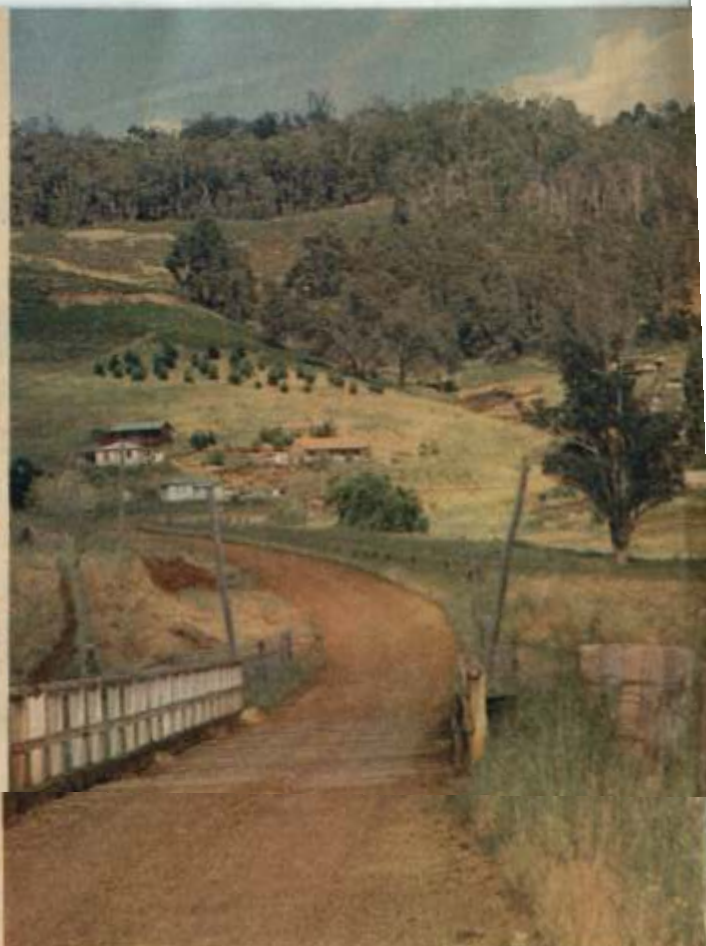




★ **SCHOOL'S** in at the Brotherhood's community classroom with the best teacher-pupil ratio in Australia.



★ **MEMBERS** of the Universal Brotherhood at Balingup (WA) live harmoniously and prepare for the Millennium.



★ **CEREAL** crops and fruit are grown and sheep, chickens and goats reared on the Universal Brotherhood farm.

★ **There's a New Age of peace and prosperity ahead for the world — the message comes from our Space Brothers who say it's about to dawn. That's the good news. But before there will be cataclysmic changes . . .**

# OH, BROTHERHOOD!

★ **YOU** turn right after the cheese factory and go winding down a gravel track till you bump over the cattle ramp. Then across the bridge — and suddenly you're in Fred and Mary Robinson's little Utopia.

Fred, aged 87, is the founder of a community of young people known as the Universal Brotherhood at Balingup (WA).

Surrounded by earnest followers, he explains: "What you see here is a working model of a New Age

community — a place where visitors can see people living harmoniously, the way God wants us to live.

"We are preparing here for the Millennium—a New Age of peace and prosperity for the world. Our Space Brothers have revealed that first there will be cataclysmic changes to the planet."

**Mary**, his wife, is 66, the "spiritual mother" of the Brotherhood. She adds: "Some people may be lifted up by beams of light into flying saucers, to be kept safe, till after the cataclysm."

The community built around the Robinsons' teachings has about 60 members—a dozen married cou-

ples, youths, girls, and 15 children. They are settled on 128 ha (317 acres) of undulating dairy land, 250 km south of Perth.

They've been there for the past four years, although foundation members have been with the Robinsons more than seven years, living first on Fred and Mary's farmlet at Armadale (WA), and then on an experimental settlement at Coorow.

Living quarters are spartan, consisting mainly of 45 caravans with no electricity, spread around the orchard. I stayed overnight in one, and relied on two candles for lighting.

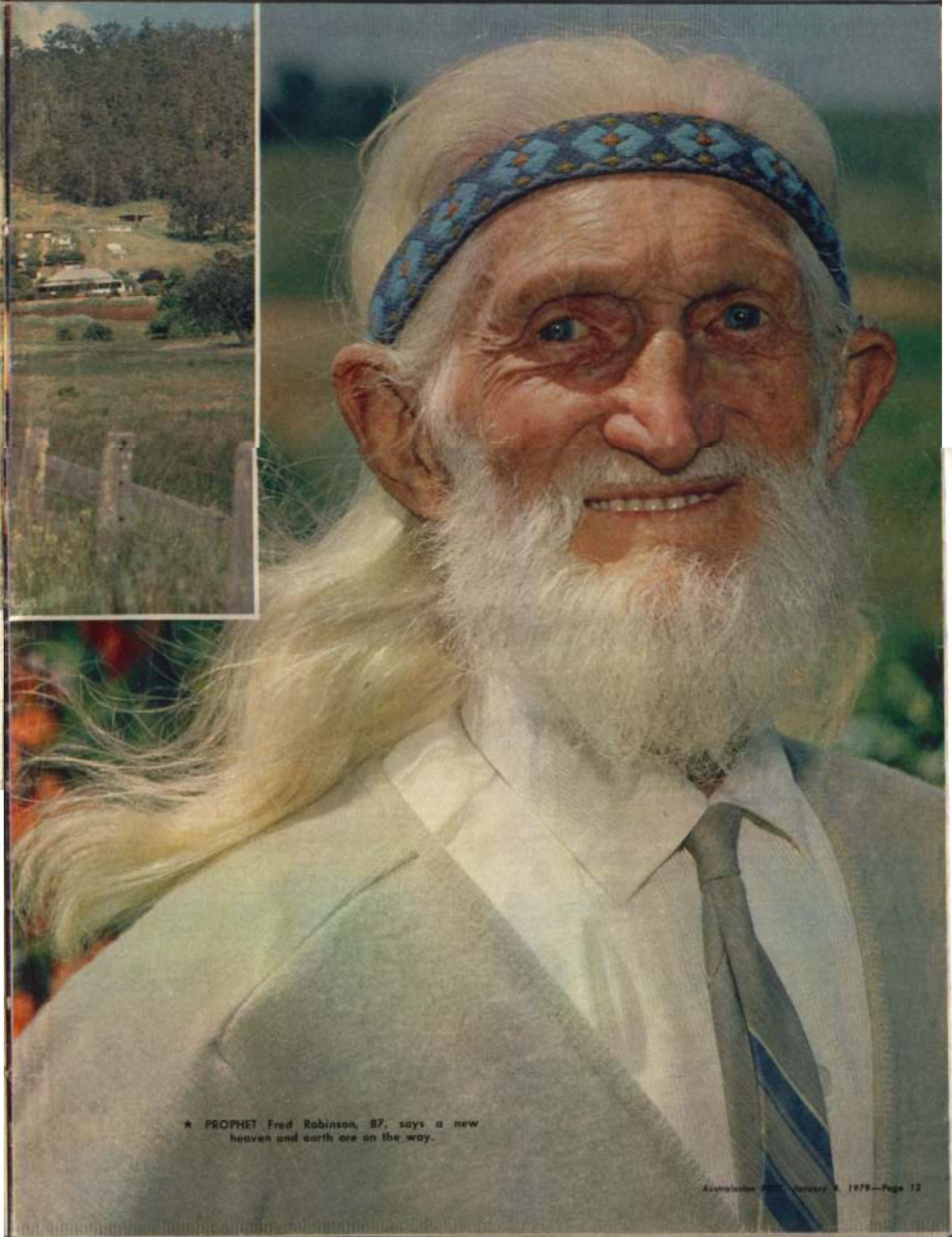
Members have built a small brick house for the Robinsons, and are renovating the farm homestead, as the hub of their village.

When they poured a flat concrete pad below the caravan park, rumors flew around Balingup that they had made a landing strip for UFOs. But it turned out to be only the foundation for a communal ablutions block which is now in use.

The rule of life is spartan, too.

"We are not a hippie commune," said the secretary Mrs Rosemary Gilmore, 35. "The Universal Brotherhood is a registered church and

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★ PROPHET Fred Robinson, 87, says a new heaven and earth are on the way.



★ HOW the Grand Universe works. Fred Robinson, former sugar farmer who founded the Universal Brotherhood, explains.

## OH BROTHERHOOD!

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our community could be described as a modern monastery.

*"Residents and visitors do not eat meat; we drink no alcohol, tea or coffee; we allow no drug-taking, and dress must be modest—bikinis or public nudity are out."*

"The moral standard is high. Men and women must not live together outside of marriage. And we have no members here living on the dole.

"Casual visitors who come looking for drugs and free love probably go away thinking we are the greatest lot of wowzers. But we are not.

"We are trying to create a wholesome environment in which we can grow, spiritually, and bring up our children in stable family units."

With a shy smile Mary Robinson adds: "But there is romance, too. In seven years, I have seen 30 marriages among Brotherhood couples, and 40 children have been born.

"Not all of those families are with us now . . ."

Present adherents include school teachers, an engineer, two film editors, a herbalist, and two well-known WA artists, John Pasco, 28, and Louise Fenely.

The Brotherhood day begins with a religious service after which residents work to support themselves with cereal crops, an orchard, flocks of sheep and hens, and a herd of goats for milk.

The children attend their own community school where, leaders say, they have "more teachers per child than any school in Australia."

In the evenings they make their own fun, with square dances such as the "Brotherhood reel" and self-penned songs like "I am a child of Mother Earth—she makes my heart rejoice."



★ THE Brotherhood is a monastery — but they work to support themselves on the farm.

When folk singer John Denver was in Australia last year, he flew to the community by light plane and sang at one of their evening concerts.

Mary, as the Brotherhood's principal, guides day-to-day affairs with an inner circle, relying on what she describes as "a form of inner knowing."

She caused a flutter a few years ago with the revelation that the hitherto-vegetarian fraternity could supplement their diet with fish.

At first some members of the inner circle disagreed, but eventually they received their independent convictions which finally put fish on the menu.

Mrs Robinson told POST: "We are trying to make ourselves as self-sufficient as we can, partly because we expect the transition to the New Age to dislocate the world economy.

"Without relying on the outside economy we would be able to feed ourselves and our children. At present, we use electricity, a tractor and motor vehicles. But we could operate successfully, ploughing the land with horses."

Among members, Fred Robinson is respected as a "prophet of the New Age" — a tiny space-age Moses with gentle voice and flowing hair.

He's a former Queensland sugar farmer who went broke during the Depression, but bartered his

way out of trouble by "using honey instead of money."

He told POST: "Our community here is based on modern revealed knowledge, which has been made available by the Space Brothers from other planets.

*"Knowledge was passed on to me by two teachers who trained me in Queensland many years ago. Both were from other more advanced planets but had been incarnated on Earth in human form."*

"Among other things they told me the timetable for Earth's transition into the New Age.

"You see, the time has come for our sun and our planet to undergo certain evolutionary changes. There will be earthquakes with continents sinking into the sea and new continents rising.

"As the Bible says, we will have a new heaven and a new earth.

*"During the cataclysmic change, our Space Brothers will evacuate, off the planet, those who are fit for the Millennium — those who can harmonise with the universe and who are not busy murdering their neighbors."*

"These will be returned to Earth when the planet has been purified and they will inherit the New Age. They will have infinitely greater creative powers than anyone has now—powers much greater than atomic energy.

"But those who are aggressive and not fit for New Age responsibilities cannot be trusted with these powers.

*"This impending transition is the reason for so many UFO sightings around the world. The Space Brothers are taking a great interest in what is happening here."*

"These cataclysmic changes could occur in 1982 when, astronomers tell us, all the planets will be in one straight line with the sun."

Mary interjects: "That might be so, but how this will happen and when it will happen, nobody knows for sure."

"Do you expect the UFOs to come here?" I asked. "Are you waiting for them to airlift you off your commune?"

"If there are any who deserve to be lifted up," said Fred, "they will be. That is for God to decide. We can only live the best we can.

"But we have heard that in the last 12 years, many people have been teleported off the Earth—in your language, they have just disappeared. It has happened even in Australia.

*"As time goes on, it will be an increasing thing. Perhaps the evacuation has already begun."*