

SCHOOL OF LIVING
RD 7, Box 388
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September 25, 1985

To: GREEN REVOLUTION Subscribers
SCHOOL OF LIVING Members and Friends

For the past several months we have been working on getting our mailing list updated, and we are attempting to verify our membership and subscription lists. We would like your help in this and ask that you check the mailing label on this letter. Please let us know:

- (1) whether or not your name is spelled correctly.
- (2) if your address and zip code are correct, and
- (3) when you last renewed your membership or subscription; the date code next to your name on the mailing label shows the renewal date which we have on our records. If that date is incorrect, or if no date appears, please send us the correct information. If you are a member, the code should contain the letters "M", "LM" or "LLM" (the latter two codes represent "life member" categories). Also, if you have been receiving duplicate copies of our mailings or know of someone who should be receiving them and isn't, that information would be helpful.

The School of Living has been known for years as "a voice for Decentralism". It seems that for a long time it was just about the only voice; now, happily, there are many voices, and more being heard every day. The School of Living remains a part of this chorus - a voice with its own particular timbre. But The School of Living is more than a voice; its heritage of more than fifty years is one factor which defines its unique role. Since its founder, Ralph Borsodi was, first and foremost, an economist, it was natural that the School of Living should evolve with a major focus on economic reform, guiding people to information and ideas which might begin to manifest a new reality of economic justice. The School of Living has gone through many changes, good times and bad; it has seen times of high energy and times when its very survival was in doubt. The last few years have been a time of trial; a time in which the work of the School became but a trickle, and but for the tireless devotion of Mildred Loomis with the help of a few friends and passers-by, it might have stopped completely. Fortunately, the past two years have seen renewed interest in the School of Living accompanying the surge towards Decentralism; old stalwarts have found new zeal and new recruits have come forth to form a core group ready to carry on the work.

We're getting our house in order administratively, organizing our resources and preparing to become a significant force in the crucial times of change just ahead. What our role shall be and how it shall be carried out is a question which will require input from all of our members and friends. We need first to take stock and address the questions of (1) what is the School of Living now and, (2) what shall it become? As a first attempt to answer the first of these I might offer the following: the School of Living is (1) A core group of people dedicated to carrying on the work of Ralph Borsodi and Mildred Loomis and acting as coalition builders, (2) A unique library consisting of decentralist, anarchist, libertarian and alternative economic literature, (3) A nexus, with a known identity, in the network of social transformation which connects decentralists, anarchists, libertarians, egalitarians, humanitarians, ecologists and all lovers of life, (4) A collecting point for diverse periodicals and literature, (5) Custodian and archivist for the writings of Ralph Borsodi and Mildred Loomis, past issues of the Green Revolution and other pamphlets and publications.

So where do we go from here, and what is the School of Living to become? I think it has the potential to be several things but there is one that stands out in my mind. Kirkpatrick Sale, author of Human Scale, has proposed the formation of a Decentralist Center, the purpose of which would be

"to gather, sort, store and make available as large a body of decentralist material as possible; to encourage scholarly examination, use, development and dissemination of these materials and the generation of new works, both scholarly and popular; to provide a place for both resident and visiting scholars to carry on this work in a congenial and convenient setting; to republish old and out-of-print materials of current interest and publish new (or previously unpublished) manuscripts of merit, both articles and books; to provide a setting for seminars, meetings, conferences, lectures, and the like relating to the theme of Decentralism; and ultimately, to establish a solid body of support for the ideas of decentralism and disperse them as widely as possible in the nation and the world so that they may be heeded and adopted while the planet still breathes."

To a large extent, the School of Living has been such a center, and could be again, or it could act as founder and organizer for such a center, to be set-up perhaps as part of an established college or university. One development which supports this notion is the invitation which the School has received from the founders of New Hope Community in Kentucky to become its educational arm. New Hope is an exciting project which aims to implement and demonstrate many of the ideas and principles which the School of Living has been advocating. I hesitate to mention at this point all the possibilities which come to mind in connection with such a union, but they are exciting. Over the next several months the Board will be deliberating on this and other possibilities relating to the future of the School and its mission. Your participation and help are invited.

Among the projects which we are immediately attempting to implement is the publication of Mildred Loomis' biography of Ralph Borsodi entitled, Ralph Borsodi, Reshaping Modern Culture. The manuscript for this book is currently being edited and prepared for printing by George Yamada, editor of the Green Revolution. Since the School does not have the funds required to underwrite the publication, we are soliciting subscriptions in advance of publication. Please send \$12.50 to reserve your copy of this important book.

Please take a moment to fill out the enclosed form and return it to us. If your membership has expired, please remit your dues; if your subscription has not been paid for, please send payment; if possible, send us your check to reserve your copy of the Borsodi biography. We look forward to an exciting future for the School of Living and appreciate your continued support.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I am yours sincerely,

Thomas H. Greco, Jr.
Clerk/Trustee