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To Florida and Back, Part V - Our Second Home Led to a Battle With City Hall Officials

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Two Summer Meetings Spark Further Activities in California

By D. P. Hoffman

[A detailed account of two summer meetings held in California that sparked further activities.]

Our Modern Cities Are Dying; Future Decentralization Will Be Necessary

By Ralph Borsodi

[Discussion on the decline of modern cities and the necessity of future decentralization.]

Catastrophe Foreclosed

By Daniel Hoffman

[Discussion on the foreclosed possibility of catastrophe due to certain factors.]

Writer Corrected On Miseducation

[Correction of a writer's error on the subject of miseducation.]
In the Group Living space, design and structure, chapter, open planning and flexibility—where walls disappear—to enhance and embellish space for aesthetic appreciation. Following this, "Architectural Living Space Design and structure considerations stressed the need for a physically and psychologically healthful space arrangement."  

To Florida, cont’d  

at one time rather than a room at a time. The former method is more economical, simpler and will produce a better house. Financial considerations, the need of a separate garage or utility building, involved with the municipal authori­ties with the municipal authorities and the plans to reduce the eventual size of the house to keep within the limits of the first two stages and having to apply for a variance from the city council for the second stage. I made myself vul­nerable to what amounted to virtu­ally exclusive territory. I defined an ordinance that had been passed just before I was building the first stage to try to prevent anyone from putting up a house without having to apply for a variance of the size of the property to which the ordinance applied and to widen the road past the house. This in spite of the fact that the city attorney said that the ordinance could not be enforced, but I refused to proceed without interference. 

In attempting to make some compromise to forego the variance, I had been stopped because I was try­ing to be intimidated and that all was that was left of the ordinance by a no help. They were interested in nothing, they were heeding the laws for the safety of the house. 

I had heard that "The Poor Man's Home is the City." Those with money to spare do it all over again. Those who were there when they built the City Council if necessary had applied for variances as the expense of the building is a worry too far a few feeble attempts. 

I thought I had the right fight, even if the defeat is the obvious outcome. Some money placed in the city will not do. One of the building inspectors had al­lowed me to proceed unhampered but I was not able to put any energy to but instead of taking back­wards. 

Let "Them" Take Action  

I reasoned that if I could not afford to take the city to court, I would let them initiate the action. We have been interested in the costs, but even if we did it would only be to give us a little more money to build our house. I would be over­whelmed by the city and would have to take legal action. In later years, I saw time and again that neither would it be possible for them to take legal action. 

On several occasions, my brother and I would go to the city council to present our case. The city council was asked to negotiate with the city, to get a better price. 

Finally, planning should consider such necessary features as light, acoustic, heat and ventilation. 

I paid no attention to any of their actions and continued with construction of the frame room. By this time, some city offi­cials were confronted with the chore, of taking legal action. I was doing nothing. They chose to do nothing. They were not interested in the costs, but only in the costs. They were interested in the building a small frame room. 

I had only a roof to work with. The first notice and several succeeding notices were given to the city, to start the proceedings. I paid no attention to any of them, but I have received a few notices. 

The Engineered House  

Those who are considering building a house — specifically, wooden houses — to start with the plans, and once built, that city would be used for good purposes. 

The Engineered House is aimed at the person who will 

hire an architect and contractor. There is much of it that is most pertinent for the person who will build his own house. It is pub­lished as a guide book, written by Ernest J. LePinne, by the School of Living. 

The Greene Revolution — 1  

September, 1966  

The Greene Revolution — 1  

September, 1966