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THE GREEN

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



REVOLUTION

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Florida Man Separates Needs From Wants, and Drops Out

John W. Coursell, Rt. 2, Basswood Estates, Okeechobee, Fla., in one respect is like everyone: he sent in Form 1040 in April. But his letter to the Internal Revenue Service, reproduced below, shows up several significant differences in this citizen:

Gentlemen:

As per the law, I am inclosing herewith a Form 1040A.

You will note that I have listed less than \$400 as my total income for calendar 1966. Actually, I may be high in this estimate. The sums were for casual employment as a truck driver and general assistant to various transient, or migratory, produce pickers with whom I came in contact. They keep few records, and pay in cash, and I have come to do the same.

For your own information, since there is an obvious discrepancy between my income for 1966 as opposed to, say, 1964, I, as a disappointed intellectual have taken Dr. Timothy Leary's advice, and I have dropped out—of this contemporary, and contemptible, American Society. As my records will show, I formerly ran on the treadmill with the rest of the lemmings. For three years, up to November 1965, I had been employed as a driving instructor with the Safeway Driving School, a subsidiary of the Chicago Motor Club. I used to scurry off with the rest of the job-slaves, with a fresh white shirt, shoes shined, pants (excuse me, trousers) pressed, freshly showered and deodorized, shaved, teeth brushed, and my mouth (and brain) washed. In short, I was perfectly normal.

Why Support A Car?

And then one day I asked myself, "What the hell am I doing all this for?" The answer was "Money." And why do I need all this money? Well, for one thing, so that I can afford a late model car. And I need the late model car for the job, since I taught driving with my own car. And I

need the job, so as to have the money to buy the late model car. Which brot me back to where I started from — a real closed-circuit arrangement. I then started to question other facets of my life, and came to the conclusion that most of them were Madison Avenue crap, foisted onto me by the mass communications media. In short, I didn't need them; they were simply engendered wants. And there is a vast difference. Along about that same time I came in contact with the philosophy of Zen Buddhism, which turned me further away from the Great American Way, extolled by 4th of July orators. (I found that I didn't need them, either!)

Accordingly, I sold much of my accumulated junk (hi-fi's, cameras, etc), left Suburbia, and wandered down to here, where Life is much simpler, and therefore, more pleasant. I have let my beard grow, which saves both time and money, and I go around in old, but clean, work clothing and Jesus sandals, that only cost me \$1.39. My biggest financial outlay is for magazines and books, and they inform me quite fully about the butchery the U. S. government is perpetrating in Vietnam, and this disgusts me. Since we in America are trapped in a vicious social machine, much as the Germans were under the Nazis, there is little that I can do personally about it, except to refuse to help finance it. When 80% of the Federal income goes to "Defense," it's time to drop out. I have.

—John W. Coursell

[Note: Some readers will remember the hefty wheelbarrow loads of concrete which School of Living member Jack Coursell handled at Heathcote Center in August 1966, and the reel of film he took of the activities at the annual workshop then. See also his letter to the editor in this issue.—MJL]

Peace Seminar at Heathcote Was Challenging But Not Easy

A seminar on the economics of peace is now history in the School of Living. After years of writing and publishing on this crucial area, central to today's overall dilemma, some of us (especially your editor) have longed for fact-to-face probing of what free (or freer) access to land and credit would do in achieving peace, as against the governmental methods so generally advocated and in use today.

Heathcote School of Living Center at Freeland, Md., now functioning though only partially renovated, provided space and opportunity for some 40 adults to meet and consider this subject May 27-28. They heard and discussed the findings of several who have given life-time study to dealing with this area in voluntary ways.

Peaceful Dealing with Land

Those who were familiar with proposed changes in land tenure generally favored governmental collection of land-rent or economic rent. Advocacy of a totally free use of land was considered too extreme, such a program too difficult and visionary. Louis Potter called for the greater freedom that would follow teaching everyone the ethics of claiming and using only the land necessary to his livelihood, with the

admission that use of any additional land would be thievery. Even the spoken idea challenged our deeply lodged habits (bringing rejection and disturbed feelings on the part of some).

We heard a challenging paper by Griscom Morgan, of Community Service and the Vale Community, Yellow Springs, O. This reported on community holding of land and on a land trust coming into existence (through which many communities can pool land). He also presented the history of a Jewish trust fund which has developed an extensive plan of holding land in common by various types of communities (some cooperative, some communal and some with private use of goods other than land).

Peaceful Dealing with Money and Credit

Wendal Bull, of Celo Community, in the absence of Herbert Roseman who was ill, showed how the dollar does not permit an ethical exchange of the labor deposited in products; rather that it permits an exploitive exchange. He suggested a new medium, certificates that exchange labor for labor. Some persons also found this difficult to grasp.

Bob Swann reported on the (continued on page 2)

Mother and Daughters Achieve A Home in May Valley Community



By Louise Goshko
10269 147th Ave., S.E.
Renton, Wash.

In August of 1960, my husband, Lewis Goshko, and I, with two daughters (9 and 11), moved from the East coast to May Valley Co-op Community.* A month later, Lewie was killed in an accident at work. Just the night before we had signed papers making us owners of an older home here. But because I was not then sure of plans, I was permitted to change to a renter.

Two and a half years later I was notified that the house was up for sale. Because I was sure I could get a house more to my liking for the same money, I purchased a lot and began efforts to secure a loan, draw plans and seek a builder. I paid only \$1,000 for my 91' x 175' lot because our co-op makes no money on land. (The price is now \$1,300, because of the taxes on the unused lots and the 20 wooded acres, which we all own together.)

Getting A Loan

Lewis left no material assets but we qualified for Social Security and Workmen's Compensation for myself and the girls, until each one is 18 or going to college. A chronic illness has incapacitated me for all but minimum work, so my chances of getting a loan were very slim. I made the rounds of banks and mortgage companies. The closest I came to an affirmative answer was from a banker who showed me house plans he'd just approved and said, "We might consider a loan if you were planning a more re-salable house, like this one." It was the standard modern abode called a ranch house.

*May Valley is the community described and sketched (under another name) in the book, *Go Ahead and Live!* It consists of 20 acres of woods for community recreational use (which will remain uncut) and 19 lots (eight of which have homes on them). Some of the families are interracial. The community is located about 15 miles from the heart of Seattle, 5 miles from Renton, Wash. Inquiries are welcome.

But my girls and I were set on our plans. While waiting, I built a scale model with a set of plastic blocks, which helped me plan and make changes.

Eventually I learned of the Farm and Home Administration. They granted me a loan, on three requirements: the borrower must own no other property; land must be outside city limits; one must prove he'd been unable to get a loan elsewhere.

Attractive Cottage

Our home is 25' x 25', of cedar pre-cut sides, cedar shake roof, hardwood floors and birch paneling inside. One-half of the ground floor is our living and dining area combined, with open stairway to second floor. The other half has a downstairs bedroom and closet, and a kitchen using one-fourth and bath and closet another fourth. Upstairs are two bedrooms, each with closet, storage space under the roof, and an outside balcony.

I had decided that oil heat would be cheapest, but our contractor urged electric baseboard heaters. I said, "OK, if you'll insulate per instructions from our power company." This required about \$200 extra, for insulation in walls and under floor. Cost of heat and light is about \$200 a year. Of course teenagers shower and wash-dry clothes daily. We could save considerable if we used our Franklin stove more than we do.

Furnishings

We have furnished our cottage for about \$100. We brought with us one \$70 couch, one chest of drawers, a coffee table and two end tables made by a friend. We have since spent \$60 for 1 rocker, 1 stool, 2 small tables, 2 dressers and 1 desk, from Goodwill. Our dining table and benches were \$6.95, knocked down. The girls' beds are built-in, and mine is a board set on a Sears movable frame. Three mattresses from Salvation Army were about \$10 each. I made our own braided rugs, and when able I make them for sale. People are often surprised at the actual size of our house. Because of its simple, sparse furnishings, it seems much larger.

How I would like to add, "and



HOME of Mrs. Louise Goshko and two daughters, near Seattle, Wash. After much difficulty, she obtained a loan to build it. She says: "A \$10,000 mortgage; I'd never borrowed more than \$10 in my lifetime! But it is better than renting. I pay \$45 a month on a 33-year mortgage. Of course I'll pay more in interest than the principal."

we grow most of our own vegetables." We do what we can toward this, but I have been physically unable to do this completely. We do sprout alfalfa seeds, bake bread (both girls can bake a perfect loaf), and buy much natural food in bulk from a co-op grocery housed in the basement of one of the homes in our community.

Heathcote Notes

Edith and Jim Gosnell and four young children have been frequent, willing workers at Heathcote workbees. Now they're tackling the "chicken house project" and making it their living quarters for the summer. In the Fall they plan to move to Canada, and will "train" during the summer for simple, outdoor living—sleeping bags, wood cook stove, carrying water, etc.

Making living quarters out of the chicken house has been on the "list" for some time. It is a sizable, fairly new building, nicely situated on the slope above the road. Its last occupant was Bill Anacker's pet coon, but since then it's been cleaned and hosed by four venerable workers (Phil Smith, Catharyn Ellwood, Mildred Loomis and Rosetta Schumann) whose combined age totals at least 280! We couldn't turn it over to nicer people than the Gosnells, and we wish them a happy summer.

Homesteaders for Heathcote

A. P. Thompson, Golden Acres Orchard, Front Royal, Va., has an urgent feeling about his and other homesteads. He writes, "If ever there was a time when the School of Living is needed for man's survival, it is now. Increased taxation, inflation, growing bureaucracy have produced a Frankenstein government, and loss of freedom never before seen. The best answer for any family is a small homestead. That's why I've been a follower of Borsodi so many years, why I'm so persistent in getting our own homestead completed, and anxious to see others get started.

"I suggested to the School of Living trustees that they devise (continued on page 4)