

Modern Farmer Follows Lead Of Pioneers in Building Field

New Homes Built With Own Trees And Own Labor

WNU Features.

All sorts of steps have been taken and schemes devised to provide homes for war veterans. But it remained for a Connecticut farmer to take a leaf out of the 300-year-old book of his pioneering ancestors and build living quarters for three veterans' families from his own trees and with his own hands.

It all started because Jasper L. Burr, 61-year-old dairy farmer who owns a 40-acre farm nine miles from Middletown, Conn., had been besieged by families looking for even a single room to rent. He was particularly struck by the plight of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Browning and their small son.

Pondering their problem, Burr hit upon a solution. Among other buildings on his place was a large, well-built barn. It was being used only for storage of odds and ends. The livestock long since had been transferred from it to other quarters.

Modern 'Yankee.'

He showed the building to the Brownings, said he believed he could turn the loft into an apartment and asked them if that would be satisfactory. The Brownings were enthused about the prospect.

And that is how three homes for veterans' families literally grew on the hillside of this Connecticut farm, with a fourth one now nearing completion.

Burr, assisted by Browning, went out and felled enough trees to provide the lumber necessary for what he had in mind—three apartments in the old barn. A portable sawmill was set up a short distance from the barn and the huge two-foot logs were dragged to the job just as they were in the days of Burr's forefathers. The only difference was that he used horses instead of oxen to cart the felled logs.

Care was taken to obtain maximum board footage from each of



BEFORE . . . Jasper L. Burr, 61, typical "Connecticut Yankee" farmer of Middletown, Conn., shows house-hunters, Veteran Fred Browning and Mrs. Browning, the sturdy barn on the wooded Burr farm. They agree it can be remodeled to provide an apartment for the Brownings, currently sheltered in crowded temporary quarters.

both summer and winter and to save on fuel cost. Furthermore, Burr knew that because the material would not burn its installation would considerably reduce fire danger, a factor of extreme importance in any farm building.

The walls and ceiling of each apartment were finished with sheets of wallboard and painted according to a simple color scheme. Electric cook stoves were placed in each kitchen.

Ideal Apartments.

Windows were provided all around and a doorway was cut in one end of the barn. From this entry, an enclosed stairway was built to a hall on the second floor from which access is obtained to each apartment.

The result is that the three families now living in the converted structure have apartments that for sheer attractiveness are seldom equaled anywhere. The apartments have magnificent views of wooded pastures and hillsides, virtually all city conveniences and inter-city buses stop almost in front of the Burr homestead.

So excellent were the results attained that Burr is building an apartment 18 by 25 feet in size from material obtained from an old chicken house, smoke house and a shed. Whatever additional lumber is needed will be sawed from his own trees.

Town Solves Teacher Housing

AUDUBON, IOWA.—Armed only with an idea, some ingenuity and a lot of hard work, this town of 2,409 persons solved its teacher housing problem by construction of two modern duplexes—and it didn't take a bond issue to do it.

The duplexes, which cost about \$15,000, house four teachers and their families. At the fairland rental of \$30 per month per family, the houses will have paid for themselves in 15 years.

This was the situation last summer, as explained by Supt. Allen N. Stroh:

Audubon had 10 men on its school faculty of 32. Nine were married and had families. Of the nine, Stroh had rented a home and two others courageously had bought homes.

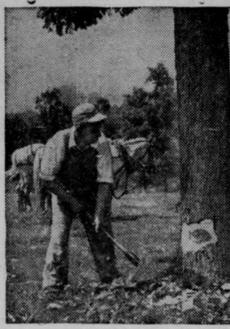
That left six families, including that of Don Stark, the high school industrial arts instructor and father

Built on the side of a hill, the new apartment will have space beneath it for two automobiles. The interior finish, including the mineral wool insulation, will be similar to that in the original project carried out with the barn.

Although there is no lack of prospective tenants for the new apartment, Burr admits that "I like it so well I may move in myself and rent the big house."



NO WASTE . . . The gauge on the saw at the portable mill is set to insure maximum board footage of lumber from the precious logs.



CUE FROM PIONEERS . . . After searching in vain for lumber to remodel the barn, Burr determines to cut his own lumber from trees on his farm, just as his pioneer forefathers did. Here he cuts into a 50-year-old tree to mark its direction before felling.

the oak logs. Lumber for ceiling joists, partition studding, flooring, stairs and other uses was obtained right from trees on the Burr farm.

Remodeling Process.

The barn was 40 feet long and 30 feet wide. Like most barns, the floor of the loft barely gave clearance to a horse's head. Accordingly, the first step was to raise the floor, so the ground space could be used as garage and storage space.

Then the upstairs section was partitioned off into three apartments each containing a 10 by 15-foot living room, bedroom, kitchen and bath. The walls and ceiling were insulated with full thick batts of mineral wool nailed between studs and joists to provide maximum comfort in



AFTER . . . The cozy finished apartment is a far cry from its humble barn-like beginnings. The old barn, which in recent years had been used only for storage purposes, now provides comfortable living quarters for three veterans and their families.

Spare Time Labor Nets Own Factory

ONSTED, MICH.—After working during his spare time on nights, Sundays and holidays for the past two years, Louis A. Robin has completed an 80 by 30 foot factory building in his own backyard.

Robin, former Detroit metal worker, was ditch digger, mason, architect, plumber, electrician, heating engineer and carpenter on the job. All during the two-year construction period he was employed on a regu-

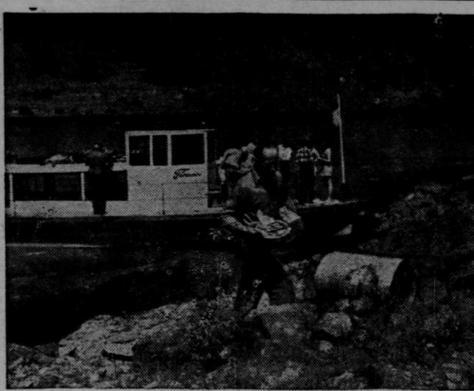
lar eight-hour shift at an Adrian, Mich., factory.

Now that the factory is finished, Robin will decide what to do with it. Always interested in metal items, Robin says that he has two or three ideas for products that he will develop and turn out in his factory.

During World War I Robin turned an upstairs apartment in Detroit into a small factory for manufacture of toy airplanes.

Group Restores Estate Of Washington Irving

TARRYTOWN, N. Y.—Sunnyside, the estate of Washington Irving, has been restored to the condition it was in when the famed author of "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" died there in 1859. The estate was acquired by the Historical society of Tarrytown in June, 1945, as a gift of John D. Rockefeller Jr. An estimated \$500,000 was spent on the restoration.



RUGGED ROUTE . . . Kyle McGrady, mailman on the "most unusual route in the United States," delivers mail in an oil drum "mail box." His boat, the Florence, is moored to the shore of Idaho's Snake river, called one of the wildest bodies of water in America. Since the level of the Snake varies as much as 30 feet, standard mail boxes are not practical, and oil drums and wooden boxes are utilized instead.

IN THESE UNITED STATES

Mailman Lugs Letters, Supplies, Even Tourists, Up Wildest River

WNU Features.

LEWISTON, IDA.—Long heralded as one of the world's most famous mailmen, Kyle McGrady is back on the job delivering mail by boat on the "most unusual of 103,442 routes in the United States."

His route, serving approximately 300 residents of Idaho's Hell's canyon area, traverses the wild and rugged reaches of the Snake river. Service was suspended and McGrady's boats were placed in dry dock temporarily during the low water period of the Snake, the level of which varies as much as 30 feet.

A mailman, grocery boy and chamber of commerce official for the canyon area, McGrady has been making the trip up the Snake river since 1932. He quit a mechanic's job in Lewiston to take the post office contract, which calls for delivery of letters, magazines and parcel post packages as well as for a variety of other services to residents of the isolated area.

Mecca for Tourists.

McGrady makes the trip up the river in either the Florence or Idaho, diesel-powered river packets. In addition to an odd assortment of supplies and mail, McGrady also hauls tourists. To accommodate them, he has constructed a lodge on the lip of the most ferocious part of the canyon.

Vacationists from all over the U. S. have journeyed to Lewiston, starting point for the spectacular voyage. The round trip is 190 miles, and the current of the Snake is so swift that it requires 12 hours for the trip up and but four hours to return.

Historic Church Plans Facilities For Newlyweds

NASHUA, IOWA.—Special accommodations are being planned for honeymooning couples who are married in the Little Brown Church in the Vale, the historical small church which was made famous by a story written before it was built.

Harry Richers of Worthington, Minn., has purchased the former Bradford academy property across the street from the church. He plans to erect honeymoon cabins on the property. A photographic studio to accommodate the newlyweds and facilities for wedding dinners and receptions also are planned.

The church, built in 1864, long has been popular for wedding ceremonies. The peak was reached in 1940 when 1,549 couples were married.

The bride and bridegroom usually ring the church bell after the ceremony, the pastor admonishing them to "pull through life together, just as you are pulling on the bell rope."

The small neat church in a pleasant rustic setting once served the religious needs of old Bradford, a town of 600 persons two miles from here. The town died after it was bypassed by a railroad in 1868, but the song has kept the church alive.

Attracted by the beauty of the site upon which the church later was built, William S. Pitts, a young visitor from Wisconsin wrote his moving hymn, "The Little Brown Church in the Vale" in 1857. He put his manuscript away and it was forgotten.

In 1864, when the church was completed, Pitts, who had returned to the town as a singing teacher, was asked to sing a solo at the dedication ceremony and he obliged with his own song written seven years before.

Wilderness Converted to Exotic Garden

MOBILE, ALA.—Once a tropical wilderness of magnolias, moss-festooned oaks, bays and pines, the famous Bellingrath gardens, 20 miles south of Mobile on the Isle-Aux-Oies (Fowl) river, today rank as one of the most popular meccas for flower lovers.

The gardens, started as a hobby, draw as many as 10,000 persons in a single weekend. Stately live oaks which have stood for 500 years and 100-year-old azaleas

bushes are among the outstanding features of the gardens. Thousands of other azaleas, trees, shrubs, plants and vines have been transplanted in Bellingrath gardens from all parts of the country.

In the midst of all this beauty is the old Bellingrath home, suggestive of the English Renaissance period and handsomely built of hand-dressed ante-bellum bricks and traditional iron-lace grill work.

Indians To Stage Ancient Tribal Ceremonies

SANTA FE, N. M.—Old-time rituals and elaborate ceremonialism will prevail as Pueblo Indians of New Mexico stage a series of events during January.

The Indians always hold New Year's Day dances, followed on January 6 with the installation ceremonies held when the new governor of the pueblo takes office. Each governor has a cane, presented by President Lincoln.

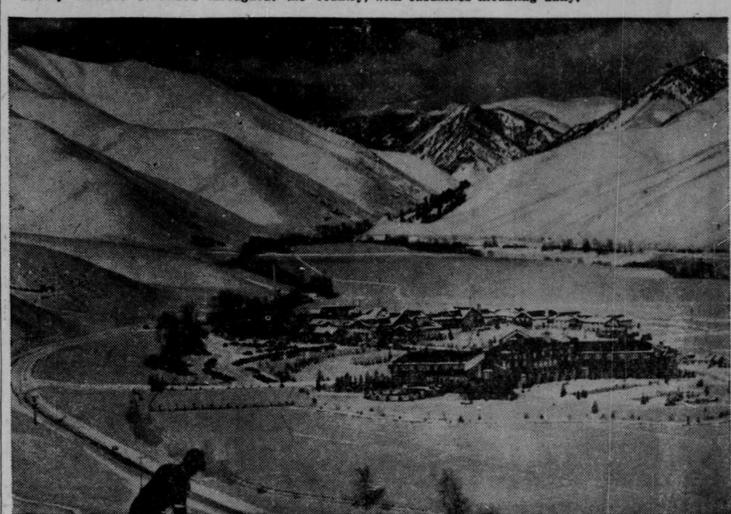
The January ceremonials actually are thanks for good fortune during the past year and prayers for continued good fortune during the coming 12 months.

Among the major events scheduled during the month are the Dance of the Sword Swallowers at Zuni pueblo, the Eagle dance at San Ildefonso pueblo, the Buffalo and Deer dances and "Old Christmas," or the Feast of the Three Kings.

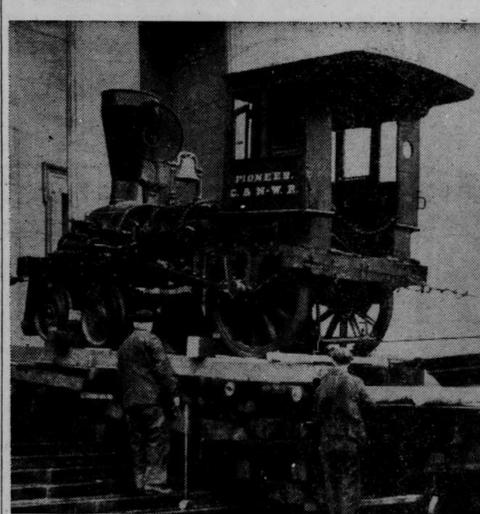
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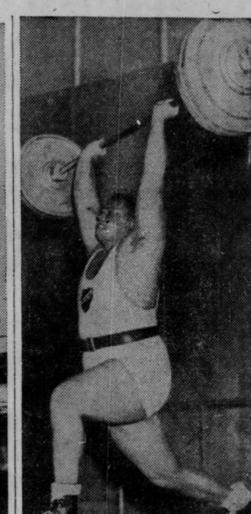
JERUSALEM ARABS RECRUIT FOR WAR . . . Here is a general view as Arab volunteers, in uniform, paraded in Ein Karim village, Jerusalem. Volunteers for the Arab army are pouring in from all sections of the Holy Land for the predicted holy war against the Jews over the issue of Palestine's partition. Arab league military leaders were reported to have drawn up "battle plans" for Palestine. In the meantime, desultory violence continued throughout the country, with casualties mounting daily.



LIKE TO TAKE A VACATION? . . . That old cliché about a jewel in a setting of white gold seems particularly appropriate when applied to Sun Valley, Ida. This is how the resort appears from the practice ski areas on Dollar mountain. The village itself is completely self-contained, with facilities ranging from smart hotels and many shops to warm-water swimming pools, skating rinks and a post office. Not only that, it's a good place to spend a few hundred dollars if you don't mind putting your money on ice and if you like sliding down mountains on skis.



THE PIONEER ROLLS AGAIN . . . The 10-ton Pioneer, which blazed the original railway trail westward as the first locomotive to run out of Chicago in 1848, is on the move again, this time on steel casters. Focal point of the Chicago and North Western railway system's centennial celebration, the historic engine was taken from the Museum of Science and Industry to the railroad shops where it was repaired and repainted before being put on display. The Pioneer is a far cry from today's locomotive giants.



PUFF, PUFF . . . Georg Brunstedt, Swedish weight-lifter, is shown as he pantingly displays the style which enabled him to set a new world's record of 229½ pounds for the one-arm push. He beat his own record of 253½ pounds.



BIG CATCH FOR THE GENERAL . . . Despite the fact that Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower may run for President next year, the main object of interest in this picture is the fish. It's a 37-pound Kamloops trout, taken from the waters of Lake Pend Oreille in Idaho. The fish was presented to Ike on behalf of the Sandpoint, Ida., chamber of commerce by Rep. Abe McGreggor Goff (Rep., Ida.) (left) and Steve Antoncich, Seattle, Wash., sportsman.



SO HE TURNS UP THE HEAT . . . Cheta, talented anthropoid movie actor, probably is the first chimpanzee ever to regulate the temperature of his own air-conditioned trailer. His trainer is studying the effects of heat and humidity on animal ailments.

ARE SMALL TOWNS DYING ?

"MACHINES displace labor in farming, new rural occupations will have to be created. Otherwise local population losses are inevitable!"

That's the thought-provoking challenge to small town America from Earle Hitch, noted student of rural sociology, in a series of timely articles starting in our next issue.

By Earle Hitch