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Caution on Home Delivery

Esther Landau

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Flight From The City

By Ralph Borsodi (first published 1932)

A decent sewage-disposal system is unquestionably one of the essentials of a civilized existence. I can see nothing charming in the way in which this problem is handled by savages in a so-called state of nature. and the way in which it is handled in most country homes today, with uncomfortable and sometimes unsanitary out-houses, seems to me but little better. When we began to study this problem, we found, as we had with so many others, that the benefits of a modern sewage-disposal system could be enjoyed in the country without the expense of paying for maintaining the sewers and sewage-disposal plants for the operation of which city dwellers pay such an unconscionable sum. Looked at from its broadest standpoint, the system generally used today involves a shocking waste of the nation's soil resources. It is no exaggeration of the actual situation to say that we are now taking up organic material from the soil, converting it into foodstuffs, and then destroying that organic matter irretrievably with fire and chemicals in the sewage disposal plants of our cities.

In studying this problem, we became aware of the fact that we had, in comon with others who enjoyed the benefits of city life, paid for sewage disposal even though we had been unaware of the fact. Unless the city man happens to own his home—and the vast majority do not—he has no direct knowledge of what taxes are paid for. All he knows is that he pays rent. The fact that part of his rent really pays for running water, for sewage, garbage and ash disposal, is hardly realized by him, just as when he lives in an apartment he forgets that another substantial part of his rent really pays for heat, hot water, janitor service and all the conveniences of his apartment. What we discovered was that we could have practically every service of this sort essential to our comfort, without having to pay a premium price for them.

A simple and inexpensive septic tank, with a drainage tile system to dispose of the overflow from the tank, is all that is needed in order not only to dodge the heavy cost of sewage disposal in the city, but for converting the waste into a contribution to soil fertility. What is taken from the soil is then returned. After we installed such a system on our place in the country, the sewage problem vanished for us.

Hot water, and plenty of it, is necessary to comfort by present standards of living. In the apartment houses in which we used to live we secured our supply from hot-water taps in seemingly unlimited quantities. We were determined to solve the problem of producing it for ourselves with practically no labor and at a lower cost than we had paid for it in the city—concealed inside the rent we had paid each month.

It is almost impossible to be clean without a plentiful supply of really hot water. For dish-washing, water which is merely lukewarm is an irritation rather than a comfort. Yet in spite of the fact that plenty of hot water is essential to comfort, millions of homes in America still depend upon such primitive methods as teakettles and side-arm-stove heaters for their supply of hot water.

The teakettle, we found, furnishes some really hot water, if the fire under it is always a brisk one. But the quantity which can be heated is hardly enough for the needs of the kitchen alone. And of course it requires dozens of trips back and forth filling the teakettle with water and emptying the hot water into a vessel in which it is to be used. The labor and strength involved in making these trips may seem trifling, but repeated dozens of times daily, it totals up to a surprising amount of time and a considerable amount of fatigue, for neither of which there is any real necessity. Modern offices and factories are efficient just in proportion to the extent to which they eliminate all such wastes of time and strength. There is no reason why our homes should be run at lower standards of efficiency. And such efficiency pays in dollars as well as happiness.

Every bit of time and strength saved from unnecessary labor—especially non-creative labor such as that involved in cleaning, carrying water, washing, and similar work—frees an equivalent amount of time and strength for productive and creative work. Some of Mrs. Borsodi's friends wonder how she, even with the assistance of servants, gets the time to do the quantities of cooking, baking, preserving, sewing and even weaving which go on in her home. By using labor-saving appliances and machines to eliminate as much nonproductive work as possible, time is saved which can be used to produce these things. An investment in an efficient water-heating system, for instance, which eliminates the non-productive work of carrying water back and forth, pays for itself over and over again by what it enables the family to save in making things which it would otherwise have to buy. It is for this reason that the teakettle method of producing hot water seems to us as obsolete as the Dutch oven. It doesn't pay. It not only is unequal to the requirements for hot water bathing; it makes a supplementary method of heating absolutely essential for laundering. And we have found doing our own laundry at home is one of the easiest ways in which to pay for an efficient system of hot-water heating.

We started to get away from the tyranny of the teakettle with a small coal heater in the cellar. Water was piped from it to a storage tank, and from the tank to the various hot-water faucets. This was an inexpensive installation, and furnished a good supply of hot water without too much expense. The fire, however, had to be attended to several times each day and the ashes carried out periodically.

In an effort to get rid of this labor we installed a kerosene heater. The first one we tried was wickless. Our kerosene was evidently not clean enough for this type of heater, and the burners frequently crusted, thus interfering with its efficiency as well as creating an unpleasant cleaning job. True, we had a plentiful supply of hot water; the cost, however, was a little higher than coal, and we still had the unpleasant chore of filling the oil-reservoir daily and cleaning the heater occasionally.

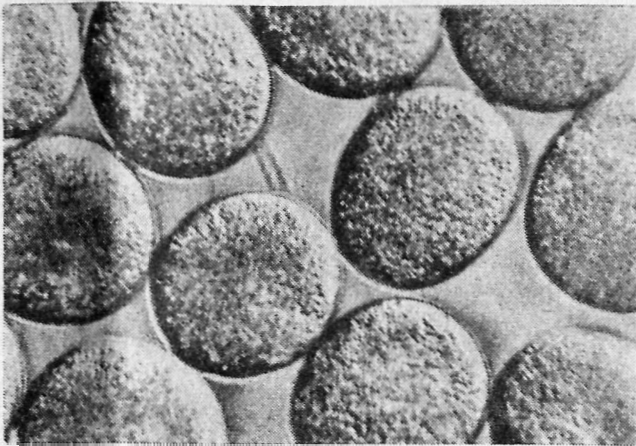
Next we tried a kerosene heater with wicks. This proved an improvement in one respect only—if we changed the wicks frequently enough we avoided the unpleasant cleaning job with which we had to struggle before. We still had the daily filling of the oil-tank on our hands—so the job was still by no means automatic.

Finally we decided to go in for a completely automatic installation. A very low rate permitted us to install an electric heater on an off-peak rate. Where the power company has established such a rate, this type of heater is economical and efficient, and it requires no attention whatever. The off-peak rate is still a new idea: in many cases completely automatic hot water can be most inexpensively secured with gas. In country homes not reached by the mains of a gas company, portable gas-tanks can be used and while the cost is higher, it is still, in our judgment, not so different from ordinary

gas as to warrant some of the methods which we discarded.

Our experiments with the various methods of heating water, as with other domestic appliances, have thoroughly convinced us that the investment and cost of maintaining the most efficient means for furnishing the home with utilities and comforts are quite within the income limitations of most families in this country. It may not be possible to install all these comforts in the very beginning, any more than we were able to, but they are distinctly economical if the time which they save is used for productive work in reducing and eliminating butcher, baker, grocer, and clothier bills.

(continued next month)



Pollen Magnified Under Microscope

Pollen—A Great Benefit To Man?

Pollen is the male sex cell in plants. Bees have been collecting from flowers and feeding their young this yellow powder for millenia. Now many doctors (4,000 in Sweden alone) are prescribing pure pollen extract to patients. Astonishing medical cures are being reported, in encephalitis, prostatitis, hepatitis, bronchitis and sclerosis.

The *Scandinavian Times* (news magazine) for Feb. 1967 carries a fascinating story on Gosta Carlsson, founder and head of A. B. Cernelle pharmaceutical firm, which has collected 90,000 lbs. of pollen, worth some \$80 million.

Pollen consists of a hard, impermeable shell, which contains the secret of life in its cell nucleus (DNA and RNA). DNA determines the shape and development of all living creatures, and RNA and DNA molecules determine the function of all living cells.

The Pollen King

When Gosta Carlsson was five years old he was stung by a bee. His father calmed the crying boy and led him to the hives to explain the wonder of bees. And Gosta was "bitten" with bees. By the time he was 18, he had read everything he could find on the subject, and owned more than 2 million bees. He read that pollen was in the ancient Vikings' ambrosia, and that 200 people in the USSR (all over 100 years old) regularly ate pollen in combs drained of honey. So young Carlsson collected some pollen—a difficult task—and ate it on his morning cereal. But he felt it made him strong. He also fed pollen to some of his bees in the spring, and they grew stronger and tripled their output in a year.

After five years' work Carlsson had invented a pollen collecting machine. After many trials, in 1952 the world's first successful pollen harvester brought in 1,300 lbs., worth about \$200,000. But tragedy struck, fire destroying both the treasure and the machine. By 1953 another ma-

chine, and a new harvest of 1,800 lbs. of pollen were ready for scientists to view.

The Cerenelle Co. expanded, and an extracting method was discovered—to remove the pollen grains from the husk, and reduce the complex contents, which contain 21 amino acids, sterols, growth hormones, water-soluble vitamins, etc. Soon he was selling pills and tonic. Today 10 pollen harvesters, 70 persons and Carlsson produce more than 100 million pollen tablets a year.

Despite Carlsson's amazing \$80 million pollen treasure, he lives the simple life, and he eats pollen daily.

Letters To The Editor

Land Available

To the Editor:

We have 30 acres that may be made available for a homesteading group near Eastern Shore, Va. Soil is good, food is cheap nearby, water for boating and bathing is five minutes away by car. Land cost is low, and surface clay pits can be used for building quite cheaply and durably. Clams, fish and vegetables are plentiful. Local people are friendly; they seem to have no "keeping up with the Joneses." I love it myself and hope to retire there after a year of travel. I'm collecting facts and experiences on low cost homes for a book on the subject. I would like to know of any homesteading cooperatives.—J. Locanthy, Watch Hill Rd., Peekskill, N. Y. 10566

* * *

To the Editor:

We have a large house and 2½ acres, and a big garden. A couple of 10 or 16 year olds could live with us. We are not the kind to take advantage of others. We have pets (birds, dogs) and pear, pecan and holly trees. We would buy more land if we had someone to share with us.—Mrs. William S. McVay, Box 569, Vernon, Fla. 32462.

* * *

To the Editor:

Though we have approximately 200 acres of clear, excellent farm land, we are using only 20 for corn and a small vegetable garden. This land would be available for homesteaders on flexible terms, rental, sale, or other conditions deemed practical. We would consider the services of a couple for caretaking. There are several buildings available for dwellings; streams, with lots of water; some forest; easy access to main roads to Liberty, N. Y.—Robert Blum, Ferndale, N. Y.

Caution on Home Delivery

To the Editor:

Rebecca and Ferdi Knoess were both brave and fortunate when their son was born at home. But I feel I must disagree with the implied idea that homesteaders can safely plan to handle their own childbirth problems. It's true that in perhaps 95% of the births

THE GREEN REVOLUTION — 3

April, 1968

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 should accompany order.

Deadline: 20th of preceding month (for example: April 20 for May issue).

Send ads to: School of Living, Brookville, Ohio 45309.

THREE COUPLES AND A BACHELOR want to live in a rural neighborhood in an uncongested area, within 15 miles of a good-sized town. Who can offer land, or sell it to us at cut-rate price? One couple wants to work with deaf-blind persons.—Bob Fulton, 1915 Missoula Ave., Missoula, Mont.

WE NEED help, advice, books, people in getting to the land. We'd work with other homesteaders or communities until we got the hang of it. Any such in Arkansas—J. A. North, 4132 N. Drake, Chicago, Ill. 60618

WANTED: printer, writers, news, staff, office equipment, money, criticisms, suggestions, and love. Liberation News Service, 3 Thomas Circle, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20005

ENJOY CARIBBEAN ISLAND—in new, comfortable guest house near the sea. (12 rooms available) Discount to homesteaders answering this ad. "TAMARINDE" Guest House, Point Blanche, St. Maarten, Neth. Antilles.

WANTED: single person or couple to assist with gardening; residence in comfortable trailer; prefer retired couple.—Grace Lefever, Sonnenwald Homestead, Spring Grove, Pa.

WANT TO PURCHASE completed homestead for family of six, with access to organically grown food or a farm equipped to grow organic fruits and vegetables on east coast of southern Florida within commuting distance of Jewish Center and college or university.—Sidney Gotlieb, 67-47 Harrow St., Forest Hills 75, N. Y.

LET US FIND the out-of-print book you want. Any subject, no obligation. Send author and title to Jayar Books, 4401-L Broadway, Chicago, Ill. 60640.

WANTED: female partner (19 to 35 years), no children, for a going homestead and craft studio. Some art training desirable but not essential. Mild climate, organic fruits and vegetables. Vaki Studios, Fauquier, E. C., Canada.

THE EARLY AMERICAN, bi-monthly on homesteading, back-to-the-land and the simple life. 50c a year. Oxford, N. Y.

ANCIENT WISDOM AND DIETS UNVEILED—vital message for young and old, leading to better health, longevity and disease prevention, \$1. Dr. N. S. Hanoka, 507 E. 27th Terrace, Kansas City, Mo. 64108

MASS MEDIA—directory of 100 plus radical publications, all shades, 50c. P. McAlpine, 1304 Geddes, Ann Arbor, Mich. m(1)2-68

ORGANIC GROWN, spray free, vegetable and flower plants. Donna Caton, 5630 S. Scarff Road, New Carlisle, O. (ph. 845-8689). c(2)-68

BUILD YOUR OWN FREEDOM! Save many days' research on all aspects of organizing a homestead or retreat from the coercive rat race. The Retreater's Bibliography is the result of over 2000 hours of research and contains more than 300 detailed listings on sources of information and materials essential to you. Send \$9.50 for your bound copy to: Atlantis Enterprises Ltd., 5020 El Verano, Los Angeles, Calif. 90041. a(2)-68

INTERESTED IN SIMPLE LIVING Read our manuals. Wildcrafters World No. 61, \$1; STP No. 59, 25c. Wildcrafters Publications, GR 3, Box 118, Rockville, Ind. 47872. w(3)4-68

LOOK AHEAD! Candidates should register for new Intentional Communities. Write for application and 35-page book, Intentional Community Concepts, \$1. Colonists of all ages, skills, interests sought. Emphasis on fellowship, voluntary association, survival, health, country life, self-help, realistic education U.S.A. and Latin America.—Questers Project, Box N-13, Los Banos, Calif. 93635. q(2)-68

TEN ACRE campsite reserved for flower people. \$500. Wm. Earwood, Rt. 1, New Lexington, O. 43764 (1-68)

A FEW remaining lots available in May Valley Cooperative Community—inter-racial, cooperative, single-family homes. So-called "profits" are returned to lot holders (\$200 to \$1300 per lot, so far). 27 acres of park, playground and orchard for common use. Write John Affolter, 10208 147th, S. E., Renton, Wash. 98055 (1-68)

FREE ARTICLE: Every year hundreds of thousands of Southern rural poor move to Northern city slums. Farm co-ops can help them to stay on their farms and become independent. For more information, send for THE GREAT MIGRATION, from National Sharecroppers Fund, Inc., 112 East 10th St., New York, N. Y. 10003. (1-68)

VIETNAM! VIETNAM! by Felix Greene, 175 pp., \$2.25. LET THERE BE A WORLD by Felix Greene, 64 pp., 75c. CHILDREN OF VIETNAM by Wm. Pepper, 20c. Marion Wilheim, 97-28 130th St., Richmond Hill, N. Y. 11419. (1-68)

WALNUT ACRES puts its soul into its work—the supplying of whole, naturally-raised, carefully-processed, poison-free foods of all kinds. A highly significant, land-based group venture. Please send for free mailorder price list. Walnut Acres, Penns Creek, Pa. 17862 wa(12-67)11-68

COLLECTOR'S ITEM—Summer 1967 issue of *A Way Out*. Don't miss it! 60 pages of vital, voluntary, anarchist, libertarian economics. This is the definitive issue on a free—really free—system. You'll not find another journal in this country—or in the world—with the point of view, the data, and the program in this combined (May-June, July-August) issue of *A Way Out*. Supply is limited. Get yours now. \$1 a copy from School of Living, Brookville, Ohio 45309. (1-67)

HEALTH REJUVENATION. Resting. Fastening. Vacationing. Reducing. Retiring. Beautifying. Grounds. Pool. Boats. Beaches. Solariums. Delightful natural foods. Health lectures. Reasonable rates. Cooperative employment available. Free brochure. SHANGRI-LA HEALTH RESORT (GR), Bonita Springs, Fla. 33923. (7-67)

Poems for a Green Revolution—60 gems of insight and feeling by C. S. Dawson. Three groups: some depict the ugliness of our artificial world; some the beauty of the natural world; some decentralist life and living. Product of new School of Living Press. \$1. Order from Heathcote Center, Rt. 1, Box 129, Freeland, Md. (5-67)

THE OWNER-BUILT HOME is now completed. Volumes I, II, III, IV are available (\$2 for each volume) from Ken Kern, Sierra Route, Oakhurst, Calif.

the process will be simple and uncomplicated, and go well. But there is always the possibility of complications. No one can predict when trouble will develop—the mother of three can die with her fourth, the first child can be in the wrong position, with the cord around its neck in addition.

It's well known that in all advanced countries women outlive (continued on page 4)

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 waterlogged 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 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 (1¼ 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 Way Out*. — Ralph Reid, Berwyn, Pa.