of the Coles are lamentable, but what can one expect. I have a number of thoughts re law. If you have never lived where the laws, if any, are unenforced, it DOES make a difference, let me tell you, in one's living. I cannot escape the feeling that under society, as it is now, laws are utterly essential, and that perhaps a lot of our aches and pains stem from the unenforcement of good laws. I'd cite for you the case in Sao Paulo where a 30 story building collapsed, since no laws are enforced re construction. I cite for you the death of seven persons in this city when an upper floor of a building collapsed because of great weight on it. I saw it almost immediately thereafter. Tough on the dead ones. I cite the almost daily accidents—often very serious—right outside this room where two major streets intersect and involve a blind corner. No enforcement and thus continual accidents and bodies maimed. Only as a society improves both intellectually and ethically may we commence to diminish the number of laws. Granted that every law is, in effect, an insult, it still is at this stage of the game absolutely necessary..

Publications For The Homesteader

Go Ahead and Live!, M. J. Loomis and others, \$4, School of Living, Brookville, Ohio 45309. **Herald of Health**, Lamoni, Iowa.

Organic Gardening, \$5 a year. Emmaus, Penna.

Eat, Drink and Be Healthy, 2,000 nutritious recipes by Agnes Toms, 137 N. Canyon Blvd., Monrovia, Calif. 91016. Autographed, \$5.20.

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.

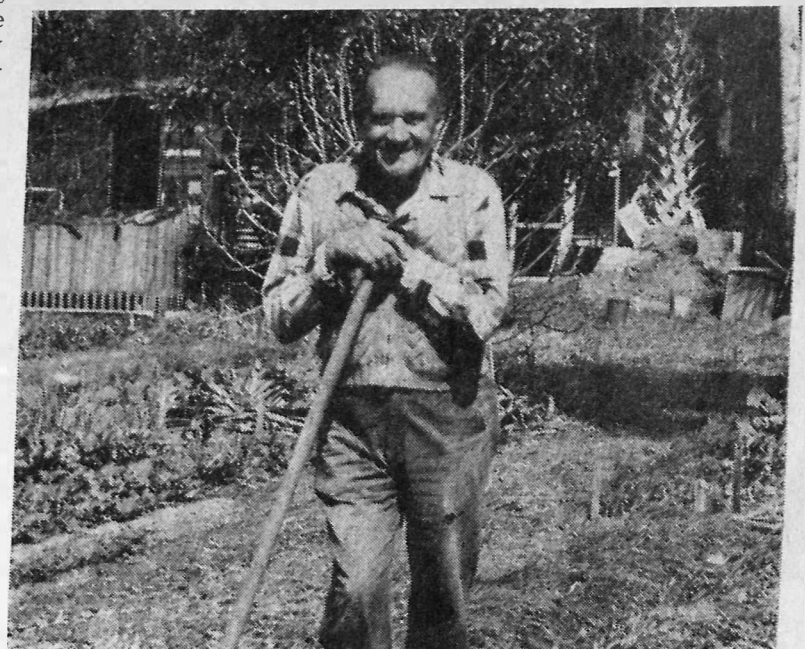
California Homeowner, quarterly, \$2 a year. 1561 N. Gower, Los Angeles 90028

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.

HAL PORTER VERSION—

Green Revolution Manifesto



Hal Porter, Port Orange, Fla., Leans on His Hoe

[Editor's note: This manifesto was read and eagerly discussed at the Ohio Homestead Festival (July 2-4). Why not use it in other meetings?]

HAVING COME TO BELIEVE THAT:

1. Civilization, so-called, does not seem to make us healthy, wealthy, and wise; but too often sick, poor, and stupid.
2. The present socio-economic system does not guarantee us life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; but rather, death, loss of freedom and pursuit of tedium.
3. People flocking to the cities to make larger and larger metropolises and megalopolises produce an unnatural way of life, leading to the increase of crime and poverty and invariably make necessary more and more restrictive laws to control the packed population.
4. Concentration of the ownership of land and the production of food in the hands of fewer and fewer persons and corporations leads to the despoiling of the land and the fracturing and poisoning of our food with insecticides and chemical additives.
5. Consumption of this food is largely responsible for the growing incidence of illness and death from degenerative disease and the larger and larger incidence of mental disease.
6. Our present civilization makes possible not a fruitful, meaningful and longer life but an empty existence which only seems longer.
7. A philosophy of get more and more and do less and less, the acquiring of more and more material possessions to the envy of the rest of the world, only leads to more war.
8. The present trend is toward more famine, pestilence, war and death.
9. Reason, force, violence, demonstration or exhortation does not seem to bring about change for the better.
10. We do not wish to further contribute to the spread and maintenance of this type of civilization.

Therefore:

We of the School of Living choose to opt out by becoming part of "The Green Revolution"; green because that is the color of beginning, of growth and of peace; and because this retirement from participation shall be brought about not by defiance but by elision, a sliding out from under, by each one in our group establishing and maintaining a homestead from which he and his will draw their sustenance.

On these homesteads we will grow or raise or make as much as possible of that which is needed for our support rather than selling our services in the market place and buying that which is needed.

Thus we shall escape paying taxes: the income tax, because produce of the land is not considered income; property taxes in great measure, because the tax assessor would fail to see the

true worth of our holding; and sales taxes, because we would buy little.

By buying little and not paying taxes we will not be supporting the government or the economy.

We will grow things the organic way because such food will give us health and a long life but also because thus we will not support the chemical combines which poison our environment and then sell us patent medicines for relief of aches and pains caused by the environment they produce.

We will try to be part of the ecology rather than at war with nature, hating nothing which swims, crawls, flies, or grows out of the ground, realizing that all forms of life have a place in the scheme of things and are necessary for a meaningful and productive way of living.

Thus we will establish an island of sanity, health and reason in a disturbed, diseased and irrational world; and, therefore, will be an example of a better way of life; and since we will not be hermits, but invite others to share, our example will, better than any other way, educate others and bring them into our movement to spread the Green Revolution.

Super, cont'd

mayonnaise mix, then in wheat germ and crumbs and oven-baked), a baked potato, celery stick, whole wheat bread, a pint of milk and an apple.

Still other students prefer a box lunch to be eaten outdoors: a large cup of tossed salad full of fresh greens, chopped celery, carrots and bean sprouts (with a generous coating of freshly made soy oil and honey mayonnaise), with cottage cheese or nuts, bread, milk and an apple.

We were part of her appreciative audience in Eaton, O. She surprised us with the low cost of this high quality food, which has improved the health and well being of the students there over the past eight years. No broken bones, few absences, increased academic performance and outstanding athletic records have resulted from all this.

Always fruit for dessert: no sugar, candy or soft drinks for eight years. Moreover, the students "go along" with this, and even continue it out of school. They welcome and appreciate sunflower seeds, wheat germ, and bread to which has been added cornmeal, soy flour and bone meal: they consume gallons of freshly made mayonnaise containing soy oil, and yogurt they like, and they know what they're getting. Mrs. Larson is invited into all the health, science and phys ed and athletic training classes to explain good nutrition. The young people see that this program means better health, and they know it tastes and looks delicious.

Mrs. Larson will supply a recipe pamphlet for 35c (address her at Helix High School, La Mesa, Calif.).—MJL

Report on New Center Fund

Our last published report (January 1966) showed the School of Living Building Fund had, by the end of 1965, received \$1398.85 in cash contributions from members, plus 20 days' work from Leo Rainer in lieu of \$200 cash, or \$1598.85. Untold hours of volunteered labor had been put in by many helpers. Cash expenditures at year's end in renovating the building, installing a bathroom and equipping a kitchen totaled \$922.01.

Additional contributions (not previously reported) include: In Nov-Dec. 1965—Leo Koch \$20, Geo. Pelton \$10, E. Hubert \$4, R. J. Stanewick \$2, F. Kirchner \$10; In Feb. 1966—E. Woods \$11.46, D. Stry \$20, W. Van Dusseldorp \$10, Darrel Cole \$5, F. Knoess \$10; In April—I Perlman \$5.85, S. Eisman \$5, H. Banks \$5, W. Grimm \$20.60, G. Smith \$4.75, B. Plumb \$40, J. Bischof \$40, E. Kreves \$27.25, H. Everitt \$10; In June—C. Guy \$10, E. McGue \$20, L. Appleberry \$25. Total \$315.85.

Major expenditures in 1966 include: (April) \$200 to H. Lefever, which is all he would accept for a much larger amount of plumbing and kitchen equipment, and untold hours of work; \$114 to Dee and Ken Sprague (June) for lumber, paint, plaster, etc., for the living room downstairs and completion of an additional room on the second floor. A working fund of some \$300 remains.

From July 1, all contributions to the Building Fund will go toward the down payment (to be made at the end of August) on the property. Our goal is \$6,250.

Have you made your contribution? Do you have in mind giving or pledging at least 1% of your annual income? Make sure your contribution or pledge is mailed to the School of Living (Brookville, Ohio) soon, especially in time to be included in the report to be made at the annual meeting, Aug. 27.

All contributions to the School of Living and its Building Fund are tax deductible.