

4-1-1968

IFI Plans Projects in United States

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Recommended Citation

(1968) "IFI Plans Projects in United States," *Green Revolution*: Vol. 6 : Iss. 4 , Article 5.
Available at: <https://research.library.kutztown.edu/greenrevolution/vol6/iss4/5>

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THE GREEN

A WORLD-WIDE EFFORT FOR DECENTRALIZATION
AND RURAL REVIVAL



REVOLUTION

SCHOOL OF LIVING, BROOKVILLE, OHIO 45309
PUBLISHED MONTHLY. MAILED AT FREELAND, MD. 21053

Volume 6, Number 4

April, 1968

25c per copy, \$3 per year

DeCourcy Squire Typifies Youth Resistance and Purpose Today



DeCourcy Squire

Reports of youth resistance seem to some observers remote, extreme, bizarre. But meaning and significance and understanding develop when one involved is known personally. For example, consider the recent experiences of DeCourcy Squire, an 18-year-old co-ed at Antioch College (Yellow Springs, Ohio).

She was one of 85 young people arrested in early December while opposing the draft at Cincinnati's induction center. She received a sentence of 30 days for disorderly conduct and eight months for contempt of court (refusing to walk in or out or to approach the judge's bench) plus \$600 in fines plus court costs. She began a fast on Dec. 8 that continued until Feb. 6 (when she was released), subsisting for two months only on water and vitamins. She felt the court had no right to imprison her for her non-violent part in her act of civil disobedience.

Free Press and Liberation News Service; Young People Create New News Media

A vital part of the green revolution (that trend to life, growth and human development) is free speech. Young dissidents are making a significant contribution in their free press. Hundreds of individuals and small groups, on and off college campuses, produce papers discussing events and issues absent from, or censored by, ordinary air and press media. They are sometimes called the underground press, and they're different in format, appearance and content. An observer not familiar with them cannot correctly describe today's scene.

Liberation News Service

During the big March on Washington in October, 1967, representatives from 300 underground papers (claiming a readership up to two million) formed the Liberation News Service. Similar in method to Associated or United Press, LNS collects news pertinent to change and revolution, for all who wish it. Three times weekly their rainbow-hued mimeographed pages arrive with exciting news, reports and concepts. Green Revolution's stack of these releases now constitutes about a ream (500 pages), and the contents match the verve and life of its colors. Via LNS one has enough detail on dissident action to get the "feel" and extent of today's revolutionary activity.

The status-quo press, for instance, announced the arrest in

Boston of Dr. Benjamin Spock and four distinguished colleagues for supporting draft refusers. The hard line, with little detail. But LNS brought it alive: told about the crowds of people (700 overflowing the church); wild applause when five others took the arrested leaders' places; 25 instead of the expected five burned their draft cards; a standing ovation from 2,000 at university that evening; etc. LNS showed that it was a second Boston Tea Party, not a mere ripple in the day's events.

In an LNS report of a full speech by Rap Brown, one gets the intensity, urgency and solidarity stemming from black peoples' fear of genocide. (Whites exterminated the Indians; they won't hesitate to repeat it with the black people.) Also from LNS was a report of plans for armed self-defense in ghettos and corresponding government (fascist) control. Also, a report on U. S. government support (via CIA—\$5750 to the publisher and \$2500 to the author) of *Why Vietnam?*, a book defending American policy there.

Disaffection in the Army

Unrest among drafted men in army camps comes through in LNS. An epidemic of spinal meningitis in Ft. Jackson, S. C. (due to crowding, "shots," etc.?) was not feared so much as "orders to proceed to Vietnam." The

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Such action can go unnoticed or be shrugged off by many people when seen or heard on some news source. But not when one knows this charming girl, whose gentle manner covers persistence and principled discipline. She has been a visitor at Lane's End Homestead (Antioch is 35 miles) and she introduced me (MJL) at a pacifist training institute where I spoke last summer. It is easy to see why her friends staged effective pleas, pickets and petitions for her release. Some of them published a letter from her to her friend Steve (he served a shorter sentence than she did). Some quoted excerpts here will show her intelligence and spirit:

Dear dear beautiful Steve: I love you so, so much. I can't write you from the workhouse because of ways in which I am non-cooperating. After two weeks of a fast I wound up in Longview Hospital for mental and physical tests. . . . I am being discovered terribly sane and healthy. (I have "beautiful kidneys" according to one doctor. . . .)

The workhouse people, guards, matrons, inmates, etc., were all wonderful to me, and I don't dread going back. . . . I was glad to hear Suzi was out and to find out where you are. The amount of mail I've been getting has been fantastic. My window looks out onto a fantastically beautiful sunrise every morning. The freedom and love it promises are painful.

I am starved for the limitless abundance of space, nature, people, food, occupations, and books—choices that I have out in the free world. I have been really getting interested in anarchist self-sufficient communities, and can hardly wait to take off to one. . . . I want to go experiment in pure living with some of the "revolutionaries" just so that we

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You Can Build Your Mobile Home; I Did and I Call Mine "Spastayen"

By Gordon Yaswen
Box 201, Modena, N. Y.

[Editor's Note: Some months ago Gordon Yaswen suggested in *The Green Revolution* that mobile homes would allow moving from one intentional community to another to find the "right" one. Now he reports on building his own mobile home.]

In the Fall of 1967 I decided I could no longer afford not to build my mobile home. So, on a friend's land, I set about the task with great resolve and humility. I had no car to transport materials, no professional plans to build it by, no experience or skill to build it with, nor any regular help. This was the first roof I had ever raised on this Earth, and my first serious venture with carpentry. I would have been completely helpless without the aid of many friends in many ways.

During its construction I lived in an abandoned chicken coop, slept in a pup-tent, boarded mostly with friends. I was new to the area and it was not easy to scout up the things I needed. I cite all this not to thump my chest, not to point out that the work I accomplished stands as some great performance; I was a novice working under normal or sub-normal circumstances. I wish to thus show plainly what I believe to be so: that such as I have accomplished is quite within the capacity of virtually anyone who wishes to do it.

The Chassis

My mobile home, called "Spastayen," is built on a welded channel steel chassis which I bought (with a decrepit shell atop it) for \$100. I paid \$30 for roadable tires, and another \$30 to have it towed. But even at this the chassis was still a good buy. (Beware the "burned out" trailer; the fire may have warped the frame.)

My chassis has four wheels and one set of electric brakes. With a bit of reconditioning it was like new. Trailer bases can be made of oak or steel-reinforced wood, but I found the cost of additional running gear for such a frame, bought separately, is likely to be easily as much as for a used chassis complete.

The Building

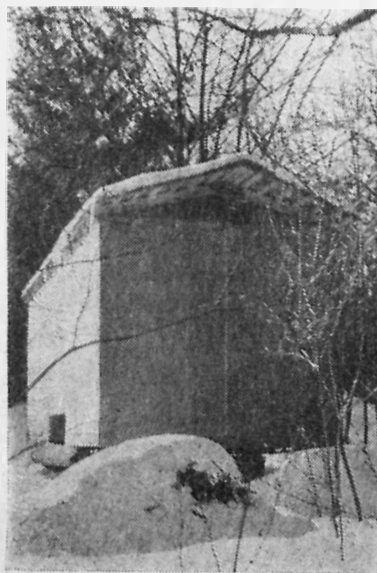
Once the chassis was stripped, reconditioned and leveled on concrete blocks, the actual house-building began. The floor is of glued and nailed "sandwich" paneling, 5/8" exterior grade plywood on top, 1/4" exterior grade plywood on the bottom, and 2 x 2 framing and insulation between. Once the floor panels were laid, the glued and nailed wall panels (uninsulated, unstained, windowless) were assembled flat atop the floor, raised into position, and then both floor and wall sills were fastened to the chassis by the same bolts.

Spastayen's walls are built of 1/4" exterior plywood with 2 x 2 framing. The wood sheathing is heavier than the usual aluminum used on trailers. It was easier for me to work with, provides better insulation, and when stained is more esthetic to my eye. For the roof I decided on a peaked configuration, for its better snow-holding, rain-shedding and insulating advantages over the usual flat or slightly-crowned construction. This at first seemed to be my most complicated design and construction problem, but later was tamed. The pre-assembled rafters (spaced every 16"), of 2 x

4s with 2 x 2 tie beams, were covered with longitudinal slatting, plywood sheathing went atop that, and tarpaper roofing completed it. And that was it.

Moving-In

I moved in promptly in my windowless, doorless (I don't say "portalless") roofed box, sec-



Spastayen and Snow

tioned off a part with polyethylene sheeting to keep in the slim heat of my kerosene space heater, and set up primitive housekeeping. Further building is largely puttering, which I've been doing as I can afford the time and money.

Advantages

This semi-completed product cannot help but exhibit imperfections of workmanship and some haste. My mobile home leaves much to be desired. But it stands and it shelters me, and gives every promise of lasting a good

many years. Moreover, its completion frees me from that weary pattern of expensive homelessness I was in. Spastayen gives me at last some sense of permanence and security, without compromising my necessarily-mobile quest for land (on which, and with people among whom, I can feel at peace).

To date, the project has cost me about 2 1/2 months' steady work and about \$500. This is well under the equivalent of one year's rent for the shabby apartments I am used to living in. I have little doubt that my mobile home can be made quite as comfortable as those apartments, for under \$1,000. An experienced builder could doubtless do it for less. By next Fall I hope to have it completed and comfortable, and should need arise I can easily add collapsible and disposable wings to it.

Meaning

It is not easy to describe what it meant to me to close off the roof and move in. Here at last was a shelter and a room that was truly my own, from which I need not plan on moving and taking my belongings. It was my 33rd move, and I hope I shall not see my 34th for some time to come.

It was an arduous, demanding, educating, thrilling and deeply fulfilling experience. I have the satisfaction that I have in my own life participated in one of the oldest and most significant "dances" of Man. I have raised my own roof to the sky and have sheltered myself from the elements. And I have done so without selling my soul and body in bondage.

This, then, is finally my bit of Space to Stay In—and so I named it.

Theme of May Heathcote Conference Is "Homesteading, A Life Style For Today"

A May conference at Heathcote School of Living (Rt. 1, Freeland, Md.) is in charge of Sonnewald Homesteaders Grace and Tim Lefever. All who want to learn about and improve homesteading techniques should arrive Friday afternoon, May 17, for sessions through Sunday afternoon, the 19th. Cost: \$3 a day plus registration of \$2.

Practical Aspects Stressed

Friday evening, early arrivals will see the School of Living film of ten well-known homesteads (including, in Ohio, the Smarts' Sycamore Hollow and Loomises' Lane's End; Ragged Mt. Farm in Virginia; and Sonnewald, the Rodale Organic Gardens and the Paul Keenes' Walnut Acres in Pennsylvania).

The women will give Saturday morning to milling and baking of bread, sprouting, meal planning and food preparation. The men's projects include repair and maintenance, plumbing and electric installation, and composting.

Assisting will be Jane Preston and Alice Greenawalt in food preparation and yogurt making. Mrs. Greenawalt will also share sewing hints for homesteaders. A. P. Thomson of Golden Acres Orchard has been invited to supervise compost-making.

Saturday afternoon all will share work and fellowship in the Heathcote garden. Questions and discussions are planned for that evening, along with still and movie pictures of gardens and homesteads. (Those attending are

urged to bring their own for this showing.) The evening will conclude with folk singing and dancing.

Relationships and Philosophy

Sunday morning, the group will hear a tape by Mildred Loomis on "Why Homestead?" (with attention to some of the social and personal implications of this way of life).

Don West, director of the Pipestem (Tenn.) Folk Center and editor of *Appalachian South*, has

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IFI Plans Projects In United States

Staff and officers of IFI, international low-credit agency just getting under way to assist farmers and primary producers, is developing plans for pilot projects in the United States. Robert Swann, field director, has outlined a plan for community development and housing for the National Sharecropper's Fund. Ralph Borsodi, founder of IFI, has worked out plans for assistance in cities where summer riots and breakdowns are feared. With Newark, N. J., as a possible setting, his plan includes land purchases, self-help or "sweat-equity" in housing, IFI debenture circulation, etc.

Significant Aspects

In several ways, credit granted by IFI is similar to that of the

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Youth's Yearning For Life and Love: Two Plan Their Own Wedding Ceremony



John and Lynn and Art Jackson (Humanist)

John and Lynn Hill. Antioch College students with co-op jobs in a Dayton school and hospital (Antioch has an alternating work and study plan), typify a trend for significant living. They say: "We tried to put into our marriage ceremony some evidence of all our joys and values. We were married in Antioch's Glen Helen, so we had the outdoors, trees, us, friends, little children, our Humanist counselor. We wrote our own vows and ritual: Lynn made the shirt and dress; the cake and the food were home-made. Our friends held hands encircling us. The enter and exit music was from certain good rock groups we had taped. We even made our own rings. The leis in the picture are royal ones from Hawaii, which John's brother brought."

At one point in the ceremony

Lynn said, "So many times we've asked ourselves and each other: What does marriage mean? It is not willed by strange, mystical forces. It is not something that can be defined absolutely. John and I believe it is created by two people who take responsibility for each other. Marriage becomes a dynamic process for the two people who choose to develop from it an ever-renewing, ever-growing life."

And at one point John said, "We shall never stop changing, never stop growing and taking on new values, friends and ideals. We choose the strength and beauty we find in each other as the basis from which this change can occur."

They say: "For us it was very meaningful and relatively inexpensive."

Free Press, cont'd

men in the army are shown to be decent, scared kids—who haven't learned of available alternatives. Many say, "I'm as against the war as those who demonstrated in Washington; I'm uptight; but I guess I'll go when my orders come." Others say, "I know what I'll do when my orders come. If you hear from me, it'll be from jail, not Vietnam." In Chicago, in two years, 659 drafted men failed to report for induction.

LNS lists "recent" defense contracts issued by the Pentagon to American firms. Most readers will find some of this "big time murder" in their home towns.

Yippies

Plans for a Youth International Party (YIP) "Festival of Life" have recently been featured. It would be held in August, in Chicago, during the Democratic National Convention (called the Death Convention). It is predicted up to 200,000 young people will descend on Chicago for conferring, singing, dancing, "theater" dramatizing and protesting today's dilemma.

Results

Only bits from the 500 pages of releases can be reported here. (Send for a release from LNS, 3 Thomas Circle, N. W., Washington, D. C.)

What does the rebellion of youth and their free press add up to? Many an adult, less pressured by the war, says, "Youth should be more constructive. Rebellion is not enough. They should promote . . . (the speaker's particular idea)."

But rebellion is understandable. Young people say, "Either the war is right, in which case we should help fight it, or it is wrong, and then we must do all in our power to stop it." Many take this last position and get into all the anti-war activities they can. And they see the relative non-involvement of parents, teachers and adults generally. Their annoyance and frustration grows against all "business as

usual attitudes: their energies are turned against adult activities and social institutions. To their disgust and fear there is added a hopelessness of living a decent life in this society. It's a wonder they have enough hope and goodwill and enthusiasm left to plan and carry through such enterprises as the "Festival of Life" in Chicago.

The Green Revolution

Of course we would like to see thousands of today's rebels turn to and foster the green revolution. That could happen. And green revolutioners could become more responsive, more outreaching to today's rebels. LNS has reprinted "Wanted—Decentralism" from *Modern Utopian*. They have asked us for an evaluation of the proposed festival in Chicago.

We approve, provided they "squat on unused land" and otherwise live by their own (not other peoples') resources. We suggest they dramatize the whole, unethical system of absentee ownership of land.

Cheering word comes from 22-year-old Ray Mungo of LNS: "You may be pleased to know that Wayne Hansen, editor of *The Avatar* (Boston) will be urging his many YIP-style readers to go to the land this August, to retake the country rather than bother with LBJ. He and I sat for hours outlining the editorial call over cups of cold coffee in the Harvard Square Hayes-Bickford."

Wonderful! *Avatar* readers are just the ones to help add L-A-N-D to commonly used four-letter words! They can help start a nation-wide "squat-in," to dramatize the "land problem."

Still further, in today's mail comes two journals, *The Changes* (Glen Ellen, Calif.) and *Illustrated Paper* (Mendocino, Calif.), both slanted to rebel readers and both promoting country life and decentralism.

Let's have more and more of all this!

Theme, cont'd

been invited to also share his vision and efforts to revive culture, security and independence in his area.

Sunday afternoon, the whole group will plant a fruit tree by the famous White Method (which has brought such a bountiful production of peaches and apples on Sonnewald Homestead). The tree will be a gift to Heathcote Center, and its planting a dedication of all participants to the practices and philosophy of the viable way of life we call homesteading.

Future Heathcote Conferences

Human Relations Training—June 15, 16, 17.

Youth Workbee and Discussion—July 27-Aug. 2.

School of Living Week—Aug. 3-10.

IFI Plans, cont'd

American Friends Service Committee (see article next month, "Rural Credit in Jordan"). Credit will be granted to pilot plants, the use and re-payment of the loans will be supervised by trained persons, and credit is granted in the context of a larger, approved, community development plan. But IFI's plan is singularly different in that money loaned is based on and backed by actual goods. The standard of value for IFI money is a "commodity basket" of staple goods; the "money" actually consists of warehouse receipts; interest can be paid in goods; any investor who wishes can redeem his debentures (bonds) in goods. This constitutes a non-inflationary aspect.

Position Papers

Borsodi is also writing a series of papers explaining the philosophy and practice of this new credit-money system, for the International Independence Institute (the teaching and training arm of the loaning foundation). The address is 163 Water St., Exeter, N. H.

Plans, cont'd

might survive in the Southern Hemisphere, only to repeat the whole exciting and ghastly cycle, unless enough of the survivors were whole and rounded enough to treasure the knowledge gained during the last 30 years about our biological nature and tried to live reasonably within this framework.

The less we understand about our own instincts, the more we are their victims, especially when we live in societies above tribal size. We can see today how people who grew up believing that sexual instincts were wicked were relieved by the Freudian revelation of their absolutely basic importance. But many still feel guilty about aggressive feelings, possessive feelings, racial feelings and their desire to move up the social ladder.

Six Basic Instincts

The path of progress lies, I believe, in encouraging our better instincts and harmlessly diverting others, not pretending that they don't exist. In addition to food, love and sex, we should now recognize more clearly three other basic needs of human beings and other animals: security, identity and stimulation.

I hope that an intentional rural society in New Zealand (of 10 to 40 families) will provide security through each family owning a dwelling and a little land, the group as a whole owning land cooperatively, living in a rural area, and above all by the presence of convivial company.

This group should provide identity by giving a sense of purpose and belonging. Is there anything wrong with a "pecking order" if it is changeable and those near the top genuinely encourage the younger and less gifted ones to advance and even overtake? Finally, it should provide stimulation and prevent boredom by convivial company and by the spur to constantly re-examine and perhaps even defend their standards and priority of values.

What Does Homesteading Mean For Us? (Part V)—Our Drainage Problem: First We Got Experience By Doing the Wrong Things

By Carl Ogren
Rt. 3, Paw Paw, Mich.

[Editor's Note: The Ogren 100-acre farm had several water-logged spots. Their land drainage problem is presented in three parts.]

June grew up right next door. Her father farmed all thru the thirties, until with the dislocations of the early war years he gave up his livestock. I grew up on farms or lived on the edge of small villages, both around here and up north. So we both can say with truth that we have country, or farm, "backgrounds." Yet we had so much to learn—and still do for that matter. Take the simple (?) matter of land drainage.

Any agricultural text will detail the "technical" explanations why good drainage of excess water is essential to crop growth. The old-time farmer understood instinctively (or in his "common sense" way) how absolutely essential it was not to have excess water laying around very long on your crop soils. The traditional and obvious answer? Drainage, of course. How? Tiles or open ditches.

They both work fine, but either system represents a very considerable investment of money or labor time (or both).

Big vs. Little Operators

The big fellow takes this right in stride. He has a large operating budget (or a substantial outside income to finance his farming), and he simply allocates the required annual amount to amortize the cost in a reasonable period. No sweat, no strain.

The little fellow can't do this. It doesn't take many major improvements to strain his capacity for meeting money payments. So he spreads his major improvements over a lifetime, because he has to pay one thing off before he can take another financial dive. Strange as it may seem, there is one terrific advantage in this way of going about it: he has time to think and experiment around a bit. This was the case with us: only it took about 14 years to wake up and realize what was happening.

Think Big!

And I might just as well state clearly right here was what was happening. All my life (without me really being aware of it, since I didn't think there was any other way) I had been taught to think BIG. Society teaches you this. If you're going to make any money at the business of farming, you've got to be BIG. Practically everybody knows this, even all the suburban Joe's who know nothing at all about farming; they still know you've got to be big to make any money at it.

And right along with this, all your farming problems have got a ready-made, industrial-type solution which everyone (including all the suburban Joe's) knows about and believes in. Industry will sell you the equipment you need to apply these industrial-type solutions (they are real obliging about this).

Of course it costs money, more than you can scrape up if you clean out every last pocket. But our progress-saturated society has got the answer to this one too. Financial institutions will provide the money for you; it's all very simple and painless. There is no need for you to do any thinking whatsoever at any point in this process. All that has been done for you by professionals.

But we didn't come off so bad on this one. Some of us otherwise normal people enjoy doing some of our own thinking, occasionally at least. And this is what we eventually got to do with our drainage problem, after making several false starts while I was letting the business farmers and the Ag. specialists do my thinking for me. A new subsoiler cost us just under a hundred dollars, that's true, and a used (and home-made) bulldozer cost us just under \$500—as we began to move on our own—but that's dirt cheap as these things go in the modern

world.

Manure and Humus

We had done a lot of talking about this drainage bit over the years. When the bulldozer approach didn't work for us, June took the bull by the horns. She had our son unload one trailer load of manure (1 1/4 tons) in a particular place. We had kicked the idea around from time to time, but her resolve brought some action into the picture. And thus we began our emancipation from think BIG.

We were thinking in family-style homesteading terms. Our solution to the drainage problem required no additions to our equipment, and hence no trip to the financiers. No wait either. We started right in with what we already had at hand.

And now that we've told the story behind the story, we can talk about our homesteading approach to the drainage problem, next time.

Letters, cont'd

the men. Only in the backward countries, where there is no real medical care in childbirth, do the fathers continue to outlive two or three wives, as they did in American pioneer days. Any old graveyard will yield evidence about the dangers of childbirth. Even if neither mother nor child dies, but is only disabled for life, how much anguish will be suffered.

Homesteaders who plan to have their babies at home should at least be able to get medical help quickly if it is needed. — Esther Landau, 532 Maryland Prospect, Pa.

Wants Organic Foods

To the Editor:

I subscribed to *The Green Revolution* mid-1967. Since then I've been trying to beg, borrow or buy as many back issues as I could lay my hands on. In the September 1964 issue there was a remarkably interesting article by June Burn on Southern Handcrafters. From it we got a good source of dried apples. We ask now if there are other green revolutioners in the country who would be willing to sell organic foods to our co-op. The smallness of the producer makes no difference; we would buy what they have. Most of our members are in serious need—with some degenerative disease. We supply their needs as close to cost as possible. All but one of our 10 employees is a volunteer.—A. N. Ivanich, Organic Foods Co-operative, 1728 University Ave., Berkeley 3, Calif.

[Editor's Note: This co-op carries an unusually complete line of foods.]

Large Order

To the Editor:

In the underground weekly, *Open City*, I see this ad: "I am looking for the answer to the Universe, God, Mankind and Myself. Send any information to . . ." I think our School of Living should interest him. — M. B., Bronx, N. Y.

Frobenius and McLuhan

To the Editor:

McLuhan says we're moving from a visually-oriented culture to an audio-tactile one. In *The Gutenberg Galaxy* he tries to make a distinction between the oral and written tradition, the importance of mime, a distinction made very forcefully by Frobenius. Of course Frobenius backs up any writer who knows that the world is ceasing to dance to the tune drummed up long ago. That is, he said we were moving from a mechanical to an intuitive culture, and studied Africa to gain insight into these matters. McLuhan is interested in primitives for the same reason. As he says, an audio-tactile culture would be tribal. . . . What with the air, water, food, my wife and I feel half-poisoned and do enjoy *The Green Revolution* and *A Wax Out*. — Ralph Reid, Berwyn, Pa.