

# History Holds Key to Cheap Homes

## Put in New Claim for Merits Of Rammed Earth Buildings

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WASHINGTON.—Is there a solution of the low-cost housing problem as simple as the dirt under our feet? Have we been overlooking a bet, which Pliny said the Romans were overlooking, in the first century A. D. and to which most people have shut their eyes ever since?



Baukhage

Anthony F. Merrill says so and so does a convincing job of proving the contention in his book "The Rammed Earth House," which I have just read. It seems incredible!

It didn't seem incredible to Pliny who heapedly proclaimed that the Romans had, in Africa and Spain, "walls of earth."

They are "moulded rather than built," Pliny explains, "by enclosing earth within a frame of boards,

ing or my cooperation," says the secretary, "they may be assured of them both."

Rammed-earth, according to Merrill, is a term describing "both the material and the process of wall building by which earth is tamped into the shape of a wall or building block. In essence, a compressed block or section of earth will, when tamped, assume the shape of the form into which it is pressed and, when the moisture dries out, harden into a permanent shape suitable for use as a building material."

The reasons set forth by Merrill as to why, if this method of building is so good it has not been widely adopted, are logical: One—there's no money in it, except the money saved by the builder. Two—contrary to the impression among sellers of building materials, Merrill insists it would help rather than hurt their business. The man who builds a rammed-earth house can't afford any other kind. And he has to buy everything—floor, roofing, plumbing—everything in fact except the walls, which are free except for the cost of the forms and the tamping.

Merrill's thesis is that anyone willing to acquire the rudimentary



The old and new in rammed earth houses. Top panel shows modern structure at Claremont, Calif. Bottom shows church at Sumter, S. C., which has stood through more than a century.

constructed on either side. These walls will last for centuries, are proof against rain, wind and fire, and are superior in solidity to any cement. Even at this day (more than a century after Hannibal) Spain still holds watch-towers that were erected by Hannibal."

The idea of houses of earth is not incredible to Clinton P. Anderson, secretary of agriculture, who has written the preface to the book.

"If Tony Merrill and his rammed-earth builders want either my bless-

knowledge of building, can build a rammed-earth house himself with three bedrooms, spacious living, dining and cooking facilities and all plumbing and heating equipment for less than \$5,000. He can build as good or better a dwelling than most of the so-called defense homes, so widely used during the war, for \$3,000. And there are already modest cottages in a number of places which cost little more than a thousand dollars for two members of a family to build.

## Solons Have Laugh on Selves

When Bob Hope or Henry Morgenthau or even Senator Claghorn pokes fun at congressmen, that's supposed to be humorous. It's always open season on politicians in this country where people riddle their public officials with gags instead of guns.

But it is not generally realized that legislators like to laugh, too—even when the laugh's on them. And at least one of them enjoys congressional jokes so much he's written a 350-page book about them.

Compiling the congressional Joe Miller may seem a far cry from steering policies of the senate judiciary committee, but Senator Wiley has been working on the humorous project since 1934 when he first was elected to the United States senate. Last year he got around to sending a letter to all his colleagues in the house and senate, asking them their favorite jokes. He was deluged with stories—good, bad and corny; and most of them jokes on or about congress and congressmen. All of which inspired the title of his book, "The Laugh's With Congress."

Under the title "The Women—God Bless 'em," he relates how in the closing and very literally hot sessions of the 79th congress, the then Sergeant-at-Arms Wall Duxey ruled twice within three weeks that, although women in slacks could be permitted in senate galleries, women in shorts would be inimical to the dignity of the senate and were to be barred from the gallery.

All of which moved Sen. Richard Russell of Georgia to remark: "In hot weather, I am sometimes envious that I cannot wear shorts myself. Mr. Duxey is supposed to be an authority on what creates confusion in the senate, but personally, I have no objection to shorts." (If

this had been printed in the record there would have been "laughter" after that one.)

Another story claimed as the favorite of former Sen. Guy Gillette of Iowa and Arkansas' young Sen. William Fulbright is a true one. As Senator Gillette tells it, his colored maid had noticed that the senator, then a representative, had his picture in the paper. Underneath was a caption to the effect that he might be nominated for the upper chamber. "Is a senator higher than a representative?" the maid wanted to know. "Yes," Gillette told her, "they are so considered because a senator represents an entire state and a representative represents a district of a state." The maid's next question was: "Well, is there anything lower than a congressman?" Gillette is said to have been forced to imply that there was indeed nothing lower than a congressman!

## INCOME INCREASES

# Farm Cash Receipts Hit Peak

WASHINGTON.—Farmers' cash income from livestock and crop marketings in 1946 soared to the record-breaking total of more than 24 billion dollars, according to a preliminary survey announced by the agriculture department.

The latest bureau of agricultural economics estimate places cash receipts at \$24,100,000,000, the highest in history and a 16 per cent gain over 1945. Earlier predictions had forecast only 23 billion dollars, but high prices for meat animals, cotton, feed grains and feed crops



NEW CITIZENS . . . Veterans of Pacific campaigns, 150 alien nationals of the U. S. navy were sworn in as American citizens on Guam. The group was composed of American Samoans, Chamorros and Filipinos. Judge P. J. Phillip of the immigration and naturalization service presided.

## NEWS REVIEW

### GOP To Continue Probes; Boundary Dispute Looms

#### CONGRESS: Busy Bodies

GOP congressional investigators prepared to dig deep into war expenditures and un-American activities with the full support of the first Republican majority in 16 years. Senate Republicans beat down an effort of the Democrats to transfer duties of the war investigating committee to the inactive committee on expenditures in the executive department by a 47 to 45 vote.

The watch-dog over efficiency of the war effort under President Truman while he was still senator from Missouri, the war investigating committee widened its scope under Senator Mead (Dem., N. Y.) to probe irregularities in munitions contracts. In the wake of disclosures of the close relations existing between congressmen and army officers with war contractors, the GOP voiced its determination to dig deeper into wartime dealings.

Not always in favor during the liberal New Deal administration, the house un-American activities committee promises to enjoy smoother sledding under the Republicans. Now headed by Representative Thomas (Rep., N. J.) the committee laid plans for an early probe of Communism in government departments, labor unions, Hollywood, and colleges and schools.

#### GERMANY: Polish Claims

Should the U. S. oppose Polish claims to the 40,000 square miles of former eastern German territory taken over by the Poles under the Potsdam agreement, this country faces a stiff fight with the Russian bloc. With the U. S. bringing the full force of its prestige into play, however, it may secure modification of the Polish claim or cudge out other concessions from the Reds.

Poland served notice of its determination to permanently affix the new territory at the deputy foreign ministers' meeting in London, called to lay the groundwork for the Big Four conference in Moscow in March to formulate a German treaty. Since given control of the territory at Potsdam, the Poles said they have moved 1,383,000 Germans out and 3,500,000 Poles in.



STILL MISERABLE . . . Misery and poverty still are rampant in China. This poorly-clothed, hungry and tired little boy sleeps in the doorway of a Shanghai hotel while his mother begs for coins from American servicemen.

Nub of the disagreement lies in the Poles' contention that they were led to understand they were given full sway over the territory at Potsdam. The U. S., on the other hand, holds that they were merely given temporary administrative control, with the question of Germany's final postwar borders to be settled at a peace conference.

#### PORTAL: Tax Relief

The burden of portal to portal back pay will largely be shouldered by Uncle Sam when, and if, union members are awarded their substantial claims against industry as a result of Secretary of the Treasury Snyder's announcement that such outlays are deductible against taxes levied in the years affected. Because portal payments to workers will be liable to taxation, however, the U. S. stands to recover some of the refunds in personal income taxes. In many instances, the portal claims run into hundreds of dollars per worker, leaving them open to a heavy bite under the high wartime rates.

Under Snyder's ruling that industry could claim credits on taxes paid in the years for which portal demands were granted, companies would be able to take advantage of high rates and excess profits levies of the war years. At the same time, they would be entitled to a 6 per cent interest on the money collected from them to cover their tax liabilities.

#### FOOD: Enemy's Need

Declaring that the U. S. could not afford to permit the American flag to fly over a gigantic Buchenwald, former President Herbert Hoover undertook another survey of food needs in the U. S. and British occupation zones in Germany.

In addition to providing for essential German relief, Hoover's junket was aimed at making the reich as self-supporting in food needs as possible. Improvement in the food situation would lead to a reduction in present U. S. relief costs of 300 million dollars annually. The former president had the assistance of two food experts on his tour, being accompanied by Dr. Dennis Fitzgerald, chairman of the international emergency food council, and former Ambassador Hugh Gibson, who aided him in World War I relief work.

#### COMMODITIES: U. S. Eyes Trade

In an effort to prevent serious breaks in commodities, Secretary of Agriculture Anderson announced that the department's commodity exchange authority would be freed of other duties to permit full time policing of the markets.

Anderson disclosed the move in the face of growing speculation. Remembering the big break in cotton last October and the alleged manipulation of butter prices in New York, department authorities acted to check future slumps affecting prices. Studies are being completed on the factors in the cotton break, with Anderson ready to ask for additional regulatory authority if warranted by the investigation.

## CLASSIFIED DEPARTMENT

### AUTOS, TRUCKS & ACCESS.

TRUCKS — FOR SALE — PICKUPS 1941 and '42 Chev. L.W.B. Trucks Completely reconditioned, 8-25 tires, two speed rear ends, with or without farm bodies. 1941 and 1942 Chev. and Ford 1/2 and 3/4 ton pickups completely recond. NIELSON CHEVROLET COMPANY Kearney, Nebr. Phone 2181

FOR SALE OR TRADE—5 New Diamond T and Chevrolet Trucks. Will trade for new or late model John Deere tractors, lists, cultivators, power mowers or what have you. GAGE COUNTY SUPPLY COMPANY, Highway 77, in Beatrice, Nebraska, Phone 572.

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### FARM MACHINERY & EQUIP.

FOR SALE: 1945 M-Farmall tractor, 2 M two row mounted corn picker, 2-WC Allis Chalmers tractors with starter and lights, 1940 I.S. International truck. All in A-1 shape. WALTER GLENN, Tarkio, Mo., Ph. 391J.

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77 ACRES 5 miles north, 1/2 mile east and 1/2 mile north of Ashland, Nebr. Rich bottom soil will not flood. 1/2 mile to gravel, electric service, automatic water system. Owner CARL C. KEISER Ashland, Nebr.

### HELP WANTED—MEN

EXPERIENCED shoe man for district manager. Wolfe Wear-U-Well shoe stores Nebraska territory. Salary, expenses, perm. Free Life and Hospitalization insurance. WOLFE WEAR-U-WELL CORP. Minneapolis Minnesota

### HELP WANTED—WOMEN

NURSES WANTED—Two graduate and two under-graduate or practical. TAYLOR HOSPITAL - Sidney, Neb.

### MISCELLANEOUS

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OMAHA CREMATION of the most modern type Write to us for booklet

#### NEW OBSOLETE FLOUR SACKS, 50 lb. size, excellent for dish towels, \$2.25 per doz., postage paid. Write MANEY MILLING CO., P.O. Box 1136, Omaha, Nebraska. Cash with order.

#### CAST IRON SOIL PIPE AND FITTINGS

All sizes. Large stock. Immediate delivery. Wholesale or Retail. KILBURN & SONS, 4548 Cottage Grove Ave., Chicago 15 Illinois

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BROAD BREASTED BRONZE POULTS hatched in an exclusive turkey hatchery. All blood testing done under the supervision of the State Bureau of Animal Industry. WRITE FOR PRICES. Order now to insure getting your poult the date desired and protect yourself against possible price increase. HILDEBRAND TURKEY HATCHERY Seward Nebraska

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#### The Best Investment

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FOR SALE: Pure golden Sebright Bantam Cockerels, while they last \$2.00 Each. Kuglers, Inc. Culbertson, Nebr.

#### Gas on Stomach

Relieved in 5 minutes or double your money back. When excess stomach acid causes painful, soiling gas, sour stomach and heartburn, doctors usually prescribe the fastest-acting medicines known for symptomatic relief—the medicine that's the real anti-acid. No laxative. Bell-an brings comfort in a 5 minute or double your money back on return of bottle to us. See at all drug stores.

#### How To Relieve Bronchitis

Creomulsion relieves promptly because it goes right to the seat of the trouble to help loosen and expel germ laden phlegm, and aid nature to soothe and heal raw, tender, inflamed bronchial mucous membranes. Tell your druggist to sell you a bottle of Creomulsion with the understanding you must like the way it quickly allays the cough or you are to have your money back.

#### CREOMULSION for Coughs, Chest Colds, Bronchitis

#### Black Leaf 40 KILLS LICE

JUST A DASH IN FEATHERS... OR SPREAD ON ROOSTS

#### Watch Your Kidneys!

Help Them Cleanse the Blood of Harmful Body Waste

Your kidneys are constantly filtering waste matter from the blood stream. But kidneys sometimes lag in their work—do not act as Nature intended—all to remove impurities that, if retained, may poison the system and upset the whole body machinery.

Symptoms may be nagging backache, persistent headache, attacks of dizziness, getting up nights, swelling, puffiness under the eyes—a feeling of nervous anxiety and loss of pep and strength.

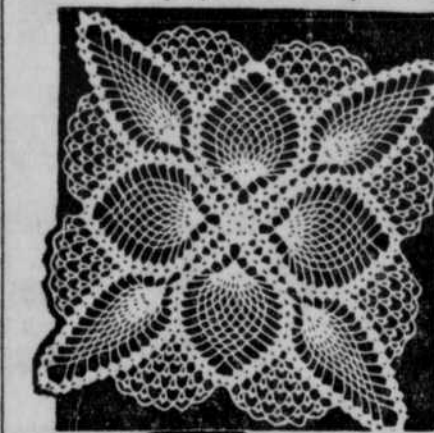
Other signs of kidney or bladder disorder are sometimes burning, scanty or too frequent urination.

There should be no doubt that prompt treatment is wiser than neglect. Use Doan's Pills. Doan's have been winning new friends for more than forty years. They have a nation-wide reputation. Are recommended by grateful people the country over. Ask your neighbor!

#### Doan's Pills

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570

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Whether you make one of these large pineapple squares or many, you'll have

## Household Hints

An iron always heats more rapidly than it cools. Place fabrics requiring less heat at the bottom of the clothes-basket when dampening the family clothes.

In making yeast bread, it is most important to avoid letting dough get too light or rise too long. Let it rise until doubled, but not more than doubled.

Clothing should never be dried over heat, nor should it be ironed dry.

In soldering, remember that the metals to be joined must be heated to the melting point of the solder before it will "take" properly.

crochet you'll proudly use. Pattern 570 has directions.

Sewing Circle Needlecraft Dept. 864 W. Randolph St. Chicago 86, Ill. Enclose 20 cents for pattern. No. Name Address



## Coughing Colds

DO THIS TO RELIEVE DISTRESS

Rub throat, chest and back thoroughly with comforting Vicks VapoRub at bedtime. It starts to work instantly... and it keeps up its fine soothing action for hours to relieve distress even while you sleep. VICKS VapoRub

## THROW AWAY HARSH LAXATIVES!

Millions Have Ended Constipation with Healthful Fresh Fruit Drink

Don't form the habit of depending on harsh, gripping laxatives until you've tried this easy, healthful way millions now use to keep regular.

It's fresh lemon juice and water taken first thing in the morning—just as soon as you get up, the juice of one Sunkist Lemon in a glass of water. Taken thus, on an empty stomach, it stimulates normal bowel action, day after day, for most people.

And lemons are actively good for you. They're among the richest sources of vitamin C, which combats fatigue, helps resist colds and infections. They supply vitamins B<sub>1</sub> and P, aid digestion and help alkalize the system.

Try this grand wake-up drink 10 mornings. See if it doesn't help you! Use California Sunkist Lemons.

"OFF TO A GOOD START"

You are off to a good start when you measure the required amount of Clabber Girl into your flour... you are sure to get just the right rise in your mixing bowl, followed by that final rise to light and fluffy flavor in the oven... that's the story of Clabber Girl's balanced double action.

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Also for Pain due to RHEUMATISM, MUSCLE ACHE, and STRAINS. Ask for Mild Ben-Gay for Children.

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