

8 BUILDER - MATERIAL AND SPIRITUAL



63. Mr Rollo Smith, 1862-1932.



64. Mr Heindel during the building activities in 1913.

On Monday, the 30th of October 1911, Max Heindel rounded up his carpenters and had the liveryman take them to the grounds of the Fellowship, one and a half miles. On the following day, Tuesday, the first member of the Fellowship, Rollo Smith, who had been on the healing list for some time, made an appearance and offered to help.²¹¹ Some time later Charles Warmholz also offered to help with the construction.

While the men were kept busy all day long at the grounds, the three women in the cottage rushed to take care of the many letters and book orders. In the meantime, bills-of-lading for the first edition of *The Rosicrucian Mysteries* and the third edition of *The Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception* were forwarded from Ocean Park. Publishing delays had resulted in a three-month accumulation of orders.

How to handle four thousand hardbound books in a four-room house occupied by four individuals posed quite a problem. They stored the heavy cases of books in a shed which could be reached through an alley connected to the cottage. The women opened one carton at a time, carried the books for one block to the cottage and packed them for mailing. After a large number of books had been wrapped, they carted the pack-

²¹¹ For his horoscope, see addendum 12.

ages to the express office or to the post office in an old fashioned express wagon drawn by an old, mangy horse. Mrs Heindel sat on the high seat of the wagon near the old man to help unload the parcels at the Santa Fe Railway Express. She also helped the clerk record the parcels in the Express book. Such quantities of incoming and outgoing mail were unusual for Oceanside, and the curious ones started to investigate. Oceanside had been developed around a few families who married and intermarried. There were few strangers in the village, and those without connections to the established families were not welcome. One native expressed his opinion when a newcomer made the remark to one of the partners of a foremost business, "Well, Mr Blank, isn't it fine to have a stranger come in and settle?" The businessman replied, "Oh no, we do not want strangers in our midst. It was so lovely when everybody knew everybody else; it made us feel like one great family."

In the meantime Bedelia was restored to running condition; and Max Heindel, in his brown corduroy ten-dollar suit, accompanied by Rollo Smith, their lunch packed in a bag, drove her back and forth to Mount Ecclesia.



65. First building.

Rollo Smith made most of the furniture. He made redwood tables and desks for the office and dining room. Even the table in Mr and Mrs Heindel's room was crafted of beautiful redwood. The first building was ready in twenty-eight working days, so on Saturday, November 25, but they had already moved in on Wednesday, November 22nd. The woodwork was yet unpainted and only the sleeping rooms had windows; the rest of the building was still open, with neither windows nor doors. At night, the moonlight shone into the curtainless rooms, while the coyotes

serenaded. At times, fifteen to twenty turned their melancholic howling to the moon. Although coyotes rarely attack human beings, they prey on small, domestic animals.

Mr Smith could remain just long enough to do some of the actual finishing; then he had to return home, as his wife was taken ill.

Concerning Rollo Smith, we read in the monthly students' lesson of May 1, 1938, "He, Smith, was an advanced Probationer who had been with the work from the very beginning. When the building was nearly completed he was assigned an unfinished room on the upper floor. One morning during breakfast he was greatly depressed and when asked if he was ill he replied that he had had a dreadful time all night with a demon, which would not let him sleep. He feared it and fought it with all his might; he thought that it was an elemental. Max Heindel spoke up at once and told him that it was his Dweller, and stated that he, Max Heindel, tried to get his attention and to tell him not to fear it but Smith's fear blinded him to all help. Smith then asked the question: what would be the result of his fear, and his fighting and refusing to recognize the Dweller? Mr Heindel replied that he had lost the opportunity to vanquish it and that the Dweller would not trouble him again in this incarnation."²¹²

The windows and doors were all in, and some crude furniture was made from redwood lumber for the kitchen and dining room.

The eastern part of the building was arranged as a two-room apartment with a large clothes and linen closet between the rooms. Disappearing beds were built by installing springs onto homemade, four-inch high posts and attaching rollers underneath, so that the low beds could be rolled under the large closet from either side. At night Mr and Mrs Heindel slept in these rooms; during the day the rooms served as living room studios, where the Heindels received visitors and did much of their writing. A bathroom was connected to Heindel's room but in this out-of-the-way place, there was no gas or electricity. When the residents of this new headquarters wanted to take a bath, they had to heat the water on a gasoline stove in the kitchen. A dining room and kitchen occupied the central part of the long building. The upper floor contained five rooms, each furnished with a bed, a homemade washstand and a cheap dresser. Rollo Smith made all of the furniture out of redwood.

²¹² Named: *Angel or Satan?*

It was painted brown and the remaining stain was used to cover the outside of the building, which was first occupied on November 22, the day before Thanksgiving.

On Monday, November 27, the newcomers contacted the telephone company to install a telephone line, and this produced problems. First, they had to erect the poles themselves and pay for the wiring; then they would be on what was called a "farmer's line," a party line with four farmers. One of the farmers refused to permit the Fellowship to be on his line. Finally, however, the prejudice was overcome, the construction began and the line was connected.

Bedelia was again laid up for repairs. This created all kinds of difficulties, as the grocer, for example, refused to deliver groceries so far away.

The building, which had been built on an incline, provided shelter under it suitable for a shed, and it was decided to store Bedelia there under the house. The car had no automatic starter, and it was hard on Max Heindel's heart to crank the worn-out, old car each time. There was nothing for Mrs Heindel to do but walk to Oceanside to purchase the groceries. For ten cents the old stage driver was willing to take her back with her load when he delivered the mail. Milk could be obtained from a neighbor. It was not a simple matter to get the proper vegetarian foods; therefore Mrs Heindel decided to buy melon, cucumber, and various other vegetable seeds, and planted them in a moist, shady corner where the sun would not dry them up too quickly. In California it usually rains during the winter months, but in the winter of 1911/12, California suffered a drought, and since not a drop of rain fell, her crop failed.

In the north end of Mount Ecclesia, two large reservoirs supplied Oceanside with water; but because of the drought these big tanks rarely were filled with water, so at Mount Ecclesia hardly any water flowed when the tap was turned on. Heindel pondered over the problem for a number of days and decided that to end the emergency, he would install a fifty-gallon tank under the house and run a pipe from the main water line that connected with the meters.

A shut-off valve would stop the flow when the tank was full. A pump would be installed on the first floor to move the water from the tank in the basement up into a twenty-five gallon tank under the roof. To have sufficient water this tank would have to be pumped full each day.

Early in the spring of 1912, after some heavy rains, Mrs Heindel again sowed tomato and cabbage seeds in a small corner where she found richer soil. After the seeds sprouted the weeds crowded the little plants. Mrs Heindel's right hand, her weeding hand, was swollen and had be-

come lame from too much typing, packing boxes and scrubbing, so she could use only her left hand. When Max Heindel happened to pass by, seeing this made him quite unhappy, so he offered to help. Being a city-bred man who had never farmed, he had to first be taught which plants were tomato and cabbage and which were weeds. He could not stoop over much because of his heart, so he sat down on a small box. Despite his good intentions, he pulled up a cabbage, remarking in despair that he thought he was more of a nuisance than a help. But help did come at last.

The secretary, Charles Swigert, arrived from Yakima, to pay a visit to Mount Ecclesia, and took on the job of weeding. Then, the little tomato plants had to be transplanted.

A neighbor was hired to spade the soil on a gradual slope down the hill. The plants were then set in and watered. What a sight greeted them the next morning! There were just two lone cabbage plants left. The rabbits had eaten the rest. So they erected a three-foot fence.

They overcame the water shortage by planting on the hillside and permitting the water to slowly drip and run down between the rows over night. The result was a good crop of vegetables.

Mr Heindel's room overlooked the garden and the San Luis Rey Valley. One morning, while dressing, he called his wife to come into his room and take a look out of the window. Doing so, she saw a large Jackrabbit in the garden. These rabbits are much larger than the small cottontail rabbits, and not commonly encountered, so the visit was a surprise. He was eating the cabbages, which again were a loss.

Mrs Heindel started down the backstairs and fetched a shingle from under the house in order to paddle the rabbit. He was too frightened to jump back over the fence, so he got an actual spanking. It was expected that he would have learned his lesson, but the following morning he was back in the vegetable patch. To put a definite stop to this nuisance a dog named "Smart" was adopted to watch the garden. His name fit him, as he would chase the rabbits down the hillside into the brush but would never catch and hurt one. Smart returned after the chase full of wood ticks, which he could not remove, so Mrs Heindel would have to bathe and clean him. Smart's greatest pleasure—something he never missed—was the evening walk with his master and mistress.

Later, Smart became a nuisance instead of a help, and in 1913 one of the summer school students, Mrs Kittie Skidmore Cowen adopted him and took him with her to Mountain Home, Idaho.

The two fellow-workers left Headquarters on the day before Easter, but Mr and Mrs Heindel stayed behind. It was a beautiful, sunrise Easter ser-

vice. During the morning hours after devotions, they painted and stained some of the furniture, and in the afternoon, they worked in the office.



66. Mr Heindel with Smart, 1913.



67. Max Heindel, about 1913.

In March 1912, they hired a gardener to provide the residents of Mount Ecclesia with fresh fruits and vegetables. The gardener established an orchard of fruit trees and started a garden. He planted roses and some vines over the front veranda and started a row of small eucalyptus trees.

The grounds began to take on a friendly appearance. Small annual flowers graced the walks and the circle in which the Founder's Cross had been erected at the groundbreaking. Rows of geraniums grew beautifully and soon were in bloom. In California geraniums grew as readily as weeds. Also, the tomatoes did well, so they had a good crop.

Probationers from Seattle, Washington, fabricated an outdoor display emblem from metal, which they sent by train to Headquarters in 1912.

Late in the fall of that year, the Teacher requested that Max Heindel open a summer school during the summer of 1913. There was only one building with seven bedrooms, so much thought had to be given to how to best organize this event.

On the 13th of December, Mr and Mrs Heindel decided to form a corporation to act as trustee for the properties and for the protection of Mount Ecclesia. Notary Payne and three assistants came from San Diego to draw the deed which declared that the name would be "The Rosicrucian Fellowship" and that the aim would be to establish a college or school for the study of the Rosicrucian Teachings.

In the meantime, the green as well as the ripe tomatoes were picked and placed very carefully on the bank under the house. The garden had produced enough vegetables to last the entire winter, but one more disaster awaited them.

On January 2, 1913, the temperature dropped unexpectedly, and California suffered one of the worst frosts since 1848. Water pipes in the bathroom, as well as those to the kitchen sink froze. All but one row of green peas and all the other green vegetables in the garden froze. The vines, roses and geraniums were ruined as well, while the luscious tomatoes under the house were a mass of ice. Everything had to be replanted, and as there was very little water, it was a most disheartening situation. Shortly after the frost some very heavy rains came, which prepared the soil for yet another planting.

In January 1913, the Rosicrucian Fellowship's first junior grade astrology lesson was printed.

From Oceanside came the unpleasant news that the only printer and publisher in the village could no longer print the monthly lessons because the folding and stapling proved to be too much work. Heindel decided to do the hand printing himself. The old press had been originally used for this purpose, but because it was so old fashioned, the Heindels went to Los Angeles and bought a small, foot-powered Gordon job press on installment.

After a few months, the express man from Oceanside arrived to deliver the press and they discovered that the press was too large to fit through the door. No matter how hard Heindel and the man toiled, it would not go through, so the press remained out on the veranda over night.

The next morning, while Augusta Foss prepared breakfast, Mr Heindel sat out on the porch pondering over how he would get the press into the house. The only apparent solution was to call a carpenter to come from Oceanside to remove the door-jam. While Max Heindel was thinking it over, a tramp came limping up the long drive from the road and asked if they could give him breakfast. As Heindel invited him to sit down on the veranda until breakfast was ready, he noticed the press. "Oh, you've got a new Gordon Jobber; why, I used to work for the factory that turns out these presses." Then Heindel told him his trouble and the man smiled. "Why," he replied, "that's easy. Just remove this screw and pull out that lever and the machine will go through the door as easy as nothing." After breakfast the vagrant helped him to place the press and get it running.



68. The Gordon press.

Setting and printing, folding and stitching the monthly students lessons and letters, entailed much work for one person. In addition to this, other Fellowship literature and pamphlets were printed on the press. After a few months of foot-treading this machine, Max Heindel received a young man named Martin Hill who offered to work for his room and board. Heindel decided to install a small electric motor under the press in the basement, and the two men cut a hole through the floor of the office and ran a pulley from the motor to the press. One could then go under the house and start the generator that ran the press.

One day, while both men were under the house, Heindel called his wife to see the pretty kitten, which was lying there. The lovely kitten was actually a skunk, but it had not yet made itself known. When the men heard from Mrs Heindel that it was a skunk, they took off in a hurry. The “perfumed” but unwelcome guests revisited the scene frequently in those first few years.

Bedelia, which had been stored under the house, had to be overhauled and an automatic starter installed. A mechanic was employed for a number of days to do this work at Headquarters, and a few days later an employee from Los Angeles did more work.

At dawn of the next day, the Heindels started for Los Angeles with their overhauled car to do the necessary shopping. Mechanical troubles arose again, so the greater part of the day was spent on the road. In those

days there were no paved roads between Los Angeles and San Diego; all were single-lane dirt roads. Finally, the Heindels arrived in Los Angeles late in the afternoon. After a night's rest, they did their shopping and at about two o'clock they started for home. The car overflowed with groceries, vegetables and many items for the print shop. As they came within twenty miles of Mount Ecclesia, Bedelia again began to give trouble, and finally quit. Max Heindel's attempts to locate the trouble failed; the engine would not start. A large touring car came by and offered to tow them. When Bedelia was hitched to this car, they began to move, but the driver of the touring car did not realize that the smaller car could not turn the curves as fast as his larger one, with the result that Bedelia landed off the side of the road where she wedged tightly between two small hills. As the car had an open top, Heindel was thrown a few feet from the car onto a pile of hay, which cushioned his fall. He lay there, unaware, for about half an hour; but when he gained consciousness, he was soon able to walk to the other car.

After dark they arrived at Mount Ecclesia, thankful that they were still in one piece. Max Heindel's arm was badly bruised and he was compelled to remain in bed for several days.

The day after the mishap, Mrs Heindel took the train to San Juan Capistrano to dispose of the troublesome wrecked Bedelia.