

6-1-1967

Peace Seminar at Heathcote was Challenge but Not Easy

Mildred Loomis

Follow this and additional works at: <https://research.library.kutztown.edu/greenrevolution>

 Part of the [Peace and Conflict Studies Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Loomis, Mildred (1967) "Peace Seminar at Heathcote was Challenge but Not Easy," *Green Revolution*: Vol. 5 : Iss. 6 , Article 3.
Available at: <https://research.library.kutztown.edu/greenrevolution/vol5/iss6/3>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by Research Commons at Kutztown University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Green Revolution by an authorized editor of Research Commons at Kutztown University. For more information, please contact czerny@kutztown.edu.



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 Goshö
10269 147th Ave., S.E.
Renton, Wash.

In August of 1960, my husband, Lewis Goshö, 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 Goshö 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)

Monday's Wash and Social Reform

Electric dryers are nice, but I enjoy hanging clothes on a line, especially in the Spring. One sunny April morn I hung an older sheet alongside a brand new one. "How gray this looks," I thought, "this won't do."

After its re-wash in the basement it looked clean. But out in the bright sunlight it certainly didn't. Except for the quality whiteness of the new one, I probably would have been satisfied.

Then I got a washboard; soaped and rubbed hard. And for good measure I gave the sheet a half-hour's boiling atop the stove. Rinsed a third time, it nearly—but not quite—matched the brilliance of the new one.

So it is with social reform. For lack of something better with which to compare it, most people think ours is a "pretty good world." They find it hard to understand the feelings and efforts of those who see something "better and whiter."

One reader asked: "Things aren't really as bad as you think, are they? In recent months you have attacked government, land-ownership, interest, war, scientists, high prices, low wages, taxes, commercial farming, the food industry, the medical profession, factories, public education — just about every human institution one can name. What kind of a future do you want? You aren't really serious about land reform and decentralization of government, are you?"

To which I answer, "Yes, I'm serious. Isn't this affirmed by 23 years — out of my 27 homesteading years — of editing, managing, financing, promoting and processing two journals that have been discussing these matters? And a good many of our readers and our contributors are equally serious."

Fortunately (or unfortunately) the institutions and experiments we work with "hang on our line" like a brilliant new sheet. By comparison, the ones our reader enumerates are worn and gray. If I and others bemoan their dinginess — or danger — it may be because of the sharpness with which better conditions are seen.

Action For A Human Culture

Nor has it all been negative. We have reported and discussed the "elbow-action, the soap and hot water treatments" that we believe will change the old to a better, brighter hue. It seems to some of us that School of Living people are in the forefront of such action — all the way from home delivery of their infants and home education of their children up to Borsodi's low credit, commodity based currency, The International Foundation for Independence.

In place of proliferating government, we advocate and practice independence from government via non-payment of war taxes, and development of all kinds of voluntary associations, primarily family homesteads and intentional communities. In place of finance capitalism's inflation, high prices and low wages, we show how to get a truly free market via free land, free banking, and no usury; in place of factory work, a majority of families supporting themselves on family homesteads; instead of a giant food industry, families producing their own, upgrading health and not depending on the medical profession. For public schools, substitute private and home education of children, have cooperative and student-faculty experimental colleges, establish adult Schools of Living in every community. For giant cities and commercial farms to feed that urban population, decentralize into small villages, small-scale homesteads and self-sustaining farms. Instead of a recreation "industry" and bizarre art, let's have cooperation with nature, indigenous crafts, folk singing and dancing and functional art.

All this to fit and enhance the nature of human beings, whose need is to choose — and whose joy is to create — a brighter life and society.

Peace Seminar, cont'd

International Foundation for Independence, of which he is field director. IFI initiates a money based on commodities; its unit of measurement is a "basket of commodities" and it can be redeemed in commodities, and is thus deflation-inflation free. IFI is open to investors at a conservative return. Its funds are loaned to productive enterprises, at a figure so far below the usual exploitive rates of 30% to 100% as to be comparative freedom of cost to producers in undeveloped countries.

Bill Manning, of New Braunfels, Tex., presented a lucid history of worldwide finance and banking. He intrigued many with his plans for a community in San Blas, Panama, where freer land and money arrangements will be developed. This, plus colored slides of San Blas and its people and their many beautiful molas and craft articles that he had with him, led several in our group to consider joining or visiting Mapka, the project under

way in San Blas.

Nature and Use of Government

Len Krimerman, of the University of Louisiana department of philosophy, led a session on modern concepts of anarchy. He stressed the nature of bureaucracy, centralized, top-down organizations that become as restricting and coercive as Government or the Political State. Some were quick to indicate that this could not happen did not the Political State start the conflict of interests by granting privilege to some and withholding access to peoples' vital needs of land and credit in the first place.

Mr. Krimerman was in the midst of this discussion when a newcomer arrived, and in the belief that this was a meeting for presenting any and all opinions he opened up his concern about racial discrimination. Some present felt this was undue interruption of plans and goals in process, and so stated. The newcomer interpreted this response

as discourtesy and rejection. Other group members felt we should turn our attention to the new speaker, Ray Robinson, a Black Power advocate. In this situation, a degree of dispersion of feeling and attention developed to make it seem wise to adjourn and re-group as one chose. ("Let the Rage Uncoil," in the March issue of *Liberation* magazine, 75c from 5 Beekman St., New York City, discusses a similar encounter with much understanding.)

It seemed that some members needed and preferred to follow a scheduled program, while another section preferred freer attention to members' needs, opinions and concerns, whether or not related to the subject at hand. (These differences will have careful consideration in future Heathcote meetings.)

Some assembled for the next discussion on "Free Money" and others gathered with Mr. Robinson for attention to today's pressing situation as he sees it. This worked fairly well for the nonce, and all (including our friend Ray Robinson) joined for the evening session.

The afternoon's experience indicated clearly how readily many of us react emotionally and irrationally to persons, ideas and events. On Sunday morning we gave some thought to how to rectify the loss (if any) we had experienced; how to prevent such in the future; and certainly how to grow and develop in ourselves sensitivities and skills of more effective human relationships. Attention to, and hopefully some training in, our emotional and mental habits will probably become increasingly present in our future efforts at Heathcote Center gatherings.

Publication of Seminar

The presentations and discussions of the entire seminar will be published (including a paper by Lewis Herber, who unfortunately did not arrive because of illness).—MJL

Letters To The Editor

Florida — Pro and Con

To the Editor:

I don't understand why more would-be homesteaders don't look into Florida. This area is climatically ideal, and most northern crops except apples and cherries will grow here, plus all citrus, papayas and mangos. Fish and game are abundant (neutral factor for vegetarians). The snake menace is over-rated, although I just shot a 52" water moccasin this morning. In 15 months I've yet to run across a rattler, though I hear of others who have. On the other side, there is the racial thing and the general semi-feudal economy in the interior. The area around here is run by land barons, many of whom bought up vast amounts for \$1 an acre in the 20s. And one-half the emptiness between here and Holopaw, 60 miles north, is owned by the Mormon Church, tax-free. — Jack Coursell, Rt. 2, Basswood Estates, Okeechobee, Fla. 33472

East-West Community Tour

To the Editor:

We are planning a tour of experimental communities and schools with a view to locating in one, or developing one ourselves. Currently we are planning to go East from Chicago in mid-May and June, and hope to visit these places: Joy Valsko's Candlelights Crafts property out of Traverse City, Mich.; The Everdale Place, Hillsburg, Ont.; North Country School, Lake Placid, N. Y.; Lewis-Wadhams School, Westport, N. Y.; the Community at Conway, Mass.; The Dugway, Glendale, Mass.; Winsor Mountain School, Lenox, Mass.; Franconia College, Franconia, N. H.; Summerhill and School of Living people in New York City; Heathcote Center, at Freeland, Md.; Washington, D. C.; The Vale, Yellow Springs, O.; and Lane's End Homestead, Brookville, O.

Back home by mid-June, we will head west, and include: Min-

nesota Summerhill Community School, Minneapolis; Minn.; Tolstoi Farm, Davenport, Wash.; May Valley Co-op, Renton, Wash.; groups in the San Francisco area; Fran Crary's ranch at Lakeport, Calif.; the Live Oak School, Ojai, Calif.; Pacific High School, Palo Alto, Calif. — Michael R. Walsh, 5380 S. Martin Rd., New Berlin, Wisc.

[Note.—We have asked Mr. Walsh to report his findings in *Green Revolution*.—Editor]

School for Human Resources

To the Editor:

We are founding a school to help students with an individualistic orientation to recover from the bad experience of high school. In our School of Human Resources, in which many qualified educators in our area are cooperating, we hope to help students discover how to turn their own genuine deep interests into practical satisfying learning. A rather lost art, from what I've seen, but a crucial one if adult living in college and beyond is to make any sense.

We would like your reaction to our brochure-program, and to ask whether we can make use of School of Living material and people in our adventure. Our work is admittedly correction of long-term damage. But I feel we are on the verge of a generation that will find large-scale ways to remedy today's evils. We want to prepare agents and leaders for that work. We may well be sending students to Heathcote and Lane's End.—Bob Doolittle, 722 Commonwealth, No. 31, Boston, Mass. 02215

Seeks Correspondent

To the Editor:

In the fall of '66 someone from Wisconsin wrote me an interesting letter about schooling their children at home. They let the children go to school when they wish social contact, but they do their learning informally at home. I've lost this letter, and would like to be in touch with these people. Cheers for spring again! — Helen Ryan, Fiddler's Choice, Franklin, N. H.

Bewildered Teacher

To the Editor:

Here is my monthly check for Heathcote salary fund. Wish it could be more, but I'm substituting in schools in underprivileged districts. This is Something Else; too many mornings I can't drive myself to call in and offer my services. The other day a lovely oriental girl was student-teaching in a room I came into. She was bewildered. Said she'd read about Watts and similar horrors and wanted to do something. Admirable. And she chose to do that which most needs doing: help educate. So far as good, until she got thrown into the school room with them—unbelievable!

They're like bear cubs, tumbling and slapping. Administration takes a strong stand, and wants teachers to be martinets—not my style. I want to laugh with them and show affection, but it doesn't work with so many in the group; always some take advantage. I didn't know what to say to the earnest oriental, or to myself. It's evident, however, that methods which "teach" nice eager-to-learn middle class children don't work with these underprivileged. They need recognition first, but in these large groups (not too large for normal-

ly self-disciplined children) only sternness appears to achieve anything "academic." Actually they need to learn to respect themselves and each other more than they need to learn to read—although third graders are using primers. The schools here, screaming for substitutes, are magnificently equipped with everything except children prepared to learn.—M. B., San Francisco, Calif.

Oil Drum to Stove

To the Editor:

J. J. Jura asks about making a wood-burning stove from a large steel drum. Eddie Bauer, Expedition Outfitter, Seattle, Wash. 98122, advertises an "Oil Drum Stove Kit" (door, stove pipe collar, legs—everything needed to convert a 50-gal. oil drum into a giant heater). It costs \$23.95 f.o.b. Everett, Wash. They also have an

(continued on page 3)

Join Summer Trek To Heathcote

The third summer seminar at Heathcote School of Living Center (Rt. 1, Box 129, Freeland, Md., 25 miles south of York, Pa.) occurs on June 24 and 25. Here you will meet skilled and friendly Ruth Rosevear, nutrition counselor of Beechwood Clinic, Columbus, O. You'll discover how to rate your own health — in specific detail — how to know your body's vitamin C level; how you are doing as to vitamin B; how acid or alkaline your body is; etc.

Right before your own eyes you will know quickly, and then you can plan and practice how to balance, improve and be responsible for your own good health. This kind of knowledge should save you countless trips to doctors, clinics, and hospitals. Make sure you send your \$2 registration to Heathcote to reserve your place in this useful and important study. Heathcote landscape and weather are at prime in June. You will enjoy and benefit from this weekend, June 24-25. Bring bedding.

Youth Session July 22-23

How many teenage and early-twenty young people of School of Living will gather for their discussion of Rebellion vs. Independence on July 22-23? This is anybody's guess.

It is the first such meeting planned by and for young adults in School of Living families. Attendance does not depend on whether the family is a member of School of Living, but a core of School of Living young people are handling this seminar; Evan Lefever and Dave Pettie, both now living with the Anacker (continued on page 4)

School of Living Trustees Needed

Your nominating committee considers it most important that School of Living have as active and able a board of trustees as possible. The board consists of nine members, three elected for a three-year term, each year. Besides an understanding of School of Living and its goals, and earnest commitment to them, board members should be able and willing to attend three or four meetings a year.

We open the nomination to members. Please suggest persons you would like to have represent you — with a statement of their background and qualifications. And so that we overlook no possible candidate, we urge those who want, and have time, to serve, to volunteer their names and a 300-word resume of background, and program for School of Living you want to help achieve. This is all in the direction of School of Living principles—responsible persons volunteer, take initiative, and work for and with the persons and groups they approve. Ballots must be in the hands of our members by mid-July. Please write me promptly. — Walter Nuegebauer, Chm., 754 Iona Ave., Akron, O. 44314

The Green Revolution

Second class mailing privilege authorized; entry applied for at Freeland, Md. 21053.

Published monthly by The School of Living, Lane's End Homestead, Brookville, Ohio 45309.

Editor: Mildred J. Loomis.

Subscription rates: *The Green Revolution*, \$3 a year; *The Green Revolution* with School of Living membership, \$5 a year; *The Green Revolution* and bimonthly *A Way Out*, \$6 a year.

Telephone: TE 8-4522 (New Lebanon, Ohio).

Send subscriptions and renewals to School of Living Center, Heathcote Rd., Freeland, Md. 21053.

Send change of address and undeliverable copies to School of Living Center, Heathcote Rd., Freeland, Md., 21053.