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## Nature is Part of our Humanity; We Pay a Tribute to Henry Beston

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# THE GREEN

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



# REVOLUTION

SCHOOL OF LIVING, BROOKVILLE, OHIO 45309  
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## A. P. Thompson in April Seminar On Earthworms and Gardening

The weekend of April 22 and 23, at the Heathcote School of Living Center, Freeland, Md., is a special occasion for homesteaders, gardeners and farmers (or any who want to become such). A weekend seminar, with A. P. Thompson as the leader and demonstrator, will deal with earthworm culture and soil analysis. Mr. Thompson, in 25 years, has developed the famous, disease-free Golden Acres Orchards at Front Royal, Va. He will help seminar attendants observe and understand the soil at Heathcote, know better what to do in the months ahead to produce a good garden in terms of soil and climate demands.

Attendants from a distance should arrive Friday evening (\$1 additional for lodging and breakfast). By car go to Maryland Line Exit on Route 83; by Greyhound bus (Harrisburg to Washington, D.C. run) go to Maryland Line Firehouse stop. Send \$2 registration for the weekend to Director, Heathcote Center, Freeland, Md. Bring bedding and towels. Other costs: \$5 per adult; \$2.50 per child.

A folder outlining the summer series of seminars at Heathcote is available. Write for a supply to interest your friends.

### Future Seminars

The May 27-28 weekend seminar will probe the economic arrangements and political structure consistent with freedom, order and peace. An outstanding group of leaders is available (see program on page 4).

Attendants are sought among

## Earthworm Pits

How are you doing with your earthworm culture? It seems that a good many readers have been growing earthworms for some time, have now begun, or are anticipating doing so since our series from Dr. Barrett's book started in *Green Revolution*. Some have reported that culturing the worms in outdoor compost heaps or earth heaps is a satisfactory and labor-saving method.

A well-known user of the pit method is Miss Bernice Warner, Fox and Warner Lanes, Worthington, Ohio. Since 1938 she has been raising them commercially and has air-shipped them all over the world (Japan, Africa, Alaska, etc.). She digs a hole (in the shade) 4 ft. x 4 ft. x 2 ft. deep, and builds it two feet above ground by boards or bales of hay. Into this pit (now 4 ft. deep) she puts 6 in. of vegetable waste (old hay, grass clippings, weeds, corn stalks, garbage, etc.) and 2 in. of (preferably cow) manure and a 2 in. layer of clay dirt. She repeats these layers to the top.

In one corner she buries the earthworms. They rapidly eat their way through the pit, turning it all into valuable humus, which Miss Warner calls "Earthgold." Then more of the material must be added. She has begun worm cultures in February and had "Earthgold" to use in April.

She reports roses infested with blackspot have become lush and healthy with "Earthgold"; her carrots have three times as much vitamin A as carrots not raised organically; and a 900 sq. ft. strawberry bed has for nine years produced from 66 to 160 quarts a year (depending on rainfall).

Miss Warner sells earthworms at 1c each, or, in an earth-culture, by the bushel.

active pacifist, civil rights and inter-racial workers, so that this search may be extended to their members. Send \$2 registration for this weekend and an indication of your position (in an organization), if any, promptly to the Director, Heathcote Center, Freeland, Md. Additional costs for this weekend are \$10 per adult.

The June 24-25 seminar will deal with late findings in nutrition—the Why and How of Raw Foods; the Why and How of Adequate Nutrition; How to Read Your Symptoms and Rate Your Health; Developing a Program of What to Do for Each Attendant to Improve Health. We hope to have Mrs. Ruth Rosevear, nutritionist at Beechwood Clinic (Columbus, O.) as the leader of this important weekend. Registration \$2; other costs \$7.50.

On July 22-23, Dorothy and Will Samuel of Baltimore will assist high-schoolers and early college age youth in opening up problems regarding jobs, education, military service, marriage, etc. Registration \$2; costs \$5.

From Aug. 12 to 20 we will have the big Family Camping Week and School of Living Annual Workshop, Workbee and Annual Meeting. Plan on it now.

## Questions, Answers On Heathcote

Each month we'll try to answer questions sent in about the new School of Living Center, Freeland, Md.—Editor

What will members of the Heathcote Center Community do to support themselves? Is it located near a city or university town where people could conceivably work part- or full-time? Or will the community as a whole embark on some income-producing projects? — Lorraine Calhoun, Miami, Fla.

The answers to how to support a family at Heathcote will be as varied as the ingenuity of persons. Some will be retired people, living on pensions; some will produce craft items or mail order service; some will work in nearby cities. York, Pa., is 25 miles (one Heathcoter is now a librarian in York schools); Baltimore is 35; and an industrial park is developing 15 miles away. And yes, let's say it is near a "university," i.e., the School of Living. Why not?

The community can become what members choose to develop. Some families will earn a cash income in book sales, publishing and other School of Living activities. W. B. Anacker hopes to earn his living by recreational use of his acres. Heathcote community members can likely develop some income-producing projects on the land—mushrooms, strawberries, asparagus, grapes or other specialty produce. On a really functioning homestead, remember, the need for cash income is much less than in a city setting.

Q. Will the \$1000 for a living site be a loan? A donation? Will it be refundable or transferable if a family moves? — Ellen Cohen, 246 E. 94th St., New York City.

A. The \$1000 is essentially a family's payment for its two acres. In this case it pays for access to or use of land. It helps the School of Living "pay" an "owner" to obtain it. Then we introduce a new concept — i.e., (continued on page 4)

## Nature Is Part of Our Humanity; We Pay A Tribute To Henry Beston

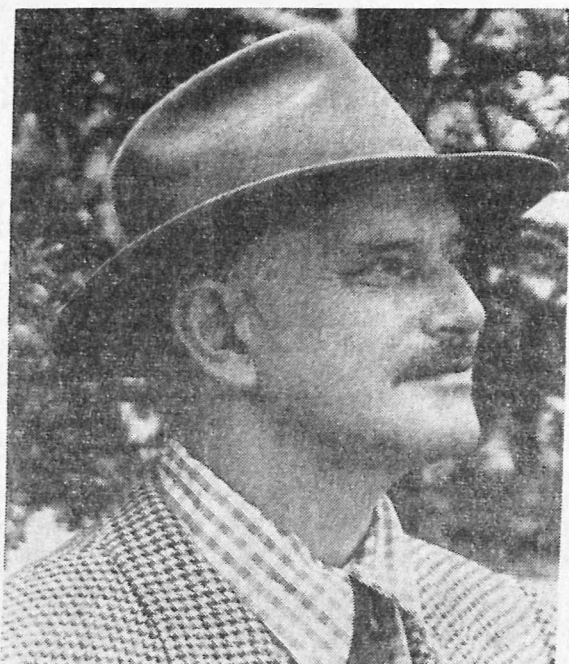
America and the entire world have been blessed by the naturalists Henry David Thoreau and Henry Beston, surprisingly alike in several ways. Both are sons of Massachusetts, Thoreau near Concord and Beston, Cape Cod. Both chose to live much alone, watching, working with and reflecting on their natural habitat. Thoreau built his house in 1845 and lived for 18 months with the work of his hands by Walden Pond. and Beston built an "outermost" house in 1927 atop a sand dune, half the way south on Eastham bar. He went for 12 months, stayed for several years.

Thoreau's *Walden*, first published in 1854, has appeared in many editions and is now in paperback. Beston's account of his life on the beach, *The Outermost House*, first published in 1928, has also seen several printings and it also recently came out in paperback.

Both books are musts for green revolutionaries; both are tied to enduring values; both say essentially that "man ceases to be man without some awareness and experience of that divine mystery, nature." In the foreword to the 1966 *Outermost House*, Beston says, "When the Pleiades and the wind in the grass are no longer a part of the human spirit . . . man becomes as it were, a kind of cosmic outlaw. . . . Man can be either less than man or more than man, and both are monsters." We rejoice that this book has sold more than 600,000 copies and has been translated into French and German.

### Creation Still Going On

Significantly, the best of Thoreau's and Beston's books came



Henry Beston — on left, 1964, on right, 1944

out of a year's living with nature alone. Perhaps we best experience the beauty and mystery of this earth in isolation. How much poorer the world if either Beston or Thoreau had lacked the courage to live alone! As Beston watched "land birds, moor birds, marsh birds and beach birds, coastal birds and birds of the outer ocean," he discovered a need for "a wiser and perhaps more mystical concept of animals." But he also discovered that it is no wiser to be too much alone than it is to be always in a crowd. In 1930, he married Elizabeth Coatsworth. They later moved to a farm in Maine, where they still live.

When asked "What is the great truth you have learned from nature?" Beston replies: "I would answer that one's first appreciation is a sense that the creation is still going on, that the creative forces are as great and as active today as they have ever been, and that tomorrow's morning will be as heroic as any of the world. Creation is here and now. prehension as science. It is as impossible to live without rev-

Poetry is as necessary to commerce as it is without joy."

Henry Beston was born in 1888 in Quincy, Mass., of French parents of military and Bonapartist heritage. He received degrees from Harvard, was a teacher and served in both the army and navy in the first world war. He published his first book in 1919. In 1927-28 came the significant year on the Cape; then his marriage; and later his family of two daughters.

If queried on how he accounts for the revival of his book, Beston says, "The interest in nature is growing. People see that today's technological world is an impossible one and they have to have something else."

The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament showeth his handiwork.

## Active in School of Living Affairs

Lynn Stone, 150 W. 82nd, and Ellen Cohen, 246 E. 84th, arranged a meeting in New York City for friends of the School of Living, March 10 at the home of Louis Potter, 19 E. 82nd St. Alice and Harold Ladas helped the group consider and experience new methods for good communication. Discussion of purpose and structure of a New York branch of the School of Living led to plans for future meetings.

Purcell Weaver, 75 Lavuelta, Santa Barbara, and T. J. Frick, Tujunga (Calif.) have been planning a School of Living booth at the rustic fair being held in April by radio station KPFA.

Paul Marks, Box N., Los Banos, is holding a meeting on intentional community at Merced Calif. in April.

Carl and June Ogren, Rt. 3, Paw Paw, Mich. and Eloise Snyder, St. Albans, W. Va., are assisting Mildred Loomis in preparation of an outline for discussion leaders on the subject of homesteading.

Hermine Hurlbut, 2672 N. 34th Court, Miami Fla., has gathered Miami readers into closer association.

Darrel Tarver, a student at San Francisco State College, and Mike McGivern, University of California at Berkeley, have offered to display School of Living literature on their campuses.

## Mortgages, Machines and Other Problems of Self-Sufficient Farming

By John Seymour

### Part II

To some, our present situation may seem to indicate that we have gone over to "commercial farming." Not really. We have never left sight or practice of our original goal of self-maintenance. Now that we have 70 acres, we are producing more of our own food than we did on our 5 acres in England, and intend to do even more.

But on our little place in England we were renters. I got tired of a traditional English landlord who was always terrified that I was poaching his pheasants. I was. We nearly lived on 'em for eight years. I HAD to buy a piece of land. In England there are few small parcels of land, and prices are much too high.

### The Mortgage

So we bought 70 acres in Wales. I had to get a mortgage. I have to pay it off. If I sat 8 hours a day writing, or ran about endlessly for BBC with a camera or tape recorder, I could do this in a few years. But I

don't want to. (Our editor and husband had to work in town in 1940 to pay off their mortgage; I want to avoid this if I can.)

My alternative is to farm this place for cash to make the money to pay off the mortgage, over and above our self-maintenance. Hence the calf-rearing, sheep and beef. What I would love to do more than anything else would be to cut this 70 acres of perfectly beautiful country into say four holdings, and let three other families come here.

But where would I find other homesteaders? The idea seems not to have occurred to any city people, except us, in England or Wales yet. And we have our horrible Town and Country Planning laws which put a penalty on any development of the countryside unless it is by some huge company that wants to put up a factory or an "estate" of jerry-built bungalows. I don't want to be a money-grubbing farmer, and am not going to be. But I've got to pay off that mortgage somehow. (Unfortunately, Henry George's philosophy is not

(continued on page 4)