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OUR COVER: Forest greenery on one side, blue ocean on the other add drama to this cool Long Island hideaway. See page 36 for a colorful portfolio of photos and ideas for your own second home. Photographer: Maris/Ezra Stoller Assoc.

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DEAR READER:

Why is it that ownership of land disagrees with so many of us? Even the most rational and considerate individual may start acting in a most peculiar fashion the minute he owns a plot of ground. As soon as he has the deed in his hands he begins to think that even though he didn't actually create that land, it was at least created especially for his exclusive use. He begins to feel that the most important object in life is to protect the value of his property. This in turn entitles him to decide who will own the land around him, what sort of houses they may build, how they should conduct themselves, and what sort of garden they can grow.

The ownership of land has been disagreeing with mankind since heaven only knows when. Man has fought many a war over land and today we keep our lawyers and judges busy with suits and countersuits concerning rights to the use of land. We suppose that things will always go on in this fashion but it does seem rather foolish. After all, it's not really our land in spite of what is written on the deed. The land was here long before we came on the scene and hopefully it will be here long after all of us have gone. We are not landlords. We are caretakers and while we have a right to enjoy the piece of land on which we live, we have not the right to deny others the enjoyment of living on land which happens to adjoin ours.

We have in this country something called a "population explosion" and we have only a limited amount of land suitable for housing. Unless we can make some basic changes in our feelings about the possession of land, unless we can be less concerned with property values and more concerned with human values, this nation can be in for a good deal of unhappiness.

THE EDITOR

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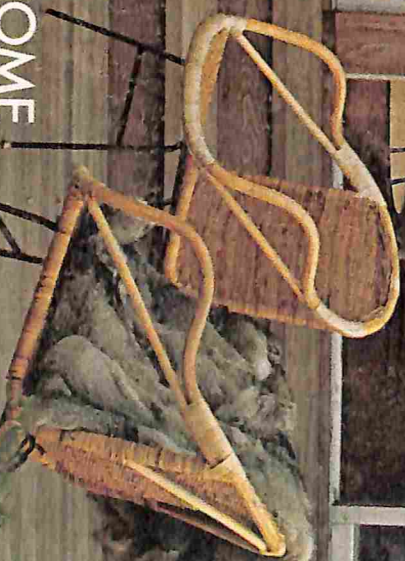
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