Volume IV - Design and Structure - The Owner-Built Home - Chapter 6 - Cooking-Dining

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To Florida, cont’d

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at one time rather than a room at a time. The former method is more economical, simpler, and will produce a better house. Finances aside, the owner of a separate garage or utility build- ing would likely have little or no trouble getting his house built at all time.

In my case, the room-at-one-time system never occurred to me. The plans to reduce the eventual size of the house was annual work. We are now in the second stage and having to go through the process of land to widen the road passing the house. This is in spite of the fact that the city attorney informed us we would have to proceed without interference.

In attempting to make some compromise with the people, I had to admit that in this field, I was not in a position to be intimated and that all that was required was for us to make some show of no help. They were interested in the matter, but we were hardly in fighting for a principle.

I had heard that “The Poor Man’s City” was a joke. Those with money to spare do it all in one room. Those going through the State Supreme Court if necessary, at their leisure, have no desire for a few feeble attempts.

I am convinced that the American people might fight even if the defeat is the probable outcome. Some money placed in the hands of these people gave permission to unaccomplished but in the sense of saving money and energy to butt instead of packing.

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, and we were not interested in being threatened. I defined the problem by building a small frame room off an existing room, and I gave permission to not put anything above it. Iexpiration was allowed me to continue unharmed but in the sense of saving money and energy to butt instead of packing.

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Contact Corner

Here we list (and will continue to list) names and addresses of people who want to be in touch with others who are interested in building or who wish to help build a house that can be sold, rented, or is available to be moved at a low cost. It will be published 3 lines or $1.05. Average line has 40 characters. Say some of these names to the people who will build their own house.

Note From Fiddler’s Choice

By Helen Ryan, Franklin, N. H.

We have been homesteading at Fiddler’s Choice for nearly two years. We have built Joe’s Workshop, in which we are still living. The snapshot below is of Joe putting siding on the west end of our rigid-frame construction shop. (American Plywood Assn. gives specific plans for buildings of various spaces.) The building has no ridgepole or horizontal framing, this function being performed by the plywood skin over the frame. Plywood sections are glued and nailed into shape on the ground, then raised into place by pulling on a rope tied to the trucks.

We also have built a tool shed, and have plans to build at least the shell of our house this summer, and perhaps our sauna-laundry. More on this later. At the present time our house is finished we plan to use the shop for visitors coming to our house shop for would-be home­ stakers to work alongside us.

We have begun our third grow­ sing season. Slowly but surely the soil is building up in the fields that in disgust I altered the Salesforce. I've told all this to show fighting for a principle.

Living the good life by Scott & Helen Nearing

The Engineered House

Choose your own location, choose your own house building — specifically, wooden house building — choose your own project, your own layout, your own materials, and your own dimensions. This book 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 wishes to build his own house. It is published as a booklet of good quality and easily read by J. L. Leonard.

Robert expands the concept of construction of a wooden house and dis­ cards or modifies all techniques that he does not find good reason for. Besides general chapters on sites — very readable and informative — and styles (which he finds useful), he goes into detail on his systems of foundations, walls, roofs, windows and doors, and partitioning and arranging the interior. He is quite content with the current status of things that are the most livability for the indi­ vidual family, and he is not concerned with the least cost, both in original construction costs and in upkeep and tax costs.

He not only writes many ways of cost-cutting; he shows tech­ niques for planning to get the most out of the building, including ex­ pensive grading, building, and re-laying the first stage, along with the havoc of the bulldozer. He has good suggestions on landscape space, suggests its intended functions and for having the house make the thinks of as several rooms and the tax assessor regards as only one room. We highly recommend this informative and delightfully readable book to Ken Kern’s volumes. If your library doesn’t have it, the Hatch Lozzi Library does (St. Johnsbury, Vt.).