

Money Ain't The Only Thing

RONA MORRIS WORKMAN
ROCKING W RANCH

Recently I heard a "city guy" make the remark that "it's just a waste of time and money to raise your own garden stuff." That idea wasn't original with him; I have heard it before, and even read something along that line in an article in Reader's Digest, but this time it set me a-thinkin'. It is possible that if you have to hire your ground worked up, buy fertilizer, and then hire a man to cultivate your garden crops, it is less expensive to trot to the nearest market for your lettuce and onions, or what-have-you. I cannot speak with authority as to this since I must admit that even when I lived in town and hired the preliminary work done, I did not figure this

cost too closely. I knew I would have my garden regardless, for to me the assets of a garden, like so many other things in life, cannot be figured on merely a money basis.

Of course a garden takes work, but swinging a hoe doesn't strain the muscles more than swinging a golf club. It may be less glamorous, but, in my case at least, is more satisfactory. In my garden I have something to show for my efforts besides three or four lost balls, a sense of futile fury, and a card that I don't care to exhibit in public. Furthermore, you can't lie about a garden as you can about your golf game, which helps keep the conscience clean.

It may be easier—if you have plenty of money, for which most of us have to work—to buy your "garden truck" in a grocery store—if they have it—but it is much more delightful to plant seeds,

watch them grow, then go into your garden and pull a head of lettuce, collect a few fresh green onions, a bunch of red radishes, crisp and cool, a tiny squash, to be sliced and dipped in egg and bread crumbs and fried to tempting crispness, or test the grains on the sweet corn until you find the ears that are exactly right, and certainly gathering ripe black boysen-berries from your own vines is far more fun than carrying them home in a little wooden box from the grocery store—about five to the box and thirty cents, please. O well, every man to his own way of thinking.

There are such a number of things that people would never do if they figured every thing according to money value. I have read that it costs folks in the average income class about sixteen thousand dollars to rear a child to eighteen years. That would figure out for the Big Boss and me a total of approximately Sixty-four thousand dollars. Figured merely on the basis of money, we have sunk that cash into something which will not pay us even one per cent interest, for our four are now busily accumulating a number of sixteen-thousand-dollar liabilities of their own, but figured in the terms of love and experience, of happiness and laughter and spiritual growth, we could have bought no other bonds paying so high a rate of interest.

It has also been explained to me by those who profess to understand the deep and blood-curdling secrets of finance, how it is much cheaper to rent the house you live in than to own your own home. If you rent, they say, your landlord has to pay for repairs, dig deep into his jeans for taxes and all the other money-takers, and you are free. Free for what? What will your so-called freedom give you that will equal the feel of your own bit of earth under your feet? Will it give you the privilege of planting your own roses in your own soil, of sitting by your own hearthstone, or making that house into a home where your children, and you can learn the security of ownership, or sinking the roots of your lives deep into the place where you are living? No. To make a home, a real home, there must be the feeling of ownership. You cannot build that intangible something into your dwelling place if you carry always within your mind the thought that you may be ejected in favor of someone who will pay a higher rental, or that you will be moving soon to a more convenient place, or one with a less cantankerous landlord. Better to pay taxes—you can always growl about them, to make your own repairs—those the landlord make never suit you anyway, and as for the other things that take money, well, you would spend it on something and perhaps on trifles that would give you far less pleasure, besides, you are paying the landlord's taxes and repair bills when you pay your rent. A landlord doesn't rent his house for love of humanity.

Money is something we need in the present condition of things, but, in spite of its having been made into a god before which people grovel, it cannot buy the real things of life, and at the present time it doesn't seem able to buy much of anything. Some of these days we, as a people, are going to see that our great Money-god has very wobbly clay feet and then maybe we will work out another system. To keep money on the throne and to make money to placate him, we must always create a scarcity. In a land so rich as ours, if we keep prices up, as we have to do in order to make money, food must be wasted or destroyed, valuable products hidden away and not utilized, there must be bad distribution, hunger and need, and thus people sell their birthright of plenty and security for a few dirty dollar bills, and then wonder why they have so little.

But who am I to meddle with such deep questions? I am only a woman who works in her garden, and sometimes dares think a little.

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Wiring Tips Helpful for Anticipated Extra Loads

(Note: The following article is presented by the West Oregon Electric Cooperative and The Eagle as a public service to consumers who are anticipating electric service or who are contemplating changes in their present wiring systems.)

"Many of you are adding new appliances these days and are going to be buying more electrical equipment comes on the market. This is a good time to check up on whether or not your present wiring job will handle safely and efficiently the extra load of all the equipment you are planning to add. You may need larger size wire, different circuit arrangements or additional convenience outlets. It may be possible that main service entrance to your farm is too small for your future loads. Your wiring contractor or your co-op wiring adviser can help you on these points.

"Here are some things to notice in laying out a revised home wiring system: Provide for a three-way switch by every doorway, enabling one to turn on the ceiling light as he enters the room and to turn it off as he leaves by another doorway; provide for heavy-duty outlets (240 volts) in the kitchen for the range and in the workroom for a water heater; provide a three-way switch on the back porch to control the porch light and the yard light so that both can be turned on and off for maximum safety and convenience; provide for sufficient convenience outlets in each room for efficient use of electricity. (It is estimated that 95 per cent of the electrified homes in the United States lack sufficient convenience outlets.)

"The barn and other farm buildings should be wired so as to aid in production of livestock and other farm products. Adequate light is essential because of the large amount of time spent in the barn during the early morning and late evenings. Place lights over dark stairways, hay mow ladders and alleyways to prevent accidents. Install vapor-proof fixtures in dusty feed rooms and haymows to prevent dust explosions.

"All outlets serving loads of ½ hp or more should be wired for 240 volts. If one large motor—such as a 5 hp—is to operate such machines as, your feed grinder, hay drier, ensilage cutter, or other heavy equipment, it is best to use a heavy-duty (portable) power cable and move the motor from one location to another on a cart. This eliminates the expense of several large power-outlet installations and makes the use of power equipment more flexible. "The water pump should be supplied with electricity from the yard pole, so that in case of fire anywhere on the farmstead, power

would be continuously available to operate the pump. It might be necessary to disconnect power to the house or barn in the event of fire.

"These are just a few tips on farmstead wiring. Your co-op has information on wiring and will be glad to advise you if you need help."

The worst marine disaster within American continental limits occurred April 27, 1865, when the Mississippi river steamboat Sultana's boiler exploded seven miles above Memphis. The dead totaled 1450, nearly all of them exchanged Union prisoners of war.

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