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## Briefs from Brazil

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# THE GREEN



# REVOLUTION

FOR HOMESTEADERS, ON-TO-THE-LANDERS,  
AND DO-IT-YOURSELFERS

SCHOOL OF LIVING, BROOKVILLE, OHIO 45309  
PUBLISHED MONTHLY

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## Heathcote Center Bought By Members

We announced it as our annual School of Living Workshop, but it was a ball, a blast and a truly significant five days for nearly 80 adults and 13 children. Work, discussions, planning and financial goals at the Aug. 24-28 meeting of School of Living members at Heathcote Center, near Freeland, Md., far exceeded previous experiences.

It was a real workbee, where an agenda of manual work got done, six discussions of practical problems, three especially challenging talks, a five-hour official business meeting, and much informal interchange filled our time to the brim.

### Work Accomplishments

On the first morning, more than 30 persons listed 13 jobs that needed doing. Meal preparation and meal cleanup were done cooperatively under the able guidance of Dee Sprague, Grace Lefever and Rosetta Schuman, in which all women and some men, notably Ken Sprague, assisted. They provided steady and copious amounts of mighty tasty and nutritious food!

Big inroads were made on window sash repair and painting under Lee Rainer's persistence and skill, so that winterizing of the main section of the mill will proceed. Two broken stone walls were remade at the rear of the mill—one against the earth bank and one at the creek's edge, which adds space for garden and patio in this area. Earth was dug from the bank for construction

later of a greenhouse (the earth was transferred to front garden beds). Men, including a retired professor, women and children, assisted in this. Tim Lefever and Bill Anacker anchored 60 feet of eave trough to the second floor roof; John Susoreny painted the rafters of the shelter in the meadow and the girls painted the porch roof; most of the men helped clear away the wheelhouse and fill the hole with stones and dirt; the teenagers brought in a good many truckloads of winter wood, as well as refreshed themselves in the attractive new pool (behind a recently built dam in the creek). A few people built a patio in front of the mill house threshold, and scrubbed the chicken house for later use as housing. Many weeded and tilled the very productive garden.

### Surprise:

#### A New Concrete Floor

But the biggest job of all was not even on the first list. As we discussed the use of the mill building, on Wednesday afternoon, it was clear that more room for staff would be needed soon. The best place, we decided, was on the ground floor. But the floor was rotten next to the stone wall; its north end was open to the wind. No matter: let's get a new floor in—now! At 4 p.m. the men and boys started on the room and carried out boxes, stored items, tools, etc. With picks and crowbars they ripped out the rotted floor boards

to the center supports. Then they dug out dirt beneath the floor sills so Bill Anacker and Evan Lefever could cut out these huge logs with a chain saw. By 9 p.m. a 12x40 ft. space (the half needing repair) was clear, and a yawning area awaited their energies next morning.

Very early, a dozen men became a wheelbarrow brigade and hauled in tons of smaller stones for fill beneath the concrete. By noon this was completed, and at 7:30 Saturday morning a huge truck arrived with 3 cu. yds. of ready-mixed concrete. This was just the right amount; and with shoveling, hauling, leveling and troweling a beautiful, smooth floor was completed.

In three work periods no one seemed to get in anyone's way. At times a gallery of onlookers enjoyed the process. No bossman seemed in evidence. Victor Le Breque said, "I've worked in all kinds of places, at all kinds of manual jobs. Never did I have part in such a wonderful work project, where the spirit was so fine and the accomplishments so worth while."

### Wonderful

#### Financial Cooperation

The achievements in the financial area were equally encouraging. Attendants welcomed the report that \$1020 had been given by School of Living members in July and August for the Headquarters Building Fund (since increased to \$1287). Most of these gifts came in with the coupon

at the end of the ballot for trustees. It was soon apparent that members present who wanted a plot of land on which to reside in the Heathcote Community were willing to invest larger sums. When it was discovered that \$5,000 was available from such persons, another person offered a 5 year loan of \$1,000 at 1% interest and another offered to loan for 1 year at 3% any sum necessary to reach the full payment of \$12,500.

The area to become the School of Living property, as surveyed by Ken Kern, of Oakhurst, Calif., includes 37 acres and five buildings. Persons giving \$1,000 or more have the right to use one small homestead plot. At last report, those wanting to be in this group include John Bischof, Mildred Loomis, Catharyn Ellwood, C. F. Eicher and James Iden Smith. Members who will provide low-interest loans are Philip Smith and Leo Rainer. The transfer of property will be made by the end of September.

On Sept. 1, a summary of the Building Fund showed that we had:

Small gifts from members	\$1250
Pledges from Members	450
Large Investment-Gifts	5000
Low-Interest Loans	5800

Purchase Price \$12,500

Thanks and appreciation are extended to all who have made possible the new center for School of Living activities. Sev-

eral members uniquely expressed their involvement. Lewis and Naomi School, Spencerport, N. Y., sent \$40 and pledged \$100 more "if a down payment is made." Lamar Hoover, New York City, pledged \$10 a month until the project is paid off. Rabbi Gendler sent \$72 or \$6 a month. Etc. All who have not yet made their pledge or contribution are urged to send it soon.

### Survey and Sites

Ken Kern, architect and surveyor, has drawn up a plot plan. Of the total 37 acres, about 20 adjoining the mill building (meadow, woods, garden space) will constitute the School of Living homestead, for common use. The north half, 17 more open hillside acres, can be divided into 10 homestead sites (with necessary roads and access). Some of them are to be multiple units around a court, for non-family persons (some of whom will be School of Living faculty). Land-use, leaseholds and other community policies will be developed by the persons who take up and use these sites, as part of the School of Living. Any who are interested should write soon.

### Discussion and Plans

On Thursday evening, Catharyn Elwood, author of *Feel Like a Million*, reported on her 1966 group tour to organic farms and health spas in Europe.

Friday evening, C. F. Eicher proposed a School of Living (continued on page 2)



SCENES FROM 1966 ANNUAL SCHOOL OF LIVING WORKSHOP. On left, participants in an afternoon discussion. In center, Eugene Obidinski and Ken Sprague repair a rock wall. On right, Harold Lefever and son Danny are looking over the mill wheel area.

### To Florida and Back, Part V—

## You Can Raise Food In the City; You Can Be A Philosopher, Too

By Sam Eisman

In my previous articles I have described the difficulties we encountered in building-it-ourselves. I trust I haven't discouraged the would-be builder. I tried to show how my desire to be free of a mortgage led to overcoming these difficulties. I hope strong motivation to eliminate mortgage costs and dependency will give others strength to do their own building. Here I would like to present our food-raising program on our small area, now within Miami city proper.

"It's a tight little world" I've often said, when my wife professed surprise at my knowing the many people who are interested in health through natural means. It was through my acquaintance with Dave Stry, when he operated a natural hygiene health resort in Melbourne Village (1946-58), that I learned of the School of Living. Imagine

my surprise and delight to find that there was an organization promoting the homestead idea. This was an idea I had never forgotten though for years it had not received any external encouragement.

While I have planted a vegetable garden for about seven years, it has been 15 or 16 since I planted our first mango tree in the quest for home-produced food. So occasionally that propensity for homesteading rose above the surface of conventional living even back then.

### "Oolite" Soil

One of the professors at the University of Miami said that man came to South Florida a million years too soon; that nature needed that much more time to build a real soil. Instead, what we now have is a leached out sea sediment — a calcareous sand with pockets of porous limestone

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## Community To Form in Michigan

Twenty adults benefitted from lively exchange and a helpful program at the second annual meeting of Michigan School of Living members, Sept. 9-11. All enjoyed the hospitality of Mrs. Joy Valsko at Candle Lights Center, near Sutton on Traverse Bay.

As last year, we hiked over the orchard and pine-covered acres sloping down to the water, and rejoiced that this land is still available at low cost for a community of homesteaders and regional School of Living. One young couple has spoken for a site, and others are considering it. Anyone interested is encouraged to write soon to Mrs. Valsko, 516 W. 7th St., Traverse City, Mich. Two to five acre plots are being arranged, with a larger acreage considered for cooperative orchard. The motel-like building at Candle Lights, with units for several families, contains looms and other craft equipment.

This area is the cherry center (continued on page 3)

### JUBILANT READER

"Bravo and congratulations as School of Living comes in fast on the home stretch with purchase of the Heathcote acres and buildings for a new Center." — Russel Jaque, New Mexico.

### COOPERATIVE READER

"It is splendid that the new Mill Center will provide a central meeting place for School of Living adherents. But every home that receives School of Living publications can become a center of right education (as against the almost universal 'mis-education' today) and a center of adult discussion, etc. We can all introduce our friends to School of Living, write to editors and news commentators, send out sample copies and give School of Living books as gifts. Enclosed is my check for more copies of three books."—W. C. Lloyd, Burlington, N. C.

## Briefs From Brazil

By C. S. Dawson

From Thoreau: "This curious world... is more wonderful than it is convenient; more beautiful than useful; it is more to be admired than it is to be used."

In all of my teaching I rise to the philosophical bait of each lesson, and I strive to induce them to ponder the heights. Often I attack the orthodox opinion and to do so down here it is necessary that I put it indirectly.

"You know," I say, "there are many human beings, and some of them are very persuasive, who insist that when man moved into, or when he created, cities, he commenced his own suicide. Can anyone comment on this? Is this a reasonable statement?"

Or maybe I'll toss out a few notions concerning food. "You know there many human beings who live exclusively on raw food. Now, we may think this is silly, but after all, what do we mean by a 'fresh' apple if not one that is uncooked? What is a fresh head of lettuce if not one that is not about to decay, that has its maximum vitamins?"