

ORGANIC LIVING

By
Robert Rodale

Education Doesn't End At School

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Back about 300 B.C., the philosopher Aristotle wrote: "Education is the best provision for old age."

Today, more than 2,000 years later, that axiom is even more true than it was in Aristotle's day. People are staying in school longer and retiring earlier.

The number of years the average man spends working actually started to decline during the 1950's, according to Dr. Seymour L. Wolfbein, dean of Temple University's School of Business Administration, and it's going to continue.

Placed in perspective, Dr. Wolfbein's observations mean that we're all going to have more leisure time. So why not study something that will make you a better person and the world a better place in which to live?

Age is not important. The theory that education begins in kindergarten and ends with a high school or college diploma is being challenged.

The world around us is a schoolhouse while life serves as our teacher, leading us along paths few of our ancestors would have ever imagined.

Alvin Toffler, author of "Future Shock," has noted that traditional schooling is based on the tacit notion that tomorrow's world will be basically the same as today's. But the most useful education recognizes that institutions



gratifying and make you a better person. Your local library can get you all the information you'll need.

Besides learning something valuable, you might even find yourself earning some extra money on the basis of what you've learned. It's no secret that, with the rate of today's inflation, anything extra is welcome.

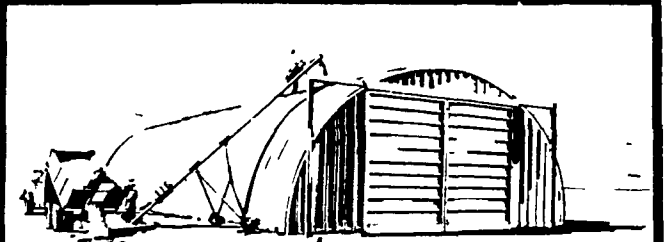
There are many ways for you to get an education. Life itself is an education. The important thing to remember is that you have to keep trying. Don't stop learning. That's only for the uneducated.

(Editor's Note: The opinions appearing in "Organic Living" are those of its author, Robert Rodale, an independent columnist. Rodale's comments do not necessarily reflect the thinking of the Lancaster Farming editor or anyone else on the Lancaster Farming staff.)

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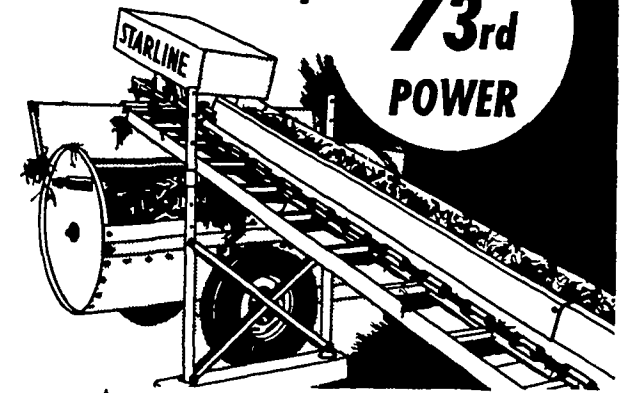
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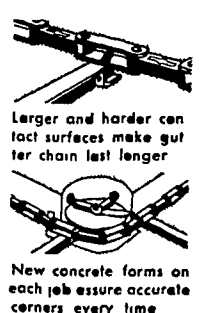
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- and people - change.

Mrs. Marion Gleason, a research assistant at the University of Rochester Medical Center, is an outstanding example of someone who decided that, despite the lack of a "formal" education in medical research, she could make a viable contribution to that field.

In 1948, when she was "only" 58, Mrs. Gleason was working as a public relations director for Strong Memorial Hospital, in Rochester, New York. She became interested in the accidental poisoning cases that came into the hospital and eventually wound up as a research assistant in pharmacology, even though she had no degree.

Her research led to the publication of a 1,500-page book, "Clinical Toxicology of Commercial Products." That title is impressive, and so are the contents. Today, the book is considered the definitive "poison bible" for use by poison control centers all across the country.

If a local poison center gets a call from a frantic parent whose child has swallowed something, a quick flip through its valuable pages means an immediate antidote.

Mrs. Gleason is a rare example of one who made an outstanding contribution despite a lack of formal education. But schooling has helped many make contributions to society.

My father, J. I. Rodale, found himself back in school one year, taking a geology course with students half his age. He wanted to learn as much as he could about soil and its characteristics. He completed his mission, and put the material to good use later in many of his writings.

By taking advantage of opportunities for continuing education, you can begin to broaden your own horizons. Find out if your school district has an evening adult education program. Many districts offer a variety of courses, ranging from ecology to woodworking to basic writing. The cost is usually minimal and besides, as a taxpayer, you've been paying for the facilities, anyway. Make use of them.

If you have a college or university in your area - and there are few areas that aren't so blessed - take a walk over. Find out what courses it offers when you have the time.

Another alternative is the good old correspondence course. That takes a great deal of self-discipline because there's no one to prod you along, but the results can be

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