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Earthworms: Their Intensive Propagation and Use in Biological Soil Building - Part II

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that life in the future be lived in small civilized communities and in esthetic, do-it-yourself homelife."



Above, Mrs. Loomis in her garden; and, on left, preparing the daily bread at Lane's End (1966). She may be the only woman with an M.A. degree in this country who has ground the grain for and baked every loaf of bread served in her home for the past quarter of a century.

VI — Joy In Living Or Normal Neurosis?

In the psychological, inter-personal field too, Mrs. Loomis has studied and experimented widely. She has had intensive training in group dynamics, some in scientology, general semantics and other types of communication. Many apprentices and students, single and in families, have lived at Lane's End (the Loomis homestead), as part of "experiments" in relating. In general, Mrs. Loomis follows the thesis and practice that energy, joy and creativity result from shared feelings, good feedback and continued effort at an accurate and acceptable self-image.

VII — A Call for Everyman's Right

In the civic area, Mrs. Loomis is neither "right" nor "left." She deplores the fact that modern culture is organized around coercion, i.e., the political state. She observes the world extensionally and sees that choice and freedom decrease from mistakenly legalizing certain goods (i.e., natural resources and money) as private property when their nature calls for common or cooperative handling. She distinguishes between property and trustery, and agrees therefore with neither "capitalism" in individualizing "social" goods, nor with collectivism in socializing "individually" earned goods. She has been joined by younger friends in delineating these concepts in a "Call For A Real Right," a third group that works for more voluntary association via more political realism.

Mrs. Loomis is author-editor of *Go Ahead and Live!*, a popular 1965 book which presents the story of a young couple confronting and taking action on their major, universal problems of living. \$4.15 from:

The School of Living
Lane's End Homestead
Brookville, Ohio 45309

Earthworms

Their Intensive Propagation and Use In Biological Soil Building

Part II (continued from last month)

(Excerpted from a booklet of the above title.)

By Thomas J. Barrett

Domesticated Earthworm Culture

We have adopted the name, "domesticated earthworms," which are propagated in concentrated cultures and in a planned and created favorable environment, as opposed to the native earthworms which are found in garden, orchard, field and forest. Native earthworms multiply and spread very slowly, and, after geological ages have passed, are found in negligible numbers as compared to the almost "astronomical" multiplication in intensive earthworm culture.

The simple, easily understood technique for propagation and use of domesticated earthworms can be quickly mastered by anyone. Due to the exceedingly rapid multiplication, it is an easy matter to build up an adequate stock of breeding earthworms from a small initial start of one or two culture beds to the production of vast numbers of egg-capsules for hatching out millions of soil-builders. It should be borne in mind that in intensive use of earthworms for soil-building, earthworms must be propagated in concentrations hundreds of times more dense than is found in nature. From the concentrated culture beds, maintained under perfect control and favorable environmental conditions, the soil of lawns, gardens, nurseries, farms and orchards can be impregnated and adequate earthworm population established for renewing, conditioning and maintaining the topsoil.

While building up a fertile, beautiful homesite or garden, the individual who so desires can make his place a center of attraction to the entire community. At the same time, he can lay the foundation for a profitable, spare time home industry.

Talking about the value of the earthworm in nature without doing any thing about it, is exactly like talking about the value of water power in nature, with never a thought of utilizing it in the practical service of man.

We have done something about it. In the intensive propagation and use of domesticated earthworms, we have harnessed them and put them to work at soil-building in concentrations of more than 100,000,000 per acre foot—3,000 or more earthworms per cubic foot of composted material of topsoil. The numbers of earthworms in a given environment are limited only by the amount of food present.

The greatest of all teachers—Mother Nature—has given us an example of "mass-production" of earthworm topsoil in the Nile Valley, as well as in every valley and lowland throughout the world.

From authoritative sources we have shown what the earthworm has accomplished in building fertile topsoil. We have shown them working in the soils of England in concentrations of 25,000 to 53,000 per acre or more, and in the soils of the United States in concentrations of from 250,000 to upwards of 2,000,000 per acre. We have shown them in the annual production of ten tons of castings per acre in England, to an annual production of more than 200 tons of castings per acre in the Upper Valley of the Nile.

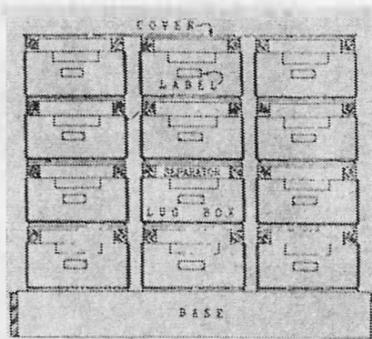
"What has been done can be done" is an old truism, and Nature has shown us that it has been done. In intensive propagation and use of domesticated earthworms, under perfect control, we create the favorable environment, provide the abundant soil-building material that is cheaply available, and the earthworms forthwith duplicate the mass-production example of nature.

Earthworm Culture in Boxes

The simplest and most practical method for the beginner in earthworm culture is propagation boxes. Many years' experience in the intensive breeding of earthworms for egg-capsule production has demonstrated that a box 14 inches wide, 17½ inches long and 6 inches deep (overall measurements) is the most favorable size for convenient and easy handling. The overall depth of box should be approximately 6 inches, but the other dimensions may be varied to suit individual preference.

While boxes may be constructed for the purpose, a cheap source of such culture boxes is the standard vegetable lug box of the above dimensions, usually obtainable at the grocery or market for from 3 to 10 cents each. Such lug boxes are light in weight, quite strong and durable, and are perfectly adapted to the breeding of earthworms.

(continued next month)



Propagation Boxes

Letters To The Editor

Community, An Alternative To the Editor:

The idea of intentional community as an alternative to the mass society is new to me, and I would appreciate references, books and people, to acquaint us with the subject, and with the School of Living — history, current activity and intent. And advise the relationship between Wilhelm Reich and School of Living membership or activity in our area.—M. R. Walsh, 5380 S. Martin Rd., New Berlin, Wis.

Get Society Off Our Backs To the Editor:

My wife and I are interested in the idea of getting back to the

land, and in learning to live there, if this does not require abdication of our responsibility to our brothers. We are sick of the city, credit, interest payments, fattening the pockets of employers and being grateful for the opportunity. We don't want to desert society, just want to get it off our backs a little. Would appreciate introductory material. — Harry Johnson, 3053 N. Neva, Chicago, Ill. 60534

Interest Grows To Support To the Editor:

What a beautiful issue your May-June 1966 *A Way Out* is! A very good summary of the School of Living for newcomers

THE GREEN REVOLUTION — 5
December, 1966

ADVERTISING RATES

Classified: 35c per line. Minimum 3 lines or \$1.05. Average line has 40 spaces.

Display: \$5 per column inch. No discounts on any ads. Payment must accompany order.

Deadline: 10th of preceding month (example: April 10 for May issue).

Advertising Manager: Arthur Harvey, Raymond, New Hampshire.

HEALTH REJUVENATION. Fasting, Vacationing, Weight reduction. Nude sunbathing. Spring water pool. Gulf beaches. Delightful natural foods. Health lectures. Rates \$8 up. Cooperative employment available. Write SHANGRI-LA HEALTH RESORT, Bonita Springs, Florida 33923-G

Enclose \$1 for book, "Fasting Can Save Your Life." (5-66)3

LIVING HIGH by June Burn. Joyous home-stead classic. New illus. edition, \$3. Wellington Books, 346 Concord, Belmont, Mass. (94)

MANUAL FOR A SIMPLE BURIAL. A very useful little booklet, written by Ernest Morgan (3rd edition). Shows how to obtain simplicity, dignity and economy in funeral arrangements through advance planning. Has lists of funeral and memorial societies and eye-banks; tells how to bequeath your body, etc. \$1 from School of Living.

THE OWNER-BUILT HOME is nearing completion. Vol. 4 will be finished in October issue of *Green Revolution*. It will be reprinted in looseleaf form, 3-hole punched for insertion in ring binder, as were Vols. I, II, and III. Each volume is \$2, from School of Living or direct from Ken Kern, Sierra Route, Oakhurst, Calif.

living the good life

by Scott & Helen Nearing

Read details about their organic gardening, house and greenhouse building on a New England homestead farm. Clothbound Photos 210 pages \$3.50 FOREST FARM, HARBORSIDE, MAINE

A Doctor, cont'd

public; supported by the PHS, by industry, by professional organizations, lay groups and trusting individual civic leaders, they created an unfavorable public image of all who disagreed, lay persons and scientists alike.

A review of this book would not be complete without mentioning the author's wife who urged her husband until he swallowed his scientific pride and took a square look at the situation. She used her life savings to publish an anti-fluoridation newspaper for several years. Like a Pamela against the Titans, with no editorial nor publishing experience, this woman launched out against the tide.

In this vaunted modern world with its pseudo-ethics, it is good to find an honest couple who are not blown about by every wind of doctrine.

like us. When we read *Go Ahead and Live!* and your papers at first, we were interested in getting as much as possible for as little as possible, but by now I have sympathy for the school and want to help support it. So here's a check for various items. . . My wife and I have spent time since the San Francisco School of Living meetings last summer with Frances Cray on her ranch—a creative, determined and capable person who will play a strong role in any effort of which she is a part. — Mathew Davis, 106 LaVerne, Mill Valley, Calif. 94943

Trust Your Beaver

To the Editor:

I must tell you about our beaver dam.

We had a flood two years ago (15 inches of rain); all creeks and small streams became raging torrents. After the streams went down, we discovered a beaver in a nearby pond. We let him be and thought no more about it.

This summer, deep in our woods where a thick tangle of blackberries and fallen trees makes it difficult to roam, we discovered a new pond and dam—75 ft. long and 3 ft. across. There are two beaver houses, one at the edge and one in the center of the pond. All the blackberry thicket has been cleared for free—bless the beavers. They keep building the dam higher, and their spill—(continued on page 6)

Wanted: Applicants for clerical, record and promotion work for School of Living. Moderate salary and housing provided. Send a resume of experience and any pertinent comments to: School of Living, Brookville, Ohio.

SCHOOL OF LIVING

Pledge, Membership and Subscription Form

Date _____

School of Living
Lane's End Homestead
Brookville, Ohio 45309

I want to participate in and support the New School of Living Center at Heathcote Community, Freeland, Md., as checked below:

\$ _____ gift to the New School of Living Center Building Fund

\$ _____ pledge to the New School of Living Center, payable

(terms or date)

I want to be part of the School of Living work as follows:

—\$10.00 for a year's membership and 1 year each of *A Way Out* and *The Green Revolution*.

—\$ 5.00 for a year's membership and 1 journal (indicate which one) _____

—\$ 3.00 for a year's *Green Revolution* (monthly).

—\$ 2.25 for a year's *A Way Out* (bimonthly).

—\$ 4.15 for a copy of popular School of Living book *Go Ahead and Live!*

Your Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

All Contributions and Memberships Are Tax-Deductible
Please Send Names & Addresses For Sample Copies