

Symposium salutes appropriate technology

Next week the Survival Center and SEARCH salute the "back to basics" concept with a two-day symposium on appropriate technology titled "Living Lightly." Scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday, the symposium will feature several speakers and information booths.

Survival Center director Janet Gillaspie says the goal of the symposium is to provide interested persons with information on how to live more environmentally sound lives.

The symposium will begin at 10 a.m. Wednesday with a panel discussion on "Altering Lifestyles." Panelists will be Bruce Walker from BRING, Bob Waite from Advocates for Bicycle Transportation and an energy conservation representative from the Eugene Water and Electric Board.

A 1:30 p.m. discussion will follow on "Building Neighborhoods." Panelists are Neil Murray, director of orientation at the University; Dan Goldrich, a University political science professor, and Eugene City councilmen Scott Lieullen and Jack Delay.

A "Maintaining Liveability" discussion is scheduled for 10 a.m. Thursday, featuring Maradel Gale, a University urban planning assistant professor; Ron Eachus and Cindy Wooten, representatives of U.S. Sen. Jim Weaver, and county commissioner Jerry Rust.

A 1:30 p.m. panel discussion on "State Catalyst for Community Development" will follow with state Rep. Nancie Fadeley, D-Eugene, state Sen. Ed Fadeley, D-Eugene, and a representative from Gov. Bob Straub's office.

All panel discussions will be in the EMU, room to be posted.

Tom Bender, editor of "Rain" magazine, will climax the symposium with a lecture at 7 p.m. Thursday in Room 167, EMU.

The information booths will be set up both days in Room 167, EMU. The booths will feature displays by several local and state organizations, including: Community Energy Bank, Advocates for Bicycle Transportation, Garbagios, Eugene Future Power Committee, People to Protect Agricultural Land, Cerro Gordo Association, Solar Research Center, Survival Center, Lane County Office of Appropriate Technology and BRING.

Food drying session set

Food drying as a way to preserve the life of a harvest will be the subject of a free workshop Feb. 21 at Guy Lee Elementary School, 755 W. Harlow Road, Springfield.

The workshop will begin at 7:30 p.m. and will feature food dryers,

instructions on how to build them, samples of dried fruits and vegetables and recipes for dried foods. It will be headed by Don Lindley, director of the Willamalane Community Gardens.

For more information, contact Lindley at 726-0621.

"Appropriate Technology reminds us that before we choose our tools and techniques we must choose our dreams and values, for some technologies serve them, while others make them unobtainable." **Tom Bender**



Lane County Office of Appropriate Technology
Public Service Building, 125 E. 8th Avenue,
Eugene, Oregon 97401 687-4552

Cerro Gordo folks plan to try

Can a town survive by itself?

Lots of people are into "doin' it yourself" on an individual or family basis, but how about doing it on a town basis? The idea is, of course, a long-range one, but it's being developed in a place called Cerro Gordo six miles east of Cottage Grove just north of Dorena Lake.

There's 120,000 acres of undeveloped woods out there owned by the Cerro Gordo Community Association. Members in this association are planning a town on their acreage and the rough outlines of this town are beginning to evolve.

The town is designed as a self-supporting community with a maximum of 2,500 members. The members will rely on themselves and each other as much as possible. They will work in the town, produce most of their own food and build most of their homes themselves. The natural setting will be maintained and commuting out of the community for work and/or recreation will be discouraged.

Cerro Gordo will not be your typical communal living arrangement. The members don't plan to group their families under one large roof, nor do they intend to cast their labor and profits into one pool of resources to be equally distributed.

Instead, the members plan to live primarily in single family units and will use the usual system of trade — money — among themselves.

Money, however, will not be the only unit of trade. Credit and bartering are already in use by the members as they begin building Cerro Gordo.

Cerro Gordo member Dale Van Metre says the association has an especially large credit system, mainly because it is short on money. Most members putting time and labor into the town are being paid with credit, which they will be able to use for "buying" goods and services in the community later on.

Van Metre's wife, Patty, estimates the association has raised about \$300,000 since its beginning in 1972. The money, she says, has come mostly from membership dues and investments.

Interested persons may join the association on two levels. Voting members pay an initial \$35 and monthly dues, depending on their ability to pay. Persons with just a general interest in Cerro Gordo, who do not wish to vote on association issues, pay only the initial \$35.

Members who actually plan to live in Cerro Gordo must join the Cerro Gordo Cooperative, which costs \$500. So far, 52 Cerro Gordo Association members have joined the co-op.

"Not everyone in the association can afford to live in Cerro Gordo in the next couple years," Van Metre explains. "Some people are just interested in the community, even though they may not be able to move there. Others just don't have the \$500 right now."

Co-op members plan to build some of their homes this summer and begin living in Cerro Gordo by the end of the year. To date, one house is under construction and several others are in the blueprint stage.

Most of Cerro Gordo buildings are being designed by Eugene architect Charles Howard and will feature solar energy, weatherization and other alternate energy forms such as wood burning stoves, although the town will be supplied with electricity.

"Most of the homes will be conventional homes and fairly expensive," Van Metre says. "I know a few members, however, that plan to build dome-shaped homes."

He estimates his own home will cost about \$45,000. Almost all construction will be done by Cerro Gordo members, including himself.

The homes will be set in clusters and the town's

center will resemble a village rather than a city, with buildings set close to each other with little or no motor vehicle transportation.

"We've been throwing around the idea of establishing a trolley system, although most transportation will be walking and bicycling," Van Metre says.

He adds that members will be able to own cars, although he forecasts few will. More likely, he figures, community cars will be available for carpooling.

Cerro Gordo members won't be completely out of touch with the outside world.

"We plan to be self supporting, not self sufficient," Van Metre explains. "Obviously, we won't be able to manufacture phonograph albums ourselves."

Van Metre also said Cerro Gordo hopes to establish some sort of industry and to export items out of the community as part of its self-supporting economy.

A high-powered community, Cerro Gordo will not be a collection of dropouts from California and rich hippies, Patty Van Metre stresses. So far, Cerro Gordo has attracted a wide range of age groups, although most members are in their late twenties. The occupational spectrum promises to be broad, too. Among the members are a chiropractor, a dentist and an electrician.

Many members, however, have abandoned their conventional careers. Van Metre, for example, discarded his life as an economics professor in Utah when he came to Cerro Gordo in 1973. Now, he participates in the building construction and heads the Community for Creative Development, the beginnings of Cerro Gordo's "college."

Cerro Gordo idea needs student help

Students interested in the Cerro Gordo Community near Cottage Grove may enroll in its "college," the Center for Creative Community.

The center currently operates only during the summer, although director Dale Van Metre says he hopes it will become a year-round college when the community is fully established.

The center had its first session last summer when its six students and eight staff members camped on the Cerro Gordo property for eight weeks and worked on the community's development.

This summer's session will be similar to the first one, although Van Metre says he hopes enrollment will at least double. Students will participate in several aspects of Cerro Gordo, including building construction, gardening and energy planning.

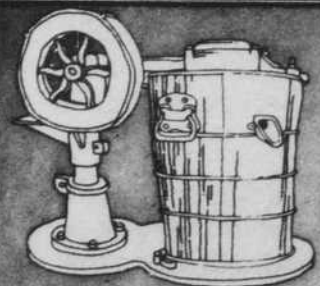
In addition, several seminars will be scheduled on various topics such as the history of utopian communities, town planning and Cerro Gordo's financial system.

Cerro Gordo is affiliated with Campus-Free College, which enables its students to receive up to 15 credits for their study. Van Metre says most students can apply the credit toward graduation at their home college, and the center will issue transcripts of work done. If students cannot apply the summer session at Cerro Gordo toward their graduation, Lane Community College will grant credit.

Admission is based on interest and educational background. Tuition for next summer's eight-week session is \$650, which includes room and board.

For information write: Cerro Gordo Center for Creative Community, P.O. Box 569, Cerro Gordo Ranch, Dorena Lake, Cottage Grove, Ore. 97424, 942-8986.

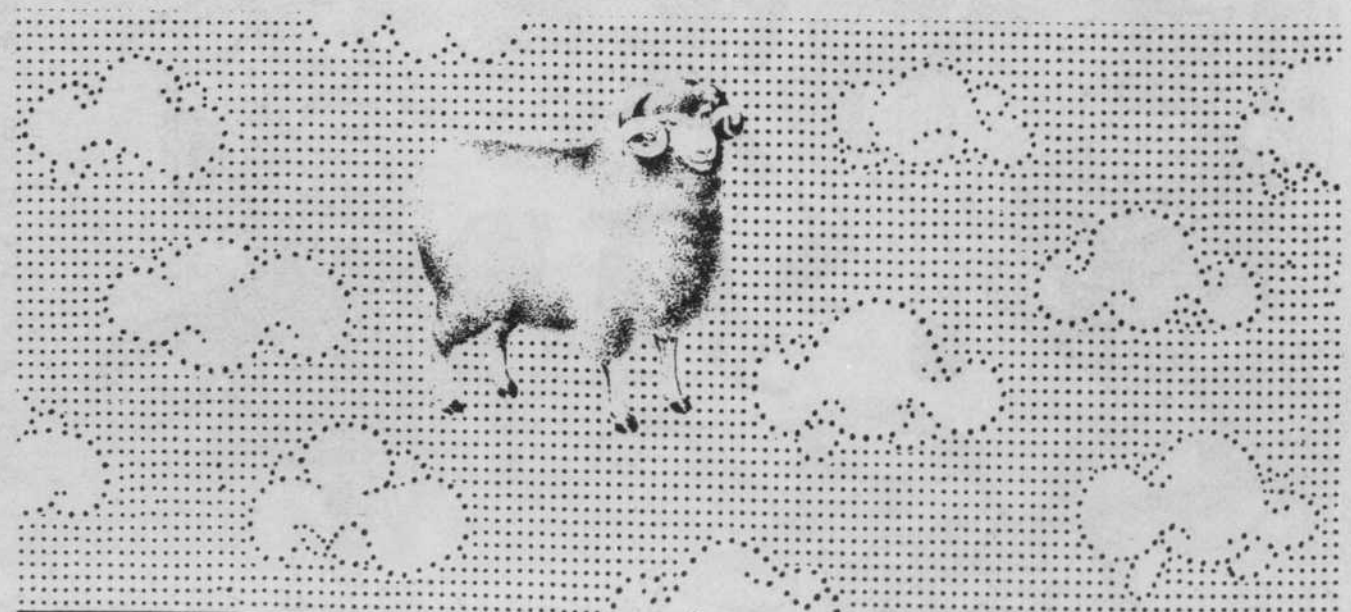
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Friday, February 3, 1978