



INTRODUCING PREFORM-INFORM

PREFORM-INFORM'S purpose is communication among libertarians and other freedom seekers interested in land mobility. It will be published when material is sufficient to make an issue; expect about four issues per year.

PREFORM-INFORM is sent: (1) to anyone seriously interested in nomadic living, in trade for a summary (about once a year) of situation and plans; (2) to anyone else for a donation of \$1 per four issues.

Preform is a previously-inactive, informal, non-profit association which is being utilized because it possesses surplus stationary and shares the use of a post office box.

TOWARD REALIZATION OF ONE OR MORE NOMADIC ASSOCIATIONS

The feature section of March 1968 INNOVATOR, which is included with this issue, discusses land mobility as a way to self-liberation. The "Visit to Libervan" story tells about a modern nomadic association; while not very detailed it provides a point-of-departure for further thought and action.

Unlike most stationary intentional communities, the nomadic association can develop informally and incrementally; as the cumulative effect of individual choices rather than through detailed planning and development of infrastructure by a founder or nucleus group. The following projection represents only my present thoughts as to how a nomadic association is **LIKELY** to develop; it is not a hard-and-fast plan:

PHASE I – CONTACT AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE. Through word-of-mouth and perhaps through publicity in libertarian, "underground," camper-trailer and "outdoor" periodicals, acquaintance is made with individuals seriously interested in nomadic living as a way of achieving personal freedom/security. These may include: individual "conventionally" but are interested in nomadic living; "woodsmen" who may be neither explicit libertarians for nomads, but who enjoy the out-of-doors and/or live and travel in vans or trailers on weekends and vacations. Correspondents exchange information regarding personal situations and objectives, equipment, squatting locations, and patterns of living.

PHASE II – TEMPORARY CARVANS AND CAMPOUTS. Individual nomads who share values and interests camp together when in the same area. Interested persons not yet nomads travel and camp out together on long weekends and vacations.

PHASE III – CONTINUING NOMADIC PROTO-ASSOCIATION. When a caravan becomes sufficiently large it no longer entirely disbands; individuals come and go for work, provisioning, and recreation, but one or more people are always "around." Education and other "local" services are provided on a continuing basis.

PHASE IV – INTENTINOAL NOMADIC ASSOCIATION. At first, when number of nomads is small, the association includes persons with quite diverse ideas, interests, and goals; the only "admission requirement" is peacefulness: one does not try to force others to carry out his ideas, interfere with voluntary actions of others with which he may not agree, or act in such a way as to endanger others. (An example of the latter: visiting a nearby town and bragging to the bar hangers about the gang of wild-eyes anarchists camped out in the boonies.)

But as nomadic population increases, people can and probably will be more selective; factional interests will often develop until a proto-association divides into two. Each group may

grow in numbers and divide again until there exist various nomadic “micro-cultures,” each with well-developed and interrelated philosophic ideals, educational methods, social customs, and pattern of living. I would expect “survival of the fittest” in a sociology sense; many different ideas will be tried, some will fail, some will succeed; of those which succeed different ones will suit different people.

SITUATIONS AND SEARCHES

(To encourage communication among similar or complementary individuals and groups, brief personal descriptions are published. Full name and address are included only on request; to contact a correspondent for whom address is not given, send a letter c/o Preform which I will forward.

TO PREFORM: I am interested in the experimental nomadic community as written up in MODERN UTOPIAN. Would you please send more detailed information and inform me more detailedly how I would go about becoming a member.

Would the presence of my two children, ages 18 and 14 complicate things? Though in all likelihood, the 18 year old would not be along, at least not much of the time because of future study plans which are not resolved yet.

We have been living in Tehran and Madrid for the past 13 years. We've been back since last summer. I have entirely too much energy and adventure in me to accept this meaningless and nerve-wracking existence. Yours sounds absolutely divine. Well, perhaps. Please don't delay answering. -Maxine, Upstate N.Y.

REPLY: I have delayed answering (one month). I regret this but communication delay (presently) accompanies mobility. Many children seem to be very “conservative” from about 5 to 15; this may be because they have spent considerable time and effort learning the Ways of Doing Things of the local tribe, and their self-esteem becomes involved in their ability to follow the rules. When the pattern of living and culture of such a child is drastically changed, he is unhappy, longs for the culture he left, and returns to it as soon as he is independent. But of course each child is an individual. And I would expect a 14-year-old who had lived in a number of cultures to be especially adaptable.

If I had children, especially young children not yet indoctrinated with the attitudes and customs of the Grave Society, I would have strong added incentive to establish a pattern of living independent of that society. -Tom Marshall

TO PREFORM: Was in City Lights where I picked up a copy of MODERN UTOPIAN where Preform was mentioned. Have not seen the INNOVATOR article.

My mother has a trailer “park” with conveniences on the Olympic Peninsula in Washington which she rents to tourist types in the summer. It is more or less deserted in the winter (at times rainy) and might be available for trailers or vans for a period at cost (of electricity) and some labor. She runs the place alone and some things don't get done. It is in the country and has a pond. Near the ocean. I would have to ask her.

I might be looking for a group to associate with, depending on a lot of things. Last I was in New Mexico where for a few months I was working for a publisher, putting together a weekly newspaper. I also saw what they were doing at New Buffalo and admire it, although myself I wouldn't want to live there.

One of my guiding peeves at the moment is for straight and hippie people to label themselves that way, as if the two were always mutually exclusive. I want to be more free than that.

I don't want to get involved with a group that is completely on a drug trip. In a nutshell, maybe; don't kill for peace. -Emil, San Francisco

P.S. Every so often I get fascinated with something, like the Mime Troupe is doing in outdoor acting, only on a traveling basis, like the old carnival and small circus troupes used to tour, but rejected the idea because I'm not a real actor and because a group composed entirely of actors can get monotonous. However the idea of bringing something fresh and tolerance-provoking into otherwise bland lives is appealing: probably something artsy-craftsy, some sort of fair, maybe

part rock, but definitely the community's own thing, that would be set up as an adjunct to a traveling community, and taken down when it wished. It might even pay expenses. It would provide purpose; too many "utopias" degenerate into pettiness. What do you think? It would depend on the people involved. -Emil, single, age 25

REPLY: Sounds interesting. Several forms of live entertainment require only a few talented, experienced people; much less-skilled people can assist and fill in. Many individuals in a nomadic association would have individual purposes by a joint undertaking can add zest. I would like to hear from others who have ideas, interests, and skills for traveling ventures. -Tom Marshall

TO PREFORM: I am very much interested in the idea of a nomadic community as outlined briefly in the March-April issue of THE MODERN UTOPIAN. This sort of venture appeals very strongly to my instincts for exploration, and living on-the-move with other persons. Unfortunately right now I have no money at all, and very few possessions. (Actually I have no desire to accumulate money or objects.)

I am 21, have a fairly aware, restless spirit. I dropped out of college after 3 semesters (in spite of nearly straight A's). For years I've been dreaming of taking an extended backpacking trip, but have been unable to find persons of similar aspirations, and have been reluctant to take off alone. I believe that community, self-regulation, and non-compulsive, non-possessive "love" are some elements of a sensible lifestyle.

I'd appreciate any information you can give me about specific requirements for participation in the nomadic community project. -Mary, Delaware

REPLY: Specific requirements are presently minimal. See page 1. The Sierra Club, active in California, gives low-cost training in various wilderness skills. Also see Angier's books published by Stackpole. HOW TO STAY ALIVE IN THE WOODS, a good introduction, is published in paperback by Collier. -Tom Marshall

TO PREFORM: I read about Libervan in the latest issue of MODERN UTOPIAN and would like to learn more. I have free time this summer, no van, but could share gas and expenses if another woman is leaving with a van and would take me along. I am a teacher writing a book like everyone else I suppose. My big interest is community-within-the-Establishment-but-not-of-it.

I'm rugged, like the outdoors, but am inexperienced totally at camper-van life. Sounds fine the way you are planning it. -Marian, Ventura Co., Calif.

QUESTION: By community-within-the-Establishment-but-not-of-it do you mean physical location within the United States or other existing country but with effective political, economic, and cultural independence? -Tom Marshall

TO PREFORM: I am a consulting engineer, 36 years old, no family. For about eight months I have been living full time in a large camper. Utilities include cooking stove, floor furnace, hot-water heater, shower, DC-to-AC converter; all "self-contained." I use a trail motorcycle, which can be mounted on the back, for auxiliary transportation both in wilderness areas and cities.

My job in assignments are temporary, lasting a few weeks to a few months; recent work has been in Southern California. Between jobs I usually stay at a "squat-spot" about 80 miles from Los Angeles.

For me, a nomadic association would probably be a "bedroom" and vacation community at first. I intend to continue "exporting" my labor for a while; topping off my savings as to achieve a degree of financial independence. (Living as a nomad, expenses are low and saving is easy.) Eventually I hope to develop a line of products which can be designed and fabricated with little or no dependence on a fixed base and marketed by mail-order.

Philosophically, I tend to be "center-libertarian" - neither "left" nor "right" in a class sense but a consistent advocate of freedom. I oppose military conscription, warfare against innocent people, taxes, bans on psychedelics, and all other interference with peaceful behavior. However

I am not a pacifist; I will defend myself and even counter-attack in a situation where this is tactically feasible and where damage will be inflicted only upon those who initiated force. I do not believe freedom is something that can be provided by “society” – certainly not by government. Each individual must accept responsibility for liberating himself; thus my interest in nomadic living and intentional community.

So far I have avoided family involvement because until now I could not provide what I judged to be a satisfactory environment for the growth of a child. I do not regard the existing society, with its compulsory mis-education, military conscription, and other forms of slavery directed against the young, plus the prevailing mores, as a healthy place for children. I would consider family involvement in an intentional community where cultural independence existed and where non-State, non-coercive educational services were available.

I expect to spend part of this summer working in S. Calif. but hope to make one extended trip to Canada in July/August. I would enjoy meeting anyone with similar interests either in S. Calif. or along my route. My message service is (213) 257- 2011; this is answered most days and evenings. When I am in the area I check for messages every few days. –Tom Marshall (Preform Coordinator)

P.S. The typewriter and mimeo machine on which I prepared this are carried on board.

PUBLICITY

(The following report was published in “Experimental Community News,” March-April MODERN UTOPIAN.)

NOMADIC LIVING – An experimental nomadic “community” is the current project of Preform. Patterned after “Libervan” (described in the March 1968 issue of INNOVATOR), the community will consist of camper/van dwellers who migrate more-or-less together. The community will camp in selected rural and wilderness areas of North America.

While wild foods will be utilized and “internal” trade will be encouraged, no attempt will be made to achieve complete economic autonomy; many members will leave periodically to take “outside” jobs.

Preform’s purpose is to pioneer an inexpensive and immediately feasible way of life which allows the comforts and convenience of modern technology, yet offers the freedom and adventure of the frontier. Inquiries are invited from peaceful and tolerant persons of all ideologies.

I was a participant in Atlantis Enterprise’s “Self-Liberation” seminar held in Los Angeles this May. Five patterns of living for realizing personal freedom in the here-and-now were described & compared as to cost, freedom & safety for a “model” family of 2 adults & 3 children. These were: clandestine urban, underground shelter, remote homestead, land-mobile nomadic, & sea-mobile nomadic. The model land-mobile family was described thusly in the seminar notes:

The LAND-MOBILE NOMAD family lives in 2 campers. They have scouted & prepared a number of “squat-spots” at different locations but all on uninhabited non-privately-owned land. The family as a whole moves from squat-spot to squat-spot; the pattern of movement is somewhat seasonal. When funds are needed, one parent commutes weekly to the city utilizing the smaller camper for transportation & city housing. The other parent & children live in the larger camper which remains at the squat-spot, which is where the children are educated. For auxiliary storage they have caches & rented space outside the city. They do some foraging but, partly because of easy proximity of city work & stores, rely mainly on purchased supplies. Protection is through concealment while at the squat-spot, mobility when disturbed, & anonymity while traveling in the city.

I presented the land-mobility topic. Tracing the historical development of stationary residence, I hypothesized that the “industrialization” of agriculture had made obsolete attached dwellings for most of the population. I described the advantages of nomadic living & suggested ways to overcome the significant disadvantage: limited space. For the “model” family I recommended 2 self-propelled vehicles over camper plus trailer, camper plus tent, or single large

vehicle. However the camper-plus-tent combination costs the least. For wilderness living I recommended selection & preparation of secret "squat-spots" rather than reliance on supervised campgrounds in National Forests. Suggestions for finding "squat-spots": Explore especially gently-rolling wooded land that has been logged; trees provide concealment & shade; water sources likely; a profusion of old logging trails can be easily improved.

In comparison with the other "self-liberational" modes as well as 3 "conventional" modes (urban rental, urban ownership, rural ownership), land-mobility rated lowest in overall cost in those situations requiring city employment. For present freedom & future safety, land-mobility is generally rated 2nd only to sea-mobility which is much more expensive.

About 30 people attended the seminar. One, a recent college graduate, has purchased a used delivery van which he is furnishing for full-time live aboard. He plans to locate in Canada.

Letter to the Editor of TRAILER LIFE: I have read about caravans – a number of trailers or campers on a tour together. I would like to know if there are any "rolling communities" – some kind of "permanent caravan" which never disbands, although individuals come and go. I would enjoy hearing from anyone who belongs to or knows of such a venture. Thank you, – Tom Marshall

REPLY: In answer to your letter of March 17, we know of no such thing as a "rolling community" or "permanent caravan." If there is, we would like to know about it.

We have heard of two or three families that stay together for periods of time, but that is all.
–Art Rouse, Editor and Publisher

RECOMMENDED PERIODICALS

MODERN UTOPIAN reports on a wide variety of intentional communities – existing and planned. Bi-monthly. \$4/year; 75¢/single copy. The Starr King Center, 2441 Le Conte, Berkeley, CA 94709.

INNOVATOR puts out special issues on various approaches to personal liberty – emigration, ocean living, and underground free trade as well as nomadic living. Quarterly, plus monthly "Free Trade" advertiser/forum. \$4/year; "Free Trade" only, \$1/year; six back issues on "self-liberation"/\$1. Box 34718, Los Angeles, CA 90034.

GREEN REVOLUTION gives information and news about self-sufficient homesteading, organic gardening, and intentional communities. Monthly. \$3/year; 25¢/single copy. Heathcote School of Living, Freeland, MD 21053

Both INNOVATOR and GREEN REVOLUTION have low-cost, quick-turn-around classified advertising. I suggest use of ads for relatively-fast notification of other nomads when a trip, visit, or meeting is planned. Since the above journals are seldom found on the newsstands, subscriptions are recommended.

CAMPER COACHMEN is one of the best commercial "recreation vehicle" magazines; publishes criticism as well as praise for the products of its advertisers. Monthly. \$3/year; 35¢ single copy. Griffin Publications, 545 W. Elk Ave., Glendale, CA 91204

INSTANT HOT-WATER HEATERS

A person at the "Self-Liberation Seminar" took issue with my recommendation (in the INNOVATOR article) of "instant" hot-water heater. He has heard that the water tubes in such a heater become clogged with deposits after a few months use. (I have not had this trouble myself – at least yet.) I will check this out; find out what brands are susceptible and whether or not something can be added to the water to prevent or remove deposits.

BACKPAGE LETTER TO JIM STUMM, ADDED JAN. 18, 1986

John Zube, 7 Oxley St., Berrima, NSW, Australia 2577

18.Jan.86

Dear Jim,

Hand-correcting Preform/Inform took me more than two days. This set seems to be complete now except, as you know, the first issues being only available in a reduced reprint.

But while searching through some relevant files (I was in the habit of taking magazines apart, filing articles separately) for missing copies of VONULIFE. I found at least an early copy of Preform. Photocopy is enclosed.

One of the missing pages of VonuLife copies I found, too, but not the other one: VL3 pages 5/6 are still missing. Could you supply them to me, please? \$2 are enclosed for your trouble.

I would also like to enclose all your Random Notes, so far out. I have R.N. No. 1 on hand. Possibly, I have also, somewhere buried, No. 2, for a planned reply to you. But, just in case, could you spare another?

Victor Koman wrote to me that he plans a 50 page introductory booklet on the advantages for micrographics for self-publishing mentioned in his letter, I believe, that R.N. 3 & 4 are also out already. I consider those as self-advertising material.

RN 1 is already reproduced with LF 1-30 set, but I would rather reproduce an initial set together.

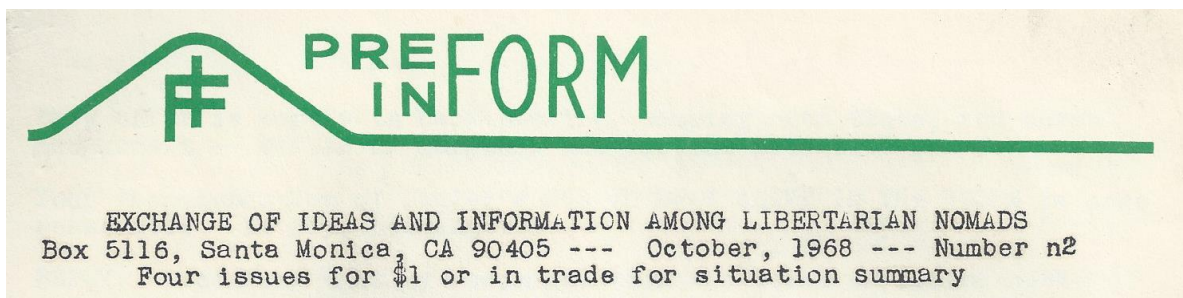
I could probably squeeze them in with Innovator or VonuLife, both of which I intend to reproduce at 24x – 98 pages only, because of the reduced print.

I might also LF 31 & 32, received since.

I should really try to write you a decent letter, discussing some of your arguments, alas, I do not find the time and want my production part of the microfilming of these 3 journals – Innovator, Preform, VonuLife, finally finished.

I still would like to know what happened to Tom Marshall and Roberta. Would they still live mainly in their secret den? Did they have any children? A last word from them on VonuLife would make a fitting end to the filming of his journal. Has he renounced this lifestyle but does not want to recant publicly – or has his family possibly been found and wiped out by looters?

FIOT,
John



GO "GYPSY" – NOW!

Now is the time when the tied people return from their summertime escapist rituals & put themselves away in their boxes for another year. And now is the time for free people to look for bargains in vans & campers.

Do you hesitate for lack of funds? Nomadic living is THE least expensive way of living that still allows easy access to the city. There is no rent to pay. If 5 to 10 grand for a new rig is more than you can afford, look for used wheels. I saw a well-equipped bread truck offered for \$900.

Do you hesitate for lack of knowledge? Unlike setting off on a yacht for the South Seas or building your own log cabin in Northern Canada, land-mobile living requires few skills you don't already have. A truck is no more difficult to drive than an automobile; some even have automatic transmission. If you don't know your way around the innards, by all means contract with a mechanically-proficient friend to do the shopping, making sure he understands YOUR needs.

Do you dislike the thought of "always travelling?" Strange as it might seem, a nomad probably moves very little. Travelling is what the guy does who buys a house to "settle down," & then commutes to work – back & forth & back and forth & back & forth...

Are you awaiting a nomadic intentional community to move into, & with? Why let YOUR liberation wait on OTHERS? If it is companionship you want, become a nomad; you can associate even with stationary dwellers easier than can another stationary dweller; you can pick & change your neighbors at will.

Do you wonder how you will live when you are free? With some thought & experimentation you can develop a life pattern that is efficient & satisfying for you.

CRITICISM OF THE SIERRA CLUB

HOW can you recommend the Sierra Club as a source of training in wilderness skills??? The Sierra Club is and always has been a coercivist organization. It lobbies for government control of wilderness areas and, specifically, for restriction of forest land to the uses THEY wish to make. And most members are All-American finks – eager to report any Violation of the Rules to Big Brother.

But, even overlooking this, the Sierra Club comes to the wilderness as sightseers, not woodsmen. To them, a forest is only to be LOOKED AT and TRAMPED THROUGH, not LIVED IN in a natural way. What training they offer is mostly in backpacking, camping with tents, and burro management – skills of marginal use for the motorized nomad.

Your recommendation of Angier's HOW TO STAY ALIVE IN THE WOODS is more reasonable.
EL RAY, LOS ANGELES

REPLY: I confess that my recommendation was based on secondhand information; I have not participated in any Sierra Club activities myself. I have recently read THE SIERRA CLUB WILDERNESS HANBOOK which tends to confirm Mr. Ray's judgement.

SITUATIONS AND SEARCHES

(To encourage communication among similar or complementary individuals and groups, brief personal descriptions are published. Unless otherwise requested only the first name and general location of correspondent is given; for contact send a letter to that person c/o Preform

which will be forwarded. Two letters per subscriber per year will be forwarded without charge; additional forwards are 25¢ each.)

TO PREFORM: Greetings.

This is in response to the item in the MODERN UTOPIAN. Your nomadic living project is something I've had on my mind for years, but could never find anyone else who was willing to try it, or even believed it could be done. Subsequently, my daughter (then age 3) and I went into California desert and then into the mountains of northern California, Oregon, Washington, and B.C., living in wilderness the whole time, and living completely off the land.

I'm presently teaching at a free-school near Vancouver, which I and another ex-American founded less than a year ago. We hope to divide the school in two: a city day-school, and a wilderness boarding school.

After living in a nomadic fashion for so long, I find it very difficult to be calm in one place. This visit to California is largely the result of restlessness.

I would very much like to know what kind of response you've had to date; what stage the project is in at present, and any general information available. The below address is valid for the rest of July, after when I will most certainly go wandering. (I long for fresh air and quiet.) -Tom, Vancouver (?)

REPLY: Living completely off the land, you are ahead of me and most persons I know. I am still "enjoying the best of both worlds." While I now depend on wild plants (greens) almost entirely for vegetables, I still rely heavily on staples (bulk-purchased grain, powdered milk, vegetable oil, honey) and I buy some fresh meat and fruit when I am in town.

The enclosed P-I will answer most of your questions. I have had about three dozen responses (as of October 1) from (so far) very limited publicity. -Tom Marshall

TO PREFORM: I am at present on the beginning of a two month exploration of the Northwest (July). I read an article yesterday regarding the caravan commune-type plans and I would like to catch up with same for a time if possible. Can you send me any pertinent information as to destination, general whereabouts or other identifying characteristics of the caravan so as to make the rendezvous possible? I would greatly appreciate an IMMEDIATE response as the address below is only temporary. -Wallace, Portland (?)

REPLY: There is not yet any permanent nomadic association (to my knowledge). The immediate objective of Preform is to establish communication among individuals who are already land-mobile. (I described my own plans for travel in the Northwest ("caravan of one"?). Our tracks did not cross.) -Tom Marshall

TO PREFORM: Re: FREE TRADE July ad, "four issues are sent" (1).

I presently own a Corvan (63) in which I installed a false floor, curtains, and other conveniences. It is stored in Washington, D.C., needs repair (clutch) and will probably be sold shortly. However, I intend to purchase a new camper as soon as I have the cash.

I hope to write or obtain an article on mobile living for the magazine (REASON) which I am publishing. Lanny Friedlander, 42 Euston Rd., Brighton, Mass. 02135.

TO PREFORM: I've just returned from a 3-month trip and catching up with my mail.

A note in MODERN UTOPIAN about Nomadic Community Living greatly interests me, and I've a ½-ton truck to put a camper top on. (I'm waiting for the summer vacation season to end when there should be some cheaper used ones!)

At various time, I've camped, grown my own food, and in general lived a rather unconventional life during my 48 years. For several years, I've worked - between periods living in the country - in resort hotels on the front desk, and this, by frugal living has given me the means to take off "and be myself".

Having been interested in Community Living for some time, I'd like to have the opportunity of being a member in a community such as yours. -Rod, Las Vegas

P.S. I have a Studio apartment at present. If there's a local member of one coming through I'd be glad to accommodate him for a night.

TO PREFORM: Enclosed is my \$1, please send me any issues of PREFORM that happen in the next year. Your idea for a mobile community sounds great, but, unfortunately I can't take advantage of it anytime soon. I don't have any skills that would enable me to pick up jobs any time I needed them, so I'm stuck until retirement time, which will be in the not-too-distant future. Meanwhile, I'd like to join any others who get together for weekends and vacations. I'm a single lady, 56, have a camper, and love the outdoors, camping, and traveling, politically sort of leftish and liberal. Please publish this so that if there are others in my category we might be able to get in touch. -Violet B. Porter, 5171 Mission Blvd., Space 2, Riverside, CA 92509.

TO PREFORM: Hi, there, Tom Marshall! See in "The Questers" that you and I have considered points in common. Enclosed sheets I offer in evidence of affinity. Summering in La Junta, Colorado, but may leave early in August for western slope of the divide somewhere from Grand Junction to Aspen, provided the Washington D.C. "establishment" have not reserved the entire area for relocation of the capitol and bureaucratic free-wheelers, as a first entrenchment for eventual removal to Alaska. -Rusel, Colorado

NOMAD JOY CARAVANING:

(1) Advocates of uninhabited natural living may tour the countryside - keynoting essential free-living for survival.

(2) Gypsy-like, freebees carry needful tools for plying their crafts or hobbies - using such devices for timely contacts with all of friendly attitude.

(3) One may repair fountain pens, typewriters, radios, refrigerators, lawnmowers, roofs, or cars; give informal free-talks on gardening, pure food preparation, edible wild plants, scientific forecasts of world changes, bio-rhythm, astrology, name analysis, science of the absolute, panspeech gloneo, and universal naturalness.

(4) One may live off of nature's bounty, foraging for wild herbs, berries, nuts, acorns, cactus apples and buds; making grass juice and alfalfa-elder-peppermint teas; raising salad herbs in small pressed paper, plastic and wooden boxes; or barter one's services for aught food one may need.

(5) Sleeping in the open outdoors, beneath sheltering trees, rocks, cliffs, in caves, or abandoned dwellings, or church or school stoops, picnic tables, or in hammocks when available.

(6) Such freebies exemplify naturalness, concord, helpfulness in showing forth the beauty of freelandia sans landlords, state government, private property and technical barbarism of war.

(7) Hail, all hail, the free way of Mo Tzu, Lao Tzu, Chuang Tzu, Voltaire, Rousseau, Thoreau, and Vinoba! All listen closely to their words of the wisdom!

-Vaga Verdaque, 7-6-68, Free-Nomads Commune, Box 777, La Junta, Colorado, 81050.

TO PREFORM: I would like to be included in your contact and information exchange. We are freedom seekers and libertarians.

We have been trying to get enough money to buy land for a trailer park in a remote area for an intentional community. A circle of trailers around the central building that would be used for recreation, dining, and etc.

An intentional Nomadic Association would certainly be of interest. We would like to have our name known to others in the Washington area.

We have three children and my academic background is not complete in either philosophy or psychology. D.H. Somerville, P.O. Box 5166, Seattle, Wash.

CRITIQUE: Your community idea is intriguing but I wonder if "ownership" of a trailer park is necessary or desirable. Even in a remote area, if the "Authorities" know of it, they will attempt to tax it and regulate it, and force the children into THEIR schools.

A safer approach and one requiring less capital investment might be to use a few carefully-selected squat-spots. Recreation and dining facilities might be in trailers also. -Tom Marshall

(An inquiry to Preform was received from Portola Institute, 1115 Merrill St., Menlo Park, CA 94025. An enclosed leaflet provides the following information. I have requested more details.)

Portola Institute is a non-profit tax-exempt organization fostering innovations in education. One of the pilot programs of the Institute is the WHOLE EARTH TRUCK STORE and CATALOG headed by Stewart Brand. The function of this program is improving access to tools for self-dependent self-education, individual or cooperative.

The TRUCK STORE and CATALOG carries items (products, services, techniques) useful in the following ways:

- Understanding whole systems
- Design techniques and materials
 - Shelter and land use (including hand agriculture)
 - Industry and craft
- Nomadic techniques and materials
- Learning techniques and materials

Information in the CATALOG will permit the potential user of a listed item to obtain closest possible access to its source at lowest possible cost. The CATALOG will not attempt to take part in most transaction and will accept no commission for sales. Publication of the WHOLE EARTH CATALOG will be twice yearly, in the Spring and Fall, at \$5 per issue or \$9 per year. If traffic warrants it, there will be a periodic supplement, free to subscribers, carrying provisional item listings and correspondence of general interest.

As a preliminary to the CATALOG, the WHOLE EARTH TRUCK STORE is traveling in the summer of 1968 to intentional communities, experimental schools, design departments, and the like which may be served by the CATALOG. The TRUCK STORE carries some items for direct retail and some samples of items which may ordered. Financially this effort is adjusted to break even; its main purpose is informal market research for the CATALOG.

INTENTIONAL COMMUNITY CENTER

THE QUESTERS (Box N, Los Banos, CA 93635) is an intentional community information center through which one can make contact both with existing communities and with other seekers having compatible goals and abilities. They publish a booklet explaining the intentional community idea plus a comprehensive questionnaire for determining compatibility; both for \$2.

I briefly talked with Mr. and Mrs. Paul Marks, the proprietors of QUESTERS, on my way south, and was very impressed with their ability, imagination, thoroughness, and drive. While their personal interest and experience is toward a remote agricultural (stationary) community, THE QUESTERS serve all who are seeking a way out.

PROPERTY OWNERSHIP – SOME COMMENTS

While intentional community seekers differ on many aspects of living, an especially important and often controversial question concerns control of property. Since Preform is receiving inquiries in almost equal numbers from persons preferring private ownership and from persons preferring communal ownership, this question deserves attention. One simple and obvious resolution is for each kind to peacefully go their own way. But since neo-nomads of ALL KINDS are still relatively few, a proto-association can develop sooner if BOTH privatists and communalists are able to associate to advantage.

For nomads, the issue of property is much simpler than for stationary agrarians since the matter of “land ownership” probably does not arise: few nomads intend to “own” land. So the question of ownership relates only to goods which are purchased, gathered, or crafted.

“Commune” has a poor “popular image” because totalitarian socialist government have applied that name to some of their slave labor camps. As used in P-I, “commune” means VOLUNTARY commune unless otherwise qualified. Note that a totalitarian State is immoral not because it is COLLECTIVE but because it is coercive.

Common sharing of possessions can and occasionally does work out quite well. In fact, most people live in what are essentially little communes, and at least a few of these are happy – they are called “families.” (Not all marriages are communal in practice; some are micro-free enterprise. But most “traditional American families” involve common sharing. The next time some “Conservative” friend criticizes communes, ask him how much per hour he pays his wife for housework – adding that you may offer her more money and hire her away.)

On the other hand, I have not heard of a successful commune of more than a few hundred people; most are much smaller. Many people sharing in common tend to have even more difficulties than two people so living. So would-be members should be at least as careful in choosing each other as in selecting wives or husbands, (Most communes, like most marriages, prove unhappy and/or break up.)

Chances of a commune succeeding are probably best among a relatively few persons having highly compatible interests, abilities, values, and goals, who have known and critically evaluated each other for some time.

For a larger or more diverse nomadic community: Multi-person communes, conventional families, agoric mutual-franchises, lone individuals, and other groupings can associate – each as a private entity – exchanging when trade appears advantageous; remaining aloof when autonomy seems preferable.

CARAVAN TO CENTRAL AMERICA

Some interest has been expressed in a nomad caravan to Central America this winter. If you would like to participate let me know preferred dates. I would especially hear from anyone familiar with the route, camping sites, border crossings, etc. (I am not) who might like to lead such an expedition.

Alternately some of us might join a conventional caravan, such as the one to Mexico organized by CAMPER-COACHMEN magazine.

I will inform you of any activity which comes on too short notice for P-I through an ad in FREE TRADE. (\$1 a year or \$2 for 30 months from Box 34718, Los Angeles, CA 90034; see June P-I for more details.)

SQUAT-SPOT INFORMATION EXCHANGE

One purpose of PREFORM-INFORM is exchange of information about desirable camping locations – “squat-spots.” A good squat-spot differs from a pleasant picnic site (thousands of which can be easily found in most any area) by isolation and concealment. The squat-spot is rarely visited except by the discoverer and those to whom he gives direction. Vehicles parked there are not visible from settlements nor from frequently-traveled roads, so are not apt to be molested. An individual or group who is there, is there alone – and free! In other ways, the squat-spot may be rather ordinary; any National Park campground has more spectacular scenery, along with more regimentation than Moscow (U.S.S.R. or Idaho).

If registration or fee payment is required for entry (physically, not just “legally”), the place should probably be avoided by serious libertarians. This certainly holds for any national or state government facility but usually applies to privately owned resorts as well. Even if the owner is in full sympathy with the aims and practices of a nomadic group, as a “landlord,” he is especially vulnerable to myriad laws and regulations. (One of many possible examples – the “hippie” intentional community near San Francisco which was shut down for violation of “public health” ordinances.)

With regard to trespassing on private land: While I respect what private property does exist, I recognize ownership of neutrally-occurring land only on the basis of use. What constitutes “use” is a complex and thorny question of legal philosophy, but as a rule of thumb, I suggest that if the supposed owner does not surround the land with high fence, locked gates, and “No Trespassing” signs, he is not exercising complete ownership of it. I am welcome to use it, too, provided I do not interfere with uses others are already making such as grazing cattle, growing/cutting timber, or raising crops.

With regard to trespassing on government land: I do not recognize claims to ownership by any government which acts in a criminal manner – initiates or threatens initiation of force. Since

the U.S. and most other existing governments are criminal, anything they might otherwise own is fair game for any victim of their crimes. I cannot take seriously any assertion that a coercive government is controlling land "for the benefit of the people as a whole." Not only is "people as a whole" a vague abstraction having no real existence, but a criminal organization has no moral right to speak or act for anyone. I will PHYSICALLY respect the rulers of a coercive government, as I would obey the commands of any criminal, only to the extent that they can be immediately enforced.

I am grouping squat-spots into three kinds: MONTH-STAY where one would park for a month or longer with little chance of attracting unwanted attention; DAY-STAY which may be reasonably safe only for a stay as short as one day and night; SPECIAL which differ significantly from the above. Both month-stay and day-stay squat-spots are in places reachable by ordinary automobile or camper; special squat-spots include places accessible only with four-wheel drive, boat, mule, or other special transportation. Month-stays are the most difficult to find because of privacy requirements; to date, I have discovered only one in southern California. Day-stays are much easier to find and are probably of interest only if handy to a city.

I have prepared forms for reporting on month-stay and day-stay squat-spots; samples are included with this issue. If you like the forms, use them; if not, give pertinent information any way you like and/or suggest revisions. Reports on two spots I have discovered are included for illustration and to start the exchange. Reports will be mimeographed one per page for possible rearrangement into a directory.

I am "naming" squat-spots as follows: Name of nearest large city or other point of interest. Kind of squat-spot ("m" for month-stay, "d" for day-stay, "s" for special). Approximate direction from and driving distance from center of the city. To illustrate: "Los Angeles m NW91" means: the squat-spot is judged suitable for occupancy lasting a month or more, direction from Los Angeles is approximately northwest, and driving distance from city center is 91 miles.

Frequency of visitation and trail passage can be roughly estimated from human debris, tracks, and condition of vegetation. An extensive area with a number of possible month-stay locations might be especially useful to an association of nomads who wished to maintain individual privacy yet frequently come together.

While squat-spots may be desired mainly for "freedom now," they are also of potential value as retreat locations or waiting/monitoring areas in event of nuclear war or other general disaster. Since radioactive ash, viruses, and poison gases all lose virulency or dissipate quite quickly, fallout from a target 200 miles upwind is much less dangerous than from 30 miles upwind, and time for preparation is correspondingly greater – thus the questions on this.

LIBERTARIAN EMBLEM

I would like to purchase an emblem – bumper sticker or flag – for my camper which is recognizable and meaningful to almost any libertarian but which is sufficiently cryptic to not trigger the hostility of State highwaymen and others unwilling to live and let live. –Amy

OCEAN LIVING

OCEAN LIVING is a newsletter-forum exploring methods by which individuals and small groups might maximize personal and economic liberty through marine ventures. Skipper is William Taylor, First Mate is Kerry Thornley, Boatswain is James Parkerson. The latest issue (#5) includes more news on Britt Wadner's "Pirate" Radio Syd, an ecological approach to the ocean, "International Flag Code," "Book Reports for Weed Eaters," and a proposal of Erwin S. Strauss of TTA Enterprises for off-shore commuter developments. Preform is selling subscriptions: ten issues for \$1.

ON CULTURAL CHANGE

"Whatever the method (of education) adopted, whether the young are disciplined, lectured, consciously taught, permitted to run wild or even antagonized by the adult world – the result is the same. The little Manus becomes the big Manus, the little Indian, the big Indian. When it is a question of passing on the sum total of a simple tradition, the only conclusion which it is possible to draw from the diverse primitive material is that ANY METHOD WILL DO. The forces

of imitation are so much more potent than any adult technique for explaining them; the child's receptivity to its surroundings is so much more important than any methods of stimulation, that as long as every adult with whom he comes in contact is saturated with the tradition, he cannot escape a similar saturation. Although this applies of course, in its entirety, only to a homogenous culture, it has nevertheless far-reaching consequences in educational theory...

"The cultivation in children of traits, attitudes, habits foreign to their cultures is not the way to make over the world. Every new religion, every new political doctrine, has had first to make its adult converts, to create a small nuclear culture within whose guiding walls its children will flourish...They must, that is, create a coherent adult culture in miniature before they can hope to bring up children in the new tradition..."

NEW LIVES FOR OLD, Margaret Mead, in paperback for 80¢ (mailed) from New American Library, Box 2310, Grand Central Station, New York 17.

MONTH-STAY SQUAT SPOT TEMPLATE

LOCATION:

Nearest large city or other reference:

Approximate distance from:

Driving distance from center:

ASSUMED CHARACTERISTICS, unless otherwise stated:

No registration, fee payment, or permission is required for use. If "government owned," any such regulations cannot be readily enforced. If privately owned, the area is not fenced off or posted against trespassing.

On the average the spot is not visited by more than one "outsider" per year. Camper-trucks parked there are at least two miles from any permanent habitation and are not visible from it, nor from any trail traveled more frequently than once a year. Access to the spot is camouflaged, if from a trail traveled more frequently than once a month.

During recommended seasons an average automobile can reach the spot; perhaps with difficulty. At least two different routes give access to within twenty miles.

A fresh water source is within one-quarter mile; purification may be necessary before drinking.

CLIMATE:

- Recommended season(s):
- Altitude:
- Air distance to closest probably nuclear target, in any direction:
- Upwind (prevailing wind direction);
- During recommended seasons, typical daily maximum temperature:
- Minimum temperature:
- Hours of sunshine:
- Hours of precipitation:
- Snow coverage on ground:

WILDLIFE:

- General type of vegetation:
- Are there trees adequate for shade and concealment from air?
- Wild foods available, including kinds and time-of-year of game, fish, nuts, berries, greens, etc.;
- Annoying insects:

CAPACITY:

Number of camper-trucks which could be accommodated with concealment and ten-foot separation?

Are there likely to be other month-stay squat-spots within five miles?

OTHER INFORMATION:

DIRECTIONS:

(If you wish to offer directions only to individuals you select, please include permanent mailing address and specific price and other qualifications.)

RECOMMENDED BY:

(name withheld, if requested)

DATE LAST VISITED:

DAY-STAY SQUAT-SPOT

LOCATION:

- Nearest large city:
- Driving distance from center:
- Approximate direction from:

ASSUMED CHARACTERISTICS, unless otherwise stated:

No registration, fee payment, or permission is required for use. If "government owned," any such regulations cannot be readily enforced. If privately owned, the area is not fenced off or posted against trespassing.

On the average the spot is not visited by more than one "outsider" per week. Camper-trucks parked there are not visible from any permanent habitation nor from any trail traveled more frequently than once a week.

During recommended seasons the spot can be easily reached by an average automobile from the outskirts of the city in an hour or less.

FRESH WATER:

Distance from closest source open to public:

CLIMATE:

- Similar to that of the city except:
- Altitude:
- Air distance to closest probable nuclear target:

CAPACITY:

- Number of camper-trucks which can be accommodated with concealment:
- Are there likely to be other squat-spots within a mile?

OTHER INFORMATION:

DIRECTIONS:

(If you wish to offer directions only to individuals you select, please include permanent mailing address and specific price and other qualifications.)

RECOMMENDED BY:

(name withheld, if requested)

DATE LAST VISITED:

LOS ANGELES M NW91

CLIMATE: Recommended spring and autumn; elevation – 5000'; closest target, 40 miles; upwind, 200 miles; 85° to 40°; 10 hours sunshine; under one hour rain.

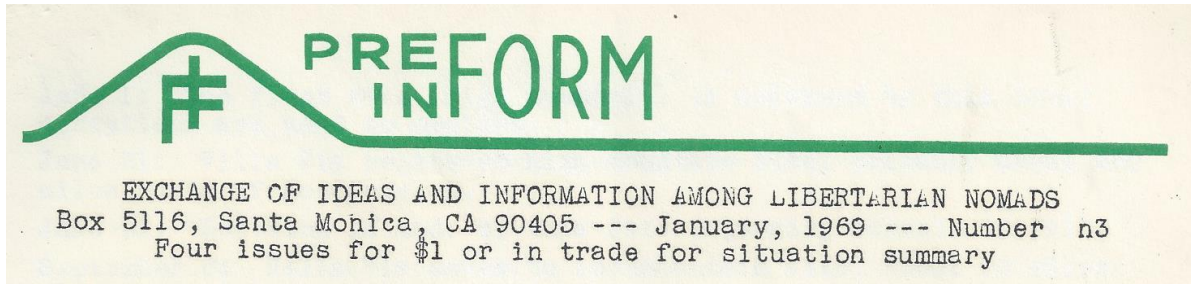
WILDLIFE; Mountain coniferous forest, also nearby areas of chaparral, sage, meadow; trees adequate for shade – should be supplemented with camouflage netting for full concealment from air; edibles include deer, rabbits, squirrel, pinyon nuts (*Pinus monophylla*) autumn, miner's lettuce (*Montia perfoliata*) spring, yucca in late spring, acorns in fall, dandelions all year; flies late spring through autumn.

CAPACITY: four, could be enlarged to ten. Many other possible squat-spots, both m and d, within a few miles.

OTHER INFORMATION: Area is accessible all seasons from three different routes; roads muddy in winter and early spring. Mountains shield from close targets. Earthquake region. "National forest" public and unfenced private areas intermixed. Closest seasonal resort is four miles; closest permanent settlement is eight miles; closest store is 14 miles.

DIRECTIONS: I will provide directions to a day-stay squat-spot two miles away to any nomad or retreat minded libertarian in or coming to southern California. No charge except stamped, self-addressed envelope plus (if I don't know you) character references sufficient to establish that you are whatever you say you are. Tom Marshall, Box 141, Glendale, CA 91209.

Tom Marshall, June 1968



PROPOSAL FOR A LIBERTARIAN NOMADIC ASSOCIATION IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Summary

A new concept in suburban living, tentatively named Villa Via – Village of the road, is proposed; to begin this coming summer. Villa Via members live in their own campers, trailers, and tents at isolated sites in southern California. Villa Via as a whole migrates seasonally from site to site, remaining at each site for about two months. Individual members come and go for work, college, shopping, and recreation; many commuting weekly to cities. Site locations range from high mountains to seashore to desert, assuring a variety in climate, terrain, wildlife, and recreation opportunities. Thus, Villa Via offers the freedom and adventure of the wilderness with most of the comforts and conveniences of modern technology. Villa Via is similar in concept to “Libervan”) (March 1968 INNOVATOR), the principal difference being location within a few hundred miles of Los Angeles, allowing participation by those dependent on conventional employment. Membership is open to selected libertarians; both those for whom land mobility is an ultimate way of life and those seeking interim liberty and safety while awaiting and preparing for a truly interim free port, ship-board community, or other large scale development.

Tentative Schedule and Itinerary

January 25, 1969: preliminary decision on point. IF AT LEAST TEN PEOPLE INDICATE INTEREST by returning the advance surveys (enclosed), I will proceed with planning and promotion; if not, plans will be shelved for this year. To encourage return of surveys by January 25, a 25% membership discount is offered. Promotion will tentatively include information releases to and large ads in FREE TRADE, MODERN UTOPIAN, GREEN REVOLUTION, and ATLANTIS NEWS. Brochures and applications will be prepared and sent to those returning surveys and to persons requesting them.

April 4-6: Weekend gathering of interested persons at a squat-spot near Los Angeles. Except: some presentations and planned activities; mostly informal contact. Admission per vehicle; \$1, or a prepared 15-minute summary of ideas/information or other relevant activity.

April 26 or sooner: final decision point. If/when applications and deposits are received for at least 20 people, I will make commitments and do preparation. If not, deposits with 2%/month interest will be returned and plans will be shelved for this year. To encourage applicants before April 26, I will probably offer a one-third membership discount. (This will be in addition to advance survey discount.)

May 30 – June 1: Weekend gathering (for members who can make it) at a Villa Via site near Los Angeles. Plans and preparations will be reviewed.

June 1: The first site (high mountain) is selected by this date; directions are sent to members.

June 21: Decision is made by this date regarding schools in fall.

September 6: Villa Via moves to low-mountain site, about 90 miles northeast of Los Angeles.

September 15: A freedom school begins at Villa Via, assuming sufficient demand and a qualified instructor.

November 1: Villa Via moves to coast site, probably about 240 miles south of Los Angeles in Baja California. (I will welcome any leads on acceptable coast sites closer to Los Angeles.)

January 3, 1970: Villa Via moves to hill site, about 60 miles north of Los Angeles.

May 2: Villa Via moves to low-mountain site.

Moving dates are for facilities and services arranged by proprietor; individual members can of course move whenever they please.

Pattern of Living

Villa Via is especially designed for freedom-seekers who must continue conventional employment for some time. Villa Via sites will be within weekly commuting distance of major southern California cities. One-way driving time to Los Angeles will average about four hours. Sites will be comparable to month-stay squat-spots in isolation and concealment, see P.I. #2.

For a single person, any camper, van, or panel truck can provide shelter both while at a site and while away working or shopping. For a family of two adults with children, with one adult commuting to outside employment, I suggest a large “self-contained” camper or motorhome plus a smaller van or shell-camper. One parent and children remain most of the time at the site, living in the larger vehicle; the other parent commutes in the smaller vehicle. If the larger vehicle seldom travels except from site to site – about 1500 miles per year, a well-used rig will offer greatest economy. A travel trailer can be substituted for the large camper, but there may be some difficulties getting it to sites. For one willing to tolerate the inconveniences, a tent plus present automobile will provide shelter with minimum cash outlay.

With seasonal migration, temperature will seldom exceed 85°F or drop below 40°F; a heat source is not essential but will make cool evenings more pleasant. A few predator insects should be expected; screening will make sleep and sedentary work more comfortable. A fresh water supply will be within one mile of site. Common facilities such as cold storage, hot showers, and 110vac electricity will be offered if demand is sufficient.

Members will receive directions to sites, notification of moves, telephone message service, letter forwarding service, and “legal” residential address. For possible optional services, see the advance survey.

Some members may prefer to continue conventional city housing for a time, coming to Villa Via only on weekends, which is acceptable. However, I recommend against children under 16 commuting between Villa Via and state schools.

Concerning Freedom

Freedom is Villa Via’s primary reason for being. Freedom means: having control of your own life; do anything that’s peaceful. But in a land where there are monstrous criminal conspiracies (masquerading as “governments”) dedicated to slavery and murder, freedom requires sophisticated and usually clandestine self-protection techniques. Neo-nomads realize protection through concealment, mobility, and anonymity: concealment at squat-spots, mobility if harassed, and anonymity while traveling. (Neo-nomads look superficially like vacationers when on the road and if necessary talk like them.)

Villa Via’s rules will be minimal; only for preservation of freedom: Do unto others only with their consent: do not initiate physical force, nor attract the attention of those who do. Specifically: Within one mile of a site, do not shoot (other than emergency self-defense), blast, make smoke during daylight, or litter. Do not divulge site location or personal information about another member to a non-member. Do not bring criminal elements into a dispute with another member; a means of private arbitration/restitution will be arranged.

Membership is limited to libertarians: broadly, those who want freedom and will respect the freedom of others. But beyond this, identical purposes, attitudes, and behavior should not be expected. “Center is such a hash of cultures, races, customs, and styles that it has few rules. The one invariant custom is: Don’t impose YOUR customs on ME.” (GLORY ROAD, Robert Heinlein.) Those who like diversity may find early Villa Via exceptionally rewarding. But even those who eventually want to live in a close-tolerance libertarian miniculture can gain benefits: interim freedom, experience, and perhaps a nucleus group.

The proprietor accepts primary responsibility for protecting Villa Via from outside criminal elements, public or private, while at sites, and will give assurance of this by agreeing to pay penalties when freedom is violated. Tentative reimbursements include: For unscheduled or excess move, 1% of annual vehicle fees per mile. For visit by person initiating or threatening force – i.e., demand identification, searching vehicles, looting, or making arrests, 20% of total annual

fee plus \$50 to each person arrested. For termination of Villa Via (after commitment is made) or gross failure to fulfill contracted responsibilities, double annual fee prorated for remaining contract period.

While occasional unwanted visitors must be expected at even the most secluded site, most will be harmless. The proprietor will utilize electronic advance-warning devices to make sure that no visit is a surprise visit.

Invited guests can be accommodated in any of several ways without compromising safety: A libertarian may join as an associate member, paying a small annual fee plus a daily charge while at site. Members may arrange private squat-spots one mile or further from sites to which they may invite whomever they please. Or, when moving between sites, interested members may stop for a day or two at a common squat-spot for "open house."

Cost of Membership

Annual fees will be set roughly proportional to anticipated custodial work: trailers and long or high vehicles require better access trails; compulsory-school-age children and single men (always suspicious to authoritarian types) increase seclusion needed or "insurance" costs. Tentative annual charges are: \$10 per family or group (one or more people with whom Villa Via communicates as a unit), plus \$10 per self-propelled vehicle not over 18 feet long and 8 feet high, plus \$20 per trailer not over 10 feet long from hitch and 8 feet high, plus 20¢ per square foot of floor area of tent not over 8 feet high, plus \$5 per foot over length and height on all shelters, plus \$10 per child 5 or younger, plus \$100 per child 6 through 15*, plus \$10 per woman 16 or older, plus \$100 per man 16 or older.

Examples: A single adult male with a short van would pay \$10 plus \$10 plus \$100: a total of \$120 per year. A family of man, woman, and two children under six with a 20-foot-long motorhome plus a short van would pay a total of \$170 per year. If these people received both the 25% survey assistance discount and the early application discount, their total fees would be cut in half the first year: to \$60 and \$85 respectively.

Villa Via thus offers exceptional economy compared to conventional trailer courts which charge \$30 to \$100 or more PER MONTH, where vehicles are usually jammed close together, and where one is not only vulnerable to the full gamut of federal, state, and municipal irrationality but many management restrictions as well. However, should membership charge be an obstacle to any otherwise-qualified applicant, the proprietor will be happy to trade for site locating, trail improvement, or other custodial tasks.

*Children in the 6 through 15 age range who have been Villa Via members or living in a comparable freedom environment continuously since age 5 may qualify for a lower rate.

Some Sales Points

FREEDOM: Live out-of-sight, out-of-mind of those who extort and enslave. Work, trade, eat, dress, learn, or love as YOU want. Live your own life. Do it now.

SAFETY: Preserve yourself and loved ones from the Los Angeles firestorm, plague, famine, and/or slave-labor roundup. Gain experience and have a head start toward your emergency retreat.

MOBILITY: Live free not yet remain untied; be able to take advantage of emerging opportunities anywhere in the world.

ECONOMY: Cut shelter expenses by one-half or more; pay no apartment rent; pay no property taxes. Reduce commuting time and expense.

CONSERVATISM: Maintain easy access to jobs and shops while liberating your home life. Become free in steps; minimize burning of bridges behind you.

RECREATION: Explore and forage on mountains, sea shore, desert, and forests. Migrate with the season for comfort and change of scenery. Enjoy fresh air, clear skies, and wide-open spaces.

LUXURY: Reap the fruits of industrial technology in the freedom and splendor of the wilderness. Enjoy the best of the old while building the new.

PROFIT: Exchange services, goods, information, or affection in freedom with those who share your values.

ADVENTURE: Help pioneer a new community concept; a liberated, evolving lifestyle.

RATIONALITY: Live as you believe. Eliminate contradictions between what you say and what you do. Offer your children a consistent and inspiring physical/cultural movement in which to grow.

DEVELOPMENT: Gain experience applicable to future free living, be it as a continent-ranging nomad, an oceanic freedomite, or a new-country pioneer. Learn about liberty by being free.

Survey

If you would like to participate in Villa Via, please fill out and return the enclosed survey by January 25; in return for your assistance, you will receive a 25% first-year discount should you join. The survey is not an application and does not commit anyone to anything; please send NO money at this time.

VILLA VIA SITES: RENT OR SQUAT? BUY OR TRADE?

Two suggestions have been made for acquiring sites:

(1) In preference to squatting on "government land," rent unused areas from ranchers. This way, the site can be fenced off rather than relying only on seclusion or concealment. My reservation: Renting requires BOTH a sympathetic landowner PLUS almost as much seclusion as squatting; a site must be out of sight and sound of other people. Intentional communities which neglect secrecy are prone to be busted. A fence will keep out the occasional hunter, but not the organized criminals. However, should anyone know of such a site, I am certainly interested.

(2) In preference to proprietary organization, have an informal club; each member finds, prepares, and maintains one site; there are no other dues. An objection: Some people may know of several; others, none. Some may enjoy scouting and clearing; others, not. And some sites may be much more desirable than others.

If Villa Via goes, I will be seeking many more sites. For a site already thoroughly scouted, fully prepared, and (if rented) negotiated, I will pay \$50 to \$150 per year, depending on location, seclusion, and other factors; this is for two to three months use. I am especially seeking a high-elevation (summer) site and a coastal site. I am most interested in well-scouted SPECIFIC spots. Sites must usually meet all month-stay squat-spot requirements and be able to hold 20 vehicles with at least 10 yards separation. If making offer, please send full description BUT WITHHOLD DIRECTIONS or exact location; I do not wish to be suspected of theft should I have independently found the same place.

CHANGE IN THOUGHT

The Villa Via proposal represents somewhat of a change in my own thinking from seven months ago (P.I. #1) in two respects:

(1) Old hypothesis: A nomadic association can grow incrementally from a single individual or family without explicit effort. New hypothesis: An intentional community of less than a couple dozen people is unlikely to grow or long continue; the costs of maintaining association usually exceed economic and social benefits. An explicit "investment" is needed to "jump" the "unprofitability gap" from a single family (still culturally if not physical in another society) to a viable community capable of cultural independence; from that point, a community can probably evolve incrementally. What ARE the requirements for a viable mini-culture? I don't know. I'm still seeking.

(2) Old hypothesis: Persons with no explicit philosophy but who are already land-mobile or nomadic are probably "implicit" libertarians and good prospects. New hypothesis: Both explicit philosophy and life applications are essential; for safety, philosophic education should precede or at least accompany self-liberation. Non-libertarians should not be encouraged to adopt self-liberating techniques because they will only be playing games – will not be consistent in behavior, and will therefore be hazardous. For example, a non-libertarian, nomadic group is apt to either emulate Hell's Angels – burn up forests, slaughter livestock, and raid villages, bringing reprisals against all live-aboard vehicles, or emulate the Sierra Club and report campers lacking "permits,"

“truant” children, and otherwise “cooperate” with the “authorities.” Non-libertarians tend to be hung up on the false alternative of rule or be ruled, to confuse freedom with license. Actually, license and obedience are only two sides of the same coin – coercion, the polar opposite of true liberty.

CENTRAL AMERICA TOUR

“A 90-day camping caravan Brownsville, Texas to Panama Canal Zone and return will run \$530.00 per person if a minimum of eleven vehicles and thirty-three persons go. Estimate includes – food, transportation, emergency funds but not insurance, medical, sight-seeing fees, personal shopping. Only a few have indicated interest. Communist guerrilla violence and killings in Guatemala bear further investigation for safety to travelers. Probably not too much danger. But we cannot proceed with plans until a larger number show interest.” (From January THE QUESTERS, Paul and Lora Marks, Box 1465, Los Banos, CA 93635.) I suggest interested persons write them. In an earlier issue Pual suggested a June departure date; this would conflict for those who want to summer in Canada.

SITUATIONS AND SEARCHES

We are visiting free schools and communities this year – hoping to make a change. We left a job with public schools in Bellevue, Washington and are traveling via trailer. P.S. Read article in MODERN UTOPIAN about nomad living. –Ed (traveling)

Saw your ad in December THE GREEN REVOLUTION and want to learn more about you!

Can't say that I myself am a nomad now. (On second thought maybe I am, since I haven't ever stayed anywhere permanently. Last year I was in Connecticut as a psychiatric aide. This year I'm in California as a physical education teacher. I do some foraging, especially for mushrooms, and want to learn more about living off the land. I do a lot of rummaging too. However, I wouldn't call myself a nomad, probably because I couldn't just get up and go anytime I happened to feel like it.)

So I don't feel that I can trade you a situation summary but I've enclosed \$1.00 for “four issues.” –Roberta (Northern California)

I accept summaries from non-nomads in trade until the fourth issue, so you (and several others) are paid double and will receive automatic renewal. Beginning with P.I. #5 I will limit trade to nomads 9though summaries from others will still be published, space permitting).

Angier cautious not to eat wild mushrooms unless one is expert at identifying species; there is no simple, universal test for distinguishing poisonous from palatable. Since you are alive and writing, I assume you are an expert. –Tom Marshall

The camper – made with help but no experience – sets on the flat of a '47 Chevy ¾ ton truck – the family 4 – myself, my old lady, and 2 children – boy (4), girl (4 months) – have just begun – 3 weeks – visiting friends – running low on money but still own enough to sell at flea markets – have supported family that way for many months – am very interested in Central American caravan BUT – very little money – no backlog – poor anarchist.

Me? Psychedelic freek (conservative!!?), ex YAF – changes – founding member of ALA (Alliance of Libertarian Activists) – changes – the activity is within – ideals remain – turn on, tune in, drop out – and –

The camper – my house – my family – getting high. The dream – yours and mine – lives. Please inform – Arjuna during battle smiled on your and I. Peace. –Tom (San Francisco area)

For food economy (in case you are not already expert in this): Whole-kernel wheat, \$5 for #100 sack from volume feed dealer, can be relied on for bulk of energy (calories, also for iron, some B vitamins and some protein; crack and cook as cereal; serve with milk or vegetable oil for main course, with honey for desert. Powdered milk gives protein balance, calcium, and more B vitamins; vegetable oil provides fat. Wild greens provide vitamin A and some C; since C is needed every day better add tablets – a year's supply costs less than \$1. Total food cost: about 15¢ per

day per adult. Nutrition: better than what the average "well fed American" eats (which may not be saying much). Should you come to LA I can give you location of near-by squat spot; wild mustard greens; rabbits. My message service: (213) 257-2011. -Tom Marshall

I am running out of time; I am holding some letters for next issue. -Tom Marshall, Editor.

LOS ANGELES D NW43

WATER: 2 miles (Castaic)

CLIMATE: Drier and sunnier than Los Angeles; smog rare; elevation, 1500'; closest target, 20 miles.

CAPACITY: three

OTHER INFORMATION: This is the closest (in driving time) squat-spot to north end of the San Fernando Valley of which I know; it is not otherwise exceptionally attractive. Hills to south provide protection from direct blast and heat of nuclear explosion in San Fernando. Edibles: rabbits, prickly pear, hollyleaf cherry (*Prunus ilicifolia*).

DIRECTIONS: From junction of San Diego and Golden State Freeways, go north 14 miles on 5/99. Exit on Parker Road, Castaic. Go west on Parker Road (which soon becomes gravel) 1.5 miles. Go left (south) on trail. (As check: about a quarter mile beyond turn-off of trail is a closed gate across Parker Road.) After a quarter-mile, the trail passes a small clearing, turns east, then soon crosses a little gully and starts to climb along the side of a hill. Only near the gully is the trail out of sight of Parker Road (which is traveled by several vehicles a day). The trail ends a quarter-mile beyond the gully for all but dune buggies, jeeps, and motorcycles which are occasionally encountered on weekends.



INFORMATION EXCHANGE AMONG LIBERTARIAN NOMADS

March 1969 -- Number n4 -- Tom Marshall, Editor

Four issues: to nomad in trade for life-style summary; to anyone for \$2.
Preform, Box 141, Glendale, CA 91209 -- Message Service (213) 257-2011

CIRCULATION - PUBLICATION POLICY

Total circulation of the first four issues is 65, including 43 paid in money, 15 in trade for summaries, and 15 to other publications. (Since some have paid in more than one way the total does not check.) About a dozen new subscriptions are now coming per month. Since I prefer to keep circulation small and limited to those strongly interested, I am henceforth restricting trade to libertarian nomads, raising price to non-nomads, and cutting down on exchanges. While P-I is certainly not the best libertarian publication, it is now the most expensive per word. I recommend that those lacking strong interest at this time who would like to stay in contact subscribe instead to FREE TRADE (see below).

Since back issues are almost gone, I will prepare an information package, consisting of March 1968 INNOVATOR plus photo-reduced reprints from the first four issues, which will be sent to all new and continuing subscribers, and to anyone else for \$1.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE EDITOR

An engineer by profession, I have been an explicit libertarian for about eight years; the most influential single book I have read is Ayn Rand's ATLAS SHRUGGED.

Libertarian character references whom I have known for four years or more: Don and Barbara Stephens, Atlantis Enterprises (mailing address same as mine); Kerry and Cara Leach/Thornley (write c/o OCEAN LIVING, listed above).

Relevant, verifiable activities: active participant in (original) Preform - a laissez-faire free port study group, 1963-1965; contributor to INNOVATOR (March 1964, September 1967); general manager, then editor of INNOVATOR, April through Dec. 1965; lectured at Atlantis Enterprises' "Self-Liberation" and "Retreat" seminars in Spring 1968.

GATHERING - APRIL 5 AND 6

I invite libertarians interested in nomadic living to a gathering at a squat-spot about 60 miles north of Los Angeles, the weekend of April 5 and 6. Expect a few semi-planned activities and presentations, but it is mostly an informal get-together. Bring your own shelter, however, I recommend against travel trailers more than one-half the weight of the towing vehicle. Admission per vehicle: \$1, or a 15-minute prepared dissertation on relevant topic, or some other activity.

I am sending invitations/directions with this issue to subscribers around California whom I know to be libertarian. If you would like to come but haven't an invitation, phone my message service or write; if I don't know you (page 1), tell something about yourself.

With postponing of Villa Via, some have suggested an informally-organized weekend-recreation-oriented association this year in southern California. It seems like the simplest way to bring this off is for each person so-interested to schedule a get-together - such as I am doing. Send information to P-I if the event is several months away; otherwise, I suggest an ad in FREE TRADE. Gatherings may be open or restricted, at the option of the host; let me know whether you want directions published in P-I or sent only to those subscribers who have been "cleared."

VILLA VIA ADVANCE SURVEY RESULTS

I have no intention of giving up. Even when making the proposal, I thought that Summer 1969 was likely to prove too soon. However, I did not know what the present market was: most P-I subscribers are cash-paid – less than one-third have indicated their present pattern of living. Also, I think that a definite proposal does more to stimulate interest, serious thought, and constructive criticism than any number of vague conjectures. In another year, Preform will have reached more people, and more of the present readers will be into a nomadic lifestyle. And (a personal consideration) I will have completed some other projects. I urge interested new subscribers to return the surveys (ignoring the old deadline), since this provides a measure of the market.

Six surveys have returned (including my own); five by the deadline. Since prospects are entitled to know the views and motives of the would-be proprietor, my answers are marked *; others are confidential.

Family groupings: male 28, female 26; male 45; males 32, 8, 5, females 31, 10, 7, 4; male 26; males 41, 6, 3, females 40, 7; male 37*. Present locations: Pacific Northwest (1); inland West (1); So. Calif. (4).

Initial pattern of living: live at the sites commuting to work elsewhere (2*); live elsewhere, occasionally visiting the sites (4).

Location preferences: especially secluded (4*); especially near to metropolitan areas (1); other: “any except broiling desert”; “we enjoy natural beauty and are especially fond of green mountain areas.

Vehicles: ½-ton pickup with Holiday camper; van camper; 18 ½-foot travel trailer self-contained, presently towed by '63 Chevy wagon – will be getting different tow vehicle, probably IH pickup with small Alaska camper; still checking; undecided – pickup with trailer most likely; chassis-mount housecar, one-ton truck, self-contained except no refrig. or head*.

Extra facilities and services wanted: 110vac electricity (1); freezer storage, ice or frozen foods (5*); hot showers (3); washing machine (?); cafeteria meals (1); boarding of children during week (1); school for children 5 or under 91); school for children 6 through 11 (1); medical service (1); work (income opportunities) (2); Oregon address (2). Can provide: hot showers (1)*; financing (1).

Major reasons for wanting to join: be left alone (2); sell services (1); meet interesting people (5); reduce living expenses (5*); reduce domestic chores through division of labor (2*); get out of the smog (2); increase access to urban jobs or services (1)*; enjoy outdoor recreation (3); live among individuals holding similar values (6)*; trade free from taxes and restrictions (4)*; develop something that is not “built on quicksand,” that is immune to threats of State (4)*; live more self-sufficiently through foraging and home crafts (3); provide orderly environment for children (3)*; have frequent changes of scenery (3); pioneer a new way of living (3)*; find common purpose through group endeavors (2); enjoy natural, wild foods (3); reduce cultural contact with the sick society (3)*; do research on intentional communities (2); find nuclear group to start intentional community (2); be safe from conscription threats (2); share in common (1); escape destruction in nuclear war or other general disaster (4)*; preserve liberty against future totalitarianism (4)*; Gain experience for: individual nomadic living (3); similar association elsewhere (1); Libervan-type continent-wide nomadic community (3)*; Enjoy interim freedom while awaiting and preparing for: shipboard community (1)*; new laissez-faire country (4)*; sea-mobile (yacht) nomadic living (2)* agrarian intentional community (1); remote homestead retreat (3); civilization-preserving “foundation” in Southern Hemisphere (2); liberation of the U.S. (2). Others: “This also appears to offer a quiet atmosphere in which to think, possibly write and create free from modern social pressure, noises and instructions.” (As an individual nomad, I am already quite capable of being left alone, out of the smog, etc.; I have checked only those benefits which I believe I could better realize in a community.)*

Phrases strongly descriptive: White (4)*; Atheist (3)*; Anglo (4)*; Largely agrees with the philosophic and economic views of: Leonard Read (2); Ayn Ran (4)*; Robert LeFevre (2)*; Thoreau (2)*; William Buckley (1). Wants individual ownership (5)*; wants common ownership (1); “square” looking (3); social nudist (2)*; caffeine user (4)*; tobacco user (2); marijuana user (1); alcohol user (2); vegetarian (1); monogamous (1); heterosexual (3)*; employed “outside” (3)*; college-equivalent education (4)*. Largely agrees with the educational approach of: Neill (3)*; Montessori (2)*; Pitman (1)*; Skinner (1); Max Rafferty (1). Talkative in public (1); reserved in

public (1). TV watcher (1); card-game player (1); hunter (2); motorcyclist (1) *if trail bike qualifies; academic researcher (1); strong ideological interest (4)*; lives through own “primitive” technology (1)*; lives through products of “modern” technology (4)*.

Prefer to exclude: Largely agrees with the philosophic and economic views of: Ayn Rand (1); Norman Thomas (4)*; Timothy Leary (1); William Buckley (4)*; Kenneth Galbraith (5)*; Eldridge Cleaver (3); Robert Welch (2); George Wallace (4)* Mao Tsetung (4)* Lyndon Johnson (4)*. Wants common ownership within the community (2). Marijuana user (1); strong drug user (1). Largely agrees with the educational approach of Max Rafferty (2)*. Talkative in public (1). Motorcyclist (1); TV watcher (2)*; church-goer (3)*; card game player (1); militant activist (1); little or no ideological interest (1)*. Total number of “excludes” indicated by the six respondents: 10, 9*, 8, 7, 4. The only respondent intolerant of more things than the Editor added the qualification: “A strong drug user, sexual libertine, Mao Tsetung type could be a member, as long as he understood the sanctity of persons, privacies, and property of others. BUT it seems unlikely he would.” Editor’s comment: All in all, the respondents and, I expect P-I readers in general, are rather tolerant of diverse customs; certainly much more so than the population at large. No one has objected to nudists, polygamists, homosexuals, nor even Christians provided they don’t go to church.

Name preferences: Villa Via (1); Freemads (1); LINASCA (1). Comment: “I would have no strong preference – this is very minor – none or no name – who cares?”

A difference can be noted between attitudes of survey responses and situation summaries. For example, summaries have been about evenly divided between individual-ownership and communal-ownership preferences, whereas respondents prefer individual ownership five to one. This is probably because most subscribers have been reached by ads in FREE TRADE and GREEN REVOLUTION, and most of these sent \$1 and said nothing, whereas, of the smaller number who provided summaries, most were MODERN UTOPIAN readers. While the responses are relatively few in number, they are probably representative, and are published for this reason. Looking ahead, I would guess that any item checked by three or more respondents would be characteristic of most Villa Via members.

TOWARD RESOLUTION OF CONFLICTING PREFERENCES

To resolve those conflicts easily resolvable, prior to formation of Villa Via: Let a prospect who wishes to exclude those with a certain characteristic (or forbid a certain behavior) write a brief for P-I saying why. Those who would be excluded may answer, either in P-I or direct correspondence, and see to resolve the difference if it is based on ignorance or misunderstanding.

I will begin this by telling why I would like to exclude TV watchers (or forbid TV’s): While there may be a few programs with some value, taken a whole, TV reflects and serves to inculcate the attitudes and myths of the sick society, as further corrupted by FCC control. And it tends to be an attractive nuisance for children. Some would counter that children should be exposed to such things and that parents can counteract bad effects; the same rationalization is used to justify staying put and delivering one’s children to State witch-doctors. But I would not want for the mind of any YOUNG child of mine to be a battleground for rival ideologies – placing upon him a responsibility I have evaded; I want his environment to be consistent (orderly). Nor do I want to play policeman; I much prefer that so-far-as-possible harmful activities be physically impossible – forbidden by reality.

SITUATIONS AND SEARCHES

We received a copy of your Preform-Inform and found it very interesting. Although we are not nomads at the present time, we think this form of life probably offers many people the only chance they have at present to live a reasonably free life. We certainly think there is something we can learn from the kind of interactions and experiences which nomadic libertarians find. We (Associate Publishers) at present are examining many possible solutions to the obviously unsatisfactory state of affairs in the cities. And we don’t want to commit ourselves to anything until we have a chance to find out what other people think. That’s the reason we started the Libertarian Connection, so that already committed libertarians could discuss among themselves

possible ways to live freely today as well as ways to make the U.S. (or elsewhere) more free in the future.

We'd appreciate it very much if you'd write an article for the L.C. which would convey some of the emotional gestalt of your way of life – few libertarians have any feel for this type of living, this considerable degree of freedom almost immediately obtainable by anyone. There seems to be a xenophobic rejection of nomadic lifestyle suggestions – a good long meandering article could go a long way toward opening people's minds to this concept. Love, Lee Hall & Skye d'Aureous, LIBERTARIAN CONNECTION, c/o R. Bobb, 5610 Smiley, Los Angeles, CA 90016.

Reply: Thank you for the sample of L.C. which was very interesting. Emotional gestalt? Impressions are mixed and not orderly. I've been nomadic more than a year so most of the novelty has worn off – it seems natural. I recall several phases: inundated with the work of getting moved into the camper (plus some rented storage); fear of unknown (Will I be able to find places to park where I won't be harassed?); joy of liberation – almost like a perpetual vacation – celebration – FREEDOM; growing in freedom – growth pains – (what do I do now?); press of mundane responsibilities that become a part of a way of life – should tune up the engine – ought to put out another issue of P-I.

The only psychological problem I have so-far identified is one not unique to nomadic living but encountered, I suspect, by almost every opt-out, regardless of lifestyle: most of his life has been structured by other people and events; he has been told what to do and when to do it. Now, suddenly, he is largely free of all this. His life is all his to structure as he will. And this is a responsibility which overwhelms many people. I think this partly explains those who are loudly critical of the society around them, but firmly rooted, & who if propositioned will have no end of objections to ANY here & now self-liberation approach. Do they subconsciously sense their psychological dependency on some of the things they say they hate, & dread the thought of full responsibility for their own lives, no one else to blame for their shortcomings?

Perhaps “xenophobic rejection” of nomadic life stems not from its strangeness but from its accessibility: almost anyone CAN become substantially free this way, easily, inexpensively, through their own effort, any time they choose. It's an onus upon the exclusively armchair philosophers to “put up or shut up,” since they are not about to do either, they angrily reject any consideration of it. On the other hand, they will happily speculate about a Free America (or world) of the next millennium because it is safely distant, puts upon them no self-responsibility to act.

Back to the problem's personal manifestations: I still have nagging doubts about not accomplishing as much as I like as soon as I think I should. For example, some time ago I decided I should become a crack offhand shot with 22 rifle, & relearn to shoot left handed to use my better eye. I resolved to practice dry fire twice a day. But I haven't stuck to it. A Monday to Friday (plus overtime on Saturday) net builder would have all kinds of excuses to himself. But I haven't a one. I know I could set up some kind of artificial time allocation system for myself, completely with goody points & baddy points, but so far I have always hesitated thinking that there is a more natural way I will grow into, instead of creating my own personal boss surrogate. The tasks to which come off best are those which lend themselves to concentrated effort: I have been working on PREFORM, full time, 12 to 14 hours a day, for nearly 2 days now (amazing how much time one of these little sheets can consume) & will probably continue until I finish, then do almost nothing on it for several months until I put out the next issue.

I find I avoid cognitive dissonance more & more by cutting off dissonant communication: almost never read Establishment publications, rarely listen to the radio, & have no social relations with non-libertarians. On a job (consultant, part time) I limit communication to matters concerning work. I avoid most of the little day to day petty irritations of the Servile Society which are probably as important in psychological paralyzation [sic] as the big scary stuff.

I have developed my living patterns to the point where 2/3rds of my time is spent parked “in the hills” only 1/3 in the city. Right now, however (when I answered the letter), I am in a shopping center parking lot in Santa Monica, sorting out mail I just picked up, feasting on ground chuck & sherbet, which I can't store or gather in the wilderness. I was focused on correspondence until I introspected just now in response to this letter; I was rather oblivious to environment. I wonder

if other shoppers passing the camper can hear the typewriter? If so, what might they think? (I doubt they hear it above the background noise; however I don't type late at night when in the city.)

(While publishing this issue of PREFORM, on the other hand, I'm at a squat spot along Coast Highway. It's on the side of a hill, old homesite, I believe; remains of a water tank with a pipe out of the hill, still flowing. Perhaps the people were forced out & the land taken by the govt, which has something not far away. It's been used a few times as a dump. It's less than a quarter mile from the ocean & highway; I can hear surf & traffic. Concealment seems marginal; the roof of my camper might be visible from a short stretch of the highway & at night I can see distant lights (Port Hueneme?), but I haven't been molested. I've been here total of 2 weeks on 2 occasions. Something which helps: the trail to the site is rather steep for the average auto; my rig has 35:1 low gear ratio & 2/3 of the weight on rear wheels. I bought some meat & fresh fruit when passing through Ojai several days ago, but that is all gone so I am back to staples, wild greens, & vitamin C. Wild mustard grows here, prolific with all the rain, I had a potful for dinner.)

Your Villa Via idea is very fascinating and appealing. I haven't yet figured out how I would be able to do something like this on a full-time basis, or more importantly, whether I want to! The comforts of our modern society are mighty hard to reject. The threats are growing rapidly however (as you know well), and you approach seems more attractive and realistic all the time. We would very much like to see what it's all about, and possibly participate on a weekend-vacation basis. Thus I am returning your questionnaire. Let me comment on some of my answers:

(1) Financing membership or services. I'm always looking for a GOOD investment. Possibly some of your "gypsies" would be interested in some form of grubstake, or other financing. If so, there might be an area of mutual interest for mutual profit. Please understand – no handouts, or contributions to noble social experiments – or needy wanderers. As I say, this is a business proposition for mutual profit. Along this same line, I've thought for some time of purchasing some land for a combination homestead-private campground-retreat. Do you see any market demand for this from your contacts/experience? This would be in a rural, hopefully rather remote area – probably in Oregon – Washington – British Columbia. If either of these two thoughts interest you, I'd appreciate your comments.

(2) Work. While I am an amateur, I'm good in the area of carpentry, cabinet work, and fair in cement and masonry. This is an area of possible skill-for-hire on my part.

Question: What do you know, Tom, about the psychological effects of a nomadic, gypsy existence on (1) adults, (2) adults who have spent their entire lives in a stationary conventional environment, (3) children? I am especially interested in this latter area namely, children. What is the effect of this life on youngsters – 1-5, 6-10, 11-15, 15 and over? Maybe you, or some of your readers/associates have some observations on this – either from studies or, better yet, from practical experience. –Al (Los Angeles)

I was more or less adult (2) – evidence inconclusive – see my answer to the previous letter. Regarding adults (1) and children I must defer to those with experience of which there aren't many yet; and most of these will be individual families, not in communities. I recall reading a couple of years ago in one of the popular boating mags about a sea-mobile family which included a teen-aged daughter who was an accomplished concert pianist; she had guest appearances with some of the orchestras in ports they visited. (Yes – they have a piano board the yacht!) I don't recall if she became a pianist before or after she became a sea-nomad, but I think a nomadic lifestyle might be an optimum environment for many individual endeavors of this sort.

It may be worth reading about gypsies, pastoral tribes, and hunting tribes – “more-primitive” nomadic cultures – but I'm not sure how much would be applicable to Villa Via. Certainly one could not, by analogy, predict very much about the lifestyle of a contemporary U.S. suburbanite from studies of peasants in 18th-century England nor in 20th-century Saudi Arabia.

In general, I'd advise against PURCHASING land for a homestead-campground-retreat; once you “own” land you are on record with the Man – easy to find, easy to control. If you think you have to buy it for your home to be “yours” it isn't remote enough – go further back until you feel

secure “squatting.” As an individual nomad, I have little need for privacy campgrounds; for a nomadic community, it would be of value IF it were secure.

Evaluation land-mobile nomadic life vis-à-vis stationary wilderness home; I think stationary wilderness does become somewhat more attractive as a family/group size increases; one is then even less dependent on outside trade or association. I think most lone individuals and small families would encounter severe problems – physical and psychological in a stationary wilderness situation, though I don’t have much data.

As interesting combination might be camper or trailer-plus-camper plus a large, well-equipped, well-concealed work/storage facility in a remote area; this might be underground.

Dear Tom: Before going on to your questionnaire, I’d like to tell you a bit about myself because I feel that I’ve been a Libertarian for most of my life.

Certainly during the last 25 years, I’ve led a life that except for contacts with persons when working, has been of my own making. I’ve traveled a lot – working to get together the money – then taking travels off to Canada, Europe, various parts of the U.S. During these travels, I’ve camped; bought country properties and had the fun of renovating, developing a garden to grow vegetables, then selling; worked in Canada as a cook for a Survey Team where we used pack horses and camped up to 6000 feet in the Rockies.

I suppose most people would call me a Loner as so much of my living has been designed to be independent. Yet I like congenial souls and have had success in the past in leading groups of students hosteling in Europe, and a sleeping bag existence travelling around Mexico in third-class buses. I have also run a Youth Hostel in England on two occasions for a season, doing all the cooking for up to 50-60 persons for evening meal and breakfast.

To earn money I’ve worked as cook in lumber camps; taught in a one-room rural school, having 8 grades and 35 children for two years. Recent years I’ve worked in the large hotels on front desks in Florida, Bahamas, and now in Las Vegas.

I jokingly talk of my “split personality” as I have two opposite loves: a rural retreat where I can develop the land and grow food whilst improving the soil, and having itchy feet that make me take off to find out what someplace else looks like!

At present I have a truck/camper outfit and am planning to buy a trailer of about 20 ft. so I can live permanently in it and hence have my home along wherever I go.

I live quietly, dress conservatively so pass as just another ordinary Joe and don’t discuss generally my views on “freedom” living. I take no part in politics or any organized Clubs (Masons, Lions, etc. – UGH!) and keep my mouth shut rather than get into arguments. Yet, when the chance to meet similar persons occurs I like to discuss the things of today. (It seems preposterous to me that people can’t see that they have to pay for all the expensive things such as large numbers of law enforcement personnel when, if they acted rationally and honestly, there wouldn’t be any need for them.)

My philosophy has been for a long time: Do anything you like, provided it doesn’t hurt someone else, and if two or more want to live in a way that the masses don’t approve of, then “do your thing” in private.

Up to the moment things have worked well for me in living my own way of life, and I’d dearly like to meet with some of the other Libertarians to exchange ideas and prepare to pool some of them to perhaps form a small community to travel and live by the land.

I had 5 months off last year and travelled in Spain and Portugal, so I want to work this year to be able to buy my trailer and have some cash along.

So if you have a retreat spot between here and L.V. that I could get down to for my two days off midweek, I’d be very glad to have the opportunity of meeting you all and become a better Libertarian! –ROD BARKER, Las Vegas, Nevada

P.S. Meanwhile, if there are any members coming this way, or who would like to correspond, I have a studio apartment they could camp in – again, so as not to upset neighbors, I’d prefer fellas that are quiet and dress ordinarily.

Most of the people I know are still on a Monday-through-Friday routine so there might be a problem getting together. But I will pass along your box address for those who may be passing through your area. –Tom

Invitation of I.C. For tens of millions of Americans, the technology of Capitalism has become, in fact, a monster which now dominates the very texture of their lives. The victory of this anti-human technology has produced a people frightened by the world, unsure of their own worth, anxiously buying emotional security through the accumulation of material objects. Their own culture has impressed on them that unless their physical appearance and their values match those of the T.V. commercial, they are incomplete people. The owners and operators of the mass media have mastered the techniques of personality manipulation and motivation. They utilize all the weapons of psychological warfare – fear, distrust, self-flagellation, guilt, etc. – for the purpose of selling their products and making profits. And now the American people have become prisoner in their own land. Most are unaware of their imprisonment or that the creeping entropy which is engulfing them is itself part of the process which has dulled their minds and senses to the world that they live in. Wealth and material satisfaction have not bought personal fulfillment or happiness to the American people instead only opiates to cover the pain. If you have come this far down the road to reality we can at last dispense with the luxury of illusion. It is just impossible to change the society from within! We are the most wonderful country in the world if the reason for life is to GUZZLE and GORGE to one's heart's content.

When the primary motive in production is profit rather than use and need, what can be said for the society that would allow this?

Individualism should subside. The idea of a society of individuals where each person shuts himself up in his own subjectivity, and whose only wealth (really) is individual thought. This is false! Brothers, sisters, friends are real words – our society uses lip services only to these words. Because of this my brother is my purse, morality is bought and sold, my friend is part of my scheme for getting ahead.

Look out for yourself – as a motto is as immoral as the capitalist system itself. The interest of one must be the interest of all. One answer is an alternate society – where like-minded people would be able to come together without being harassed by the Man. I am thinking of intentional communities (read I.C.) and most definitely Walden II oriented. There are some I.C. in existence at the present time. The most aware magazine on I.C. is put out by the Starr King Center, 2441 Le Conte Ave., Berkeley, CA 94709. Called “The Modern Utopian.” The ultimate of I.C. should be the building of a community without the domination or the exploitation of man by man. Where men can determine their own way of living, their own needs, their own way of satisfying and developing these needs and so exist as free men. As a small I.C. this can be achieved: The min. biological needs – adequate food, shelter, clothes, and medical are really not that hard to solve. Freedom from threat of an arbitrary death in war, real friendship, recreation, leisure, and freedom from drudgery type of labor may also be solved by determined people. A culture without destructive myths or superstitions, a culture where sex is experienced as delight and used as a fine means of communication, where each person is not threatened if he or she does not “CONFORM!” The only criteria for man's social behavior would be his concern for others, their happiness. Everything else not associated with love of mankind is more or less disguised ambitious aspiration: egoism dissolved in fine words.

I and others do have ideas where and how to start I.C. and would love to hear your ideas also. May we share together?

(Introduction to an I.C. survey distributed by D. Sommerville, Box 5166, Seattle, Wash. 98107.)

Thank you for your concepts and the survey. Some comments:

The word “Capitalism” – used in either a positive or negative sense – is I think unnecessarily divisive among libertarians. “Capitalism”, both historically and etymologically, denotes certain kinds of economic associations, and not merely liberty (or tyranny). To describe my ideal society as laissez-faire CAPITALISM (or laissez-faire COMMUNISM, for that matter) is rather presumptuous: the economic patterns which develop in a future free society will be the resultant

of individual actions in the technological context, and not something I think can be predicted with any confidence. I can describe my ideal only as laissez-faire – PERIOD. I think libertarians of all varieties would be wise to not use “capitalism” (also “collectivism”). Suggested replacements: (negative) fascism, corporate state, authoritarianism; (positive) laissez-faire, liberty, free enterprise, voluntarism.

Going beyond semantic picking, I think you have an unnecessary dichotomy between egoism and benevolence: (non-coercive) selfishness and (non-coercive) regard for others. I see nothing immoral in “looking out for one’s self” so long as this does not include sticking a knife in someone else’s back. An individual should be free to shut himself up in his own subjectivity, if he wants – be it built of boob-tubes, drugs, bibles, or whatever – so long as he doesn’t try to force his thing on others. Of course I may not want to associate with him, but then that’s MY free choice.

“Love of mankind” is also “disguised egoism” – be it love for one woman or concern for the whole human race. If you have come this far down the road to reality, we can at least dispense with the luxury of illusion: what you do, you do because you gain satisfaction (psychic profit) from it, as do I. I can’t climb inside your head, baby! But peaceful association with others can be FUN! Maybe there is no disagreement here: re-reading your leaflet, I think maybe what you condemn as “ambitious aspiration” is attempting to gain coercive power over others – I would condemn this too.

While I may not completely agree with your statement of the problem I can find little wrong with your proposed solution – power (non-coercive) to you! Have you looked into May Valley Co-Op near Renton, Washington? I visited there briefly, a couple of times, two years ago. The people are predominately “liberal” Quakers – there were some vast differences in basic premises between them and myself, but even so I was very favorably impressed with the people I met – especially the children – seemed much healthier in the broad sense of the word. The community is not far enough out, neither physically nor ideologically, to be very free unfortunately, but even being able to live around persons with similar values seems to have had a decided effect. It might be worth consideration as an interim solution for people in the area.

I wonder how long the U.S. will remain a wonderful place even for the guzzle and gorge crowd! –TOM MARSHALL

I have only seen issue #3 of your new Neo-Nomadistic PREFORM-INFORM, but I would like to give you my reactions to your thinking from that limited information-base.

My positive reactions are that the new lifeform you propose could potentially offer an alternative to the widespread lifeform based on recognition of political authority. As civil disorder increases as a logical outcome of the something-for-nothing philosophy implicit in the accelerating welfarism (to say nothing of potentials for monetary collapse and Statistic “backlash”) of North American society, neo-nomadism could offer a semi-secure alternate way of life. I also recognize, though with highly qualified enthusiasm, that neo-nomadism can provide means of personal liberation now, and can serve as a vehicle for more general social transformation (de-authoritarianization).

My objections are as follows:

(1) I personally would not provide the means for libertarians to raise their children to a life of truancy. I don’t think children, even children of libertarians, are the property of their parents. I can see many a potential enemy of liberty in the children of libertarian parents who have raised a family to the limited social mobility and social stature of a grade-school dropout. Education (i.e., education recognized by statist society) is essential as a means of social efficacy in today’s world – and libertarians should be the first to seek it while working for the day when education can be wrested ever-more free from association with the state. I am not ignoring the distinction of learning and institutionalized education. I am merely saying that an efficacious existence today is greatly facilitated by the latter. Truancy nearly always involves burning bridges.

(2) Besides “truants,” I assume that Villa Via also accepts bigamists, tax evaders, army deserters, narcotics peddlers, escapees from mental institutions, fugitives of unknown backgrounds, convicted “monopolists,” etc. This is to say, Villa Via is a potential “hideout” for “non-immoral criminals,” i.e., individuals who have committed little or no crime from our moral-intellectual perspective, but who are nonetheless criminals in the eyes of the State. Harboring

criminals is itself a criminal offense and should you be apprehended you can count on a long sentence in some penitentiary (especially after the judge learns your views). You will curse yourself a thousand times over for every month you spend in the pen and as an ex-convict you may be quite surprised when even libertarians prefer to cut you from among their associates. Is it really worth the risk?

But is there really a risk?!? To my mind your apprehension is virtually a sure thing. PREFORM-INFORM #3 is unqualifiedly offensive to the statist mentality and is not without explicitly illegal ideas. Multiplication of the number of individuals necessary for such a project by the amount of time you intend to be a proprietor makes a security leak virtually impossible to avoid. Is the University of Michigan on your mailing list?

I personally am becoming ever more dubious about libertarian-libertine associations, especially where drugs are involved. I'd hate to think of you being murdered so that Villa Via can become a robber band. I also remind you that the State is intensely suspicious of clandestine activities and groups – it makes them think you have something to hide!

Perhaps the above makes you think I am hostile to your project, but believe me when I tell you that I am not. I will always (I expect) have a high regard for your ideas and activities and cannot imagine myself ever being a “security risk.” I am concerned about you, however, at least to the extent that I would hate to see you getting involved in something which is truly dangerous.

If I were starting Villa Via I would not accept families – or at least “truants,” recognizing that families have camouflage value – and would be highly selective (avoiding “libertines”) in whom I allowed to be my citizens. This amounts to the fact that I doubt that such a project would have a market among libertarians for another 5 to 10 years. I would also try to work with libertarian homesteaders as much as possible – they could provide food, employment, living space, and sympathy for a band of libertarian nomads. Cooperation among these groups could possibly provide the roots of a truly independent libertarian society – neo-nomads could facilitate trade between homesteaders, reinforcing independence from statist society and from that base a clandestine libertarian technology society could grow. I hope you will find no offense or hostility in what I have had to say – none was intended. –Ben (Toronto)

Freemason: obsolete – one of a class of itinerant skilled masons of medieval and early modern time who formed associations and had secret signs as a means of recognition. – WEBSTERS THIRD INTERNATIONAL DICTIONARY. Are Eskimos “Implicit Libertarians”?

Reply: Since you say you are not ignoring the distinction between learning and institutionalized coercion, I assume you allow that children of nomads COULD LEARN. (The daughter of CRUSOE OF LONESOME LAKE was conceded to have the equivalent of an M.S. in Botany by her 18th birthday, for example; and learning in a remote wilderness situation is more difficult in several respects than in a nomadic lifestyle.) It is the possible absence of academic “union cards” which upsets you. I'm not convinced that Statist “recognition” IS important, at least not for anyone how intends to live free? This partly based on my own job experience. (Since I have the “union card” this can't be attributed to a “sour grapes” rationalization.) But even if a parent or child believes credentials are that helpful, there are recognized high school correspondence course available on the market. And many colleges will audit on the strength of entrance exam only. I don't think it is feasible for a nomadic community to try to give a university education, but by 16 or 18 – maybe younger – someone who has grown up in a free, rational environment should be capable of coping with institutionalized college – if he wants to. The only child who might not do as well is a marginally-motivated learner who would be forced along in an authoritarian school but do nothing in freedom. I don't think there would be many of these in a free community where children were not conditioned by public school to hate “education.” But the few there were might grow up to be enemies of liberty – but hardly serious threats, just a few more recipients of State “welfare.”

The only way I see that “education can be wrested ever-more-free from the State” is to go ahead and WREST, by means such as Villa Via. I didn't expect to hear theory-practice dichotomy or collective-strategy preached by you.

As I said in P-I #3, Villa Via will be open to SELECTED LIBERTARIANS. While being a “truant” might be a recommendation it is hardly sufficient nor even necessary!

No, I don’t think children are the property of their parents. Any child of mine would be welcome to run away, turn himself in, get put in a foster home, and go to State schools – if that is what he wants. (Villa Via would have to then change squat-spots; a minor problem.) But neither do I think children are the property of the State, which children who remain in that society effectively are.

I don’t see recommendations of anything “explicitly illegal” in P-I #3; I can’t help what someone chooses to read into it. I don’t however intend to put myself into a situation where a statist-type is passing judgement on this. The L.A. FREE PRESS prints things every week much more explicitly illegal and just as offensive (or more!) to statist types, and they haven’t been busted yet on a large scale (though I wouldn’t be too surprised if they were).

Anyone living IN ANY WAY in or around the Servile Society suffers risk of “apprehension.” As you are undoubtedly aware, under present laws almost anything can be construed as “criminal.” But I believe I would be safer as a nomad in Villa Via than in a house in Los Angeles. Should I suffer the misfortune you are so certain will befall me (which I might also catch meningitis my next visit to L.A., or get eaten by a bear), I would certainly not be surprised if some so-called libertarians were to cut me from among their associates – except that I have already cut most of these phony’s from among MY associates.

But I think your fears are needlessly large. Increasingly, the Establishment will have its hands full with groups playing political/para-military games trying to overthrow/replace it. I don’t think it will have resources to be very concerned about not-directly-threatening opt-out ventures. (If anything, I would be more worried about the State trying to subsidize opting-out – as the easiest way of getting radical activists out of its hair. Sounds far-fetched maybe, but LeFevre has been accused by some right-wing types of having been planted and subsidized by the Communists!) Of course, in the LONG range, opt-out strategies are a much more serious threat to the Establishment than any number of Minutemen and P.L.P-types. But those holding political power are notoriously short-range; they have to be because there are any number of rival power-hungry-types waiting in the wings who will quickly cut their throats if they cease to focus on the range-of-the-moment.

U. of Michigan is not a subscriber – under their own name at least. There are a couple of unknown subscribers around Ann Arbor; perhaps they will tell something about themselves and set your mind at ease – if they don’t get weeded out by the price increase.

Also I think your fears of “libertines” are excessive. Any OBJECTIVE opt-out venture (as distinguished from subjective dropout via drugs, mysticism, or boob-tube) tends to have a highly selective built-in filter against irresponsible people of all kinds, by virtue of being DEMANDING. Someone largely on a subjective trip will consider Villa Via and opt-out in general “too much trouble.” Since he can become “free” by his definition anytime and anywhere he wants – even in a concentration camp he can freak out by one means or another, why should he bother with nomadism or any lifestyle that requires personal initiative?

And why in the world should anyone who wants a robber band murder me? He can simply, peacefully recruit anyone interested to go off with him. No semi-rational robber is going to handicap his “gang” by remaining around people not in full sympathy. Villa Via, itself, will have little property to defend, and what little it does have will be easy to defend by virtue of being mobile; it is not an attractive target – certainly not compared to any stationary settlement.

I would welcome association with “homesteaders” so long as this can be accomplished in freedom. But most homesteaders (at least ones I have contact with), who are in populated rural areas, ARE extremely vulnerable by virtue of being stationary and on record, and would tend to be leery of such association. A more likely exchange might be with underground libertarians (figuratively AND PHYSICALLY). But I don’t know of any yet.

While I may not sound like it, I welcome your criticism as a check on my own thoughts. I have my streak of paranoia too, which your letter served to stimulate. Partly as a result I decided to discourage P-I subscribers who are merely curious and encourage those who remain to “clear” themselves. I realize that this wouldn’t stop a dedicated real-criminal who had the perseverance to build up a libertarian façade. But anyone going to this kind of long-range effort and expense

is not apt to be interested in “a handful of kooks who want to go live in campers” anyway, nor would he want to take a chance on “blowing his cover” to molest a few “truants.” –TOM

Dear Tom Marshall, #2 was great! Read it avidly. It whips up my dreams...

Tell. E.R. not to knock the Sierra Club, they care. Damn few do. The redwoods are forever. Gotta save ‘em.

Anyone who comes through the hideous city of Oxnard is welcome to crash a night chez moi. (I can sleep 2 on a fold-away couch bed.) I dwell in a condominium, the most unlikely crash-pad and therefore ideal. Park on our asphalt and swim in our pool. Golf and billiards if you’re the type and coffee and yakkity with me. It would take old folks here about a week to catch on.

Heard you on KPFK and it was nice to find you sound like a poet. Quite a surprise that you dig Ayn Rand. Maybe I should re-read her...

I have a question I’d like to ask you. Living off the land sounds so great, but what do you give back to it? You haven’t made any mention of any responsibilities you or the Preform people feel toward the land or its owners. I’m being pretty frank but do your people just take what they need or want? The law has some hard names for such a way of life.

You might answer me, “Well the government steals our sons to fight an illegal military debacle in Vietnam, and steals our lives to punch out Mustang bodies, so why are you upset about anything we could possibly do?” And that’s obvious enough, but it still isn’t a moral answer. Perhaps you feel the Preform idea is too new to burden it with picking up old beer cans and mending the fence details. But ultimately, what? –MARIAN O’GORMAN, 107 E. Garden Green, Port Hueneme, Calif.

I’m glad I at least sounded like a poet. My interview didn’t go the way I had hoped: too much on ideology and not enough on neo-nomadic living; though maybe this is just as well since a radio audience is not highly self-selected. Harry Pollard, of the L.A. Henry George School, is a good libertarian – perhaps we agree too much for it to get exciting. He has a new interview series on –“Assessment.”

E.R. opposed the Sierra Club not because they want to save Redwoods but because they are willing to coerce innocent people to do it – by cozying up to Big Brother. The U.S. government of course, far from being the preserver of wild life it pretends, is probably its greatest enemy – through bureaucratic mis-management and indiscriminate spraying (Read Rachael Carson’s SILENT SPRING). The history books in the State schools tell about the wanton slaughter of buffalo but somehow neglect to mention the principal cause: THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PAID BOUNTIES! Reason? To starve the Plains Indians into submission! Politicians are not only immoral but short-range. Want to bet how many Redwoods “preserved” in “National Parks” will escape being wastefully hacked down on order of the governments during a “period of National Emergency”? If the Sierra Club wants forest for their use, let them buy it – or plant it, Redwoods grow rapidly.

I respect PRIVATE property – even privately-used, posted land though I consider “ownership” rather dubious in the present political context. I certainly feel no moral responsibility toward the “owner” of land which the government tries to control – there is no moral owner. However I carefully avoid damaging the forests I squat on – because I like trees! I recommend against littering for security reasons – minimize evidence that a place is frequented. I sometimes partially de-litter for this reason. –TOM

Thank you for sending me a second P-I. I am not yet ready to bounce into your style of nomadism. I am approaching the problem of freedom from quite a different track, which is why I believe we would find such profit in getting to know each other.

I have succeeded in extricating myself from all the real hang-ups of owning property and am reluctant to become involved again even with a vehicle although I can afford it. Since it takes so many square miles in any region however lush to support a single human being “living off the land” Indian style is no longer feasible. The survival techniques are worth knowing in event of a holocaust – if it doesn’t wipe us all out – but if you want to try it under present conditions, you’ll have to move to a primitive area such as the wilds of British Columbia.

However, it IS possible to live off the land modern style taking advantage of the cultural conditions that currently prevail, which my style, and it works because it is based upon existential facts. However, it couldn't work in this country if the freedom philosophy were to catch on to significantly numerous adventurers. There is small danger of that, however, because fortunately freedom, like truth, is definitely not for the herd. At the first whiff of isolation and opprobrium most momentarily wayward individuals are only too eager to scamper back into security-land. Freedom, like truth, is painful and frightening, and though many would sooner die than face grim reality, they would prefer to exterminate the characters who confront them with it. Heretics are still being burned alive, though in penal and mental institutions, and are being burned via electroshock "therapy." Therapeutic, that is, for society. As Freud said in one of his letters: "Pie Beste was du wifzam hanst darfc du den Buben nech nicht sagen (?typing); "which means "Cool it man."

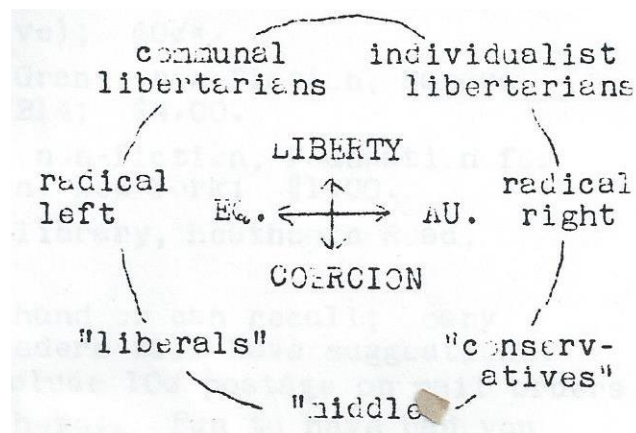
You mentioned in your KPFK show the possibility of investigating the maritime scene. I have done that and my best advice is to forget it unless you need a tax write-off. A boat is only a symbol of freedom. With some men it's a wife, but with me it was having a boat that taught me to hunger for freedom as a drowning man hungers for air. That's why I'm so reluctant to become involved with owning anything that requires The Man's approval (registration and licensing), insurance, and endless goods and services.

Although the advantages of a mobile dwelling are most attractive – for towing, privacy, and fleeing the country; it nevertheless does imply a certain measure of dependency, responsibility, and lost initiative power over one's own life. I prefer to share and enjoy things without possessing them.

If you want to rap with somebody on acquiring the maximum personal freedom or know of anybody who is intent upon liberation, that's my trip and here's my number: (714) 223-3855. Spread it around; keep contact please. I'm open for visits as well as liberal ideas. –Dick (San Diego)

TOWARD A LIBERTARIAN WORLD VIEW: RECOMMENDED READING

P-I subscribers have come many ways – I am aware that not all of you are libertarian. As you've noticed, libertarians tend toward a worldview quite different not only from the Establishment but from traditional opposition of "Left" and "Right", and even from many old-style anarchists. You may also discern greater consistency, attention to reality, and above all a tolerance of peaceful human diversity.



"But are you extreme Left or extreme Right?" I sometimes get asked. I answer: The "conventional" left-right spectrum was probably obsolete by the time of King Louis the 16th; it is still "conventional" mainly because Establishment spokesmen practice (knowingly or not) the dictum of divide and conquer. A somewhat more accurate abstraction (though still a gross simplification), which I have found helpful in explaining the libertarian positive relative to traditional attitudes, is a two-dimensional spectrum where the up-down dimension represents liberty or coercion and the left-right dimension represents

equalitarian or autocratic. Across the coercivist bottom lies the Establishment with its left and right wings of political "liberals" and "conservatives." Like the U.S. government, all large States, regardless of what they call themselves (fascist? communist?) tend to bottom center as power comes to lie more and more with professional power-seekers.

The "liberals," "conservatives," and totalitarian "middle" all believe in pushing other people around and differ only with regard to whom to coerce, in what ways, and how. Half-way up the

respective sides are the radical left and radical right for whom “class” interests are dominant; each would like a large degree of freedom to do those things it believes in doing, but wants to outlaw activities of which it doesn’t approve. Finally across the top of the circle are libertarians. While communalist libertarians, individualist libertarians, and “center” (class-free) libertarians differ in emphasis and often lifestyle, all advocate substantially complete freedom; they would allow others to engage in peaceful activities of which they may not approve as well as activities they favor. While one could have an ideological position anywhere on the graph, most people plot roughly in a circle, as shown. And many libertarians have developed up one side or the other – from a radical left or radical right background.

The best brief contemporary-context summary I have seen of libertarian views is “The Death of Politics,” Karl Hess, March PLAYBOY. If I can get reprints I’ll send them to each P-I subscriber. I also recommend the following books for “top of the circle” reading. To minimize semantic problems I suggest that persons with a predominantly “loft” background read from the top down; those of the “right” from bottom up.

SUMMERHILL: A RADICAL APPROACH TO CHILD REARING, A.S. Neill, non-fiction, Hart Publishing Co., New York 11; \$1.95.

WALDEN II, B.F. Skinner, fiction, Macmillan; \$1.95.

THE ENEMY, James Drought, fiction, Fawcett World Library, 67 W. 44th, New York 10036; 60¢.

1984, George Orwell, fiction??!, Signet, New World Library, 501 Madison Ave., New York 10022; 75¢.

GLORY ROAD, Robert Heinlein, fiction, Avon Books, Hearst Corp., 959 8th Ave., New York 10019; 75¢. (Better than STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND, in my opinion; I haven’t seen MOON IS A HARSH MISTRESS.

THE EVOLUTION OF POLITICAL THOUGHT, C. Northcote Parkinson, non-fiction, Compass Books, Viking Press, 625 Madison Ave., New York 22; \$1.75. (Highly perceptive and utterly non-ideological, this is the first book I’ve read which deserves to be called “political science.”)

THE LAST CAPITALIST, Robert Mirvish, fiction, Fawcett (above); 60¢.

ATLAS SHRUGGED, Ayn Rand, fiction, Signet (above); \$1.50.

WORKER’S PARADISE BETRAYED, Eugene Lyons, non-fiction, cheap paperback.

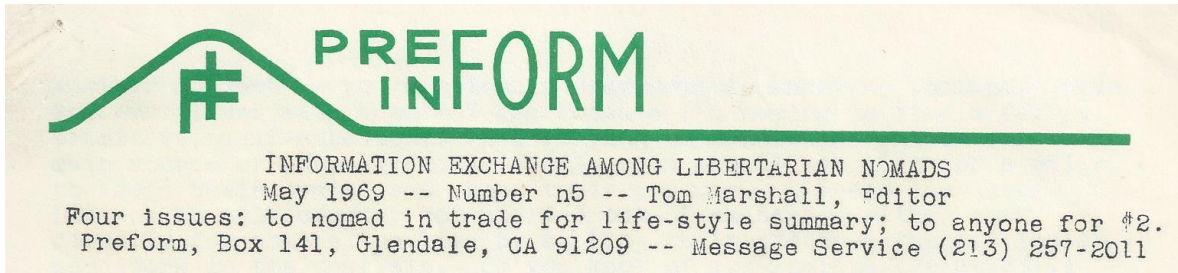
ANTHEM, Ayn Rand, fiction, Signet (above); 60¢.

THE INCREDIBLE BREAD MACHINE, Richard Grant, non-fiction, Sandra Jeffries, Box 14031, Portland, Oregon 92714; \$4.00.

CLICHES OF SOCIALISM, various authors, non-fiction, Foundation for Economic Education, Irvington-on-Hudson, New York; \$1.00.

The above are books I happen to have on hand or can recall; many others could be recommended. Perhaps readers will have suggestions. All prices listed are for paperback. Include 10¢ postage on mail orders.

To the subscribers who are dropping off here: Fun to have had you along. Remember to live and let live. And have a nice trip. –Tom



SITUATIONS AND SEARCHES

High, Do you know anyone interested in living in some mountain wilderness, sort of like nomads (on foot) or foragers? The different articles I've read by you, and books on the Hunzas, have just about convinced me that this type of living would suit me just fine.

I figure if a suitable area of mountains was found, where the climate is rather mild all year, and living below timber line, living could probably be quite a ball. Especially, if several SMALL groups (maybe around 6 each; 3 couples maybe each) were scattered throughout these mountains. Every so often the different groups would meet at a common location for some kind of get together.

Water (unpolluted) from melting snow and glaciers. Food and shelter from the forests (foraging and may hunting). Clothing and bedding from hunting and/or improvisation. Exercise from mountain living, walking. Entertainment and mental growth from each other, meditation, reading, improvisation. Defense – mobility, and sticking together. Elimination or sanitation – just like the Hunzas. Medical help would be the biggest drawback. But, other people have done without doctors, taking care of themselves naturally. As a last resort, a physician in a nearby town could be called upon.

By the way, do you know of any substitutes for cloth, besides, leather, cotton, wool, or any synthetic material? Something that wouldn't require farming, or killing an animal. I'm trying to be a vegetarian. A cloth substitute is my only problem.

I have a panel truck right now, but I'd like to rid myself of all material things that cause me to be dependent on others in case something goes wrong with them; repairs, gas, oil, money, etc.

Thanks for any help you can give me. –Jim (Chicago)

I saw your article and ad in the January Green Revolution. Your ideas are very interesting, but you left the political questions unanswered. How, in this polluted, over-developed, private-property-conscious, tight-fisted country is it possible? I don't mind doing anything illegal, but I don't like being constantly harassed by cops. Do you travel by walking, or what? How do you get your food? Is it possible to subsist on only wild plants without hunting animals (I am vegetarian)? Do you ever buy anything and if so what do you do for money? Is it possible to live without exploiting anything or anybody?

Another subject – you mention in your article American Indians. Have you ever lived with them? I ask because I'm hoping to find a fairly primitive, self-subsistent (not relying on non-Indian whites for their main source of income) Indian family with whom I can live for a while, to learn their crafts and about their culture. It seems that most Indians in this country are not starved out of existence either work directly for whites, or live by selling their pseudo-authentic Indian handiwork to the tourists. Do you know of any Indians (relatively) left alone by our crummy civilization? Love, BOBBIN (Connecticut)

(Later letter) I am 18 years old (and a girl). Your ideas appeal to me very much, though I currently think that once I have a family I will want a sort of permanent place, very rural, hopefully self-subsistent. I want to be able to adopt a lot of kids and invite ghetto kids to get out of the city for a while at least. I don't like the idea of owning property but I also don't like cars or other vehicles. I don't trust them and I like so much travelling under my own power – I like to feel as tired at the end of the day as the distance I've gone. I don't go to college (left Barnard,

Columbia U. after 2 months, 1967). I've been working at a very small school for emotionally disturbed and brain-injured children.

A year ago, I walked in Oklahoma for a little while, got picked up by the police a few times, so spent a few days in various jails and a few in a mental hospital, all because I wouldn't cooperate with them (didn't walk, give information beyond name, help with fingerprinting, etc.) and because I persisted in saying I didn't believe in jails, courts, force, violence. In two weeks I'm going to start wandering again, walking and hitching some, with no plan of action except a list of communities and people I might try to see and stay with for a bit. I'd like to spend a few days or more with some practicing nomads, to really see what that sort of life is like. I don't want to make a definite arrangement now, but can you possibly send me addresses of a few people who would be willing to let me join them at short notice, so that I could contact them if I get to their general area?

This letter isn't a summary as I'm not a nomad, but I thought you would be interested. I'll enclose \$2 if I remember in the morning. By the way I had written Modern Utopia requesting a Directory of Social Change, and I just got a letter saying they're currently out of directories but will send me two issues; it didn't sound like they're in difficulty. -Love, BOBBIN (Connecticut)

Do you have any "contacts" who bicycle? Cycling really lends itself well to nomadic life since (this thought just came to me) the bicyclist is usually not looked upon with fears - I meant that most people, I feel, have the bicyclist stereotyped as a healthy, clean cut, moral, intelligent, tidy neat, boy (girl) scout type & don't object to his camping overnight even on the front lawn. (I did that once on the front lawn of a large ranch house. The police would probably have jailed me had I been using anything other than my wheels!)

I'm interested in cycling across the U.S. or Canada (trans-Canada highway?). I'd like to take my time, earning money to finance me as I go along. I'd like to find someone else with similar notions. Know of anyone? -ROBERTA (Northern California)

For contacts while traveling, I suggest scanning back issues of P-I (reprint) for the few addresses I am at liberty to divulge; also back issues of GREEN REVOLUTION. If your travels take you that way I recommend Heathcote School of Living and Whole Earth Catalog. In southern California Don and Barbara Stephens (mail address and phone same as mine) and Rampart College are good contacts.

Your letters suggest that many different kinds of nomadic living are possible. My present lifestyle seems primitive to those of my friends who are still in their little boxes, but does involve selective use of contemporary industry and commerce - thus, my term "neo-nomadic." My cash outlay averages about \$10 a week; poverty to the average American tax-slave but extravagance to a Hunza.

Before becoming a neo-nomad I often camped out - from an automobile while traveling, sometimes backpacking, for two weeks from a folding kayak while exploring British Columbia fjords. The only significant disadvantage I found for this as a way of life (not just recreation) is that routine chores are more time consuming. In many ways it is very attractive. (A good introduction to backpack camping is THE COMPLETE WALKER, Coin Fletcher, from Whole Earth Catalog. This is recreation oriented, however; nothing on foraging.)

"The Spanish Bayonet (*Yucca baccata*, *Yucca shnidigera*) was by far the most important plant in the Southwest for the production of fiber, apart from the many other uses to which the Indians put it. All parts of the plant were used. The very earliest records show that prehistoric Indians made sandals, cords, baskets, and rough kinds of cloth from those fibers. Some of the sandals were made of whole leaves plaited, some with split leaves, and in others the fibers were freed from the fleshy parts of the leaves, made into cord, and plaited or woven.

"To obtain the fibers, the green leaves were first soaked in water, then pounded on a flat rock with a wooden mallet or beater, and plunged into water from time to time during the process to wash out the skin and the softer tissues. The fibers so released were fine, strong, and white. Cords and threads of different sizes were made for tying, binding, and sewing." EARLY USES OF CALIFORNIA PLANTS, Balls, U. of Calif. Press, \$1.75.

With a strictly vegetarian diet (excluding even milk), protein balance (essential amino acids) may be difficult to come by, although possible. I've been seeking a nutrition reference which gives protein content of various foods BY AMINO ACID; so far no success.

To Bobbin: Unless your homestead is VERY remote wilderness location, various two-legged predators will still be telling you how to run your life. They won't let you adopt kids (or even keep your own) if you live in a way they don't approve. Invite ghetto kids in and you may find yourself prosecuted for "contributing to the delinquency of minors" or something. (See Margaret's letter, this issue.)

I don't know of any Indians in North America who would meet your specifications (some in the Amazon basin world). Perhaps readers will have suggestions. -TOM

MINI MOBILE HOME: Death Valley – where the summer temperature may reach 140 – is home



to a nomad who calls himself Wheelbarrow Tex. He's lived in the area of the California desert for 19 years. For four years he has pushed his covered-wagon like a wheelbarrow. It holds all his possessions.

"It's my home, he says. "Everything I own is in that contraption."

So day after day for the past four years, he has pushed the contraption throughout the valley and to neighboring areas.

"I like this place. I like this desert. I walk along the roads, pick up stuff, meet good people, run a few yours. I have my own tour – of old mines and the like.

"I have a lot of fun. It's not a bad life. I walk in the desert and sleep in the desert. When I'm tired, I just stop, roll out a blanket."

Occasionally, he works. "I'll do most anything. I can do most anything. I'm a real handyman. Can fix most anything. I can even

fix cars."

He looks like a prospector walking along the road: felt hat and a beard, long hair, old clothes. And he has been one. Still is for that matter.

"I walk during the day, and stop sorta early – then I go prospecting. Too early to go to bed."

He's never found much, but he never stops trying. "I get a little ore. I've found a little gold. But I give it away – or sell it right cheap.

Lately, however, he did make a strike. He found a hill that was full of magnesium. "I found it all right, but what'll I do with it?"

The wheelbarrow, of course, is his biggest interest. It's yellow and white with a canvas top. What's inside it?

"I have two blankets, one bed spread, one double pillow, a sleeping bag, five pots, three lanterns, a can of kerosene, one empty can, two ice boxes (without ice), all my clothes, an extra pair of shoes, cooking utensils, seven gallons of water – but three of them are empty. And all my beans – other canned things."

Most of his income is derived from four tourists – who take his "tours." But some don't pay, and most very little. No more than a dollar.

He never sets a price on his abilities or time. If he helps someone, or shows them around, he takes what they give him. "They decide my worth."

An extremely clean man, he washes incessantly, washes his clothes about every other day. And he keeps his "contraption" spotlessly clean.

To those who are interested, he gives his address: Box 66, Death Valley, California. (From newspaper article by Cliff McAdams, sent in by Rusel.)

The article and letters triggered the following idea: Using lightweight materials/techniques such as fiberglass/foam-sandwich, I think a collapsing-tent-tape hand trailer with most "conveniences" could be built to weigh less than 500 pounds. Mounted on a single rolligon or low-pressure tire which would take most of the weight, it could be pulled over most terrain by a single person. (Pulling is more efficient than pushing, especially uphill; a harness could be trapped to the hips, leaving hands free.)

A hand trailer would be suitable for migratory living within an area such as Southeastern California: ranging from low desert in winter and high desert in spring and fall to mountains in summer. Travel would be on back trails, avoiding motor roads and fuzz. (Though Wheelbarrow Tex seems to have had little or no trouble in this respect; for some reason, apparently, cops only hate YOUNG hippies.)

A hand trailer would provide much more carrying capacity, space, and conveniences than a backpack, yet be equally independent of the products of "civilization"; ideal for anyone willing to forego long-distance migration and extended visits to cities. And, if politic-economic disturbances make highway travel dangerous or impossible, a hand-trailer offers a retreat: an alternative to emigration, sailing yacht, or remote/underground hideout.

After reading articles written by you in the INNOVATOR, MODERN UTOPIAN, and GREEN REVOLUTION we feel that we have much in common with you.

We, too, have reached the conclusion that a mobile life will give us the freedom we desire. We have owned a beautiful homestead and found that "five acres and independence" is largely a myth under present day pressures. Our taxes were increased 140% in one year to pay for school construction in the county and, ironic as it is, my husband was put in jail that same year because we wanted to educate our own children at home.

We sold our homestead two years ago and spend five months traveling with a Volkswagen bus and tent. In that time we covered 18,000 miles visiting British Columbia, Canada, and San Blas, Panama. Our thoughts at that time were to travel until found the "the perfect homestead site."

Well we didn't find what we were looking for, but we did discover that travel with five children while living in a tent would not be a suitable life for us.

For the past year and a half we have been renting a house while my husband worked in a factory for 50 hours a week. This has enabled us to save enough money to get the travel rig we wanted.

Gradually over the past months our idea of travel as means to an end (that of finding a permanent homestead) have changed and now we look upon travel as an end in itself.

We now have our trailer and expect deliver on an International Travelall in a week or so. Then we will be ready to start enjoying our new way of life.

We plan to get to the West Coast about the end of May and would like very much to meet you then. Our plans are, at present, quite flexible. If you will let us know where you will be at that time we will try to see you. Best wishes, MARGARET (Ohio)

Should you (or other libertarian nomads) be seeking a squat-spot in Southern California this summer (while I am away), ask Don/Barbara at my message service for directions to a low mountain area (refer: Los Angeles m NW91) with many possibilities. -TOM

Have now received the four issues of P-I and my outlook is very much of yours as described in #1, with one good-sized discrepancy - which neither U or I can do much about, as at date of my issue I was a bit over double your age (72 ½); however, still have my health and wish to be as far from polluted cities, contaminated AND/OR fluoridated water, and air as practicable; ditto hospitals and doctors. Family all grown and married - and am on that insufficient dole which I was compelled to pay for whether I wanted it or not - and quite by coincidence - the maximum receivable is approximately the same amount as those on "the old pension"; BUT, they wouldn't be able to seriously consider nomadic life, as I am.

The previous three issues helped me in deciding on a van or school bus, two of the latter were considered but one required a thin lanky driver (which I ain't), second was pretty old (52

Chevy) and too long (29 feet) but it had trash burner – and two huge propane tanks – gas fridge, stove, etc. – \$2500, and wasn't sold but a couple of days ago.

However connected with a "Metro" Van max 10,000# licensed weight yesterday and here are a few facts comparing van vs. bus. My license annual fee -- \$50 plus – MUST pull into the "scales" when encountered. While with a bus (if old enough in this state) the same minimum fee as a private passenger car (\$10.60) and cross toll bridges and ferries as a car – plus whatever the number of passengers involved. AND vans, at least here and now – are in short supply – going for "campers"; missed one by minutes – after hesitating a day or two, got out there in time to see a rep of John Law, readying one two feet longer than the 12-footer I bought and had the 4 speed, instead of the 3 I got (transmissions).

Plans from now are, in the next 30 days, to check it out and readying it for the road, load it up with paraphernalia I will move, and store the lot, while going out with a small car to find a spot to land on, where the van OR bus will be adopted as mobile unit for habitat, assuming that I may find a "community" where I might fit into, that is acceptable to me.

And one time (some years past) auto mechanic – machinist, and generally handy mechanically, and would team up with suitable similarly inclined person to avoid talking to myself.

There are three township maps of "inner sound" around if they can be found, one or more of which will be enclosed, to provide an idea on locating squat spots; these are out of date now, but were obtained in '42 when I was in search of suitable spot for houseboat, to move it from halfway between the two Boeing plants here in WW2. There is still a lot of "logged-off" lands in the inner Puget Sound, though not nearly as much as then. I'd also enjoy working with a knowledgeable person on some of the things Tesla came close to. (See Jo. O'Neil's biography) R.I. (Seattle)

Fee for registration of non-commercial vehicles in Oregon is a flat \$10 a year regardless of value and (I believe) weight. Also no sales tax.

In December, I moved to Salton Sea Beach two blocks from the sea in northern Imperial County. I have not found the situation as expected – that I would be able to meet people here with common interests – simple, natural living – and find someone, preferably a man, who would want to take short trips with me in my camper. So I am seeking contacts. I am a middle-aged divorcee and have no family ties. I would like to live with, or associate with a group that follows the Green Revolution idea. Living on small pension. VALIDA DAVILLA, Route 2 Box 582, Thermal, CA 92274.

My school bus will soon be ready, then on to freedom. I can make \$1680 besides by S.S. pension so I will stop along the way and work when the spirit moves me. Thanks to the lawyers I don't have money to worry about and being a widow with good health I will enjoy the great outdoors. When I bought a small place near town they added it to the city, can't have a cow, dairy goats, or chickens, can't do what I want. When I worked in Chicago for three months had to worry about back home. Moving in a bus I will take my possessions with me. California here I came grazing along with the way. –MABEL (Missouri)

Saw your ad in the December issue of the Green Revolution, so am sending along a dollar and will tell you about our plans for Nomadic existence. They are just plans so far. I've got a wife and two kids. We lived for five years in Nyack, New York, and moved here to Johnson about a year ago. Somewhere last spring we read an article in Redbook. It was actually an interview with two individuals who were outfitting a truck to live in as they crossed the country. This idea stuck in both our minds, and we began discussing the possibilities of doing it, since I was getting extremely dissatisfied with the straight life. We decided that a self-contained motor home would be the best thing, and began scouting the market, only to find that they started at eight or nine thousand dollars. It seemed kind of ridiculous to spend that kind of money to drop out in, in addition to which we didn't have that kind of money, so we started casting about for an alternative. We soon hit on it: get an old school bus, and convert it into a camper. So we became

the proud possessors of a 1958 International Harvester bus last spring, and I've been working on it ever since. About half a year was spent removing seats and all interior paneling, wire brushing and priming rust spots, and cementing on foam insulation to roof and side walls. Several windows were blanked out where there will be storage space and shower, a gas refrigerator has been installed. To heat it, we've installed a wood burning heater, figuring fuel was cheap if it had to be bought, and could frequently be picked up for free in any woods, junk yard, backyards, or what have you. Cushioned linoleum is on the floor, commercial wood paneling will be put on the walls.

Our objectives: to get the hell out of the rat race. So send us your paper; we'd be interested in seeing what the rest of the mobile world's doing. -BILL (New York)

Dear Mr. "NOMAD": I have read your article in the GREEN REVOLUTION. I am all with you and accept the proof you offer wholeheartedly. There is only one point on which I like to question you. You do not tell how to make a living in this nomadic way. You never say how you yourself manage to live and wander, nor suggest how others may do it. Holding down a city job for a part of the year and travelling the rest of it is definitely not living nomadic, but vacationing. Do you care telling me your recipe? -T.J. (Alberta)

"NOMAD - One...that has no fixed location but wanders from place-to-place." (Webster's Collegiate Dictionary - 5th Ed.) The definition makes no mention of course of sustenance.

Is a "homesteader" who supplements crops with part-time outside job, or who purchased his homestead with funds he earned outside not a real "homesteader"?

However, my way of life does greatly reduce outside income requirements. If I am "vacationing" so be it.

ATLANTIS QUARTERLY (Winter issue, I believe, I heard a preview) has an article about a family who are "professional foragers" - their entire income comes from sale of items they gather. -TOM

Regarding philosophic verification data, I doubt if I can meet your criteria, i.e. "beyond a reasonable doubt." I do not know any of the well-known leaders of the movement personally. I also practice engineering. I have been an objectivist since 1962. Attended NBI courses "Objectivism's Theory of Knowledge," November 1967; "Psychology of Romantic Love," May 1968. Fanatic readers of Robert Heinlein novels since childhood (you must read THE MOON IS A HARSH MISTRESS - explicitly libertarian and almost 180° from STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND). Attended the Stephens' and your Self-Liberation Seminar.

None of the above is particularly verifiable, except the last item. Nevertheless, I hope you are keeping these dossiers in a safe place. See, for example, anonymity lecture of the above seminar. -NAME WITHHELD ON REQUEST

I'm not being overly strict on "clearance" for Preform since something which goes through U.S. Postal Monopoly isn't very secure anyway. Villa Via would be something else. Before then maybe someone will start a philosophy verification service - seems to be more and more a market for this.

I recently got hold of MOON. Much more rewarding than I have expected from reviews which emphasized value as "emotional fuel." I didn't find it 180° from STRANGER - maybe 30°. It shifted my philosophic position about 10° to the "left" (diagram, page 8 of reprint). For ideas on new relational forms it surpasses STRANGER. "Line marriage" seems much more viable and attractive than the nine-level super-bureaucratic commune of STRANGER.

Among libertarians presently on earth, as among moon dwellers in Heinlein's novel, men heavily outnumber women; perhaps two-to-one among people holding explicit freedom ideas; perhaps as high as five-to-one among those becoming free. (I didn't know the cause of this; it may be the even higher conformist pressures put on girls in State schools and most homes.) So Heinlein's xenagmous (?) ideas may be applicable here and now. -TOM

The offices and staff of ORPHEUS are located in a roving 1946 Chevrolet school bus. Location and itinerary varies greatly. Production facilities are in central Arizona. (From ORPHEUS Magazine – The Underground Press, a bimonthly collection, Bin 1832, Phoenix, Arizona 85001; \$3.50/ten issues.)

I have been on this place since 1966. I retired from work in 1959 and became a nomad like you. This is my home country, and I finally got tired of looking up parking spots, so I came back home and got me 40 acres of beautiful wilderness.

My first two years, taxes were just a little under \$20 a year. This year it jumped up to little more than \$22. I have all the garden space I want to work up. I have set out apple and plum trees, different kinds of tame berries. Wild berries here are not worth picking. In Oregon where I lived wild fruit was very good in places. I have miles and miles of wilderness all to myself; but it is very poor game country. There is more game in partly settled country. Deer are the only game you can really depend on, and they are not too numerous. Minnesota is a fairly populous state and hunters come in here in armies. I don't see how any deer escape. I get mine because I live here, and plant things they like to eat (not for them, but for myself) and I shoot them out of my garden. If there are only a few in the country, they would be around gardens. I shot mine out of my window last fall while it was eating some of my kale plants that I thought I would have for early winter. What goes best is my canned tomatoes. I canned 42 quarts of them, besides other things. My raspberries are just beginning to bear. It is all very pleasant in summer. In winter, I often wish I was a nomad part of the year. I do get by much cheaper and pay much less taxes here than when I was a nomad. A lot of my money went for parking space. For company I have the wilderness, my books, and a very few neighbors. None libertarian. That is why I would like a few libertarian pen pals.

If you don't mind, what form of philosophy do you subscribe to? Maybe we can thrash out a few points. I am rationalist. My four gospels are Modern Library Inc. editions of the following: THE EGO AND HIS OWN by Max Stirner, SELECTED WRITINGS OF H. D. THOREAU, THUS SPOKE ZARATHUSTRA, by F. Nietzsche, but I switch nature-man for superman. I like anyone who likes the primitive life, no matter how dumb he is.

“Many too many are born: for the superfluous ones was the state devised!

Open still remained a free life for great souls. Verily, he who possesseth little is so much the less possessed: blessed be moderate poverty.

There, where the state ceaseth – there only commenceth the man who is not superfluous: there commenceth the song of the necessary ones...” Thus spoke Zarathustra. –WILLIAM J. BOYER, Star Rte., Tamarack, Minn. 55787.

Thanks for the report on your area. I have found nomadic living much less expensive than any other way I have lived. My rules for economy are: (1) park in squat-spots where permission/payment is not necessary; (2) eat mostly staples and wild foods; (3) limit travel so far as possible to meaningful long-term migration; avoiding commuting or one-day excursions.

Homesteading seems to work out well for retired people, but young people and people of any with school-age children encounter trouble; in populated area at least.

REPORT ON APRIL GATHERING

Seven people (counting two children) braved heavy rain and muddy trails to meet at a squat-spot near Castaic.

Tom and Connie Duckworth with family described their nomadic way of life and the work of the Whole Earth Catalog and Truck Store with which they are associated. They built their camper in which they are living full-time with only a few hundred dollars cash outlay, by using donated and discarded materials. Their camper stays most of the time in a private wooded area near San Francisco; they trade caretaking services for rent.

Tom suggested that the “middle-class money-oriented libertarians’ who are interested in opting out but (in most cases) haven’t yet taken the plunge, could benefit from contact with some of the “underground” communities and tribes who, with little experience or preparation, HAVE liberated themselves and, in many cases, are quite successful in a new lifestyle. The major

purpose of the Whole Earth enterprises is to facilitate exchange of information about tools and techniques among various kinds of freedom seekers. Tom will be traveling this summer with the Whole Earth Truck Store, visiting intentional communities and other underground groups. The home base of Whole Earth is 558 Santa Cruz, Menlo Park, 94025; well worth visiting for anyone in or traveling through the Bay area. They have for sale a wide assortment of literature relevant to opting out. (See page 8 of reprints for info on Catalog.)

Don and Jean told of their future living arrangements. They have ordered a large chassis-mount camper, to which they plan to add two large travel trailers (of the maximum size they can tow); one to contain kitchen facilities, the other sleeping quarters. These will be connected by a cabana. They seek a high degree of mobility with ample living space.

Don and Jean also told about central British Columbia which they have been researching. They visited Bella Coola last summer, pulling a trailer over 300 miles of dirt road. This, incidentally, is a road which the B.C. highway department claimed couldn't be built. So the people of Bella Coola went ahead and built it – with their own labor.

LIBERTARIAN SYMBOL

In response to your quest for a recognizable but unobtrusive Libertarian symbol (P-I n2) may I suggest the letter "I" in some distinctive manner. "I" would be a multiple pun, verbally, and visually symbolic; the word "I" for ego, the word "eye" for awareness, the Roman numeral "I" (one for mathematics/rationality. Perhaps enclose it in a circle to symbolize unity with nature. You could define specific colors, say white on red to represent integrity and courage. A sticker or decal of this design would be easily mistaken for a parking permit, social club, or any number of everyday stickers, yet would be (I think) unique. If this suggestion is of use to you, I'll trade it for an ad in any publication that reaches over 100 libertarians. MALACLYPSE THE YONGER, KSC, Keeper of Symbols, Emblems, Certificates & Such, The Erisian Movement/OPOVIG³/HP-POEE (The Paratheo-Anametamystikhood of Eris Esoteric), House of Apostles of Eris. Origination CABAL: Everglades.

NON-COERVICE THEOLOGY. "Principia Discordia –or- How I Found Goddess & What I Did To Her When I Found Her" is metaphysical anarchy doing a thing. One man, one god. One dollar. Limited Edition (so far). Hill care Thornley 2803 Marlin Tampa 33611.

Don Stephens informs me that a circled I, white on red, is the trademark of Iscondarian Cams, common on racing cars.

For the time being, I suggest a crossed F and I (see masthead), gold letters on a black field, to denote self-liberation (freedom through individual action), with the addition of a circle around the FI to indicate lifestyle: green, land nomad; blue, ocean living; purple, remote wilderness; gold, underground (physically); red, urban "underground" (not physically); white, other self-liberated lifestyle; no circle (crossed FI on black field alone), rational libertarian not yet self-liberated.

I believe a libertarian emblem would be well worthwhile. Many libertarians have met each other through bumper stickers on cars, etc. But with the peace symbol now fuzz-bait and used by many who are not consistently peaceful, and with other slogans and emblems restricted as "intellectual property" and/or schismatic, a new symbol is needed. Note to LIBERTARIAN CONNECTION people: Since you are a member of LPA and exchange with the various groups, perhaps it would be profitable for you to solicit ideas and opinions on an emblem to be marketed.

TRIP TO BRITISH COLUMBIA

I expect to move north about the end of May, visiting various West Coast environs, then summering in central British Columbia. I will enjoy meeting nomads and other freedom seekers along the way or in B.C. (should you be summering there too).

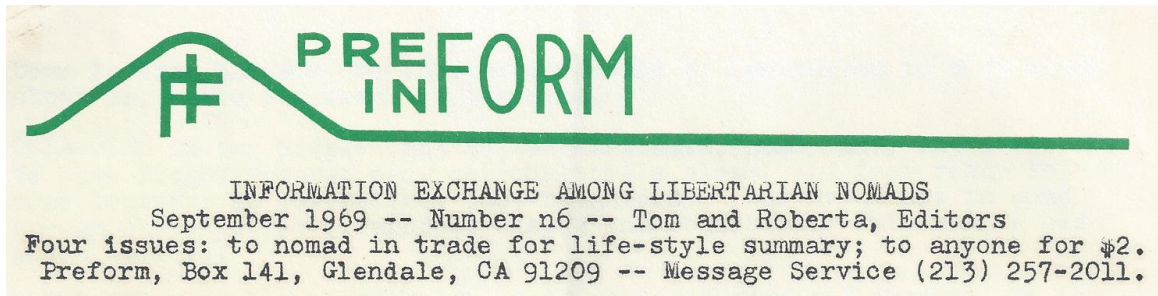
If you want to get a message to me quickly by mail, address it to Preform ATTENTION BARBARA STEPHENS. She will then open it and relay it to me when I phone in for messages. (Otherwise it may sit for several months until I pick up mail.)

COPIES OF BACK ISSUES

Continuing subscribers are receiving with this issue a photo-reduced reprint of most of the first four issues, original copies of which are exhausted. Because of the economics of offset printing I had a thousand copies made, so I am eager to sell quantities: 10 for \$3, 20 for \$5, 50 for \$10.

ADDRESS CODING

Letters following your name on the envelope indicate the form of subscription and "clearance": n, nomad; p, paid in money; x, for exchange with other publication; L, known libertarian (cleared for invitations, etc.). For info on getting cleared see bottom right of page 8 of reprint, or page 1 of n4.



SITUATIONS AND SEARCHES

Dear Mr. Preform: I saw my first van-camper and realized that it would be a partial solution to the problems of living in a big city cheaply without being tied down. I then looked into mobile homes in general and into the problems of outfitting them. I wanted to do all the work myself since the commercial units did not meet my requirements and they were, I felt, much overpriced. I'm a determined "Do It Yourselfer," and I would be half as happy if someone else built my house.

By August, I had purchased a new Chevy van. It was my first new car and my last new one. Used cars are cheaper and better. I now have windows, a refrigerator, stove, water tank, and toilet. By the end of September of this year, I shall have the camper finished. I then plan to move gradually into the camper keeping my apartment until I feel comfortable living completely in the camper. If you have any suggestions on equipment or plans, I have enclosed a self-addressed envelope.

At this time, I'm looking into DC to AC inverters. I want to be able to use my hand power tools. I'm also planning on fluorescent lamps inside the camper since they are more economical to run if the initial cost is not considered. If my designs look better than the ones in the literature, I'll consider selling the plans or perhaps making and selling the inverters. As of now, it looks like separate inverters for each lamp and one big one for everything else. If I could find a cheap 1 to 2 kW, 120v generator that I could drive from the fan belt of my camper's engine – but enough about van campers. I understand they are now called mini-homes.

Now as to how I learned about you. In September of last year I saw an old copy of GREEN REVOLUTION, on the desk of a student assistant where I work. I read it, liked the ideas, and sent off a check for a subscription. It was through an advertisement in G-R for INNOVATOR-FREE TRADE (to which I now subscribe) that I found your advertisement. I now also subscribe to ATLANTIS QUARTERLY. How I wish I had known about these 10 years ago...

You may print this letter, my name, and my mailing address in P-I. I doubt that there are any libertarians in the Chicago area, but if there are, I would like to hear from them. –DANIEL NORMAN, BOX 3432, Chicago, Ill. 60654.

Reply: Your future home sounds well-thought out. Since you have a background in electronics, as do I, you may be interested in what I have found, to be the only major inconvenience of nomadic living: poor communications. Mobile phone paging, the most reasonable kind of system I have so-far found on the market, costs \$20 per month and requires trips to phone booths. Perhaps you can beat me to a better solution. –TOM

Dear Preform-Inform: We thought you would be interested in this sheet about us, since you read our magazine.

GREENFEEL is two people (now 8), two A-frames, some land, and a vision. We have fought through many personal hells alone, and feel ready to come together as lovers (not just neighbors). Our heads are in good enough shape to put tremendous energy and objectivity into making our goals work.

GREENFEEL is not only headwork, self-confrontation, and change. It is also working to buy food, cooking, washing dishes, shitting, loving, bitching, creating. We touch and withdraw, play

and worry, get sick, have joy and pain. We are not escaping from society, but removing some of its worst pressures. We still want to communicate with society.

Our community will also travel as a group of minstrels spreading new alternative ways of thinking and living in such things as arts, politics, jobs, marriage, education, social revolution, psychiatry, human relationships. The way we live our lives and relate to one another will be a powerful example of an alternative way of life. We hope to inspire repressed potentialities in people, mainly kids. We'll return to Vermont home to rest and be.

Begin work on yourself, if you haven't started yet. Then try to start a community, a Summerhill-freedom school, where you can bring up kids who have less to struggle against than you had. We need pro-life friends and we need healthy kids. --RON AND TONI, GREENFEEL, Box 347, Barre, Vermont 05641.

"I'll be damned if I know exactly what MOVING ON is about. But if you're moving - a Roadman - you'll know. How about that!" MOVING ON, 2321 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica, CA 90403. (Comment by Tom: MOVING ON is a magazine - well done - printed even! Emphasis seems to be stories and poetry.)

Tom: So far, I've been able to find two sources of amino acid content of certain foods: Bob Hoffman's pamphlet PROTEIN and the Dept. of Agriculture's book on food. They're not as complete a list as I'd like, but it's something. Also, I found a book by Herbert M. Shelton helpful as far as knowledge of the importance (or maybe unimportance) of counting your amino acids. Title: Thy Hygienic System (Vol. II). The Hygienists are strict vegetarians. Since I wrote you last, I have found several sources (books) on making cloth from plant fibers. --JIM NORTH, Northside Cycle Shop, Chicago.

Roberta and I searched through Portland library, while in Portland, and found two books with fairly good information: NUTRITIONAL HANDBOOK (I mislaid names of authors and publisher) and NUTRITION by the Heinz Company. Reference given by the first book is: Amino Acid Content of Foods, by M.L. Orr and B.K. Watt, Home Econ. Research Report #4, U.S. Dept. of Ag., 1957. --TOM

Dear Tom: Without reflecting on the coming "advantages" of the evolved welfare state, I feel it unnecessary to elaborate on the reason or reasons for my interests in nomadic living. I am perhaps what you have classified as an individualist-libertarian and recently evolved anarchist whose efforts have fruitlessly been involved with the "conservatives" and radical right. In other words, I just stopped compromising and faced the reality that coercion was the instrument and it did not make any difference whose hands it was in. I do want to do what I can but only in programs that are designed to diminish the powers of the state.

Anyway, my situation is as follows: I am a male married to a female, both in our 30's, with four sons between 3 and 10. I am presently employed in a professional capacity by a large company, classified as a microbiologist. We are average normal type family and my wife and I feel as though the Grave Society is closing in rather rapidly and want to do something as soon as we are able and with advice from those as yourself. Presently, we are a little in debt but not really to any extent since most of it is tied up in our vehicle. So this would be no problem if I could perhaps relocate and squat with a suitable source of income. So really the whole thing lies in the fact, when to make the break and that would be based on what and where with the consideration of fulfilling my prior financial obligations. My plans are of course only partially projected. We have a late model van-type camper with pop-up top and tent which gives us plenty of room and mobility at better than average speed and versatility. This would be perhaps the primary mode of habitation and would be directed toward the warmer areas and or most comfortable for the seasons. Later perhaps a larger or another such unit.

I don't particularly want to be a loner in this effort and would fully desire explicit practicing libertarians as associates, close friends, and "fellow travelers." At the same time, I would like to have my sons exposed to and educated in an atmosphere void of coercion an authority as

exemplified in the state-controlled systems. Anyway if you have any reflections on this, please let me know how you feel.

My interests and my wife's as well are in the areas of art, painting, photography, decorating, camping, and just about anything outdoors and to do with nature. We don't have any habits that are or may be considered offensive and we mind our own business.

I would prefer that you not use me as a case history, unless you care to revise and disguise my comments (done, Editor), as I would be easy to identify with the information I have given. I am presently preparing to go before a hearing at which I plan to refuse to allow my children to attend the state-controlled system of education on what I presently call sound grounds. – FRED (Middle Atlantic Coast)

I found as I suspect others have found that the main barriers to self-liberation are not economic, they are psychologic – status games. The libertarian must in most cases choose between:

Freedom, with adequate shelter (keeps out cold, rain, and insects; includes facilities for cooking and washing). Or, a house which will impress friends and relations.

Freedom, with adequately-nutritious food and occasional luxuries. Or frequent expensive home or restaurant meals.

Enough money to live comfortably and in freedom. Or a high salary and professional prestige.

I eventually discovered that, to be happy in freedom, I had to shift much of my self-esteem involvement from professional achievements to the attainment of freedom. (My profession, like yours, is marketable at present only within THAT society.)

As to our solution: School-age children tend to develop severe self-esteem involvements with the Sick Society through the influence not only of school but of playmates and entertainment media as well; the combination of which it is usually futile for the parent to attempt to counter. Since you have a well-paid skill but no financial reserves, you might consider getting your family "out" immediately, going into debt if necessary, while you continue in your trade for several years, building reserves. You might live in your van-camper while working, commuting to your family weekly or less often. A second, perhaps larger vehicle for your family might be well-used since not many miles need be put on it. (On the other hand, a second vehicle identical to your present one would have advantages in spare parts stocking and maintenance.)

In the West, you can probably find better squat spots and more companionship, but, should you not find suitable employment, the East will probably prove adequate for squatting. Avoid most of the middle of the country – between Appalachians and Rockies, south of the Great Lakes – or any area where almost all land is being farmed; nomads need "wasteland." –TOM

Tom: I am interested in the Villa Via idea. Why does it have to start as a fully organized group? I would think it would be best for it to come into being by growing gradually as people, starting with only the proprietor, join. –CRAIG (Los Angeles)

Hello Tom. So pleased with your last fat issue and all the lovely stories of various exciting ways of living. I guess I am just a dreamer imagining various existences and groovy people as a lark, because here I still sit. I have finished my book, an antidote to 1984, and now that parts of it are off to the publisher I feel like an exile, homesick for the world of 2063 which I spent two years inventing and "living in" and I even miss the people! It is a weird feeling alright.

I am starting a new hoppy: collecting original Hippie works. I'm not a hippie myself, I guess, but I enjoyed their style and spirit so much I want to save what I can of it, otherwise it will all get thrown away or lost. If any of your readers have unpublished stuff they can't carry around any longer, I can give it tender loving care. Sketches made of life on the road or in the Haight or communes, anecdotal prose bits recalling the Be-ins or other events, poems signed and dated,

paintings, lithos, tapes, etc. Then when the donors come through Oxnard they can phone me and drop in and see my whole collection – which presently is small. I promise to cover cost of postage at least if they give a return address when they send things. Plus \$1 to cover cost and bother of mailing, guaranteed. Have a good summer. –MARIAN O’GORMAN, 107. E. Garden Green, Port Heueneme, Calif.

Dear Tom and Roberta: Your surprise visit was a highlight and much in my mind for some time afterward – particularly with the June ’68 through March ’69 Pre-Inform. You are probably enjoying different sights and scenes and people – something new and different. Enjoy every minute of it; there will come a time when the old and familiar looks best; we tire of the new and different.

Your writing (both) is loss [sic] reserved than conversation perhaps because you did not know me and I am not familiar with the nomads and their language. The more I think on it the less appeal it has for me; and the more I can see where others will find it satisfactory. It may be just a lifelong desire to take root somewhere and set; a desire to own a place, in total, which cannot be done within the boundaries of any nation I know of, now. So that is a dream to be rejected. From where I sit and read, the imminent police state will be worldwide in the not too distant future; the cage will be larger in some places – Canada, Australia, Africa, and perhaps the oceans – but cage it will still be. As you said, Tom, “Nomadic living and agriculture don’t mix, unfortunately.” Food production is limited to hunting and gathering and following the harvests. That is just for me, I want you to continue as you are and not to lose touch. I want you and more friends like you to drop in occasionally or frequently as visitors and friends and traders. Your answer to Ben (r7) is apt.

Where I will locate is not known, but I do favor some plan like M. Oliver’s. The biggest movement towards human freedom I know of was prior to 1776 and they almost made it. My objective may be first to improve my own life by increasing freedom to produce, own and exchange goods, services, ideas, and affection (also mentioned in your P-I). Also, I would derive some pleasure from being part of a group attempting to re-establish an improved version of the Spirit of ’76 in a healthier environment. They pay (as Ben Franklin said) may be the pleasure of doing it. I may take another trip to start the latter part of September till possibly late October or November, East and perhaps to Florida then back via Southwest. If you have any ideas of some places or people to visit en route please drop a line and fill in. –J.R. ROAF, Box 403, Grant’s Pass, OR 97256

Reply: New laissez-faire country projects I have heard of include M. Oliver’s Capitalist Country (Box 485, Carson City, Nevada 89701), Project Atlantis (R.D. 5 Box 22A, Saugerties, N.Y. 12477) and Project Laissez Faire (Suite 130a, Ashley Gardens, Westminster, London, SW.1, U.K.). I have met and talked extensively with the proprietor of Project Atlantis and was highly impressed; he is a real-life Hank Rearden who has capital to transform his dreams into reality. His newsletter, ATLANTIS NEWS, is \$4.50 per year; semi-monthly. I just received loan of an impressive-appearing brochure on Richard King’s Project Laissez Faire.

Strange your conclusion that agriculture and nomadism don’t mix; you had about convinced me that they did. Roberta has been sprouting alfalfa seeds in glass jars (cover with nylon stocking material, rinse and drain twice a day) which supply our salad needs when we don’t find time to forage. See also the following item. –TOM

Jack Ratliff of Pritchett, Colorado has been around the U.S. twice, goats in back in cage, chickens under the wagon in cage, doesn’t travel on Sunday. Stops before dark and lets goats and jinnies graze and water. Has a few books beside his bible. Nice guy. Came through Missouri on his way to? He says he sees more of the country than people with cars, too fast for him. (Picture of back shows a covered wagon pulled by four donkeys. Sorry but I don’t recall who sent this in; it got separated from your letter. Thanks.)

Tom Marshall, Dear Sir: Issue #5 received when I got back from my better than 6,000 mile trip across nearly to the Mississippi and into the Ozarks, and found that where the pavement

was left, the going was tough AND mostly inaccessible and not too desirable – 99%-plus wasted effort going there.

Seems to me that land-based or other libertarians fixed to a location need not be considered as non-fellows. For one thing, those of us on wheels WILL occasionally be in need of repairs, remodeling etc. of their equipment. And apparently there will be great variety in that equipment – from bicycles through busses and trucks. While I didn't keep count, my guess is that in that 6,000 plus miles, there were around two dozen highway police scales open (for customers) and as far as I know anything over 6 or 8 thousand pounds or fixed loads MUST stop. At one in Montana, at the far end past the scales, was a car equipped with cop, ready to pounce.

All this is bypassed with bus, at least at present. Also, in Idaho, I saw signs in regards to ALL trucks (out of state) MUST get permit from a sheriff – I'm not clear on this – and in Oregon I saw signs regarding trucks AND buses registering. Maybe some of the holes are being plugged.

While crossing Oregon via U.S. 20, between Burns...and Riley, I overtook a pickup-camper WITH small motorcycle secured across the back of it – it also had a California license. If it WAS yours, it only proved the need of an insignia – significant to us – just another symbol to others.

I recognize Margaret as a good letter, and who has been on Lake Kootnay (where there are good places for squat spots in virgin forests with bears, cougars, wolves, etc. and where I stopped 3 days on trip of exploration – this on the U.S. 395 trail.) And if correct, her family stopped at my friend's place exposing the San Blas deal, which I figured as questionable earlier.

My problem is finding a place to rent-lease or what in which to ready a mobile-powered home, and dump the fixed equipment – complication is tools, machinist, carpenter, garden, etc., the motor-mechanic I have might be essential to travel-community ideas. R.I. VICTOR, Box 142, Oakville, Wash. 98568.

Reply: We do regret not meeting you on our trip. We were already north of you when your letter giving your new address caught up. On the way south we ran out of time (I had a work appointment to keep) and drove almost straight through. I don't think you saw us. We were traveling in a large truck-camper with LARGE (10" diameter) emblems on front and rear windows and smaller emblems on sides and motorbike. The emblem: gold crossed-P-I in green ring on a black field. Hopefully we will meet somewhere, sometime.

When confronted with highway signs concerning trucks, I have always assumed that my vehicle was not one. I have never stopped at any scales (in California, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, and B.C.) and have never been molested for this. I have variously heard that one-ton vehicle rating) are not legally "trucks" and that pleasure (non-commercial) vehicles of whatever weight are not considered "trucks." (I think the first is the ruling in California and the second in Oregon, but I don't really know and am not too interested in finding out.) With increasing numbers of "recreation vehicles" of all varieties on the open highways, most of which are driven by sheep-people who only want to "escape on weekends and vacations, land-mobility is likely to remain a viable freedom-way for a long time. –TOM

EVOLUTION OF THIS LIBERTARIAN or HOW I GOT HERE FROM THERE

Only a few months ago I was teaching in a state "gun run" school. It was my first and I had decided my last year of teaching in such a school. While at the job, I was thoroughly miserable and in search of a happier way of spending my life.

Since I felt that the U.S. Government was as bad as the Nazi regime had been, I was interested in a way of life whereby none of my earnings could be used to support a war machine. I had plans of going to Florida to work at a health resort in exchange for room and board as soon as my teaching contract expired (last June). That way, I hoped to avoid income tax and also learn about natural hygiene. (My weight was a terrible problem and I had great hopes of reducing at this resort.)

Before going on to explain how I got "here from there" I'll fill in a little on how I got "there." I'll go all the way back to my grandfather.

As a young man, Grandpa fled from Russia to avoid being drafted into the Czar's army. (Maybe he was running away from shulla too. Shulla wasn't his girlfriend: it's Jewish Sunday

school, only on Saturday. Grandpa's father was religious but Grandpa had other ideas, like he was an atheist.) Newly arrived in the U.S. and safe and sound from the nasty old Russian czar, Grandpa started to "work his way up in the world." After years of hard work, he was owner of his own store (general merchandise). He also married. By this time, the U.S. Czar, commonly called Czar Samuel or translated "Uncle Sam" was after Grandpa. But a baby daughter exempted Grandpa from Sam's army.

The baby was my mother. As a young girl, she was active in leftist, communistic political-action groups. (Today she is involved in groups like Women for Peace as opposed to communistic groups.) My parents were hounded by the FBI when I was little and I was taught to say "I don't know" in case I were questioned. The police were DEFINITELY NOT our kind of people. When young, my mother took me to some picnic where Paul Robeson was to sing. The people living around the picnic grounds (Peekskill, N.Y.) didn't like Negroes or something and as we were being bussed home, I remember the local residents lining the streets with rocks – boulders – ready to throw. They threw them too. There was blood and broken glass and I can still see in my mind those people standing with their rocks and next to them were standing policemen: the policemen and the rock throwers were buddy-buddy.

So much for recollections of early childhood. While at my teaching job last fall, I received from my mother a copy of "Vocations for Social Change." It's a Bay Area publication which lists among other things, the School of Living. I wrote the School and subsequently subscribed to its newsletter THE GREEN REVOLUTION (Heathcote Center, Freeland, MD 21053, \$4 per year), also receiving its book, GO AHEAD AND LIVE. But even though I agreed with many of their ideas, the prospect of homesteading left me with some reservations: like who would feed the chickens and milk the cows and water the crops when I was on a bicycling trip? In other words, I viewed being tied down to a homestead just like that; being tied down.

G-R was exposing me to libertarian ideas however. And it was in G-R that I saw an ad for PREFORM-INFORM which mentioned nomadic living. I suppose this appealed to me because I had dreams of getting on my bicycle and riding – destination, the world. I'd be a bicycle gypsy. One of the Preform editions came with a hand-printed note on it from this guy who said he was going to British Columbia and would it be O.K. if he were to stop by to see me on the way. I answered and said sure, stop by. And that's how I met Tom, and found out who is John Galt and a few other things.

Tom came by on a Sunday. He stayed for the next few days. We exchanged literature. He gave me Rand's ANTHEM to read. It made sense and with Tom's help, I was able to dislodge some of the cobwebs of prejudice that had been woven in my mind by an upbringing in a leftist family atmosphere. Thus I was able to accept and adopt much of the philosophy of that small volume. After the days had become a week Tom asked me if I would like to go to B.C. with him. I thought about it (I can't remember if twas for a minute or a day) and said "yes!"

So when school was over and all my stuff moved of the rented apartment I had been sharing with a friend, Tom and I were off to B.C. Tom drove the first stretch – I shelled walnuts and asked a lot of questions. Along the way north, we stopped to visit with other libertarians, exchange ideas, knowledge, ask and answer questions. It was all very stimulating. While in B.C. at our forest squat spot I read ATLAS SHRUGGED. I read it for breakfast, brunch, lunch, high tea, low tea, dinner, supper, and even by candle light. I loved every minute of it. It is a work of art, a work of genius, a phenomena in itself. Though I cannot meet the people in the book, I look forward to meeting and spending time with other libertarians as I would look forward to meeting John Galt, Dagny, and their friends.

Whereas before (when I was "there") I was not opposed to government spending my money for "good" things, now (that I am "here") I oppose government spending ANY of my money. I wish to be free to do as I see fit. Before I was concerned with helping to make this a better world for everyone. I am no longer concerned with everyone. Each must decide for himself what "better" is and then seek for that himself. What I now consider "better" is FREER and I will strive to be as free as I can and help those who feel the same way I do towards that end also, thereby increasing my own freedom.

I think my present goal – freedom for myself and those close to me here and now – is much more realistic than "trying to make this a better world." (Of course by making my own world

better I am indeed making the whole world better, but better only by my standards which I don't ask everyone to accept.) Whereas before I was much in favor of ending the Vietnam War (or any and all war and arms races for that matter) what could I do? Write letters to my congressman? I never saw a piece of paper stop a bullet. But now I know just what to do. I can make damn sure that none (or an insignificant amount) of my money (energy) goes towards buying bullets and bombs and other things that are used to make wars. People are still dying but I have no hand in killing them and I will be responsible only for my own actions. I will no longer allow anyone to use guilt as a weapon on me. There are people starving and people dying, yes. Before I felt I should join a cause to help these people: more letters to congressmen. Now I feel all I SHOULD do is my own part, e.g. not overpopulate the world or initiate force. I will not allow myself to be held accountable for other than my own doings.

Right now, Tom and I are at a squat spot overlooking the Pacific Ocean. Since we are opposed to the State, its bureaucracy and all its trappings, we feel it is not in our best interest to have a State marriage license. However, Tom has drawn up our own free-marriage contract. Each of us is a "freemate." Also in the contract, Preform is a joint venture. Therefore, in the future, you'll be hearing more from this "freemate." –ROBERTA

FREEDOM WAYS FORUM

(For reader's convenience, correspondence concerned principally with overall strategy of freedom through nomadic living will henceforth be grouped under this heading. Letters which are mainly personal lifestyle descriptions will be grouped under "Situations and Searches".)

Dear Tom, I'll mention a few things about myself, but not enough to justly be called a philosophic or life-form summary. I believe that the only way intelligent-rational persons can protect themselves from the politico-economic idiocies of those who hold state power because they speak in impressive ambiguities, are snappy dressers, grovel to the right people at the right time, etc. is by having recourse to semi-autonomous survival and mutual aid with other libertarians. From that base libertarians can move from life-form to life-form in, out, around, and through the various established orders.

One means of achieving "autonomy" and mobility within technological societies is by means of vocational multiplicity, i.e. the attainment of certificates in pharmacy, TV repair, medicine, teaching, engineering, plumbing, etc. I enjoy going to University and believe that returning to University throughout my life for the purpose of gaining new professional training can combat senility (usually suffocation in one's own ego) as well as provide what I am calling social mobility (especially when combined with parallel identities). I am not overlooking owning stores, businesses, or being involved in other enterprises.

I do seek values from life other than an abstract zeal for liberty (or personal revulsion to taking orders) including such things as love (and sex), non-structured time, money (many unspecified, often unpredictable values), music, intellectual stimulation, etc. I enjoy urban life as well as natural conditions and would not be pleased by the prospect of being restricted to one or the other.

I have recently developed a strong skepticism toward what I believe to be your conceptions of both the likelihood and the depths of whatever socio-economic catastrophes are to occur. Why should the United States suffer an economic disaster which would reduce it BELOW the level of the highly statist USSR? I'll admit however, that (1) my economics is PRESENTLY weak and (2) the future is always unpredictable. I still think that the progressive economic independence you are attempting to achieve is worthy of emulation. But I think to do a decent job of it one requires money and a good source of money. I have neither and so my present problem is to get both.

Thank you for your sensible comments on my letter. There are only a few points I don't think have been adequately resolved.

I believe it would be a delusion to think that "freedom" in a complete sense is attainable in today's world. The world is full of States which claim authority over virtually all land. The world is also amply supplied with dis-established authoritarians (e.g., criminals). I see no possible way of totally eliminating or guaranteeing no future contact with such undesirables. I can only see spending a lifetime learning how to REDUCE contact with (and defensive-less-ness against) those

agents. What will the neo-nomads do about gas, dentists, doctors, clothes, typewriter repair, driver's license, auto repair, etc.? If you must cope with these problems by interactions with the Established Order, why sneer at homesteaders? In case of nuclear disaster you are eventually going to run out of gas and would be well advised to know much about survival in the woods and living off the land.

I notice that you objected to my contention that education must EVENTUALLY be wrested from the State after having expressed the view that it would not be feasible for a nomadic community to try to give a university education. Despite the confusion in both our positions, I don't see a fundamental opposition. I think you could educate a child UP TO the high school level as well as if not better than the existing public school system. (I am now conceding to you this point.) Hopefully a future large number of libertarians could provide to market base for even a Medical School (perhaps on a ship). I'm not sure what you mean by "collective strategy," but I have never had any objections to contributing my energies to the energies of others when it seemed the best thing to do, nor have I been particularly reluctant to rely on market exigencies (the existence of "market" requires a large number of individuals).

I was once in a junk yard looking for some materials with which to make a bookshelf when a truck drove up containing a family of "neo-nomads." The many small children climbed out and began running all over the yard. The father got out and sorted through the junk as he swore at his kids while his incredibly fat wife stayed in the house-truck. I was not positively impressed with their liberty. (Though, it undercuts the point of this paragraph, I wonder if his house-truck, IN CONTRAST TO THE OBVIOUS TRAILER, isn't a good way to conceal the fact of one's neo-nomadism.

Perhaps my speculations about libertines were far-fetched. I had imagined that semi-self-reliant individuals who take drugs would be prone to increase their drug intake until they became too unfit to support themselves by a means other than stealing. I was thinking in terms of internal corrosion of Villa Via rather than takeover by a hardened group of criminals.

As you yourself seem to be aware, perhaps the greatest security of Villa Via lies in ignorance and preoccupation on the part of the State. A conscious enemy of Villa Via (be he an ex-member or not) cannot be classified as "hardly a serious threat" – if he knows of truants, polygamists, or other illegalities within Villa Via he would make every effort to discover your location and have you prosecuted. And I assume that Villa Via would not be able to "recruit" without being vulnerable to such an adversary.

Paranoia is fear-based on delusion and I hope you have no delusions. If I have aroused any anxiety by mentioning dangers not previously considered, so much the better. I AM GLAD SOMEONE is thinking and experimenting along the lines you are despite the fact that I may take exception with many particulars. –BEN

While foraging, reading, and generally enjoying ourselves in a wilderness area of B.C. this summer, Roberta and I had some thoughts/discussion the conclusions of which parallel some of yours:

The traditionally-primitive tribesman is highly specialized; for this reason he is apt to be destroyed or enslaved by any politico-economic (or physical) change of environment. While he is more adept at living in the woods (at least a PARTICULAR woods with a PARTICULAR living pattern) than any urban-raised libertarian is likely to become, if/when his lifestyle is rendered non-viable, he will not be able to go read a few books, earn a few bucks, and buy-build a boat (for example). And since he lives "in the woods" not through informed choice but through lack of alternatives, he or his children are easily co-opted into any more-highly-industrialized culture – i.e., he is easily "corrupted by civilization."

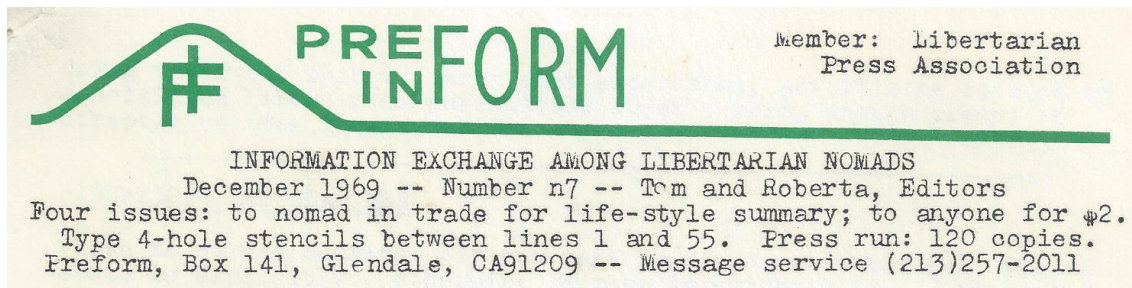
The typical middle-class American is as highly specialized (for living in urban "jungles") and already corrupted. While he can read the books and earn the bucks, not only his worldview as distorted as that of the primitive, but he and his family are too hung-up on status games to change lifestyle. He is already enslaved. And he is apt to be destroyed as well by politico-economic developments.

I don't think that mobility between a number of different industrial-dependent (and State-regulatable) trades is enough. More important is mobility between industrial society/societies

and self-reliant lifestyles. The ideal Free Man is not just able to “survive in the woods”; he is able to live well and freely in any of various kinds of woods (boreal, tropic, coastal, semi-desert, etc.) or on the ocean, as well as “pass” and work within several different industrial countries. Although the ideal Free Man may have a skilled trade or two, he is fundamentally a generalist. On a foray into an industrial center, he cannot expect to earn as much as does a middle-class serf of equal intelligence, but he doesn’t need anywhere near as much; he doesn’t have the games – status and Statist – to support.

I seek much the same values from life you do. But these are values for me only in a context of freedom. (How much would you enjoy lavishly-furnished prison cell, well supplied with books, records and concubines?) Money can be useful but huge amounts aren’t necessary; the ultimate measure of profit is subjective, and there are alternate routes. (Once in a parking lot, a couple with a late-model Cadillac and other evidences of high income asked to look into my camper. The man remarked, when leaving, that he intended to get one AS SOON AS HE COULD AFFORD IT.)

–TOM



PUBLICATION NOTES – STENCILS AND INSERTS

Beginning now, we welcome letters or articles already typed on mimeograph stencils. We guarantee to publish, without editing: at least eight pages (per four issues, per subscriber) if relevant to libertarian nomadic living; at least two pages on almost anything. (If we refuse, we will refund your subscription price.)

If you send stencils, you are assured that your material will be published – and published AS IS, without editing or deletions. We will continue to publish letters not on stencils, but with editing.

Use 4-hole stencils, obtainable at most stationary stores. Remove ribbon from typewriter. TYPE BETWEEN HORIZONTAL LINES NUMBERED 1 AND 55. Allow an inch margin on each side. Use correction fluid for errors. Mail flat or rolled up in a tube; tubes from aluminum foil, paper towels, etc. are satisfactory.

IMPORTANT note to LIBERTARIAN CONNECTION contributors: positioning of text on stencil is different for P-I than for L-C because of difference in machines – type only between lines 1 and 55 for P-I. Stencils are otherwise identical.

If you prefer to do your own mimeoing or printing, send us 8 ½-by-11-inch sheets, which we will be happy to insert. Note press run above.

We have added a cover letter and reprints from Autumn 1969 INNOVATOR (enclosed with this issue) to Preform's introductory information packet. This packet also presently contains reprints from P-I's first four issues, and March 68 INNOVATOR. Sale of packets continues at the rate of about a dozen a month.

I have experimentally masked-spray-painted some F-I symbols which are enclosed with this issue to known nomads; the symbol is a golden crossed-F-I in green ring on a black field. Results were not very good. For outside mounting, I recommend covering with transparent plastic film. Can anyone recommend an inexpensive custom bumper sticker house?

If you know of or meet a libertarian nomad who is not already getting P-I, send us a description of his lifestyle (or have him do so) and we will send him the introductory information plus four issues of P-I. There is no monetary charge to nomads.

While we do not solicit donations, we welcome them and will use them for additional advertising of P-I. We would like to keep small ads in major camper/trailer mags, "outdoor" mags, and "underground" newspapers, as a contact available to diverse individuals who are off doing their own things. From past experience, advertising outside of specialized libertarian periodicals doesn't bring enough orders to directly pay for itself. –EDITORS

SITUATIONS AND SEARCHES

(Note to correspondents: If you want your address published, please state so explicitly; otherwise we usually withhold it. I recommend you do so if you want readers to contact you; if someone writes you c/o Preform there is additional delay.)

Dear Tom and Roberta: Well, well! Preform has now doubled its staff! And, it seems, response is snowballing to the idea.

I did fill in your questionnaire – I found rather amusing your asking the members of Preform for proof of their being libertarians, since, by definition, a libertarian would loathe to be associated with anything or any idea (except libertarianism). The probability that any of the

subscribers know that one or two people you consider it necessary to know to qualify as a libertarian, is so slim as to be nil, and how many other "well-known libertarian" are there? The whole idea of having to prove anything to you rankles me as much as if I had to prove something to your government. So the hell with you! Someday we'll meet and you can decide then whether I'm a CIA agent or not.

I forget where I was when I wrote you last. I'm mechanically inclined, and was working for Xerox Corp. until July 11, 1969. We have been living in our school bus converted camper for 6 months now, and doing very well. After I left Xerox, I took a job for three weeks with the Woodstock Music and Arts Festival in Bethel, N.Y. We are actually trying to find a commune-type thing to live in, and even if we do we'll probably still remain fairly mobile. We have lately been turned on to the number of wild plants that grow all over the country which are there for the picking. Frequently well over half a meal can be prepared from them. A good book is THE HERBALIST which can be obtained from THE WHOLE EARTH CATALOG (definitely recommended reading) and I do believe from THE GREEN REVOLUTION. Meat is getting so expensive as to make it fairly scarce on our table. Oatmeal is a good, cheap, basic food which can be fixed with a variety of additives (honey, sugar, maple syrup, raisins, molasses, fruit, leftovers – you name it!). (We've gotten real good at living cheaply since leaving Xerox!) We just bought an armful of heavy used clothing – purpose: to use the material to make winter clothes for our 2 ½ year old daughter. Cost: a couple of bucks plus time spent sewing.

Our school bus gets about 6 to 7 miles to the gallon – we agree with you that travel must be limited. We both have bikes to travel on away from the bus. (Bicycles, not motor bikes – they cost money in repairs, service, and fuel.)

Food is mostly staples – potatoes, rice, and oatmeal – plus fresh fruits and vegetables. VOCATIONS FOR SOCIAL CHANGE newsletter suggested checking the rear of supermarkets for salvageable fruits and vegetables that may be too blemished to sell but not to eat. I tried this a couple of times – one store had these items mixed in with sawdust, floor sweepings, and other unsavory items designed to turn off one's appetite. The other store had no garbage whatsoever in the back. My sister and brother-in-law had an overabundance of vegetables from their garden, so we relieved them of the surplus. On a recent trip to Canada we stopped overnight at Rest Areas. Although this is illegal (and one of the had a notice saying so) we were never hassled by the cops. If we weren't in a hurry, we'd stay until afternoon from the previous night's spot, then do just an hour or less riving and stop at another spot to eat supper and spend the night. Prices of everything varied considerably from the southern part of N.Y. State to the north. Food generally got cheaper the further north one went, and gas got higher in price. Oh well – just some handy dandy tips, folks, for living with as little expenditure as possible.

I ought to get into politics – somebody once said "Politics makes strange bedfellow." To rewrite that a bit – "Preform makes strange bedfellows." Someone also once said that the right and left wings are more alike than they realize, and will probably join together to fight the liberals and apathetic majority. I've read many letters from right wingers in Preform – this is a left winger speaking, with a tinge of radicalism thrown in, and a bit of anarchy to boot. I believe in freedom for everyone, as long as they don't infringe on other people's freedom, with as little government control and meddling as possible. I generally sympathize with the "hippie commune" movement, and I feel SDS is a bunch of assholes, about the same classification I put John Birchers, Minutemen, and others who are busy trying to tell other people what they should or should not do. So much for our politics – oh, one other thing – on trying to enter Canada, I found it necessary to fabricate a job and a story about my being on vacation in order to satisfy the uptight 40-hour-per-week immigration shlub who feared we were trying to sneak into the country to live permanently, since it looked to him like we had all our worldly possessions with us (which, of course, we did). I now have a friend who will verify that I am working for him, and that we live in an apartment in the back of his shop. Many straight people, especially those in authority, get very uptight if it appears that you not only don't have a job and no permanent residence, but are enjoying it immensely, and don't WANT a job or permanent residence.

Yes, poor communications is the only drawback to nomadic living, but it worked in our favor just lately. My wife's father died last Tuesday, and we didn't find out about it until Friday when we just happened to call the house to see about visiting them. We hate funerals, both us being

of a generally cheerful nature, and always do try to avoid them at all costs. "Let the dead bury the dead," was a saying of Jesus that takes on special significance in this day and age when the lives of so many people are a living death. We may miss someone, but it is their SPIRIT we miss, not their body, so we are not inclined to weep or stare at cadavers. We are too wrapped up in life to weep over death. (And who knows, there may be a better world beyond this one.)

I agree with you that the main barriers to self-liberation are psychologic. People think nothing of living for two weeks in a camping vehicle, but come up with fifty million objections for extending that two weeks to forever as to why it's IMPOSSIBLE to live in a vehicle. I suspect the insecurity of having no place (piece of ground) to call home upsets many people – this lack of security can't be dismissed too lightly.

Craig from Los Angeles is right – why does Villa Via have to start fully organized? It would be a smoother operation to build it up gradually. R.I. Victor makes some valid points. I feel it would definitely be desirable if there were a network of fixed location sympathizers with whom we could stop at and get our heads straight when needed, or whom we could contact in case of trouble while traveling – mechanical or authoritarian trouble. People who obviously are in sympathy with us and have the room to accommodate vehicles could act as an oasis in a desert for the weary nomad.

I have a foot diameter FI emblem on the back door of our bus. It's a black field, but I didn't put a green ring around it since that part of our bus is green.

I have always ignored any road regulation signs aimed at trucks and buses since we are a registered leisure vehicle (suburban, to be specific – ha! Some station wagon!) and we have not been hassled yet.

"Paranoia is fear based on delusion," says Ben. Why are you all so paranoid and concerned that if the government knew what you were doing, you'd be in jail? There is nothing illegal about what we are doing. While I'm not about to take a full-page ad in the NEW YORK TIMES to tell the world of our existence, I'm not paranoid enough to not want my name and address used in your newsletter.

Even if they (they? Who is THEY, anyway?) do come after us, we're on wheels, and WE don't even know where we'll be next week this time. How easy do YOU think it would be to find a green and white school bus converted to a camper on the highways of this land? When Gail's converted to a camper on the highways of this land? When Gail's father died last Tuesday, her mother notified the State Police to look for u. We were parked on a road patrolled by the State Police for all of Tuesday, all of Wednesday, and Thursday morning, plainly visible just thirty feet off the highway. Thursday we went to our local International dealer to get work done on the bus. He is on the State highway. Thursday noon we were parked for TWO HOURS doing laundry in a shopping center lot on another state highway. We parked on another state highway overnight, and at least two state police cars went by us there. In the morning the local police stopped to make sure we weren't have a mechanical difficulty. Of course, they always say, "When you need a cop, they're never around, and when you don't want them..." Cheers! --BILL LULAY, c/o The Kart Shop, 1 Hudson Ave., Nyack, N.Y. 10960

Dear Bill: Thanks for the long idea/information-loaded letter. Since you are a nomad, it also constitutes a subscription renewal. If you have been a libertarian for awhile, I'm willing to be there are libertarians we both know well. But never mind. I doubt that a CIA agent would expend the thought and time evidenced by your letter to infiltrate Preform.

Many libertarians go to camper living not merely for economy and fun but for protection against the legalized crimes – compulsory miseducation, conscription, taxes, anti-sex laws, anti-drug laws, and so forth. And even someone not consciously disobeying any law is wise to rely on reality rather than legality for protection; not only can laws and their interpretations and enforcement change, but no one can possibly know all of them – there are millions! And studying them is a bummer.

Politics does make strange bedfellows – philosophical prostitutes all, but I don't think reform does. Any radical – "Left" or "Right" – who is not on a power trip, is halfway to being a libertarian. It is only necessary for Him to resolve inconsistencies and correct false assumptions.

We find nomadic living to be an excellent cure for fears of persecution – imagined or real. –
TOM

Dear Tom: Congratulations on your female contractual accomplishment.

Thought you and perhaps your readers might be interested in our activities. July 11, 1969 was my last day of institutionalized employment. After selling most of our personal items and organizing the balance, we moved on.

Our living quarters are a 1966 Avion 25-foot single-axle travel trailer. We purchased the unit used and added folding bunk beds and dinette seats to the existing folding leaf table in the front, with the two existing single beds plus the two folding bunks and the dinette in front that makes into a near double bed we are able to sleep six.

Avion is a quality trailer of the torpedo style, overall appearance is very similar to the Airstream. The rounded corners of the torpedo style do pull easier and have more road stability than the square-cornered trailers. The torpedo style is designed for air movement rather than drag making for a lower cost of traveling. The torpedo type is less subject to damage in an accident. We feel that the vehicle and a trailer were the most versatile and economical.

The space is small for 2 adults and 4 children aging from 4 to 10. We have pretty well adjusted except for my wife's occasional suffering from cabin fever. We are self-contained with water storage, holding tank, 12-volt lighting system complete with a storage battery backed with a 110-volt charger, gas, or electric refrigerator, gas heat, gas water heater, gas stove and oven, 3 exhaust fans all 12 volt, and a refrigeration unit usable only on 110 volts. Living in close quarters with 6 people makes a refrigeration unit a near necessity rather than a luxury item.

Our tow rig is a 1965 International Travell, which makes an almost ideal rig for pulling the trailer as the drive train and suspension is on the order of a light truck. We have adequate room for passengers with two seats and storage in the rear with an elevated foam pad supported by plywood and legs above the storage area. The two-inch pad makes a nice bed for rest by children or an adult while traveling. We have a 266-cubic inch V8 with a 3-speed standard transmission. I would recommend a large V8 over 300in3 size with a 4-speed transmission. Four-wheel drive would be a necessity if any off-the-road trailering is planned. Our Travell is a comfortable, usable auto when unhooked from the trailer. It is in my opinion a mistake to plan a lot of trailering with an automobile unless purchased as a factory tow vehicle. The standard auto will result in problems such as overheating, drive train features especially in the transmission, weak suspensions, brake and wheel-bearing overloading.

We have towed over 5,000 miles and lived in for over 2 months now. Our travel speed is at 50 to 55mph if road and traffic conditions allow. We can pull much faster, but the gas consumption increases greatly plus much harder on all the equipment. Increased speed does increase possibilities of accidents; since we have no deadlines there isn't any hurry for us.

Our only negative experiences while traveling was the result of a human error in Utah. We took a shortcut that resulted in backing down a curved mountain grade of two miles that we were unable to pull. It was much too far down over the edge for comfort, I might add. We later made the grade by dumping water and the holding tank and taking a run at the grade in low with the engine oversped (4500rpm).

We have stayed in roadside rest areas, KOA-type campgrounds, gas stations, socialist parks, private public parks provided by service clubs, city streets, Indian reservations, road ditches, and many places of unknown ownership. We try to keep costs at a minimum and usually park at no cost. We have found ample parking areas in the Midwest, many of the towns have available areas with no charge to the traveler, provided by the town or one of the service clubs. We stayed overnight at Sydney, Nebraska at the fairgrounds (as an example) – no charge – even had electricity and water. No one patrolling the area and nothing posted as to limitations on time one could stay.

Our luxury equipment consists of a portable tape stereo and a portable T.V. Our stereo is a Concord Model F400 made by Panasonic of Japan. It operates on 110 or 6 D-cells. We have recorded 50 hours of cassette tape from records. Our TV operates on 12-volt or 110, we are set up to operate it in either the trailer or the Travell. We are not inclined to watch large amounts

of TV, but it does provide diversion while traveling. I personally would not own a T.V. for my own viewing.

Our income during the summer months will be from farm labor here in Nebraska. My father has a farm and ranch operation where I'm able to work the entire family part of the time and myself as much as desired. Our cost of living is low which will enable us to coast during the winter months. We will earn a few bucks where and whenever possible during the winter.

Shortly after the first of October, we plan to travel to the east coast, follow the coast line south to Florida and west along the gulf to Mississippi. We will go as far and quickly as we desire depending on our whims at the time. We plan to license our rigs in Miss. Or Virginia as neither state has compulsory socialist education.

We hope to acquire a trimaran and do our wandering on the oceans. Cruising the West Indies and possibly sailing to the South Sea Islands. Finances and experience put this in the future.

These last few months have been very busy getting equipped, organized, and many other things. The whole thing has been very enjoyable to me and I feel that I'm just beginning to live.

We would enjoy visiting with individuals and groups believing in freedom for the purpose of exchanging information, thoughts, ideas, etc. We will be limited to those in the scope of our travel areas between October and May. We would make prior arrangements as we don't interfere with the personal privacy and plans of others. Perhaps you know of some who would be interested in visiting with us; if so, let us know. Maybe some of your readers are in our proposed area of travel.

May your individual actions bring you to satisfactory results. -JOEL RANDALL, Box 323, Kearney, Nebraska.

Dear Joel: Congratulations on your liberation.

I have no names or addresses I can give out except for what are published in P-I. I am not certain whether or not you want your address published, but am doing so since it is a P.O. Box, and since you want contacts. I hope that is what you intended. -TOM

Tom: The past several months have brought about many changes in this melodramatic role I've been cast in. Perhaps we have reached a point of departure - I don't know - I do know that when you left Woodside headed north, our hearts went with you. Your visit - a pleasure. Thanks for stopping by.

The September P-I finally caught up with us - as we drove home from the post office, Connie read aloud the news of you and Roberta - yin/yang. Made whole. To you both, our love.

I quit The Whole Earth Catalog in June, sold the pickup truck, and took the "Cosmic Whatever" (our home) to Oregon. Spent several weeks visiting two intentional communities (one "Hippy", the other half/half) and then headed for New Mexico where we joined forces with our closest friends on the banks of the Rio Grande. They too have been nomadic for over a year, having built a camper on the back of a '38 Chevy 1 1/2 12-foot flatbed. They traveled the West coast and spent 4 months in Mexico - in their camper - with their 7 children and German Shepherd!

Anyway, we reunited in the "Land of Enchantment" - parked our campers on "government" land and frolicked the summer away in simplistic, harmonious style.

Such was our life - swimming several times a day in the river, fishing, walks in the mountains, building playpens and domes with Willow - dug a well and a shitter - we were set.

"THE FALL"

...is a very, very small town. The people - Chicanos - easy going and showing no signs of uptightness towards us Anglo, long-haired strangers - we made friends - people invited us to pick from their orchards and fields. We found ourselves in an easy flowing, relaxed, friendly community. We decided to stay.

We (the 13 of us) have a nice-sized adobe house which we get rent free with a year's lease (our idea). The house is situated on five acres of land with an additional 45 acres of "government" land behind us. We have taken the campers off the trucks so as to have work vehicles and the campers sit up on poles ready to go back on in a day's notice. Situated as such, the campers still serve as bedrooms for the adults with one large room turned into a bunkhouse for the kids.

The place...was in need of much work but it came equipped with indoor plumbing (a rarity in these parts), a washing machine (Connie washed diapers all summer long down at the river), some furniture and an electric pump on the well (another luxury). So, here we are and here we will stay until...

Before I change the subject, there is one more item that may interest you – the source of our firewood. Uncle Sam “owns” most of this state outright. In this country, 72.3% of the land is government controlled. The “bad guys” in this state are not the highway patrol, but the U.S. Forest Rangers (more heavily armed, more racist, etc.). Every year, millions of acres are designated “leasable grazing land” and turned over to “private interests” (mostly Texan). Since this grazing land is in National Forests, it is necessary to clear it – for this, the government has a machine called the “Crusher”. It is HUGE and is capable of knocking down AND breaking up ANY size tree in its way. This they use to clear the forests for the cattle barons – leaving the wood to rot on the ground (next spring, they will seed it). We go into the forests and just walk around picking up as much wood as we can use. Good for us and all the other people who need wood for these long cold winters (we’ve already have 5 ¼ inches of snow). But, wood is becoming a rarity in this state (country) and the wasted natural resources in the hands of Uncle Sam is beyond belief.

THE POINT OF DEPARTURE or WHY I GAVE UP MY PSYCHEDELIC LIBERTARIAN RELIGION AND BECAME A HINDU

(1) BACKGROUND – Young conservative political activists. YAF member. Executive Administrator of Calif. YAF – evolved into libertarian – co-founded ALA (Alliance of Libertarian Activists) – a believer in Ayn Rand and her religion. Took “acid” – found that man is far more than “rational” animal – had a taste of the Divine. Evolved to what I called “Subjectivism.” Labeled myself a PSYCHEDELIC LIBERTARIAN – aligned my quest for “internal” freedom with my quest for “external” freedom. This you already know. In such a light you have met me and we have shared thoughts and ideas – we have communicated.

For sometime now, I have felt “externally” free. Paranoia has slid away as I walked away from anything that didn’t suit my values. I learned how to survive in each new situation. I became mobile, I created and lived in a non-coercive universe (see articles in INNOVATOR and WHOLE EARTH CATALOG supplement). This too we have discussed. What we didn’t talk about too much, is (was) “internal” freedom – expansion of consciousness – full use of brain energy for fuller understanding of “reality.” (Modern man uses about 2% of his brain – the rest of the brain waits for usage.)

In June, I spent 10 days in the Big Sur Mountains with the most enlightened being I have every met. His name is Baba Ram Dass, he is a product of India, he lives totally in freedom – always – internal and external – at all times. I was with him day and night learning all that I could (Connie stayed home and took care of the kids and things).

He wasn’t always Baba Ram Dass. He used to be Richard Alpert, PhD, Tim Leary’s cohort. A Harvard professor who dared to go beyond the norm. Who wasn’t satisfied with being a Harvard professor, or with being a rich playboy, who felt that there is more than having your own airplane, three cars, and a motorcycle. Who knew, after so many years of study, that the Masters of Western Philosophy did not have the answers (he associated with many of them and could see it in their lives – in their eyes). The fundamental questions of life were left unanswered – who, what, why am I? – and so Alpert and Leary and multi-thousands more (including me) looked elsewhere – especially in (through) psycho-chemical drugs. He took acid at least 400 times – once locking himself in a room for 23 days, taking larger doses of acid every 4 hours for the entire period – the result? After it was all over, he came back to the ego reality that makes up this world we live in. Here he felt “stuck” and unable to fully answer the questions that had prompted his search. His alternatives to giving up? Join Leary as a psychedelic evangelist bent on curing the world of its narrow-minded concepts of life, love, and self; rejoining society and “doing the best possible under the circumstances” or –

Alpert went to India to seek the “TRUTH”. It took him three months to find even a shadow – the “shadow” demanded that he give up all possession to material things, and all possession to

the PAST and the FUTURE – this he did and thus he walked through India for another three months living solely in the NOW. At the end of that time, he found himself in a monastery high in the Himalaya Mountains where he resided for six months in TOTAL SILENCE. His teacher, a man who has lived for the past 16 years on only 2 glasses of milk a day, guiding him only with a small chalk board for communication and the loving experience of living a lifetime in Total freedom. In this way, Alpert learned how to know himself fully – not just a bag of bones, and an electrical impulse that says “I”, but as a very important part of the Infinite – a being that lives beyond life and death. Thus shown, They (his teachers) renamed him Baba Ram Dass and as such, he has returned to his native land to pass on what he has learned.

He is my teacher and has shown me the way to freedom. It is not easy – much, much harder than any venture I’ve ever undertaken – but the result, oh the result. Tom, never have you seen a more holy more complete individual. His serenity is unbelievable, his mere presence awe-inspiring. I know this must sound like some weird hero-worship thing but it is far more than that – for I have found that this state (a perfection that makes rand’s heroes look like the ultimate in nothingness) is the natural state for all men (and women) and when in this state, your shadow quickly covers the small world called normal reality and it soon disappears – for “normal reality” is but an illusion and once this is discovered, its importance is no more.

So, here I am in New Mexico. I have left behind California, LSD, and the need to protect my individuality from those who might threaten it. California and LSD have done all they could – it is now up to me and me alone. And how can I be threatened? I am not this body nor this mind – they are but tools along the path to enlightenment.

Within your heart dwells love – and I am there also. Shanti, TOM (New Mexico)

Tom: My visit with Connie and you was one of the high moments in a summer of exquisite experiences. Thank you for then and for your letter.

Most of the people in India compare unfavorably with Baba Ram Dass as do most of the people in America with a Randian hero. It seems that different ways to enlightenment work for different people, and all the ways are difficult ways.

Might not a “taste of the divine” or glimpse of the “infinite” simply be communication with some of the 98% previously-ignored brain? With you in the quest for greater freedom. –TOM (Editor)

Dear Tom: Here is my questionnaire, filled out as best I can. Within a year or so we’ll be setting off on six months or more of leisurely living in some sort of van truck. We’ve tent camped for many many years, and during the late 30’s I worked for a house trailer manufacturer, and have had experience that way. A couple of years ago, I borrowed a slide-in camper for a trip around Lake Michigan, and it was a great way to travel. The medium small van (not microbus style) seems best to me. Expensive though, but what isn’t.

Point is, we will have son with us (5 now, 6 or more then) and I have no intention of having school authorities on my neck. He’ll get most of his useful education from me anyway, but hopefully someone else can teach him how to read.

I’m a great fan of organization, but it seems to me you may be on your way to over-organization. What’s wrong with being an “underground” nomad? That is, dress like a vacationer, look like a vacationer, stay where vacationers stay, etc. Trailer camps, state parks (and especially provincial parks in Canada) aren’t all that expensive. I know lots of them are crowded, but if you’re not looking to live in a heavily settled area, you’ve de surprised at what \$30 a month will still get you. Two or three vans, reaching the same destination each day (not necessarily TRAVELING together – that merely snarls traffic) and moving occasionally, could slip into and out of Wyoming roadside camp grounds all summer long, exciting no suspicion at all.

Anyway, I’ve worked hard most of my life, saved a little money (not much) and am sick to death of offices, dress clothes, keeping up appearances, etc. I suppose my beard was a symbol of revolt, but turns out it looks so good, no one objects. My boss even said, “Gosh, don’t ever shave it off.” Now how about THAT for a switcheroo. Maybe the world is beginning to shape up after all.

Suggestion for further nomadic research. Read some of the books written by people who live on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers in houseboats. No, I don't mean elaborate, high-powered, cruiser boats, but genuine houseboats. See if you can't find SHANTY BOAT, by Harland Hubbard. Long out of print I suspect. Think Bobbs-Mcrrill published it. Mr. and Mrs. Hubbard came from Cincinnati. Built their own houseboat, pulled up on the bank for the summer and grew their vegetables. Berthed here or there for the winter, etc. You'll find other shanty boat books, but I think Hubbard's is the best. Friend of mine from Cincinnati recalls working in the public library with Mrs. Hubbard, before she was married. "Nice girl," he added. -HAL (N.Y.)

Dear Hal: Thank you for the report, information, and donation.

Pretending to be one of the sheep can be useful occasionally - especially when traveling through unfamiliar country. But I wouldn't want to do it very often.

One tends to become what he pretends to be.

For learning to read, you might investigate ITA (Initial Teaching Alphabet) and Montessori. With ITA, I suspect a child could learn to read largely on his own. I've heard that most children are most sensitive to learning to read from 3 to 5; 6 to 12, when the slave schools try to do it, is the worst age for most people. -TOM

To Preform: (Addendum to Survey) At present, I am pretty much tied to (undesirable) employment in deferrable occupation. Unless I could become safe from the SS system by nomadic living (which I don't think I can) I'm stuck. My eventual aim is to live completely nomadically on own entrepreneurial activity.

I wish to make nomadic communities a viable way of life. I do not have any interest in primitivism/poverty. I see nomadism as a way of building a free economy parallel with and when useful interacting with the existing one. And I think such a free economy is necessary to provide a living for the nomads which is both comfortable and ego-satisfactory. Accordingly it is my intention to initiate various entrepreneurial projects which will form a part of this parallel free economy; provide some facilities and services for nomads and also employment for some nomads. For instance, I may be interested in providing electric power. I might have mechanical and electronic assembly work to subcontract out and I would prefer to do so with libertarians. Also trucking, delivery, and sales work. I also may be able to supply tools and such facilities if needed. I do not totally reject the use of fixed property as it may be necessary and useful, and if done right, safe. Hence I may have storage facilities available if demand exists.

I am currently engaged in preparing for these things. I expect to finish construction of my van and go mobile sometime this summer. At that time I will be ready to establish commercial (prospective) relations with nomads seeking a source of income consistent with nomadism. - CRAIG (Los Angeles)

Regarding safety from SS system, and apprehension in general:

In two years of nomadic living I have been molested by police two times to the point of being asked to produce I.D.; I have not been arrested. This is less harassment by police than I experienced when living stationary, but not so little that I would unreservedly recommend my present lifestyle for draft avoidance.

The draft-age free man might consider, along with emigration: (1) "Primitive" nomadism (without motor vehicle); (2) A nomadic association in which there are people not vulnerable to conscription to take care of driving and urban errands.

Wilderness living is very safe provided one is thoroughly familiar with the territory, chooses squat-spots with care, and remains completely away from all people but a few close friends.

For someone going "underground," I believe the proper style of nomadic-wilderness living is much safer than are urban "communes" which are frequently raided and searched for "deserters," "draft dodgers," and "truants." -TOM

Dear Tom and Roberta: Yes, I've rambled the North American continent for over 12 years...even got to Europe once...lived in Hawaii, British Columbia, NYC, Oklahoma, Indiana,

Ohio, North Carolina, and a lot of other places in tents, campers, vans, etc. We are soulmates, believe me.

I'm now in the process of launching a monthly magazine to sort of tie it all together and make available to other like-minded folks the HOW of living an alternate lifestyle.

We have an IBM composer, light table, and all the rest and I'm now in debt \$1,000 trying to get this thing off the ground. But we do have paid-in-advance subscriptions coming in every day, good material to add to our own and some people who want to distribute the magazine. January 1, 1970 is our publication date for the first issue.

We're going to cover what you're doing, tell the kids how to build tipis and domes and gather wild foods and grow sprouts and all the rest. -JOHN SHUTTLEWORTH, THE MOTHER EARTH NEWS, Box 38, Madison, Ohio 44057

Dear Tom and Roberta: Although I am not yet a nomad, due to the success of SRI, and a recent draft lay-off I find Preform fascinating. I think there is still hope for the society, and until am convinced that the possibilities of freedom have become totally limited to remote retreats and nomadic lifestyles, I will continue to stay put and work for freedom on the larger scale.

Unlike some others, however, I do not consider you as "cop-outs" to the cause. The very act of non-participation in a coercive society is in itself an act that supports the cause of freedom. You have withdrawn both your intellectual and physical sanction from this fascism, and I congratulate you for that. Consider what would happen if a majority of people "dropped out" in similar fashion. Deprived of its victims, the power structure would topple. -JOHN K. EVERSON, Vice-President, Society for Rational Individualism, 800 Hillsboro Drive, Silver Spring, MD. 20902; (301) 649-1433.

Vocations for Social Change is a decentralized clearing house for persons struggling with one basic question: How can people earn a living America in 1969 and ensure that their social impact is going to effect basic humanistic change in our social, political, and economic institutions? VOCATIONS FOR SOCIAL CHANGE, Canyon, CA 94516.

BUY TIME?

With "tight money" plus off-season, this is a good time to hunt bargains in used and year-end-clearance campers, motor homes, and trailers.

For someone now to nomadic living, I generally recommend a self-propelled vehicle over a trailer, because of easier off-the-road traveling and less-conspicuous parking in the city. If you need the space of two vehicles, I still recommend two self-propelled vehicles over a camper plus trailer. On long highway trips one vehicle can tow the other, conserving gasoline and drivers; then on rough trails the vehicles can be unhitched and driven separately.

If you are in this area and would like advice on the kind of vehicle to fit your planned lifestyle, or suggestions regarding lifestyle, I offer consulting at low monetary rates or swap. If you want mechanical check-out of a particular rig before buying, I can recommend a friend (non-nomad but libertarian) with heavy experience in motor-vehicle repair. -TOM

VILLA VIA REVISITED

About a year ago, I published a proposal for Villa Via - a free community for nomadic commuters - as a test of the market and as a point-of-departure for further discussion on nomadic communities. Some tentative conclusions:

(1) There is not yet the market for a formally-organized nomadic community. This is based on survey results: less than half of respondents are presently nomads and these are scattered; most non-nomads are presently interested only in weekend visitation.

(2) A FREE community as heterogeneous as Villa Via (as initially conceived) is probably not workable. Security and other factors favor associations of people compatible in values and objectives; it's better to have several small tight-knit groups and a larger association of people working at cross purposes. This is based on the relative success of various kinds of non-nomadic intentional communities.

(3) A small nomadic group must be highly compatible and associate very closely in many ways, to be profitable – i.e., for benefits to exceed time/trouble of maintaining association. Such an association can best form and grow informally and incrementally; a point several readers have made.

(4) Community members should park at separate squat-spots within the same area but with one-quarter to one-half-mile separation, rather than bunching together at a single squat-spot. (In the area where we are presently living there are dozens of good squat-spots within a few miles.) Separation provides better security: a hostile who chances upon one vehicle remains unaware of others, which can be alerted by an automatic radio link; in event of arrests, most of the people remain free and can help with liberation – all the eggs aren't in one basket. The greater privacy is probably also desirable: a quarter-mile is not a barrier to trade and association, but it discourages the kind of contact which might become annoying.

We remain interested in small-scale association for now. Four people can potentially realize more division-of-labor economies and profits than two; eight or a dozen people can realize still more. If you have or are going into a lifestyle compatible with ours and can locate in or around California, please contact us. We check our message service at least every two weeks. –TOM and ROBERTA

HOW TO LIVE ON NOTHING, Joan Ranson Shortney, 1969; 335pp.; from Pocket Books. "A thousand and more ways you can use with an imagination to live very well on very little." Recommended by ROBERTA

FREEDOM WAYS FORUM

TO PRACTICING LIBERTARIANS:

However surrealistic its mode of expression, the advice of Laughing Buddha Jesus about attending to beams in your own eye before letting a mote in the eye of the guy on your right put you uptight is among the most stimulating to innovative thought I know. We have been squandering a lot of precious time putting together down the bullshit libertarians lately, for playing games with the authorities that don't need to be played and trying to push their nightmare trips off on us.

But why play lesser games with lesser power freaks? Why should we do with them what they are doing with the American politicians and what the American politicians are doing with the Russian or Chinese politicians and what the Russian and Chinese politicians are doing with each other?

Screw that noise. We don't need an ego game aimed at "reconciliation." This current split between psychedelic doers and alcoholic talkers is not going to be healed through one-upsmanship – only enlarged, which is fine, too, if you and I don't have better things we could be doing than arguing with a bunch of psychotic shitheads who want to kill people.

In the first place, converting one or two of them is going to mean very little. There are enough of our kind of people around that a couple of renovated speech-and-editorial writers thrown into the pot aren't going to make that much difference. And there are whole Pentagons on this planet full of their kind, so no great damage is going to be done to the legions of the Knights of the Five-Sided Temple, either.

Besides which, as we tell them in intellectual debates: intellectual debates are not going to cure psychological problems.

Let's get with ourselves. Let's get with each other. Specifically, let's focus our attention on strengthening the lines of communication between practicing libertarians of every background – and let's leave the bullshit libertarians to the devil and each other. How many philosophically non-coercive people are there in the Western Hemisphere interested in liberating themselves and trading, loving, grooving, sabotaging and/or wandering in league with others of their kind?

What "educational" programs can we undertake aimed at helping as many as possible of these people to find out about each other? What kind of "translating" services can we set up to get around semantic hang-ups that separate those who, functionally, are in accord? To what extent can we depend on existing monopolated communication systems and to what extent must

we undertake the technology of parallel communications and the strategy of covert communications?

To me, it now seems that the only profitable (in the widest sense) form of libertarian activity is to be found in complete concentration on communication among actualizers. Some people have asked me what the purpose of such communication, once achieved, would be. What is the purpose of nay marketplace or community? To provide a forum or clearing house in which like-minded individuals can contract alliances in all areas of human endeavor in order to increase their effectiveness and enrich their lives. –KERRY THORNLEY 10Nov69 (Georgia)

Comments: I largely agree with you; Preform-Inform is primarily for communication among practicing libertarians.

However, I think maintenance of some communication with “bullshit libertarians” is worthwhile. This makes possible cooperation on those activities on which we are in accord. And many of them will eventually graduate from bullshit.

Most bullshitters at any one time are college students. And I believe most of these do as they do because of ignorance, not serious hang-ups. They’ve been through 12 or more years of brainwashing in which they “learned” that they are part of a democratic society, and what the proper way to change something they don’t like is to join with others in collective political/educational action. It takes a while to learn that this is just another Statist con-game. –TOM

A FUTURE IN POST-URBAN COMMUNAL LIVING

“Individuals who find themselves preoccupied with protest should consider the possibility that protest at this late hour may be little more than a dance of death with the American power structure.”

“For by simple exposing the power structure, without creating an independent and viable way of life based on different values, peace organizations seem to slide toward the kind of dehumanization they denounce.”

“Protest against a government policy is obviously justifiable when that policy varies only from tyrannous to genocidal. But your protest serves as a lever for CHANGE only when you can show your alternative program in concrete, not hypothetical, operation.”

“The American power structure is on the skids thanks to its internal contradictions, not to our protests. And might there not be more “escapism” involved in protesting a dying system – however exhausting, demoralizing, and thus secretly righteous, that protest may be – than in literally creating a new life for ourselves – however enjoyable, indeed exhilarating, THAT may be.”

These are excerpts from an excellent article by F.P Salstrom in August 1, 1969 Los Angeles FREE PRESS, which I may try to reprint in its entirety. Unfortunately, Salstrom’s thinking on alternative lifestyles has not yet progressed beyond “back-to-the-land” communities; a living pattern I don’t think will be viable in the face of greater tyranny – likely to come either as part of or following in reaction to the System’s breakdown. Consider the fate of many “self-sufficient” Ukranian peasants during the Stalin era – and the item below. Part of our communication job is to make Salstrom and other radicals growing beyond mere protest aware of more viable (invulnerable) alternative lifestyles such as nomadic/troglodytic living and international-mobile/oceanic ways of living. –TOM

OREGON REDNECKS TERRORIZE “HIPPIE” SETTLERS

During the last two years about 150 “hippies” have moved into the Cave Junction area of S. Oregon. Instead of finding the peace and tranquility of nature, they have been greeted by hostility, harassment from the conservative community, and police terror.

In the past several months the local police have conducted a series of raids on the farms and communes which the young people live. Of the approximately sixty people arrested in the raids, all but three were for misdemeanors. The three felony arrests were for either “use” or “frequenting a place where narcotics are used.” The total amount of drugs seized in the raids amounts to less than one ounce of marijuana. (From Los Angeles FREE PRESS, October 10, 1969)

LIBERTARIAN PRESS ASSOCIATION

With this issue, PREFORM-INFORM joins the Libertarian Press Association.

“WHAT LPA IS: A voluntary association of libertarian publications to exchange information, ideas, and publications. A group that may be joined or withdrawn from at will. Obligations are but one – mailing of your publications to all other members and indicating LPA membership on cover or masthead. Editors and staff of member publications are invited to suggest ideas relating to further development of LPA functions.

“WHAT LPA IS NOT: A national organization with programs, chapters, and individual members. A substitute for policy and identity of member organizations. An end in itself, but an additional tool in the struggle.” Current members are:

COMMENTARY ON LIBERTY, 13th & Walnut Streets, Empire Building, Room 304, Philadelphia, PA 19107

LIBERTARIAN AMERICAN, 227 Harrison Ave., San Antonio, TX 20782 (a top theoretical journal; \$2 per year; bi-monthly)

THE RATIONAL INDIVIDUALIST, 800 Hillsboro Dr., Silver Spring, MD 20902 (the largest “open” libertarian organization; many good tutorial articles on how services presently monopolized by Big Brother might otherwise be provided; \$4 per year; monthly)

WESTERN WORLD REVIEW, Box 2714, Culver City, CA 90230

INNOVATOR, Box 34718, Los Angeles, CA 90034 (issues on various self-liberation approaches – nomadism, ocean living, foraging, black market trading; \$4 per year; quarterly plus bi-monthly advertisement, \$1 alone)

LIBERTARIAN ICONOCLAST, Box 91, Berkeley, CA 94701

LIBERTARIAN CONNECTION, 5610 Smiley, Los Angeles, CA 90016 (unedited compendium of subscribers’ contributions; many interesting articles on strategy; \$3.50 per year; six weekly)

BULLSHEET, Box 498 Grove City College, Grove City, PA 10127

VOLITION, Box 421, Redlands, CA 92373

THE INDIVIDUALIST, Henrey Mculen, 31 Parkside Gardens, London SW 19, England.

FREEDOM REVIEW, R.B. Carnaghan, 21 Hartford Dr., Watford, Hertfordshire

METRO, Box 11023, Atlanta, Georgia 30310

SCHISM, 1109 West Vine, Mt. Vernon, Ohio 43050

REASON, 42 Euston Road, Brighton, Mass. 02135

FREEDOM MAGAZINE, 6413 Franklin Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90028

THORN, 2542 Student Activity Bldg., Ann Arbor, MI 48104

THE LIBERTARIAN FORUM, Walter Block, 380 Riverside Dr., N.Y.C. 10025

THE LIBERATOR, Story House, Claremont Men's College, CA 91711

THE FOURTH ESTATE, 1026 Scott St., Maumee, Ohio 43537

TORCH, Box 574, Grove City College, Grove City, PA 16127

PEACE PLANS, J.M Zube, Wilshire Street, Borrima, N.S.W., Australia (voluminous compilation of all plans for peace/freedom, with many incisive comments by editor; \$2 U.S. for nine issues?; irregularities)

THE COLLEGE PAPER, Box 894, Newark, Delaware 19711

MATCH, Box 3684, Tucson, Arizona 85700

I have underlined and added comments and prices for those publications I am familiar with and can especially recommend. Non-LPA-member publications on P-I's mailing list, which I recommend are:

ATLANTIS NEWS, R.D. 5 Box 22A, Saugerties, NY 12477 (concerns attempted development of a new, free country outside the U.S.; \$1 for five issues; semi-monthly)

ATLANTIS QUARTERLY, Box 141, Glendale, CA 91209 (various information useful for retreaters and self-liberators; \$5 for 4 issues; irreg.)

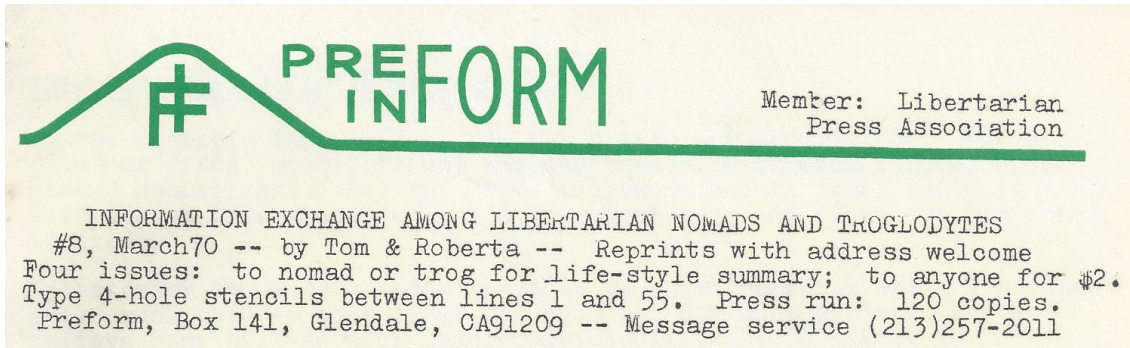
OCEAN LIVING, Box 17463, Los Angeles, CA 90017 (an abstract of technical info and news items on colonizing the sea; \$4 per year; monthly)

MODERN UTOPIAN, The Starr King Center, 2441 Le Comte, Berkeley, CA 94709 (news of and plans or all kinds of intentional communities; \$4 per year; quarterly)

WIN Magazine, 339 Lafayette St., New York 10012 (has had issues on alternate lifestyles and ecology; \$5 per year; monthly)

ORPHEUS, U.P.S., Box 26 Village P.O., New York 10024 (digest of "underground" press; U.P.S. head; \$1/2 issues; irregularities)

Note to non-LPA publications: I highly recommend joining Libertarian Press Connection. It costs just \$2 per year (plus a little extra printing and postage) – is well worth it for keeping up with many doings in the struggle for freedom. Send money with sample copies to L.P.A., 13 & Walnut, Empire Building, Room 304, Philadelphia, PA 19107.



REPORT ON THE EXPLOSIVE GROWTH OF NEO-NOMADISM

Two years ago, I knew no other nomads. One year ago, I had contact with two others. Today, P-I subscribers include 9 nomadic family groups. And most, like Roberta and me, have only recently liberated themselves. We are still very few. But our growth rate is impressive.

Of course, there are probably dozens – perhaps hundreds more we don't know – from young long-hairs to elderly retirees – scattered around North America. And with time we will contact many of these.

Then there are growing thousands who seek alternative lifestyles. They think first of agrarian communities: the traditional alternatives. But more and more will conclude, as we have, that stationary visible homesteads and communes are much too vulnerable to the U.S. monster and its state and local progeny to provide much real freedom. These seekers will turn to more imaginative self-liberation means, including the various forms of nomadism and troglodysm.

So what does this mean for us pioneers? Until now, we have been too few for much contact, beyond occasional letters. But soon – maybe within a year – there will be enough free ones here and there for various gatherings and exchanges. And as we gain knowledge and skills in our ways of life, we will have services to offer the many newcomers. –TOM

INTRODUCING LIBERTARIAN TROGLODYSM

As the masthead says, P-I is now for nomads AND TROGLODYTES. "Troglodyte" or "trog" means, to us, someone achieving freedom through underground concealment. P-I has broadened because nomads and trogs can have much to trade.

Libertarian troglodysm today seems to be where nomadism was a few years ago: much talk – some of it far out, but not much action. But I believe many will develop underground facilities; at first to supplement, then to partially replace nomadic life forms.

I adopted motorized nomadism as an excellent INTERIM life-form, especially suitable as the first major step out. Motorized nomadism offers a high degree of freedom with economy and ease of accomplishment, and provides a good environment for eliminating hang-ups and gaining liberation skills. But even when choosing it, I was well aware of a serious shortcoming: the dependence on State-controlled highways and fuel. And I planned to eventually eliminate this compromise.

Now Roberta and I are ready for more total liberation. This will probably involve a combination of pedestrian nomadism and troglodysm. Soon we will build a hidden chamber beneath "public" land for storage and emergency shelter. This will be expandable in stages to a self-contained home and workshop. For flexibility, our first shelter at least will be constructed of prefabricated sections, bolted together; our final facility may not be in the same location. (Digging holes is relatively easy.)

To most people still in little boxes (city apartments, etc.), I continue to recommend motorized nomadism as a first stage in liberation. At this time, troglodysm is more difficult and demanding. It requires greater investment (in time if not money), more skills (there are no new-and-used cavern dealers), and a more complete break from the Servile Society. And mistakes are more costly. Finally, planning which gets too big and grandiose usually becomes a substitute for rather than a prelude to action. It's better to actually achieve personal freedom in small steps than to only dream of utopias.

In future issues, we will tell more about our shelter, our anticipated lifestyle, and our reasons for choosing pedestrian-nomadic troglodysm over yachts, new country developments, and other high-liberation forms. -TOM

SITUATIONS AND SEARCHES

Dear Tom & Roberta: Hello again! I'm enclosing a copy of a periodical entitled ENVIRONMENT, which is exactly what it is about. This particular issue explores the reason why pesticides were found in arctic wildlife, where they were never used. It's a good magazine, even if it can get you on a down trip over the way we're killing the environment.

Now to comment on the Dec. Preform: That feller who starts the issue off, Lulay, is a pretty smart fella and has a lot of good ideas. Let me fill you in on what happened to him shortly after he wrote you.

He was telling you that his father-in-law just died. Now, his father-in-law had an incredible number of bills and loans and a car that had to be sold and all other kinds of shit like that, that required him to stay around his mother-in-law to get the whole mish-mash straightened out. This might not have been any sweat, except that she lived in a suburban county to New York City. Desolate areas in suburban counties you just don't find, so we parked in highway rest areas and hoped the cops would just think we were passing through. After about two weeks of this, though, we started attracting attention, and one morning we were rudely awakened by an authoritarian knock on the door. This was at 5 A.M. Peering outside, I saw we were surrounded by one state police car and one town police car at the front of the bus, and one town police car at the back of the bus, and no less than eight cops! WHEEEEE! What warranted all of that attention I never found out - I'll bet even the Mafia frequently doesn't make out with all those public servants around. So they were very nice anyway, asked for license and registration, and they all generally milled around outside, probably wondering themselves what the hell they were all doing there for a camper with only a family on board. They were upset about the fact that our former school bus had passenger car registration plates on it, and had our registration a full 15 minutes checking it out. They gave us our registration back, and they all split. The next couple of nights, we spent in the incorporated village of Piermont, N.Y., where Gail's mother lives. The first several nights after we arrived at her place when we first found out of Mr. Cooper's death, we had stayed at her house and parked the bus on the street outside her house. After a couple of days of this, the cops had asked us to move the bus down to the Continental Can Company parking lots, since it was obstructing traffic on the street. This we did, parking it next to another bus which one of the employees of C.C. was converting into a camper, all the while sleeping in Gail's mother's house. THIS time around, however, we stayed in the bus overnight. I KNOW that Piermont has laws against living in vehicles, as most any village in the country has, but we were never hassled there. Maybe they still thought we were sleeping in the house, or maybe they just didn't give a shit, but they never bothered us there. After Piermont, we tried another roadside turnaround area. We pulled in about 9 in the evening...at 9:30 we had two town patrol cars and one Palisades Interstate Parkway Scout, plus occupants, keeping us company. One comes up to ask for identification. I asked him why? Had we broken any laws/ was there any problem? No information he would give us. Like any well-trained robot, he just kept asking for identification. After stilling a little more, I produced the bus registration. He didn't want that. Then I gave him my draft card. He didn't want THAT. Finally, he said he wanted to see my license. I told him it'd save a lot of trouble if he just said what he wanted in the first place, and gave him my license. He took it to the patrol car, where I assumed his partner checked it, then came aback and wanted to know if I'd mind him looking around the bus. I told him yes, I would, but he was already inside and looking. Since he had all the guns, I wasn't about to stop him. He then went and brought my license back from the patrol car, and very nicely (it was so fucking nice, you wouldn't believe it - I almost fell over, because I had given him a fairly hard time) told us that camping was not permitted in the township area, but if we'd just call the cops and ask them for permission, they would let us park there without hassle. This was very big of him to allow us to break the law. We stayed there that night, but didn't go back again, mainly because we didn't wish to be hassled, and mainly because I would not recognize the legitimacy of the cops by asking THEIR permission to break the law...

From then on, we parked in Piermont at night, and moved the bus to Nyack at my mailing address, where my buddy runs a Go-Kart and Mini-bike sales and service place, in the daytime. I had work to do on the bus, so plugged into his shop, and worked on the bus in the street. He also had a bus, a 32-foot-long GMC pusher, and he was working on his too, in front of his shop. He uses it when he goes to Karting races, both as a workshop and to sleep in. So with these two buses taking up the entire block, it wasn't long before one of the neighbors started bitching to the cops that she didn't have any parking space. So we had a visit from a representative of the local law enforcement agency, along with the building inspector. The ensuing discussion lasted two hours, and we won. The building inspector did most of the talking. At first he maintained that buses and trucks could not be parked all day on the village streets. I let my friend, Louis, do all the talking, since it was his shop and his village. He maintained that it was a car because it had passenger plates on it, and he was legally right. The building inspector then pointed out that there was a one-hour parking limit on that block. Louis pointed out that it was never enforced because of the post office and newspaper employees who have no other place to park except on the street, and that if he was ticketed for parking over the limit, they'd have to ticket everyone on the block. The cop and building inspector suggest that he might be able to find a fire hazard in the shop building if the bus weren't moved. At this, Karl, Louis' helped, jumped three feet in the air off his stool and came down yelling, "Harassment!" the building inspector said he didn't like that word. Karl said tough shit, if you came here about a parking problem and then start talking about fire violations as a way to take care of the parking, then it was harassment. "Harassment" was quickly dropped.

By this time, Gail's nerves were completely shattered, and we had quite a go-round about it, in which she said she had always been uptight about living in the bus with the attendant lack of security (and she was the one who was pushing to do this) and just wanted to get out of all this hassling. So we split for our land an hour's drive away, and stayed there for several days recovering from our encounters with The Great Society. After that, we drove a half hour more on and stayed at my sister's place while I continued working on the bus and commuted to my mother-in-law's whenever she had a problem. Our land, and my sister's house are both in farming country, so there were no hassles with anybody over it. We stayed at my sister's until I got a job as caretaker of a hotel in Swan Lake, N.Y., where we are now until March 21.

I mentioned in my letter in Dec. Preform that the feeling of the lack of security can't be taken too lightly, and Gail has proved this point in her reactions from the cop hassles. I don't know what the outcome of this would be if we weren't around "home" territory and had no secure place to go to get our heads straight.

Hal, from New York, states that "Trailer camps, state parks aren't all that expensive." Well, you may be able to get away with \$30/month, but I doubt it. Many campsites charge \$2 a night plus a half-a-buck for electricity, if you want it. This adds up to about \$60 a month for renting pieces of land about twice the size of your car.

Even if you only pay \$30/month, if you figure on making two dollars an hour on a job, it'll take two days out of your life each month to park at campsites. If Hal figures it's worth it, that's his bad. Me? I'll stick to the roadside rest areas.

Craig's got some good ideas. I definitely agree that a parallel and stationary system of providing work and help for nomads is desirable, as I pointed out in my last letter. He could always burn his draft card and forget about the whole thing. A cop that stops him to check tings won't have any information that he's a draft dodger.

Agree with Villa Via revisited. Pax, BILL LULAY, c/o The Kart Shop, 1 Hudson, Nyack, NY 10960.

Dear Bill,

Thank you for the long report, which may be helpful to others in similar situations. Also thank you for ENVIRONMENT (my comments further on, if there is space.) After reading your letter, I tabulated my experiences with harassment during 29 months of living aboard; mostly in California, also Oregon, and B.C.:

KIND OF SITUATION OR PARKING LOCATION	NUMBER OF DIFFERENT LOCATIONS	NIGHTS PARKED IN THIS KIND LOCATION	NUMBER OF TIMES BOTHERED IN ANY WAY	NUMBER OF TIMES ID DEMANDED BY POLICE	RELATIVE RISK BASED ON EXPERIENCES
"month-stay" squat-spots	4	210	0		< 0.1%
"day-stay" squat-spots	12	110	0		< 0.2%
other	4	25	2	1	2%
squat-spots alongside highway (traveling)	30	30	7	0	3%
state parks or "rest areas"	6	7	3	0	4%
at friend's homes (off street)	8	45	1	0	0.5%
city streets (overnight)	160	160	1	0	0.2%
at storage place (small town)	2	20	0		< 1%
work places (w.o. parking lots)	3	280	2	2	1%
urban parking not overnight	many	2400hrs	4	1	1%
while driving	24,000 miles		1	1	4%
TOTAL		887	21	5	

"Bothering" includes such things as: authoritarian knocking on door (sometimes we played possum); being told we couldn't park somewhere; inquiry by any kind of bureaucrat (short of ID demand); parking tickets (which we didn't pay); payment of fee at state park (park was unattended when we arrived - collector made the rounds later - tricky!) The only fine was for going through stop sign in Menlo Park. (Both stop sign and cop were hidden.) One of the police encounters at work resulted from goof-up by burglar alarm company; our lifestyle was in no way involved. The most frightening experience - also unrelated to lifestyle - occurred one Sat. evening in West Los Angeles when I parked briefly to drop letters in a mail box. Police frisked me and casually searched the camper (without permission). Apparently I resembled a robbery suspect. I have been bothered most while traveling and while in areas for short periods, when parking places were chosen hastily. Just being out of sight of frequently-traveled roads helps greatly.

"Relative risk" is, roughly, the percent probability of police demand for I.D., per day in that situation. When estimating this I weighted "bothering" short of ID demand one-fifth as much as ID demands. Not surprisingly, the most dangerous places seem to be highways and other government facilities. The safest places are well-scouted-and-prepared wilderness squat-spots. I have been harassed less while a nomad than when I was living "conventionally" (renting in LA), mainly because I now travel less!! I do very little commuting, for one thing. -TOM

To Preform: I have a van-type camper which I reconstructed about five years ago - Chevy '57, step van. I keep working on it and seem to have it in fair shape now. Not over 500 in the whole thing. Anyway in the event of any emergency it would be very valuable. We (wife - 3 children) live in Chicago. I've gone the route many of us have; Bircher, a conservative, etc.; evolution to Foundation for Economic Education (a good place to START if you are serious about freedom). I finally came to the realization that if I am to be consistent, even a limited government can't work. I can think of no task a government can perform without coercion. And coercion is anti-life and anti-freedom. I was at the Libertarian Convention in New York (Rothbard, Hess, Childs, Block, etc.). Interesting, but not quite for me; I agree with much of the rhetoric but I have a thing about getting my head bashed in a Fort Dix.

I have spent a bit of time in Nicaragua. Fairly stable dictatorship – don't bug you too much. But a local contact or two help a great deal, as does an elementary command of Spanish. Land rather cheap.

About five years ago we acquired a rather shaky title to about five acres of unbelievable beachfront property on a major island (in the Bahamas) that is VERY undeveloped. No electricity. Plenty of FRESH H₂O four feet down. Since that time, we have slowly built it up. We now have one 3-bedroom house – crude, but it cost less than 4,000 plus a lot of sweat – and a shell of another going up which we hope to finish this summer. Most of the coast line is beachy and uninhabited and many keys are around – small and lovely. It should be a fine place to drift from place to place on a small boat, camping on the beach. Anyway, I feel that as a welcome winter (or summer – it never gets over 90°) change of pace this island could – the the enterprising – have promise for a 3-to-6-month stay. If anyone is interested further in the Bahamas as a libertarian drop-out site, I will be glad to correspond with them.

We have a small farm (18 acres) just south of Chicago – about 45 minutes – complete with red barn and small pond. We often camp there (my partner lives there – he isn't libertarian yet but I'm working on it). It is not an area of heavy cultivation and it is rolling and well-wooded. We have about 50 acres of heavy uninhabited woods in back of our place. I see no great obstacle to using our place as a short time spot from which to explore Chicago – if anyone cares to explore Chicago! –E. SHORT D.V.M., 10500 S. Michigan, Chicago, IL 60628.

(In answer to inquiry for books on medical treatment beyond first aid:) It's funny—I have never really paid much attention to first aid (or second aid). On our wilderness sorties I have always made up my own kit with pain killers, antibiotics, etc. Books on the subject are many but most bad! The latest edition of Merck Manual (Merck & Co., Rahway, N.J.) is quite technical but a gold mine of information on diagnosis and medical treatment and drugs. If you read it was a copy of Dorlands Medical Dictionary it might make more sense. (Medical mythology is 90% knowing the jargon!) Surgery – suturing (stitching, etc.) is another kettle of fish. I'll try to do some research on medicine and primary surgery for the prepared but unmedical schooled! Inflatable plastic splints are available for arms and legs and are light and comparatively cheap. Having never needed a manual to show me elementary surgery and medicine I haven't looked one up. I'll see if anything is on the market. Freedom, ED SHORT

(Thank you for replying. ROBERTA)

Dear Tom and Roberta: The time has arrived again for another period of nomadism, after working for the last 20 months to add some "wherewithal" so I can extend my freedom from the Rat Race for some considerable time. Not that I've let this time get me under. I've camped a lot and spent three weeks in the states of Oregon and Washington camping.

Reading your most interesting bulletins, I'm wondering if at middle age I might not be the grand-daddy of your following and maybe the one who has to re-think the owning of a large truck and camper. (I had a Ford with camper, completely fitted inside, but costing 12¢ a mile for gas; \$200 for new set of tires, etc.)

Whilst I think the nomad without a mechanical vehicle is far better off in all ways – my happiest experiences were with a bicycle, tent, and gear strapped on – I see to gather so much luggage (the Roman word is Impedimentia!) including books that I compromised by buying a Datsun truck that does 28.5mpg. I'm going to have a steel frame put on the truck that will be covered with canvas, but on the two top rails I want a smaller one to fit in, that can be extended to increase the size of the living area at the site, as I do like a reasonable amount of comfort, and with this extension as a living room I think it can be very cozy.

It would be interesting to have libertarians give their cost of living over a period when they are nomads, because I think there are many who would take to this way of living if they had some idea of minimal amounts they could get by on. And a thought that struck me recently was the possibility – at my age – of painting myself into a corner in a few years when I might not be able (or want) to be employed and have only a small capital beyond social security. Perhaps that is when I'll take a hint from the two gentlemen I met 5 miles apart near Grand Canyon last July

and have some donkeys, goats, and bantams along with my little home on two wheels!! –ROD BARKER, Box 15551, Las Vegas, NV 89114.

Dear Rod: You have quite a ways to go before you can qualify as elder of the tribe. Several nomads and interested people are over 70. On the other hand, there are quite a few in early 20's.

Roberta and I spend about \$10 a week together on average. And we aren't denying ourselves anything we especially want. The things we want which we don't already have are mainly things we will have to build for ourselves anyway – in some cases invent! They aren't on the market (yet). –TOM

High Tom Marshall: I'm going through the same kind of thing Richard Alpert already went through and also Tom of New Mexico has gone through. I'm still searching for truth and freedom. I'd like to get in touch with Tom of New Mexico. Also I'd like to know more about free-nomads commune. (See following letters for both.) –TOM

I'm still in the city, working part-time now (steady) and trying to LEAD a simple life. We were on a month trip in our small Econoline. Found out it pays to have SOME kind of "camper" arrangement. Hopefully (again) this summer I'll find myself in some wilderness living off the land; really living the simple life. So far mostly thoughts/talk, little DO. –JIM NORTH, 4132 N. Drake Ave., Chicago, IL 60618

Dear Tom and Roberta! Here I roost halfway between El Centro and San Diego in what some call "San Diego County's Mountain Empire" while living in a two-room house with water, light, and gas – I'm actually on the edge of Chaparral country and mountain hiding trails.

Boulevard amounts to a unique mountain community with P.O. just a little stroll from my door, a few businesses scatter along old Highway 80 for about a mile and a half.

Now publish two books: "Altar of Love" and "Gloneo Voqab Of Nuworld-Latin." By Sprin, hope to have a good closed-in luggage trailer and head northward toward Alturas to locate Gazabo Commune as a libertarian-nomadic intentional community. Fellowly, Rusel Jaque, Box 1292, Boulevard, Calif. 92005.

Gazabo Commune Rationale: Free-living in an intentional commune resolves into tilling the mother soil for food crops, self-employment in handicrafts and cooperative association with a group engaged in essential pursuits. Thereby communers can avoid the otherness of modern living!

Each one should locate the most suitable site for a commune with due regard to climate, elevation, water supply, soil fertility, with isolation from towns and cities, military, naval, airport, munition, bombing, nuclear establishments or facilities.

Inner affinity of life-ideals will determine the most acceptable members for any given commune. Give-and-trade centers into any successful union – and equally so in a union for community, gentleness, humility, frugality of conduct show extent of any communer's dedication to free-living!

Precepts for Gazabo Commune: (1) Each communer provides his or her essential needs. (2) Practice rural living and self-employment within commune. (3) Each one and/or family grows its needful food crops. (4) For food: flowers, fruit, nuts, herbs, vegetables, grains. (5) For drinks: water, fruit juice, herb tea, nut-soya milk. (6) Communers use first and/or last names without titles. (7) Any craftsman always has his own tools for his craft. (8) Freely explain one's word to anyone interested. (9) Read, write, speak, sing gloneo – the nuworld-latin tongue. (10) Communer takes part in commune meetings and projects. (11) Campfire or round-table confabs bring about unanimity. (12) Communer minds his or her own affairs without preaching. (13) Follow smoke-free self-pursuit, non-interfering with anyone. (14) Communer lives providently, helpfully, trustfully! –R. Jaque, Founder

To Bill Lulay: Your remarks to Tom were justified and well said, perhaps not harsh enough. Christ said something like, "It is by acts, ye shall be judged." I know a lot of so-called libertarians who know all the "right" people but who through their actions and inactions prove to be anything but libertarian. "Proof of being libertarian" – BULLSHIT. A lot of professed libertarians are so fuckin' paranoid and/or out of touch with the world about them that I frankly don't want to have anything to do with them.

If the stuff behind the store turned off your appetite, I suggest that you take a hard look at your narrow white sanitary thoughts on life. (I also suggest that you NOT visit a packing plant (Hunt, Delmonte, etc.). The conditions (government approved) under which your canned tomatoes, corn, peaches, et al are prepared, is enough to short-circuit all your "life fantasies".) The food behind the store is damn good. We fed over 30 people this way – 9 of them small children. Sure, it takes a little effort (that's all part of it), like separating the good from the bad and washing off the sawdust and cutting away the spots. Learn a little humility and be yourself that much more. Other than this one point, I really dug your letter. I agree with your view of Villa Via – it should evolve – organically. "Fixed location sympathizers" are needed – perhaps in the not too distant future – but let's not future trip.

To Tom Marshall: P-I is not really for communication among practicing libertarians, though it may be rapidly evolving in that direction. Right now it is somewhat of an exchange. A lot of rap but little communicating – little touching – few P-I readers are "in touch" with each other (with themselves?). P-I is an outlet for fantasy builders, braggers, bullshitters, and _____. As yet, we are not in a marketplace together.

"This makes possible cooperation (with bullshit libertarians) on those activities on which we are in accord." Why not get in touch with the Girl Scouts. They have activities in accord with ours. Our Cow is dead – we don't need their Bull. MYTH #72 and EXCEDREN bullshit." Bullshit libertarians don't graduate – they do Post-Doctoral research.

Notes on Hippie busts, nomadic travel, and other related nonsense: Fact #1 – Hippies are the new "niggers". Do you think that they get busted because they were sitting still? If you look very straight and drive a very straight vehicle, your chances are great. However, Hippies are hippies and you can't change that. Would you suggest that they "go underground"? Like you said, "One tends to become what he pretends to be." That FREE PRESS article neither weakens the "back-to-the-land", nor strengthens the "keep rolling" faction. It just stands on its own as an "isness".

To John Everson: A majority of people will not "drop out" until "you" do. If you must stay in, do so – but – don't kid yourself. You can only support it, and talk of it when you have done it. DO IT.

To Kerry Thornley: AMEN BROTHER. "Hold fast to that which is good." Or, DON'T MASTURBATE – COMMUNICATE.

WARNING: WORDS ARE TRAPS. Words just serve to re-enforce the illusion. Shanti, TOM (San Francisco area), TOM (New Mexico), TOM TERRIFIC – Local Hero, MU, TOM DUCKWORTH, Box 74, Embudo, NM 87531

Dear Tom Terrific: Why the harshness? Each subscriber says whatever he wants about himself – or nothing! And each reader judges for himself – or nothing! And each reader judges for himself who to contact and who, if anyone, to avoid. So do I. (P-I circulation, however, is unrestricted.)

Certainly someone may "know lal the right people" and been making angry little anti-state noises for years – and not be free. But at least he is not likely to be dangerous.

What's wrong with future tripping, so long as it isn't an evasion of present experiencing? To ignore either the present or the future seems to me to be escapism. Present enjoyment should integrate with future achievement. Ideally what one does should be both enjoyable now and constructive for future news.

Hippies go “underground”? Figuratively? A contradiction, of course. Physically? Hm! TOM of Preform (temporary name)

Hi, Tom: Here’s my 2 dollars, guess I’ll come along for another 4 issues. You really opened my eyes. When I sent for your introduction reprints, I didn’t think much of the idea of land mobility. But now that I’ve read what you have to say about it, and after giving it much thought, I’m convinced that you’ve found the solution. Sea mobility may give more protection against government depredations, but is much more expensive. For those with moderate financial resources, a taste for reasonably comfortable living conditions (without status games), and a fierce desire to be free of coercive government, mechanized land, mobility is the answer.

I’m not land mobile myself yet, but I’m convinced that this is the way for me to go, at least for a start. I only discovered the Libertarian movement 6 or 8 months ago, after a few years acquaintance with Objectivism. Since then, I’ve been gathering all the information I can about it. This last week or two I’ve spent devouring INNOVATOR back issues.

God, are you people well hidden! I had read and re-read Ayn Rand, and decided that ethics and epistemology were her strongest points, and that politics was her weakest. I had adopted Objectivism as my basic philosophy, but I was getting more and more turned off by Rand’s militaristic foreign policy, her intolerance toward young radicals, and her dogmatism. I was an Objectivist who couldn’t stand Rand, and I didn’t know there was anyone else thinking this way. Then, suddenly, I stumbled upon this bunch of young libertarian radicals (through SRI). You can imagine my amazed delight to hear all these people talking exactly the way I had been thinking all these many months. I wonder how many other solitary libertarians there are out there who have no idea that they’re not alone as they think they are.

I have a couple problems to solve before I can put my own life-show on the road, but I think they’re solvable. Meanwhile, I’ll keep working at my job (which I am emotionally ready to leave at any time, and accumulating capital. –JIM (Buffalo, NY)

Dear Jim: Thanks for the praise, and the info on your situation. How can solitary libertarians get in contact (at least those who want to – some may not which is fine too)? Big problem! Something we CAN do is to boycott those ideology houses which do their jealous best to keep their readers in purdah. They are part of the communication problem. So far as I know the only libertarian organization which (1) has access to the “general public,” (2) offers a broad range of ideological materials (books, tape courses, magazines), (3) is relatively non-dogmatic, and (4) most important, whose publications are open to paid ads in SOCIETY FOR INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY (formerly SRI). Henceforth, I will buy any ideological things from SIL. I will shun its closed-shop (mind?) competitors. (AA BOOK NEWS does not accept ads from “anarchists,” and it did not reply to inquiry from Preform as to ad rates. PINE TREE says they cannot accept ads because of their “non-profit” status but will report other people’s activities; I’ll wait and see.) SIL is at 800 Hillsboro Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20902. Regular membership of \$3 a year includes their newsletter. –TOM

FREEDOM WAYS FORUM

Dear Preform: Please send me whatever the \$1 you request in GREEN REVOLUTION will get me – the more the better. In thinking about the success of the communes, I’m coming to the notion that it is best measured in terms of the survival of whole individuals, not in terms of corporate unity – that the goals of most of us are essentially anarchical, not communal – that the survival of corporate groups often implies an unhealthy degree of intolerance and repression. Not that I am despairing communes, for I’m not; just that the “new people” cannot easily survive in commune structures that derive from the 19th century. We have to continue the search for new forms and new solutions to the ageless problem of cooperation and freedom forms and solutions which fit the realities of today. I’d be quite interested in what you can contribute to all this. –HUGH (Denver)

Dear Hugh: Yes, yes, yes! Some thoughts (not necessarily conclusions):

Even though my background is “individualist” libertarian, I have come to favor close associations larger than one or two people – for viability. With larger numbers there is more internal trade and therefore less external trade (for the same level of living); external trade being most vulnerable to government coercion. Any form of organization or non-organization which leaves the individual dependent on THAT society and the mercy of the Monster IS OUT, so far as I’m concerned, no matter what its other apparent attractions. But association need not be a traditional commune.

The large population of a big city allows competitive markets with social anonymity. But enterprises must be “open to the public” to do well in the market (usually). And social anonymity, while protective of those who can remain anonymous, makes the public tradesman vulnerable to predators. He can’t easily tell an honest customer from a State agent or other extortion racketeer.

Freedom of exchange seems to be possible mainly within small, selective clandestine intentional communities – territorial or extraterritorial. But in a small community, market competition is negligible; social factors are paramount. Competition is mostly between communities, not within. One must usually select or reject a community as a package, not piecemeal. A small community will probably not, for example, support several different schools. There will most likely be one school; a member dissatisfied with it will probably move elsewhere.

Mobility is highly desirable: for maximizing external competition – reducing square heads in round holes – as well as for minimizing vulnerability to predators. And informality in most things – absence of structuring – also seems desirable for minimizing conflicts.

Whether a community is “free enterprise” or “communal” in formal arrangements may be relatively unimportant. It will succeed, if it does, because its members are highly compatible in values and goals – because they can work well together.

(Roberta and I are a “limited commune.” The camper is held in common; most other possessions are private. We share work on common property and services; some personal services are paid for. (I pay Roberta \$2 for a haircut.) Our private (non-state) contract includes explicit arrangements on common property and partial sharing of income. I don’t think this will be a big factor in the success of our relation. But it helps insure against unreciprocated expectations, unintentional exploitation, and, should we ever break up, bitter lingering disputes.

Most libertarians, both “individualist” and “communal,” are still dreaming of their various “laissez-faire capitalist” and “communist-anarchist” utopias – wherein millions of people behave as the dreamer thinks they ought to, instead of as they do. Such models are not very helpful for achieving freedom. I am convinced, more and more, that freedom must begin with a few self-liberated individuals, then more individuals and small communities, then larger alternative institutions and so forth. The notion that a majority, while still slaves, can somehow be converted to libertarian views and then vote or shoot their way to freedom, is highly unrealistic.

What “society” might I envision? There are many clandestine, well-hidden free communities of various kinds. Most are largely self-sufficient but produce one or two specialties to pay for what they import. A few members of each community specialize in import-export; maintaining an “underground” network with each other and with agents within remnants of the Servile Society. There will be very few “lone wolf” freemen, since necessary protection measures will require division of labor – be beyond the capabilities of most individuals. But there will be effective competition between communities for members – mobility between communities being hindered only by the need for effective security. I don’t think the State will completely wither away; it’s better, I believe, if it doesn’t. Without it, clandestine groupings would be supplanted by open-market businesses which, with loss of protective skills, would be prey to extortion and nourish the growth of new, more-vigorous States. Let the Establishment remain, shrunken and stagnant but still nasty. “Without an enemy one becomes idle, weak, and stupid.” (G. Ohsawa) –TOM

Tom: “Armchair libertarians” are like people on a bum “acid trip.” They may know what “Right Action” is but they are too scared to take action. They see the world crumbling before their eyes but rather than step out into a new world – a new thought – a new universe, they beg for the “old time right reality” and then set about putting everyone else on their bumper. You handle

both situations (bum acid tripper and armchair libertarian) in the same manner – you give a lot of love – show a great deal of compassion AND DON'T allow yourself to get caught in their dance.

In India, there are many PUNDITS who are able to expound at great length on the Sacred Books, the yogic teachings, etc., etc. They are not holy – just expounders of what is holy. (Alan Watts is much that way with zen.) So too, the armchair libertarians “KNOW” the most, have a fine INTELLECTUAL grasp of Libertarianism BUT – DON'T get caught in their rut.) Don't wait for them to join you – it will take too many life times. Go – “do your thing” – be centered for those who are in need of it but don't get hung up on them. Shanti, TOM DUCKWORTH (Well said! TOM of Preform)

Dear Tom: Your letter sounds a note of humility which impels me to give you the best thought I can offer. While I am not as humble myself as I would like to be, I am willing to admit that I could be wrong about some things, so I offer my suggestions without urging them upon you in any way.

From what information you have given me, there is plenty of evidence that you will be able to improve your diet a great deal if you give the subject enough study. Some other areas in which I am inclined to guess that there may be even greater room for improvement, are less easily discussed by mail. But for what it may be worth to you at this stage of your life I suggest that you might find it profitable to study economics and philosophy quite a bit more before you attempt to lead a group of people in a venture which will affect their lives for better or worse, so much that mistakes in leadership will be very costly. It is one thing to experiment in your own life with ideas which appeal to you so much that you are willing to take the risk that they may be less than perfect. It is quite another thing to make of yourself a Pied Piper who leads little children on paths which they may not be able to tread successfully and which they have not themselves studied enough to make wise decisions. Their enthusiasm to find companionship in a world which tends to reject unconventional behavior, is understandable, but it would be cruel to take advantage of it, if you do not have the wisdom to lead them correctly.

Wisdom is the great need of a leader and it very, very seldom appears in men as young as yourself. I have studied for many years the best ancient sources of wisdom and am less and less inclined to rush out and make of myself some sort of a leader. The example of _____ as well as an experience of more than five years with _____ are vivid demonstrations to me of the futility of catering to the enthusiasms of followers, however many one finds. Only intimate contact between individuals who are close to each other physically and mentally is conducive to permanent influence of a constructive nature. I use very sparingly some modern techniques of communication to search for such contacts and explore them carefully in person or by individual letters to find out what possibilities may be concealed from a hurried glance. I try to avoid becoming involved in group contacts on a more superficial level.

You have exceptional ability and initiative. With more wisdom you might do some real good in the world. Without it you may do much harm. If I can inspire you to open your mind to such possibilities, I would be happy to make further suggestions for improving your qualifications for leadership. Sincerely, ED (Midwest) (27May69)

Dear Ed: Your cautioning intimates that a perfect, wise leader is a possibility. This seems to me to be a paternalistic attitude (i.e., doing what is “right” and “good” for other people – versus letting them work it out themselves). If a leader is wise in the eyes of some he may be at the same time Unwise in the eyes of others.

We are libertarians; whether or not anyone deems us wise and follows us must be his own decision since we will not force him to follow. A paternalistic attitude (e.g. taking a bottle of poison away from a two-year-old) may be appropriate in dealing with children. However, here we are not dealing with children. –ROBERTA

Dear Ed: Granted that our “leadership” may not be all wise, will someone be better off following the “leadership” (example) of parents, relations, neighbors, and “society”? After all, a person can't truly do nothing – hibernate for 100 years while someone else (why isn't he also hibernating?) discovers the Answer. One has to live his life, one way or another.

But, if anything, our fallibility is an argument for a way of life we advocate – motorized nomadism. Unlike a farm or yacht (or cavern), motorized nomadism requires relatively little time/money investment. Few bridges need be burnt. Even if neo-nomadism doesn't prove fully satisfactory for someone, it offers a good interim living arrangement from which to explore other alternatives.

I agree with your remarks on personal contact, and diet. –TOM

Comments on ENVIRONMENT (438 N. Skinker, Saint Louis, MO 63130): It is heavy with horror stories, but doesn't offer any suggestions for preserving oneself. The implication seems to be: if you are upset, go cry on Big Brother's shoulder. But an item in ENVIRONMENT (July-August 1969) illustrates where big Brother is at – as usual! "Two years ago Amchitka Island (in the Aleutians) was declared a wildlife sanctuary but it has since been taken over by the AEC (for underground nuclear testing)."

Coercivists of all stripes are climbing aboard and trying to co-opt the "save the environment" crusade: it means more power for them, and another attempted justification for their existence. But to the extent they succeed, we can expect only more clumsy, offensive bureaucracies, and less genuine progress in ecology. (Will they "save the environment" like they have been "saving freedom" in Vietnam?)

The "Spaceship Earth" and "Lifeboat Earth" analogies, which some have made, are misleading and implicitly libertarian: after all, a spaceship or lifeboat has a captain, so earth obviously needs a....But the unending and unendable quarrels over who will be Captain is a big part of what's damaging the environment.

Instead of writing letters to Congressmen and doing other impractical political-type things, let us leave the polluted and regimented cities and farms to the polluters/coercers and opt out. Even in the U.S. only 6% of the land is inhabited. Long before our remote squat-spots and caverns are seriously affected, the cities will be quick death. The polluters/coercers will either destroy themselves or learn to respect nature AND mankind. (This is really not intended as criticism of ENVIRONMENT magazine. It is doing a good job of researching and reporting the horrors. And, unlike the Sierra Club wheels, it is not crusading for more Government Programs.) –TOM

MORE PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

NEW SCHOOLS EXCHANGE, 2940 Hidden Valley Lane, Santa Barbara, CA 93193. "...functions as an access switchboard for individuals and organizations trying alternatives to the big gray schoolhouse." (WHOLE EARTH CATALOG). Weekly, \$1/month; gratis to free schools.

THE MOTHER EARTH NEWS, Box 38, Madison, Ohio, 44057; monthly; \$1/issue; \$8/year. Vol. 1 No. 1, 64 pages, includes long articles on economizing within a conventional lifestyle, freelance cartooning, and building tipis.

"WESTERN PRISONERS INFORMATION AND SUPPORT SERVICE has been formed to supply information about events inside American civilian and military prisons." 73 Market St., Venice, CA 90291; donation.

MOVING ON has moved on to Box 1349, San Francisco, CA 94101. \$2/year.

NOTES TO READERS

To all you stamp enthusiasts. We have found that brushing on a thin coat of acrylic matte will preserve the surface without appreciably altering appearance. Any dirt or grease can then be easily wiped off with a moist rag.

We will be reprinting portions of the second four issues of P-I for inclusion in Preform's introductory information packet and (probably) LIBERTARIAN CONNECTION. If your address was not published in P-I but you want it in the reprint, or vice versa, please let us know soon.

To contact someone whose address is not given: PLEASE send envelope addressed: "(Person's Name) c/o Preform, Box 141, Glendale, CA 91209." Cover envelope is not necessary.

Oregon has increased vehicle license fees: an extra \$1.50 per foot of length over 10 feet, I have heard. We seek info on other "license of convenience" states – not only yearly fee but all costs of initial registration and any problems with mail-order. Do Nevada and Arizona try to collect a sales tax on vehicles transferred in?

March 1970 (CAMPER COACHMEN) (Griffin Publications, 10148 Riverside Dr., Hollywood, CA 91602) is an especially good issue for technical info – articles on motor homes versus campers, electrical systems, mail forward, and weight and balance. General Motors has a full page ad in the issue telling where to buy their used buses – sign of the times.

8 FEBRUARY 1970

MENTAL MEANDERINGS

by Auntie State

A revolutionary is like a TV repair who smashes a set in a fit of frustration.

The reality of the State makes one underestimate the potential evil of the Mafia, industrial mercenaries, unionist thugs, Black Panthers, back-street brutes, teenage gangs, etc. -- abolish the State and the force-conscious populace will terrifiedly institute more violent agencies.

A neo-nomad may draw more attention to himself than does the libertarian anonymously living a conventional life-form.

A: "I love you."

B: "I'm sorry, that's not my field – is there anything you wish to discuss involving Psychological Photochemistry?"

Can anarchy be measured in cops per persons per area, in velocity of cop meanderings (times contact frequency and cop-courage-skill-meanness) per area-persons or in distance from means of communication to police?

Capitalism must not be based on the cruel ethic of Ayn Rand which says that suffering is to be attacked or ignored simply because suffering is undesirable or ugly. This is not to say that the milk of human kindness flows from a gun barrel or that the satisfactions gained from relieving suffering (which exist empirically) qualify one's economic or socio-moral right to live one's life for one's own sake.

George: "But Harry, if you try to run away from your problems here, you'll keep on running for the rest of your life."

Harry: "That's right, man! I'm becoming a neo-nomad!"

To paraplegics, "The Establishment" is being able to walk.

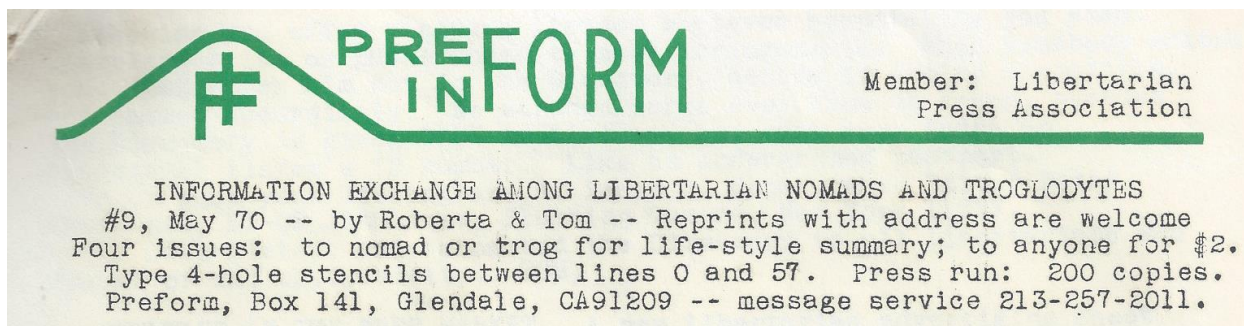
Only the most mindless libertines seek to rebel against reality per se, even if it is the status quo.

Kill their master and the slaves will hate you because they must make the effort to elect a new one.

It is pretty damn hard to be broadly altruistic when most people are so hate-ably socialistic.

Kill a commie for Christ; kill a pig for Hess!

Rand: You should think about the world as it should be, i.e., as I want it to be, i.e., a world with me at its philosophic-psycho-epistemologic center from which all mental and (therefore) physical manifestations of humanity flow, i.e., a world in which I AM GOD!!"



SITUATIONS AND SEARCHES

To Preform: I've just been turned on to your P-I newsletter by my brother-in-law who himself is looking towards an alternative route but in a more, shall we say, fixed manner. I was greatly surprised to find out that there were others that wished to make mobility their main lifestyle. For _____ I was under the illusion that I shared this ideology only with people over the fifty-year mark.

My wife Cherri and 2-year-old child live presently in a 22-foot chassis-mounted channeled-through motor home on a one-ton Ford. We've been in this rig for the last 8 months. Before this we lived in a 21-foot travel trailer for a year.

We were looking into a fixed commune type of situation due to lack of knowledge of others that wish to live communally in the manner which you describe in your Villa Via project.

I had become quite disappointed due to trying to put together a similar caravan by talking to others on our travels that we thought were sympathetic souls, only to find that people as free as they may look or act are fearful of severing their ties to the slave world. I have also found that those people that have children are more interested in alternatives to the slave establishment for the very reasons you are. Being Summerhillian exponents, we find this to be our strongest motivational factor in securing an independent lifestyle.

At present I am able to earn an above average living in the Chicago area in the summer by playing my trade of paper-hanging. Also, if necessary, I have been able to do as well in the winter in Miami, Florida. Being able to make contacts in this field of work as an independent contractor, I could also work with others in a caravan as to providing for them a means of making money by working as a contracting, decorating service in larger urban areas. Knowing the market in this trade, I feel that if three to five men were to do this it would take at the most two months to fill the nest egg for that amount of families.

Although I am not too well versed in forage living, if I were more knowledge in that field I am sure less outside activity would be needed.

We have traveled the Middle West, Southwest, South and East Coast, and to our amazement have only been told to move on twice in two years. This is most surprising for we are quite long haired and I am bearded, but I am sure due to the ever growing alertness of our nation's paranoids that this sort of luck can't last for long.

If we intend to make a more meaningful existence for ourselves and our children and wish to ever have any spiritual freedom and growth, we must get together before it is too late – before we are too alienated to have any strength in fighting the repressive system.

We are neither far left or right. We won't be a part of anything where guns do the talking, and today they talk from both sides. So the thing for us to do is stay out of their way if that's possible and let the guns take care of each other. I guess we have been individualist libertarians hoping to be communal libertarians.

Let us know if you have gotten your community together. If so I pray we may join you and others in this, the most noble of pursuits, freedom. Peace, –PETER near Chicago

To Peter: Your \$2 is refunded; since you are nomads, your lifestyle summary constitutes payment for subscription.

Villa Via wasn't launched – due to insufficient prospects and some second thoughts. (See “Villa Via Revisited” in reprints from #5-#8, or in issue #7.) At this time at least, I think it best that groups be small, highly compatible, and formed informally. –TOM

To Preform: “Hail America,” there is no substitute. Wandering through the places where the grass is supposed to be greener usually convinces the weary wanderer of this fact. It took me several winters in Mexico and a time in Australia and the S. Pacific to finally digest the fact. America is the cheapest place in the world to live a decent life. By decent, I mean that you enjoy yourself among your own kind whatever class of Homo Sapiens it may be. I've observed few “loners” are happy and it is hard not to be a “loner” in a country or situation where there is little or no chance for real honest communication.

Sparing the details, let me say that the last ten years I have spent less than a dozen dollars a week on an average and manage to enjoy myself to boot. After a beatnik period and much discomfort we found that the ideal “ace in the hole” is a bread delivery van, can only suggest that it be a larger one since the gas mileage, etc., is that much more and it's nice to have enough room to expand. Anyone who REALLY applies himself can get the shekels together to buy one. And any leasing company in any large city will have used trucks (which they lease to bread Co's), if a person can't find one by chance. In the “states,” California is “my state” and so if I feel like a stay in L.A. or S.F. the chances are I'll be near water if available or where something is going on. L.A. has a few places under freeways in the Hollywood area that are good for a week or so until you make contact with a safer area. A truck fixed like a camper with side windows is less desirable to me because overnight camping on streets is frowned on throughout certain areas of country. If you fix up a roll down lightproof trap over driver's area, and put window skylight on top, you will gain more light and less police interest. My usual procedure for extended stay is to put a mental order in for what I want and then try to spot a fenced in “safe area” that looks like it need guarding – protection –or squatting on – a little inquiry and it usually isn't long before you often have a safe place with electricity to plug into and with aid of hose water to boot. A couple of hours a week of helping, or whatever, usually suffices for rent.

I have a little French Citroen which I pull behind me wherever I go, but cycles are easier. I only like comfort and at 50 miles per gallon, I can afford the nuisance of towing my little friend along. A truck will run well over \$50 in license fees yearly unless converted to camper.

I passed through various stages of “step in” van but finally settled upon a truck with the “whole works,” paneling and all. Although I have had a lot of portable stoves and closets which served well (some motor vehicle departments don't check out your improvements, so it is up to you how much work you want to do) the big 3 would be (1) toilet, (2) water, (3) fuel (gas or?) in that order. At this writing a “Porta Potti” is best thing on market 9at a steep \$100) but any air tight can can be used as chemical toilet provided it is laced with chemical (Chlorox works if done daily). Once this is solved, the water is no problem with a cheap Jerry can plastic tank and hand pumper if desired. Always try to get a propane stove somewhere but it is surprising how well a little wood stove works. A little coal or hardwood banked up keeps you warm all night – and everywhere you go there is wood for the picking up. Put a screen over stove-pipe top to arrest sparks and watch where you park and you'll smell the woodsy smell often enough to learn to love it.

I have camped with permission “gypsy style” near some of the most interesting areas in California. Sausalito near S.F. is a mecca for bohemian wanderers and you will often see the ultimate in “way out” mobile homes thereabouts, although property owners are getting a little hard-nosed in recent years. Many in this area have gotten their hands on a “whale boat” or larger and anchored beyond the houseboat area and thus beat the \$35-up dock fee – the hassle being water, and going and coming when it's a mud flat with the tide out.

So having found my domicile it took me years to find out that you can't live healthy on human food from stores – every additive is a poison as far as I'm concerned now. If one gets some green foliage of some kind in his system every day, he will beat virus, etc., providing he stops with the sugar things. Any kind of weeds that aren't too bitter taste great mixed with a little pineapple juice and blended into a blender. Avoiding wheat, you can get good brown rice, lima beans, and other healthy staples for around \$10 a hundred if you get to the right milling outfit

in any large city (often must get together with someone to buy enough quantity). Alkaline grains and beans you can exist on exclusively and be healthy, whereas you'd get sick fast living on wheat flour and its products. A teflon-coated waffle iron makes me delicious waffles out of any kind of thing I want to grind up in my little health food store grinder. Bone meal from any feed store, mixed with custard mixes and dried in sun (now palatable) will end forever any trips to your dentist, provided you don't allow tooth calcium leaching due to very high acid food – wheat, sugar, meat – diet.

Many women in my life who enjoyed this type of living as are girls all over the country who are going the “gypsy way.” But, generally speaking, the propaganda of the “big American dream” has taken a heavier toll among women. I have met retired couples and even those under retirement all over who are going from town to town, working a while at lower paying and moving on again – convinced that they should have done it years ago. Kids love this way of life although parents often “chicken out.” My son is probably as well rounded as a son of one of the “Jet Set.” Our thrift shop clothes are the latest thing and cut, due to a little sewing machine work, and with no rent, little food cost, and a trifling gas bill, I haven't been gainfully employed for a stereotype boss in years. By choice the dollars seem to come in through helping people who ask – or odd coincidental bumblings – each can work out his own money problems. It is only really a case of application and accepting a lot less than the next guy gets (and must spend pronto). Remember, no other nation in the world has thousands of used transportation cars for so little or refrigerators, appliances, etc., so cheap when used and secondhand. It's incredible. You can enjoy life no matter what the brain washers say.

(Later letter) Just picked up my accumulation of mail and so now have an idea what your goals are – must say I am pleased that there is a little organizing going on. It really could be a wonderful thing to get us all together in a closer set of ties. Everything enjoyed is greater when shared. My greatest moments were usually spent in modest surroundings with good company – good conversation – guitar picking – philosophical feasts.

Wow, did you ever get hung up staying around a hot springs? Let me say that it is my idea of good things – freedom and warm relaxation. There is one back of Santa Barbara (in hills, about 6 miles or so) where the S.B. bohemian element take their midnight skinny dips. Also there is one fitted as public camp to right of highway leading to Bishop; I'd have to get map but I think it is about 20 miles this side of Lone Pine, 2 miles off road. In N. Calif., Idaho, etc., there are oodles of them. And while many are not dammed or tanked, I have camped many enjoyable days around an improvised tub resting in a primeval little meadow.

Bread vans are going toward diesel engines because it cuts costs almost in half. They are really hidden gems at any reasonable price. Diesel oil is cheap in Mexico, etc.

Hope you will try to get a compilation of “safe zones” for western states travel. I have found quite a few in S. Calif., but many thousands are available with a little digging and permission hunting. Desert is full of beautiful places and surprises; an old favorite of mine when going or coming is Whitewater River Canyon about 10 miles north of the Palm Springs just off Indio freeway. There is a river running the year around – occasional wind is the only hang-up. The whole mountain top overlooking Riverside area (Pidgeon Pass Radio Towers) is owned by G. Wong who is at 4545 Brochton (Chinatown) and who would grant anyone usage who talked to him and mentioned my comment. Most river bottom areas hereabouts have many places – the hangup is finding a fenced-in area to prevent vandalism if a van is left – a problem eliminated when several groups would be in same spot. –AL FRY, Alison Studios, 879 Park Ave., Perris, CA 92370; OR3-5543, 784-1850.

To Al: Thank you much for all the insightful information! While you're enjoying the California desert, we've been enjoying the mountain SNOW. Yet we're both near L.A.! I think beauty is and will be around a long time for all those who seek it, regardless of the environmental “crises.”

Re: the big 3: I think we have a cheaper, simpler solution for a toilet. Most Americans are conditioned to accept the necessity of a “commode” yet we don't have one nor do we want one! In the city, our “toilet” facilities consist of a supple of plastic bags (for feces) and a set of gallon plastic jugs (for urine). The narrow mouth jug (his) is a bleach container, easily replaceable with

discards from laundromats. Mine is a wide-mouth mayonnaise jar. When we are in the country, the "toilet" is supplied by mother earth. (By the way, I've read that squatting is healthier than sitting, which can encourage constipation: sitters be warned! Squatters squat assured.)

I dig the thrift stores too – and they don't take tax! (if "nonprofit" like Salvation Army). – ROBERTA

To Preform: Thank you for your newsletter. In accordance with your request, I am sending a short summary of our lifestyle and philosophy, though our philosophy changes almost every day.

Philosophy today: Love all living things, even icky people, which is difficult. Be at peace with yourself and with the world, if possible. Be gentle and have compassion for the many lost souls; take a bit of life.

Lifestyle yesterday, today, and tomorrow: We have owned a VW camper for four years and spend 4 months in Europe in it and many months at various spots in greater and lesser America. We built the camper ourselves and it is a real home. But this summer we are going deeper into the beautiful Elk Mountains of Colorado with our newly constructed tipi and really get into the nature trip. We have found a tentative spot with lake, stream, forest, and spectacular view of 13,000 and 14,000 foot peaks. I only wish the snow would hurry up and melt.

If you are in the area, write, come stay in our temporary commune, or come visit us in our tipi. Bring your peace pipe. Warm hands on you. –DENNIS & LEANA, Western Colorado

To Preform: I feel qualified as a trog so I'm applying for 4 free issues of your publications as advertised in the L.A. FREE PRESS.

Here is my current lifestyle summary: I live in a VW bus on a large campus (about the only cool place to live in a bus). I don't work or go to school though I use campus bathrooms and showers.

One very important thing I can tell you about living like this, is to buy a bus with no windows in the back (for privacy). Curtains aren't sufficient.

Since dealer prices and ethics are a drag, I'm currently writing a book on synthesizing psychedelics. I've got about three quarters of the info I need for a good book but some syntheses aren't described in the literature. If you know a chemist, ask him to send me info (experiment data or references) on the following: extracting L.A. from morning glory; PMA; DMA; MMDS; MMDS-2; DMMDA (1, 2, 3a) and DQM (STP). I'm planning to sell the book for 30¢ through underground papers. Quack! –PHILBERT near Philadelphia

To Philbert: We are sending you our introductory info packet. I don't think you qualify as a trog but you probably do as a nomad. Tell us more about your lifestyle. –TOM

To Preform: We're leaving this school. There has been a split. The parents and some staff want to have more structure and parents in complete control. We will be on the road again visiting "free schools" in Canada in our VW bus with our sleeping bags. We're selling our 29' travel trailer (no car now to pull it). We used it for a year visiting free schools before we arrived here a year ago. Our kids are older and don't need such elaborate quarters. Besides, we couldn't get in to out of the way spots.

We want to work with people who feel as we do about kids – an extended family feeling. If we find such a place, we'll later U-Haul our things up there from a student's home here. If not, we'll spend a year in Mexico – either renting a cheap house or trading in on a VW camper. – GRACE & ED, New Mexico

To Preform: I saw your names in the People Directory (MODERN UTOPIA) and from your descriptions of yourselves, I think we may be on the same track. So I thought I'd write and fill you in a little more on where we're at. If after reading this you think we mesh, we'd like to hear more from you.

Until last Friday (Feb. 27) I was working as an electrical engineer for General Electric. There are several reasons why I quit. First of all, I've recently become a pacifist (my appeal for 1-0

classification is pending before the state appeal board) and the fact that some of my work went for military applications bothered me. As an engineer, I had very little control over what I worked on, and no control at all over how it was used when it was finished. Another that they really bugs me about the whole business-technology scene is the incredible number of hung-up, stuffy, phony, up-tight people there are in it.

From now until school is out, I'm doing substitute teaching. My little experience so far confirms my ideas that school = jail = automation factory. I like rapping with the kids though. Some of them are seeing through it.

Sharon is a speech therapist in two public schools here. She works mostly with kindergarten through sixth grades. One day a week, she also works at an occupational center with mentally retarded children. She likes her work quite well because she sees the kids on an individual or small group basis and can treat them more like people than a regular classroom teacher (read: cop) can. Also, she doesn't have to put up with a lot of the administrative bullshit that the other teachers do. She certainly sees the need for something pretty radically different in the schools and the whole society, but I don't think she's quite as fed up with things (yet) as I am.

Now about the revolution. First, I don't think revolution (in the usual violent sense) has a chance in this country. Too many people with too much money (equals power) have too much of a vested interest in maintaining the status quo. But even if it did have a c chance, I don't feel that violence is very likely to lead to peace, love, fulfillment, and happiness. Not only that, but this country has a history of violence and is well practiced at it so it makes more sense to fight with a weapon that the opponent doesn't know how to use, i.e., non-violence.

As far as sex goes, we've learned a lot about that too. We're coming now to the place where we can enjoy it really freely and for its own sake without expecting it to do more than it can do. I sort of think the conventional marriage-counselor-type wisdom and the sexual freedom swingers and orgiasts both have it wrong. On one hand, I don't think it's some kind of holy mystical experience that somehow unites two immortal souls, etc., but neither do I think that just fucking constantly with no personal commitment or understanding is likely to produce much in the way of lasting friendship, community, or happiness. As far as shared sex or group marriage goes, I don't think either of us really know how we would feel about it. We both fell, though, that if it were to happen it should be based on a very good and intimate acquaintance and understanding of all members mutually before it was attempted. Since we do have a really beautiful relationship, we would hesitate to rush into anything that might mess it up until we were pretty sure it wouldn't.

About drugs, we don't indulge (tobacco or alcohol either) because we feel no need of them, but I have no hang-ups about pot if somebody wants to use it. I just wonder if the high is worth the risk of getting busted. Hard drugs are a no-no.

We're quite a bit the outdoors type and like to camp, hike, and climb especially with compatible people.

Plans for the immediate future are to buy an old school bus and fix it up and live and travel in and make a grand tour next summer meeting beautiful people all over the country, and seeing what ideas they have for "living better eclectically". We've applied for VISTA and are telling everybody we're going to go in the fall. It's pretty "establishment" and it's probably treating symptoms, but it would give us a close-up look at the problems and only lasts a year so we think it might be a good way to survive while we get our thing together and figure out what to do for the long run. If someone comes up with an idea that looks better and can't wait though, we might just chuck VISTA.

At this point, I can't see living in the city and I know from my own childhood on a small farm in Missouri (my parents still live there) that it's possible to live on very little money and quite comfortably if you know how to do without things. That may be a hard lesson to learn after having been brainwashed by the advertisers and money lenders to want all the gadgets and want them now. I think we could live quite simply and be happy with a few other compatible people. We will have a little money, probably not over a couple of thousand that we would be glad to put into the cause. I think starting a group might be preferable to joining an existing one, but I don't know.

(Later letter) It's really great to know that other people are trying and succeeding at liberating themselves.

We have bought an ex-circus van for \$250 and plan to make a home out of it. It's really great – much more efficient utilization of space than a school bus. The ceiling is about 7' high and the overall length is about 23'. The only thing about it I don't like is its looks. It's not that I mind them actually, but it's so funny that anyone who sees us will remember it and that might make concealment/flight more difficult. But that might be borrowing trouble and in the meantime, it sure has a character of its own.

Our travel plans are presently in a state of flux and won't be solidified until early July, pending the outcome of the exploration of an island in Lake Huron that Steve Bradley (Ontario) knows about. We've been corresponding with them since I sent out the first letter that I also sent you. If the island looks good, we will make a fairly quick trip to visit my parents in Missouri and Sharon's in Portland, Oregon. If things don't turn out with the island, our travels will be more leisurely and will probably go through the Southwest and visit some communes and people on our way west.

I've been re-reading Walden and it strikes me as quite singular that Thoreau looked at a farm as the nadir of slavery, yet many communes, etc., today are buying land, keeping animals, raising crops, and doing all the things that tie one down. I find that I'm leaning more toward a very simple mode of living, not particularly nomadic, but certainly not animal husbandry/agriculture either. I think maybe a combination of nomads with subsistence living in one or more permanent well-concealed locations with permanent shelter there, preferably beyond the reach of motorized vehicles, might offer the best of both worlds – mobility with stability. Pace and Freedom, MARTIN & SHARON, Box 419, Weedsport, NY 13166.

To Preform: Many thanks for the packet of mobile living news. Although this isn't just what I was looking for, it is interesting to me anyway – it definitely shows me that I'm not alone. But I knew that.

I live and have lived for 4 years in an Econoline van – standard van – 6 cylinder, short one, no pop-top. Just the standard van – inconspicuous, park any-place type. I got mine in '64 – the long version didn't come out until later in '65 or I would have got one of them.

And so it is – I can live very nicely on my pension and have almost everything I want. I can park on the 24-hour restaurant lot, use the toilet whenever I need to, get my oatmeal and coffee reasonable in the mornings, usually get a fish filet for dinner; fresh fruits and vegetables for less at Al Tuk's – he sell the older and riper; pay 5¢ for the pay toilet in the coin laundry, and I go in there, lock, undress, get a bowl of hot water and bathe army style – also shave.

I use the Coleman camp stove in my van because leaking propane can kill you – white gas won't. I use few dishes – it's simpler and cheaper to eat right out of the pan – why not? I can put the stove and the pans in a box and push them under the bed – not permanently fixed.

In my van, I have gone all over the country except Maine.

There are quite a few fellows who do not want to sit in one spot. They have a sleeping bag and some money, not a lot, and they like to get out and see the country. I can show them how to eat cheap, use washrooms and pay toilets to their advantage, and sleep inside the van in a good solid bed and good company.

So, when I saw your advertisement in the FREEP, I thought that perhaps your group might be concerned with matching up those who wanted to live in a mobile unit with those who had such a unit. –EAGAN, near Los Angeles

To Preform: To reach pure form of liberation by phases as you suggested is also my approach. I will be looking forward to more of your ideas concerning pedestrian-nomadism.

Do you know of any additional material on the coastal region of B.C.? And what about visas, or whatever they call it in B.C.? How long can one stay up there without renewing his visa? Sometime ago, I was in contact with a native of B.C. and he stated that you could squat up there uninformed about visas, etc. Any help you could give me on this would be greatly appreciated.

There are two more subjects: use of burros in conjunction with pedestrian-nomadism; and tunnel and underground room building. Tom, have you found any good sources of information

on either of these, or related subjects? Thus far, I've found one book – "Going Light With Backpack and Burro" that is aimed at the vacationer. Although I will use regular mobile nomadism in the early stages, your mention of pedestrian nomadism is much closer to the heart's desire.

I'm older than you, past forty, and am currently cutting the socio-economic ties that bind. I believe that individuals working singly, or together, for liberation is the best way. Great masses of people probably can't be taken along the freedom-liberation path against their will – and it would have to be against the will of most of them. I liked Roberta's letter concerning the individual and her relation to society. Both of you approach life in a brass-tacks, pure, straightforward manner – that is also my approach. The things that are really of interest are not for sale in any shop – most important, I think many of us worry too much about the problems that may arise. Once installed in our lifestyle of choice, I believe that most such problems will be readily solved or will vanish with the evening breeze. Only the strongly motivated and the pure of spirit will make a go of liberation – the "arm-chair" variety really doesn't want it anyhow, so they've lost nothing. Let's walk on the sunny side of our own chosen lifestyle and ignore, or at least close our ears, to the arm-chair critics.

If you should choose to use this in Preform, please do not use my name or location. –ADAM, Western U.S.

To "Adam": I am giving you a nom de plume so that others may refer to your letter.

Regarding B.C.: I recommend land status maps for areas of interest (most of these also show contours, etc.) scale 1:250,000 from Department of Lands, Forests and Water Resources, Victoria, B.C. Also get "British Columbia Relief Map," scale 1:1,900,800 which includes a smaller precipitation map, available (2 years ago) for 60¢ from Dominion Maps, 626 Howe St., Vancouver 1, B.C.

For motorized nomads, I suggest "dry belt" interior regions where the forest is rather open – jack pines too small to log at an elevation too cool for agriculture except ranching – where it is easy to make trails, travel off the roads. Coastal rain forest is difficult to penetrate with land vehicle.

About visas, I don't know. Last summer, we told the border guard (Canadian) that we expected to stay "a couple of weeks" – actually stayed over two months.

See WHOLE EARTH CATALOG (\$8/year, bi-monthly, from 558 Santa Cruz, Menlo Park, CA 94025) for listings on backpacking and animals (nomadics). I have found little literature that was not vacation oriented, with the exception of Angier's books ("How to Survive in the Woods," etc.) Nor have we had much experience with pedestrian nomadics yet, except for trips a few days long. I am leery of animals (noise, droppings, tracks, feeding) but this may be because I haven't had experience. If possessions are engineered for ultra-lightweight (possible with modern materials), I don't think we need animals for hauling.

For some ideas on underground construction, check books on tunneling at a college engineering library. Usually the older the book, the better for our purposes – smaller scale operation, simpler equipment. Best I've found so far is "Tunneling," Prelini, Van Nostrand, 1912. Also interesting, "The History of Tunneling," Gasta E. Sandstrom, Barrie and Rockliff, 2 Clements Inn, London WC2, 1963. –TOM

To Preform: I haven't yet reached the point of nomadism yet, but if present trends continue, it won't be long until I have to leave. If you're ever up this way, I'd be interested in talking to you, especially about psychological effects on a nomad.

I've done my share of wandering the past ten years and know of many squat-spots in Washington's Cascade Mountains and up in British Columbia. Some are good for several months.

I've also been up to Alaska and Yukon for extended trips (six weeks) and have colored slides you might like to see.

I'm presently an aircraft designer at Boeing, with a Civil Engineering Degree from _____. As soon as I get my present camper and truck reorganized, plus several other problems, financial mostly, I will probably leave, and be gone during most of 1971. Many pleasant journeys. – ROBERT (near Seattle)

To Preform: I am now coupled spiritually, and often physical as well, with ANN, who lives in Berkeley. We're planning to live together as soon as the practical details can be worked out. Ann believes in group marriage, as I do. Definition of "as I do": 100% marital fidelity within the group; living together; group sex, not just rotation of partners, as the primary (but not necessarily exclusive) sexual expression; and an attempt to develop and express love among the participants in as many ways as possible beyond the sexual, comparable to what goes on in a GOOD one-man-one-woman marriage. This necessarily includes, but need not be limited to, a gift economy among the participants even though most of them still have to work for cash. –MOHANDAS, 251 Littleness, Monterey, CA 93940.

To Readers: Here is a report on our happenings and plans.

About 10 days ago, we were surprised by four bludgies – three forest rangers and a Ventura County deputy sheriff – while excavating our first (attempted) shelter in Los Padres forest.

The day before, it seems, while we were away, our area was intensively searched for a lost boy. The bludgies discovered our camper, parked deep in the woods. They also noticed we had camouflaged our trails, which further aroused their curiosity. They did not (then) discover our shelter site, 200 yards away, which was covered and adequately concealed.

(Bludgy – rhymes with pudgy – is short for bludgeoneer, was coined by Roberta, who doesn't believe that the name of a useful, inoffensive animal (pig) should be an appellation for usually offensive beasts.)

The next morning, the bludgies came again to the camper. We were both away from it, but unfortunately, our digging sounds – hammer on digging bar – were audible; we were not yet far underground and so were working with the hatch cover off.

When asked, I explained that the hole was for mineral exploration. (As it turns out, one can't file a claim until one finds minerals of value.) But with our well-crafted entrance-way in place, complete with electric wires, vent pipes, and a hatch cover festooned with a bush and surface degree, they didn't believe me.

When asked about our concealed trails, I said something like, "Never know what people will come wandering through the forest. If they find camper tracks, they will follow them, and my wife might be at the camper alone..." To this, one of the bludgies replied, sardonically, "Yeah, never know what kind of people you will met in the forest."

Had they arrested us, apparently the only charges they could have made were for camping outside of authorized campgrounds and cutting a few tree branches. Our hole was apparently not clearly illegal.

This brings up an interesting question: Why didn't they arrest us? Certainly our behavior was "suspicious." If it had been up to the deputy sheriff – an extremely uptight, paranoid type – I suspect we would have been busted – for further investigation, if nothing else. But the forest fuzz were not eager to press charges. Of course, we were not doing anything especially heinous in their eyes (our camp site was clean and neat – no strewn trash around, no campfire remains, etc. Also, perhaps they guessed part of the truth about our hole and were semi-sympathetic. But the main reason, I believe, is their own vulnerability. They really can't control "their" forest and some of them realize it. Their installations and equipment are often "vandalized" even now. And the more they hassle "the public" for inconsequential infractions of their rules, the more "vandalism" they must expect. (It wouldn't be difficult to destroy one of their \$50,000 helicopters, for example.)

We returned to our site two days later and salvaged our entry-way. So our only losses were in time – about three weeks total spent scouting, preparing squat-spot, and digging.

Some sheep-person might comment: "You lost three weeks of your time. And in three weeks, I can earn the money to pay property taxes. So how are you freer than I?" Of course, the "land owner" may still be hassled. (He probably needs a special permit to legally build something underground on his "own" property.) But, more important we learned from our experience. We are improving our techniques; gaining competence and confidence. Next time, we won't be such easy prey. What does the "land owner" gain from his taxes? Only the realization – highly

destructive of his self-esteem – that he is rewarding his oppressors, paying for his further enslavement.

So what have we learned? Our loss was directly due to an unlikely coincidence. Had the search happened two weeks earlier, we wouldn't have been around; had it happened two weeks later, we would have been working with cover in place and warning devices operational, and with camper moved out of the area. But also, in hindsight, we can identify some mistakes:

We failed to check the area for strange footprints upon our return.

We used two-phase resin paint which requires a week of heat-treatment. This caused us to bring the camper to a squat-spot close to the site. (The entrance-way was too heavy to pack a long distance; an alternate error.) Originally we planned to squat a mile or more from our shelter site.

We should have dug with cover in place as soon as our entrance-way was installed, even though this cramped our working.

We should have spent more time (away from site) designing/building a lighter, more-quickly-installable entrance-way.

But this incident has also prompted a searching re-evaluation of motorized nomadism in general. This is the first time in my two-and-one-half years of living aboard that I have been hassled while parked in a well-prepared squat-spot. While vehicle squat-spots are relatively secure (compared, at least, to "conventional" living accommodations), they are not so safe that we feel fully free. If I hadn't had a driver's license, we probably would have been busted. (If you have to get a permit from the Man "to be free," you ain't free.)

With trail concealment, perimeter barricades (extra dead bushes, etc.) and camouflage, we may be close to the point-of-diminishing-returns for vehicle squat-spots. There are more things we can do, but the increased security may not be in proportion to the increased time. (Scouting and preparing the squat-spot at which we were hassled, cost nearly a week's labor by both of us.) Basically a four-wheeled motor vehicle with its access trails is difficult to hide. A pedestrian nomad has it much easier. His tent might be as large as a vehicle, but it can be in a much more inaccessible site.

Of course our camper is quite secure in a more remote area, such as central British Columbia. But trade (import-export with the Servile Society) becomes more difficult. And, by not relying too much on remoteness of protection, we grow stronger – more capable of coping with threats of coercion – more self-confidently free. (If we rely on remoteness now, what will we do, if in 40 or 50 years, the most remote places on earth have population densities comparable to Southern California forests today?)

And even if a motor vehicle is reliably hidden, one's mobility – the main reason for having the vehicle – is compromised by its dependence on State-controlled highways and fuel.

So we now look upon a live-aboard motor vehicle as an often-desirable ACCESSORY for import-export. And we will maintain our camper indefinitely for this purpose. But motorized nomadism, in itself, doesn't offer sufficient freedom. So for further liberation we will combine troglodysm and pedestrian nomadism.

As a result of the harassment we are accelerating subterranean development. We will not bypass our Phase I – a den in Southern California for storage and emergency shelter only – and begin work on a home/workshop.

While there is plenty of unoccupied land in Southern California, most of it is rather dry. And hydroelectric power seems desirable for underground living. (Combustion, especially of wood, gives off fumes and requires hauling fuel; solar cells or windmill might be spotted.) We presently favor Northern California or Southeastern Oregon for our home base. British Columbia is a strong second choice.

We have brainstormed and critiqued dozens of different subterranean construction methods. We have rejected the "impregnable fortress" – i.e., any very expensive technologically-elaborate approach. We prefer a relatively simple low-cost facility which can be abandoned if necessary. We believe that increasing equipment beyond a relatively low level will not pay off commensurately in comfort and safety. For one thing, even if a facility is PHYSICALLY undetectable, there is chance of discovery through apprehension and interrogation of people if people come and go. (In Robert Mirvish's novel, THE LAST CAPITALIST, Dmitri moved their cache

any time one of the group failed to return on schedule.) Increasing the group size would reduce per-person cost but would also increase people-related risks.

Some of our ground rules are: Any non-native materials must either be expendable (very low cost) or mobile. All valuable equipment must be backpackable with some disassembly. Any technology we develop must utilize mostly native materials. (While we are willing to import finished products from the Servile Society (our camper, for instance), we don't wish to invest time in developing techniques dependent on materials from that society.)

We have rejected a prefabricated design (mentioned in P-I #8) because of weight and technological dependency. We now envision a tunnel in hard soil or soft rock, dug with hand tools and timbered with cut trees. The entrance will be a vertical shaft.

Since we are giving priority to the troglodytic phase of our future lifestyle, we won't have much to say about pedestrian nomadism for some time. But I don't believe that foot mobility limits one to "primitive" living conditions. The more sophisticated the technology, the less the weight and space required for given facilities. Consider some of the possibilities with lightweight thermal materials, compact batteries, efficient fluorescent lamps, solar cooking stove made out of inexpensive plastic compound lenses, microfilm library, etc.

We will head north about June 5 for scouting, then building. If you are summering in the area I hope we can meet. -TOM

(To readers: Rachael Brooks, RD2 Box 263, Bloomsbury, N.J. 08804, 201-479-6191, has 11 acres, fruit trees, stream, 25-room house needs completing, if people want to stay and build their lives in location. Possibility of their own school. She and her husband are interested in exchanging information on new lifestyles. (We met them at Alternatives in Education conference.)

FREEDOM WAYS FORUM

The following idea for a "school" came out of the conference held in April by New Schools Exchange (2940 Hidden Valley Lane, Santa Barbara, CA 93193): a school needn't occupy specific designated buildings nor even one static geographic location. It could be a loosely knit group of resource people, perhaps scattered miles apart, who were interested in mutual association for teaching/learning. There would be a directory listing people by name, phone, address, areas of knowledge and desired knowledge, tuition fees, and accommodations available for students. The student would live by (or near) his teacher for the duration of the learning period.

If there is something YOU wish to learn or teach, write in to P-I and we will list you!

Roberta of Preform offers elementary course in mushroom identification for those who wish to gather and eat fungi with impunity. One day course free to nomads, others \$10. --ROBERTA

Question to Preform: Will you give me your frank opinion of Paul Marks and his intentional community project in California? (Name Withheld)

Answer: I met Paul and Laura Marks (QUESTERS' PROJECT, 37700 Van Fleet, Cathedral City, CA 92234) about 18 months ago and I was much impressed with their obvious ability and drive.

And their new book (\$4 from above address) is a good info source and commentary on past and present (stationary) intentional communities.

But I don't think that any stationary, publicly-revealed ("legal") community (which is the only kind that The Questers have proposed, to my knowledge) can offer real freedom – effective protection against the institutionalized goons of government, unless the community is either EXTREMELY remote or on an independent country complete with armed defense/retaliation weaponry. A very remote community would not be viable/attractive for most people. And starting an independent country requires not only MUCH capital but a good bit of luck.

Some freedom seekers fail to establish proper priorities. They tend to regard freedom as just one among many desirable attributes of an alternative lifestyle – along with organically-grown food, ample "living space," etc. but, without freedom, ANYTHING else achieved is built on quicksands – vulnerable to predation at any time.

Freedom, along with life itself, must come first. This is not to suggest that freedom is sufficient. But it is absolutely necessary. A serious freedom seeker must decide, first and foremost, that he is going to become free, and be prepared to do anything necessary to achieve freedom. Then, from among the various lifestyles offering freedom, he can select fringe benefits. --TOM

To Preform: Please explain the final page (#16) of your issue #8. Does the viewpoint of these statements reflect your editorial philosophy? I realize I must be missing the point, lack of some sort of sense of humor, etc., but I really don't get it (particularly the last disgusting paragraph).

On the face of it, page 16 looks like the Nietzschean technique: Posit a short statement format to escape the responsibility of reasoned argument and the presentation of evidence in support of one's statements. Hoping I've misunderstood. --JIM, Los Angeles

Replies: Stencils sent to P-I by subscribers are published without editing. The editors do not claim anything reflects their viewpoint unless signed by Tom or Roberta. --ROBERTA

The point you missed: we didn't write it. You may correspond with "Auntie State" c/o Preform, if you wish. --TOM

To Preform: Thank you for your comments on my letter. As a result of my increasing stability, I am becoming less afraid of the state, the people, and the future. I do think that coming changes justify knowledge of neo-nomadic and retreatistic lifestyles by at least SOME libertarians (who can educate and otherwise help others to adapt to their lifestyle should events prove more catastrophic than expected). But a division of labor among libertarians is to be encouraged, both "economically" and intellectually – for understanding the world as a whole as well as establishing an underground market between rational individuals.

While the Establishmentarians and the Antiestablishmentarians are fighting it out, rational individuals should continue trying to live a life based on peaceful, voluntary exchange. And in the event of a collapse of state currency, rather than running to the hills, libertarians might be able to make a propaganda coup and a tidy profit by being ready to initiate alternate media systems on a community basis. I can see no reason why well-fortified, semi-secreted areas should not be contributing agricultural and manufactured goods to the market of libertarians.

Can you enumerate specific freedoms the neo-nomad can achieve that others cannot by means of figurative rural or urban fortresses? --BEN, North America, Nov. 1969

To Ben: Replying to some of your previously-unanswered comments in P-I #6: While I hold that a fully-liberated lifestyle must be able to cope with any likely emergency situation, and that a disaster of one kind or another is very probable sometime within the next 30 years, I don't think that the primary objective of present living is to prepare for a disaster. (For more on this, see El Ray's remarks in Autumn 1969 INNOVATOR.) Most important, I disagree with the present-future dichotomy of retreatists – that they will continue servile living until "conditions get much worse" and then, presumably, move permanently to their log cabins and watch society obligingly collapse – on schedule!

More info on the urban and rural fortresses you propose would be of interest. --TOM, Feb. 1970

To Preform: The urban and rural "fortresses" to which I referred would both be very similar to what the "Burrow-Smiths" mentioned in the Autumn 69 INNOVATOR had. "Fortress" is a word I chose to convey impregnability, though it also implies armamentation, which is not something I had in mind (should I have?). It does seem to me that retreatist if he can make a lot of money has the potential of safeguarding himself to a much greater extent than a neo-nomad. He could afford the tools and the rapid-access aircraft to discover a rock rising NOT QUITE to the surface in the middle of the Pacific which he could hollow out and stock for several years' survival. He could actually spend a lifetime making more and more such fortresses all in very different areas, adapted to different conditions and built for different purposes such as one built for five-year

survival below earth after a nuclear holocaust – the most (only) “permanent” type disaster I would really worry about, others built specifically for remoteness from humanity, etc.

I think that you have misrepresented the retreatist position and are also wrong in your censure of it. The present-future dichotomy is based on the fact that the present is not the future and preparation for a disaster shows foresight. What you apparently object to is the fact that some individuals do not find contemporary society so intolerable that they would want to leave it immediately. (Is this right? – or is it that you demand that preparing for the future and living in the present be all part of the same living process? Why should this be necessary? Is this really the most efficient approach? What if someone gets a kick out of building “fortresses”?)

It does seem to me that your “troglodysm” can very easily result in excessive lifestyle insularity (as you mentioned in P-I #6 in response to my letter). It can very certainly make it difficult to move from one spot on the globe to another as well as secure employment anywhere, etc. But I really think that a “fully liberated” lifestyle as well as a “fully secure” lifestyle are both fictions. Both liberation and security are never complete and, moreover, could probably be continually increased to infinity without being ever fully “air tight”. And I think that to concentrate on one of these two values always sacrifices something of the other (you can’t really concentrate on both). Specifically, I think “multi-fortress retreatism” is a far more SECURE approach, though pedestrian-nomadic/troglodysm is probably more LIBERATED (from authorities, at any rate, the maximum liberation of time still being moot).

I must admit (and I expect that you will find it heretical to say so) that in the last couple of years I have developed an increased capacity to tolerate authoritarians. I don’t equate this with increased servility, but rather mean that I can listen to an authoritarian, interpret his commands, and decide whether to respond to them on the basis of my self-interest, without feeling my ego as deeply participating in the experience and therefore without the violently and obstreperously irrational rebellious passions which all commands elicited from me three years ago. Admittedly, I seek maximum independence (without sacrificing maximum efficacy), but being able to respond rationally to an authoritarian can minimize trouble and leave you more free to move in or out of society than if you could not so respond. If I had not developed this ability I would now be in jail. I AM very interested in liberating as much of my time as possible from dealings with authorities (so-called) as well as occupation with biological requirements (repetitive and uninteresting). Your conception of self-liberation tends to decrease the former only by increasing the latter, I fear. – BEN, Feb. 1970

To Ben: I strongly disagree that retreatism offers more security. Most “multi-fortresses” never get out of the dreaming stage – BECAUSE of the present-future dichotomy implicit in retreatism: somehow most retreatists never have enough money and time left over from “living it up” in the present. But, assuming a retreatist does carry through and build his fortress, he still faces the prospects of long-distance travel under hazardous conditions. And he will be making a formidable change in living conditions precisely when there is no time for learning and little margin for errors. And, if instead of an apocalypse there is only a slow deterioration, he will probably never bring himself to abandon his familiar pastimes.; most likely he will only complain, as usual, and “adjust.”

But I can’t be very down on retreatism: some retreatists graduate to self-liberation. (For several years before opting out, I carried food supplies around in the trunk of my car, explored retreat areas, etc. What finally prompted my move was not “society” getting worse, but my own head getting better – disentangled from status and Statist games, plus more and better ideas on how to liberate myself.)

Once your hypothetical super-retreatist has a fortress or two, is it rational for him to keep living in some city apartment, earning still more money to build still more vacant fortresses? For the cost of several years of “middle class” games he can equip a fortress with almost every facility and comfort he (and his harem?) could want: machine shop; liquid-nitrogen-temperature deep freeze; book-record-film library; secret communication links to other fortresses and urban contacts, etc.

The person who expects to do nothing until there is an emergency, on the supposition that he can THEN get help from self-liberators (or the few prepared retreatists) had best have something to trade – besides bullshit!

We spend less time (and money equivalent) on “repetitive and uninteresting biological requirements” (preparing food, cleaning shelter, etc.) than do “conventional” dwellers; more time on some items but less overall. But genuine biological necessities don’t consume much time anyhow. The big drains in the Servile Society are the status games: biological luxuries which become psychological (and often political) necessities. (Even most traditional “primitive” people spend more time on status games than biological necessities – often with fatal results.)

While it might seem that one could live “conventionally” and yet avoid status games, this is seldom possible – the games are too interwoven with “conventional” society. Even if one is not incarcerated for “peculiar behavior,” or fired from job after job for “anti-social attitudes,” he incurs crushing psychological burdens – spending most of his life in contact with people and media hostile to his values. A degree of physical separation seems to be essential for liberation.

Certainly it may be wise play sheep on occasion. But those not of sheep mentality will be freer, healthier, and happier in a lifestyle where such occasions are few and far between. –TOM, March 1970

THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE ARE FREE

Free Yourself of Dust: If you happen to forget to ensure positive pressure in your camper or trailer and are covered with dirt inside just use the COMPRESSED AIR hose at the next gas station. Open all doors and windows so that the dust goes OUT! (“Dust” off the outside while you’re at it too and any hard to get at places like under the burners on the range.)

Horsetail and other plants with silica make handy abrasive scouring “pads” (and they don’t stick in your fingers like steel wool!).

Fractionalize cooking time and therefore save on fuel – by overnight soaking of grains (wheat, rice, etc.) and pulses (lentils, beans, peas).

Free for the Making: Here are some uses for discarded rubber inner-tubes (obtainable free in your neighborhood gas station’s trash:)

Holster – I used a paper punch to make holes and a thin strip of rubber for lace.

Shock cords – I fashioned hooks from old hangers (double thickness) to which I attached a stout rubber band out from inner-tube. I use a few of these cords to hold my bicycle in its place on the camper.

Binocular/camera “keeper” – A length of thin rubber band around my chest and over my binoculars keeps them from banging to and fro. Works for cameras too – or carry them conveniently in a G.I. canteen case on your belt.

Drawstring “keepers” – On sweat pants, hooded sweat shirts, and sleeping bags, the drawstring’s tendency to get lost by retreating into its hem can be overcome by fastening a small square of rubber inner-tube on the end of the drawstring. (The rubber seems to stand up fine to hot detergent washings.)

Door mats – Assorted rubber bands – You can make them any length by cutting a narrow rectangle to the desired size and then just making a slit lengthwise, within the rectangle. Punching a round hole at each end of the slit will prevent its tearing.

Washers and gaskets – Cut out whatever shape/size you need.

“Rope” – Cut long, stout pieces of inner-tube and keep handy for tying thins down.

– ROBERTA

ON GIFT ECONOMY: Past efforts have mostly been premised on either altruism (private charities) or institutionalized violence (government “welfare” programs). And the results have been, by and large, rather dismal – involving humiliation or worse. The basic error, I think, has been failing to recognize that one will VOLUNTARILY part with SOMETHING HE VALUES only in trade – material and/or psychic. Material good require production of some kind. Trade for intangibles can work okay among family or close friends. But among strangers, it tends toward humiliation and fraud (begging, etc.).

BUT, everyday people voluntarily part with millions of tons of things they don’t want. And much of this usable by others. For necessities not easy to find in the trash, I see no problem with production/trade. –TOM (from letter to Mohandas)

ON LIBERTARIAN REALISM – SOME EDITORIAL COMMENTS

In past issues of P-I, I recommended the Society for Individual Liberty (formerly Society for Rational Individualism) as a non-dogmatic educational organization and good source for libertarian literature. Regretfully, I must now withdraw this recommendation. Their publication, THE INDIVIDUALIST, has apparently undergone a change of management and is now almost exclusively pre-occupied with collective movement nonsense. They strangely (intentionally?) garbled our ad in their Feb. issue and omitted it entirely from their March-April issue. (We had ordered and prepaid for a series of four.) We have received no response to a letter of complaint sent over six weeks ago. Perhaps symbolically, S.I.L. has dropped the word “rational” from the titles of both organization and magazine.

Likewise, INNOVATOR, also previously recommended, has apparently gone over to collective-movementism, with a change of management and name. However, EFFICACY at least publishes ads as written. And they sell INNOVATOR back issues which I recommend (from EFFICACY, Box 34718, Los Angeles, CA 90034).

For those not acquainted with it, collective-movementism (also called “utopianism” & “bullshit libertarianism”) comes in many styles. There are the “educationalists” who think freedom will be achieved by just talking about it, the “politicians” busily campaigning for tweedle dee as the lesser evil to that terrible tweedle dum, & the “revolutionists” who want to play cops-and-robbers with the Establishment (or, more usually, TALK about doing it). Some dream of a utopia of “limited govt” capitalism, some anarcho-capitalism, & some anarcho-communism. But no matter how great their surface differences or how bitterly they feud among themselves, they share the same fundamental fallacies.

The basic premise of the collective-movementists is, in essence: no one can be free unless/until everyone is free. From this authoritarian assumption comes what there is of their strategy: to change society as a whole – to achieve freedom thru altruistic crusades and provide it for all as a free gift.

Such strategy goes contrary not only to historical experience but (in the case of the “individualists”) to their economic theory & social ideals as well. (The anarcho-communists are at least consistent in their mistake.) The collective-movementists propose to produce & maintain freedom by means proven ineffective for the large-scale production of anything of value – failing to recognize that incentives/benefits must be individualizable. They embrace a dichotomy between means & ends failing to recognize that, in social movements, the means employed will determine the ends (if any) achieved.

The collective-movementists are invariably utopianists – dreaming not of INDIVIDUAL freedom for those willing to expend the effort to achieve & maintain it, but of a “free society” wherein millions of people behave as the dreamer thinks they should. Such a view is implicitly authoritarian – perhaps another reason why the best-intentioned political crusades have brought forth only more tyranny & destruction. Consider the results of the Russian revolution, & of the many “social reform” movements in the US of 50 yrs ago.

Collective-movementism, in all its bizarre variations, is too flagrantly irrational to be explained just as an error in philosophy. The cause must be sought in psychology – for this I highly recommend Eric Hoffer’s THE TRUE BELIEVER.

Not surprisingly, most collective-movementists fail to achieve even their own personal ends. Most “mass movement” advocates end up as feuding little sects. Most “educationalists” talk only to themselves in their little magazines, books & conferences; their utterances so dogmatic & unrelated to reality as to repel most people.

As an alternative to collective movementism/utopianism, I advocate what I call libertarian realism, the application phase of which is self-liberation. I believe that freedom can be achieved by individuals/small groups regardless of how others choose to live. I intend to demonstrate this not thru verbal manipulations but by becoming more and more free. But words may suffice to clear up some misconceptions regarding libertarian realism:

In rejecting collective-movementism the libertarian realist does not shun association with others. Rather he recognizes that friendship & love can be the coin of trade among close, compatible personal acquaintances.

In rejecting utopianism the libertarian realist does not discard his ideals. Rather, he rejects trying to impose HIS ideals on others; he actualizes them in his own life.

In rejecting “educationism” the libertarian realist does not oppose education. Rather, he rejects the notion that most of the population can be propagandized into values & world views which clash with their living patterns. He recognizes that education-in-freedom & self-liberation must proceed hand-in-hand.

In rejecting crusades the libertarian realist does not neglect selling. Rather he refuses to try to sell an empty bag – which is not selling but preaching. He recognizes that he can SELL freedom to rational people as he is able to DELIVER it. (How many automobiles would be sold by someone who claimed his design would run 30 miles on a pound of sage brush & a quart of water, but who could not make his 1st delivery until 50 yrs after he had received 20 million pre-paid orders – with the automobile then to be given to everyone, whether they had paid for it or not?)

In rejecting “revolution” the libertarian realist does not necessarily shun active resistance. Rather he rejects attempts to destroy the State per se. He uses force only to repel or deter attack upon a freedomite client. (A private protection service does not attempt to eradicate stealing as a mode of behavior; rather it prevents or discourages burglars from molesting its customers.)

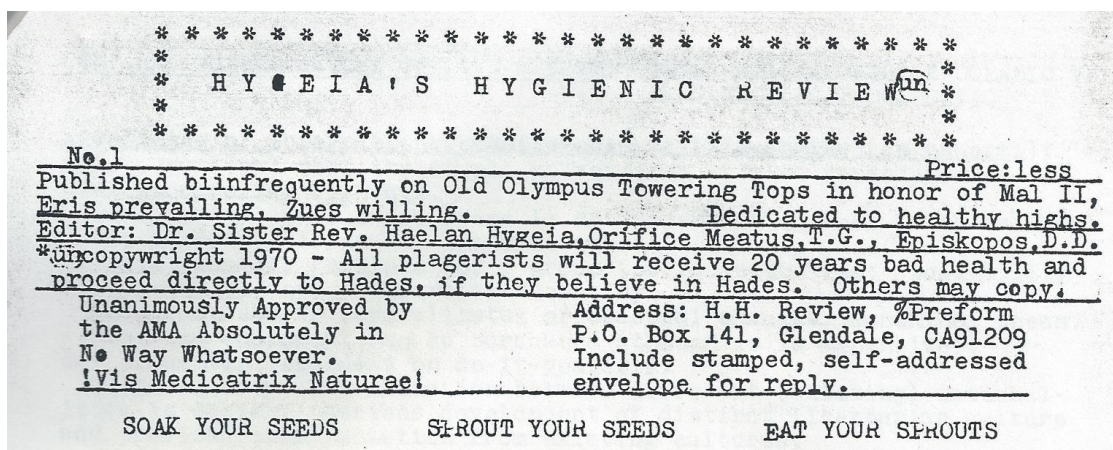
In rejecting “social change movements” the libertarian realist does not deny the possibility of social progress. Rather, he recognizes that social change comes only as the summation of individual changes.

In rejecting utopian speculation the libertarian realist does not neglect theory. Rather, he recognizes that theory must relate to practice, otherwise it becomes mysticism.

In the past, freedomites have respected the bullshit libertarians, looking upon them as fellow rational-libertarians who were specializing in theory or education instead of applications. We have even conceded to them the theoretical realm; considering ourselves to be applying their theories. And we have supported them by purchasing and publicizing their writings. Now is a time for a re-appraisal. I suggest they do not deserve our respect and support. Their “educating” rarely educates; their “theories” rarely relate to reality. (And they don’t respect or support us. They call us, not appliers of their theories, but “escapists” and “cop-outs.”)

Many of the newer or younger people caught up in collective-movementism will recognize and correct their errors; with them, some contact can be of value. But most of the older “leaders” have vested interests in irrationality. They encourage dogmatism and do their best to keep their followers ignorant of self-liberation possibilities. As Kerry Thornley has suggested, we should leave them to the devil (state) and each other.

I would like to see a REAL rational-libertarian organization – for theory and education – offering a full range of intellectual services – to fill what is presently a serious vacuum. (More on this subject in the next issue; send in your comments and suggestions.) –TOM



Nutrients increase when seeds sprout – Vitamins such as C, B, and E show gains from 10 to 2000%! – Free health builders for the sprouting. Anyone can garden poison (and dirt)-free in the comfort of his own home.

*To sprout, use 1 quart wide mouth Mason jars. The screw-on rim will hold a piece of nylon hose or a screen cut to size. (Don't wait for a Mason jar: any old jar will do! Secure the stocking with a rubber band.) Put 3 tsp. Alfalfa or about 5 tbsp lentils or wheat in a jar. Affix nylon. Pout in water and swish seeds around to wash. Drain off wash water and fill jar ½ full with water. Soak 12-24 hours. Then pour off soak water (drink it or put it in soup cause it's vitamin-mineral packed!) and rinse seeds with fresh water. Drain. Place sprout jar on its side and watch the groovy growth! Rinse 2-3 or more times daily throughout growing period. The warmer the climate, the more important are frequent rinsings.

*All parts of sprouts are edible. Sprouts will keep for 7 days in your fridge if initially chilled at 35°F for 18-24 hours; otherwise, 2-4 days.

*Put sprouts in salads, sandwiches, open mouths. Yum, yum. Kids enjoy snacking on them – in fact, they can tend their very own sprout farm!

*Because heat and water of cooking diminish enzymes, vitamins, and mineral potency, sprouts offer their highest nutritional bounty if uncooked.

*For the highest high of all try AL-FAL-FA (Father of all Foods). (Arabs who ate it centuries past could spring 29' into the air!) Sprout it anywhere from 4-7 days – however you like it best. Experiment! (65¢ a pound is the best price I've seen – last summer at Ross Vital Foods in Portland, Oregon, though it's been at least twice that when priced elsewhere.)

*For beginning, try lentils – They're obtainable inexpensively at most any grocery and sprout easily. Sprout 2-4-6 days, whichever gets you highest.

Wheat is also a hearty sprouter; ready in only a few days (2-3); sprouted longer it develops a taste unpalatable to most people.

*Discordians: More than double your money! Sprout your flax! (Does this mean inflation for the Security Last Intergalactic Bank of Malaclypse?)

SOURCES: Sprouting Kit (seeds & info) advertised in Let's Live magazine from: Living Foods, Box 239, Astor Station, Boston, Mass. 02116. Send donation (postage alone costs them 18¢). Books: a whole chapter on sprouting in Catharyn Elwood's FEEL LIKE A MILLION. Also good is THE HEALTH BUILDER, edited by J.I. Rodale, Emmaus, Penn. (As well as seeds for sprouting, many health food stores carry these two books plus others not found elsewhere.)

INVEST IN HEALTH – SPROUT YOUR SEEDS – IF NOT NOW, WHEN?

Fly the Healthy Highs of Hygeia's Hygienic Review

COMPARATIVE EVALUATION OF LIFESTYLES: INTERNATIONAL-MOBILE/OCEANIC VS. LAND-NOMADIC/TROGLODYTIC

Advantages of international-mobile/oceanic lifestyles (in general):

- *International mobility of all possessions without dependence on state-controlled highways.
- *Transportation of large items is not dependent on fuel (with sailing).
- *Easier waste disposal; can make smoke.
- *Fewer security problems for a group too large to hide; possibility of growing to open, commercial free-city.
- *Better access to warm climates or seasonal changes, sunshine, ocean.
- *Boat and equipment can be purchased (though it is expensive); not presently dependent on do-it-yourself.
- *Cultural cross-fertilization between different (existing) nationalities is easier; hastens development of distinct libertarian culture and provides more isolation from existing cultures.

Advantages of land-nomadic/troglodytic lifestyles (in general):

- *Easier concealment underground and in woods than on ocean; more interior land than seacoast.
- *Lower capital investment and maintenance costs; less to lose; accessible to more people.
- *Easier or more economical access to urban centers is possible.
- *Physical stability (underground); many industrial operations are easier in absence of continual motion.
- *Less danger from natural hazards (storms).
- *Less dependent on industrial technology; easier do-it-yourself.
- *Easier access to trees, wild foods, outdoor recreation.
- *Easier evolution from "conventional" living; steps are not as big.
- *Relatively easier for a small group; easier for a small group to trade with other freedomites.
- *Greater familiarity with territory; one is facing and overcoming coercion where he knows terrain, language, customs – as native rather than as stranger.
- *Better opportunities to deter coercion rather than just run or hide; skills and equipment needed for everyday living are more immediately applicable to retaliation; one is less vulnerable to conventional weaponry – organized military forces.
- *Liberty is based more on physical reality; less on legal interstices which tend to be blocked as they are exploited. One is, to greater degree, increasing freedom rather than merely making fuller use of existing freedom; is less vulnerable to future whims/reactions of statists.

In March 1969, I comparatively "scored" the lifestyles for freedom and survival under various societal conditions:

Societal Conditions: present	probability		score	score
world plus ...	within 20 yrs.	weight	trog/ nomad	ocean/ mobile
No significant change from present	0.2	0.6	45	12
Durable oceanic free-city(s)	0.2	0.1	20	49
Totalitarian government in U.S.	0.2	0.1	16	49
Major disaster(s) (nuclear war)	0.6	0.3	17	29
Totalitarian world government	0.05	0.025	55	14
COMPOSITE SCORES: (weighted averages)			37	26

Of course, each individual or group will weight differently the various comparative advantages and will thus arrive at different overall valuations. Also, before reaching a decision, one should comparatively evaluate a number of SPECIFIC lifestyles. -TOM

COPING WITH DISASTERS OR TOTALITARIANISM: SOME NOTES

If, for freedom and survival, one is dependent on societal conditions, especially laws and their enforcement, remaining as they are, one is not truly free. A liberated lifestyle must be able to survive a major disaster and/or an enduring totalitarian state. In our synthesis and evaluation of possible lifestyles, we have posited the following scenarios:

Disaster: Surprise, all-out nuclear/chemical/biological attacks on major urban-industrial-military areas of U.S. and most other western countries, which is fatal to 90% of U.S. population. (Fatalities include not only casualties in attack but those who die of fallout, starvation, and exposure in the aftermath of war.)

U Totalitarianism: Compulsory carrying of I.D. Compulsory State service for some. Compulsory registration for most employment.

V Totalitarianism: Coercion of U plus: gas rationing; shortage of most supplies and equipment and/or very high prices; compulsory registration and service of most. (England, 1943)

W Totalitarianism: Coercion of V plus: internal travel restrictions; active suppression of dissent; outlawing or severe regulation of many devices and kinds of equipment. (Contemporary U.S.S.R.)

X Totalitarianism: Compulsory, “universal,” fully-automated I.D. system cross-correlated with almost all public activities. I.D. is based on fingerprints and/or eye retina patterns and is not easily counterfeited. One must show I.D. (which is immediately checked by electronic means with central records) to enter freeways, drive past checkpoints on most highways, board public transportation, enter hospital or receive medical care, use public library, enroll in any school, work at any job, or purchase most goods. Currency is outlawed except for small change for use in some vending machines; all credit accounts are integrated with the I.D. system. Most scientific and industrial equipment and supplies can be purchased only with special, difficult to obtain permits; use subject to intense regulation. Consumer devices are sealed and periodically inspected (severe penalties for unauthorized opening) to prevent use for parts. Outlawing of most do-it-yourself building and maintenance (in interests of “safety” and “anti-pollution,” of course). Compulsory State service for everyone not “fully employed” (and paying taxes to satisfaction of State bureaucrats. There may not be formal State seizure/ownership of most businesses but simply more total regulation along present fascistic lines. Compulsory schooling from age two on, with identification and “special treatment” of children considered likely to become “social deviants”; treatment to include removal of children from parental homes considered “inadequate.” While X totalitarianism will be more complete than anything which has existed so far, it may be more sophisticated, include less obvious brutality than Nazi Germany or U.S.S.R. Opt-out may not be especially difficult (the State will be kept busy controlling the sheep) but one must be either totally liberated with very little interaction with the slave society, or totally enslaved; there will be very few usable legal interstices.

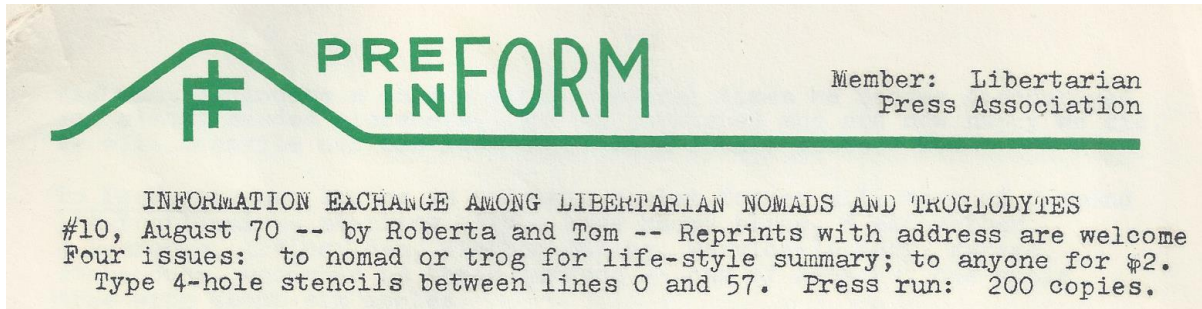
Our present criteria for an adequately-liberated lifestyle:

*Probability of surviving disaster: 95%

*Mean-time to arrest/prosecution under W totalitarianism: 20 years

*Mean-time to loss of most facilities under W total: 50 years

*Can readily evolve (change in small steps) to provide under X totalitarianism: 50 years mean-time to arrest/apprehension and 100 years mean-time to loss of most facilities. –TOM



CHANGE OF ADDRESS NOTICE, effective immediately, for all letters, publications, and listings:
FOR: Preform: also Roberta, Tom, Marshall, Becker
FROM: Box 141, Glendale Calif.; or Box 1172, Oregon.
TO: Box 607, Grants Pass, Oregon 97526.

ADVERTISEMENTS

Live in parallel to rather than subject to the state. MEMON's business is providing means which "facilitate free trade between free men". Want to trade with libertarians in the parallel economy? Contact MEMON BOX 19 TARZANA CALIFORNIA 91356. (Also MEMON'S Brokerage-Clearinghouse provides for example the school described in Freedom Ways Forum P-I #9 and such listings are free in 1970.)

ADVERTISE IN THE FREE MARKET. A new libertarian advertising sheet provides 8 issues per year for only \$1. Present circulation: 350 copies. Ad rates: 40¢ for first line and 25¢ for additional lines. Each line contains a maximum of 75 lower-case characters. Lisa Dawn, P.O. Box 90913 Worldway Postal Center, Los Angeles, CA 90009.

We wish to contact any libertarians living in Siskiyou Region – especially Medford, Ashland, Grants Pass, Cave Junction area. Need not be liberationists but should be open to free market trade, not just discussion. (For example, if we don't find a secure camper squat-spot handy to our den, we would like to rent parking space on secluded private land.) Must be explicitly anti-state-coercion and against The Monster; philosophic fine-points, semantics, lifestyle, hair length, etc., unimportant. Finder's fee: P-I renewal or \$1 for each introduction leading to worthwhile (in our opinion) acquaintance. –ROBERTA or TOM, Preform

SITUATIONS AND SEARCHES

To Readers: We are publishing this thin issue to make known our new address. Some FREEDOM WAYS FORUM letters are being held for the next issue, probably in a couple of months. (We guarantee to publish at least four issues and 68 pages per year.) We apologize to new subscribers for our slow response this summer, due to slow forwarding of mail. (Midas Services, our mail service in Glendale, was gone for a month or so.) With our new address, we will receive mail about every two weeks.

We are still living in our house-car while preparing a campsite plus various stashes and caches. Our camp – and den soon to follow – is in forest, near a rushing sparkling creek, among high and rugged mountains. (On at least one peak, a snowfield has lasted all summer – a natural refrigerator.) It has taken us almost two months of full-time exploring to locate a choice site; several items we became discouraged and almost headed elsewhere. But we persisted and are now happy we did. We will describe our new lifestyle in a future issue. –TOM

To Preform: Now living in Mountain Hamlet former mill town of Diamond International – Sterling City. Have roomy place, 8 altogether, 4 bedrooms, living, den, kitchen-dining, service-laundry, garage, storehouse, woodshed and three gardens – one of flowers, one apple tree with about six apples.

It can serve as a survival liaison rendezvous for [illegible] ourselves. –RUSEL, Gloneo World Center, Box 57, Sterling City, Calif. 95978

To Preform: We have presently stopped traveling for a brief rest in the N.W. Chicago area staying in a house. We would like to extend a welcome to other libertarians through Preform. We would especially like to hear from other young couples with children.

We are also affiliated with people that are getting into urban and rural communes so if this is your trip as well as nomadism we might be able to give you contacts to some of these beautiful people. Please include in letter when and how long. Peace and unity. –PETE, CHERRI, DANA

To Preform: Traveled back east in March – returned first of May. We traveled via “Drive Aways” – company provides car – driver pays for gas and oil. Not recommended for while you get a good car (on this trip we drove a ‘68 Chrysler, ‘68 Ford, ‘70 Ford, and ‘65 Ford), I had to be fingerprinted, photographed, and had to have an ICC Health Card – plus having to put up a \$50 deposit (refundable).

Pack home – put in a small garden – beginning building projects. Will open a shop to sell our crafts to tourists. Working to get this place more productive – while keeping our heads in the right place. We are “settled” but our nomadic past and current lifestyle are such that we can – at a moment’s notice – walk out into the hills with the clothes on our back – and not look back. The only things that keep one immobile is attachment to things immobile. It’s okay to own a power saw, truck, goat, refrigerator – as long as you don’t “need” these but can use them – as soon as you need them – TRAP. Shanti TOM, The Nucoa Ranch, Box 74, Embudo, N.M. 87531.

To Tom: I think it’s only a matter of time until refrigerators and such “hook” one, becoming habits which can be painful to break. ROBERTA

(I am now typing by the light one candle – which is setting, rocking on the typewriter. Psychedelic. On battery is run down. And I don’t want to discharge the spare or run the engine just to get recharged. So you can blame any typos on “primitivism.” –TOM

TINKER TALK

Remarks on Remobilization: Necessity is the mother of invention! Recently, in removing our camper, uphill, out of deep soft dry sand (deceptively covered with a thin veneer of vegetation), I not only used most of the tricks I had heard of, but invented few new (?) ones as well. Here they are – old and new:

On many soils, a vehicle will keep moving once it starts moving. The following will usually start a two-wheel-drive vehicle. First, jack up the rear wheels and restore material under them (if they have dug). Add large rocks or logs under and in front of (if going forward) the rear wheels. Also pile some dirt behind the rear wheels so that objects under them will not easily spin out. Set hand brake. Then jack up the front end, angling the jack forward (if going forward). The jack should be positioned away from the tires and in a hole deep enough for clearance. Drive off the jack.

Let some air out of the tires to increase bearing surface.

Improve weight distribution on two-wheel-drive vehicles by moving heavy objects to rear. An overall lightening will help on deep sand. If you want to be drastic, rig a boom to the back bumper, securing it well with ropes. Suspend heavy objects from the end. Two hundred pounds fastened 20 feet BEHIND the rear bumper will do wonders for weight distribution.

If you are stuck in dry sand, and there is plenty of water close by, wet it to increase cohesion and load-bearing capacity. (Test the sand first; water will turn some slits to goo! And of course, don’t use up drinking water!) Sprinkle well. Let soak in for at least an hour before attempting to move.

A manual winch or block-and-tackle is not very useful unless it alone is capable of moving the vehicle – unaided by the vehicle. (Otherwise the vehicle may move an inch and dig in again.) And most of the inches on the market are optimistically rated. So, if you buy a winch, get rated capacity at least equal to gross weight of the vehicle.

Should you be stuck with an inadequate winch, secure the end of the cable 30 to 40 feet up in a slender, springy tree. Winch in, flexing the tree (careful!). Then drive. The bow action of the tree provides you a continuing pull.

Make your own econo-winch by cutting old inner tubes into strips about two inches wide and tying these together into super-rubber-bands several feet long. Fabricate hooks out of coat hangers or any stiff wire and attach to the bands. Connect and stretch the bands, one by one, until you get the assist needed. (Keep your face out of the way as some may break. And make sure the anchor rope is strong and securely fastened!) Each two-inch strip provides about 50 pounds of pull; 20 of them add up to 1000 pounds. And unlike an (inflexibly anchored) inch, the rubber keeps pulling as the vehicle starts to move.

Another way to improvise a winch is to fasten a strong rope from a bumper to a stout tree – at least 20 feet up. (If tree is weak or flexible, use additional rope to brace it to base of another tree.) Pull it tight and tie. Tie heavy rocks, one-by-one, to the middle of the rope. Like the rubber bands or flexed tree, this provides a continuing pull. –TOM

Radiation Detector – Olson Electronics. (260 S. Forge, Akron, Ohio 44308) is selling (as of June) gamma radiation detectors for \$9.99 each. Units are “Civil Defense” surplus – appear unused – made by Jordan Electronics, Model 710-4 (FCDA item #V-710, model #4). The detector measures gamma radiation from 0.1 to 50 roentgens per hr. (Gamma radiation is the most penetrating – dangerous.) Unit has vacuum tube amplifier – requires warm up – has much zero drift, but appears to be fairly rugged. Operates on batteries (not included) – two D cells plus a 22 ½ volt. I recommend buying at least two for spare parts. Olson order # is X-113. Shipping weight is 3 pounds; shipping is extra.

The way to live longer is to starve occasionally, according to Prof. Vladimir Nikitin, of Kharkov, USSR. He said men can be rejuvenated if they give up food – to the tune of one day long fast a month. He has prolonged the life of rats by starving them periodically – from 2 ½ to 4 ½ years. (From LONDON EXPRESS, Christine Pickard, 1967)

FREEDOM WAYS FORUM

Dear Preform: The PN (pedestrian nomad) in a semi-remote area might use his truck, motorbike, or burros to stock underground shelter-living quarters. Then, he could backpack between these established points plus other points such as good sources of wild foods, hunting and fishing spots, stream and springs, etc. He wouldn't risk being seen too often around one area of the mountains.

What parts of the U.S. have the requirements for a PN existence? Some good choices would be: (1) Mountains on the Northwest Coast (Cascades); (2) Rocky Mountains from Montana and Idaho down into Wyoming and Northern Utah; (3) Appalachian Mountains from Pennsylvania south to Kentucky and Tennessee; (4) Ozarks and some of the smaller mountains in that area (Arkansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma).

Now, let's break some of those areas out for closer inspection. The dry, hot, mountain areas of Southern California, Arizona, and New Mexico would be better for winter; and the higher, cooler areas of the Rockies would be ideal for summer, if the PN was highway mobile. If not, he would probably just migrate to different elevations or stay put and deal with the heat, or cold, by “holing up” during extremes and traveling and foraging when practical. However, climatic “hots” and “colds” are only relative terms since the Rockies have some fairly warm areas in winter and the southwest has some cool areas during summer. Let's just consider that the PN can't readily base his selection of a range on JUST comfort – remoteness from towns and human habitations is essential.

The Appalachians and Ozarks are old, eroded mountains with deep, rich soil and a real abundance of wild plants foods, small animals and in some areas good dinner items for non-vegetarians, i.e., turtles, crawdads, and fish. There are plenty of nut and acorn trees. Good springs and small streams are plentiful. For the year-around PN, the bitter cold spells would come in mid-winter but normally last only for a few days at a time. From about early December

through February would be cold-weather living time. An underground room would be easier to warm than a cabin or other house.

I don't believe there are as many Bludgies in these mountains as there are out west. Except for the Parks and National Forests (these are not too widespread) the mountains are owned by large timber or coal companies, or other private concerns. These private companies typically do not hire watchmen or rangers and even if they did, it would be largely futile. The companies and individuals having "ownership" of these mountains practically never hassle anyone for using "their" forests because they are afraid of being "burned out." So, if the PN stays away from areas where there is a house with someone living on the land, he will be unmolested. The mountain natives don't pry into other people's business. Leave the mountaineer's stills, women, political ideas, and hound dogs alone, and he will leave you alone. He is suspicious of strangers – true, but will steer clear of them if given a chance. Also, some of the "ridge runners" are themselves living marginal-subsistence lives and might tend to identify with a PN after they got to know him.

The Rocky Mountains are more hostile (in climate), sterile, and physically challenging than the Appalachians. A PN trained and self-educated in survival and subsistence living could live here, easily through late spring until late fall. Winter would be harder, but believe the right man, or gal, could do it. The Rockies are thought to be sort of sterile but if you go up into the watered canyons or high elevation, you'll find lush vegetation, much of it edible, even algae grows in some of the more sluggish spring branches. Also, at high elevation, up around 9000 feet, there is about 50 inches of precipitation per year (usually comes as snow during winter). Up there among the aspen, the lush forbs grow waist high and in some places it takes on the appearance of a jungle. Along the rocky faces of cliffs, you can find "dribble" springs that are safe for drinking. Many canyons have small streams for cooking and washing water. Of course, this general area is tops for big game and there are plenty of small edible critters such as rock squirrels and marmots that can be taken with deadfall or snare. There is an acceptably wide variety of greens, roots, berries, and shoots that are edible.

I have no firsthand knowledge of the Cascades but imagine they are a lush, wetter version of the interior Rockies.

I see the relatively dry mountains of Southern California, Arizona, and New Mexico as suitable wintering grounds except for the fact that parts of these areas, like Colorado, Nevada, and Utah, are much too near the "target and killer zones" that contain nuclear factories, C-B warfare dumps, and possible targets in an all-out war. Since, by the very nature of his life, a PN can live about as well one place as another, he might as well figure "catastrophe survival" into his plans and live as far away as possible from such places as described. Of course, the southwest does have some areas somewhat removed from such risks. And these "dry areas" are not as sterile as one might think. While archery deer hunting in the foothills and mountains of Southern California I have also come upon small springs tucked in at the head of a canyon. Also, there is a richer plant and small-animal life than one would gather at first glance.

The back country areas of the U.S. are freer of people (permanent residents) than at any time in the past 150 years. Back then, all kinds of hoss-wranglers, gold-seeking vermin, and settlers were cluttering up the mountains. Today, the forest ranger and tourists invade some of the more accessible areas but the back country is more or less free of people, if you stay clear of hot spots such as recreation lakes and streams accessible by road. –ADAM, Western States

To Adam: Thank you for your report/suggestions. Interesting how similar our thoughts are in many ways. We, too, have noted the depopulation of the back country. Some of our squat-spots are old farms/homesteads, abandoned 10 to 60 years. However I partly disagree with you on location.

For liberators remaining in North America (north of the horse latitudes), I recommend only regions within a few hundred miles of the Pacific Coast. Advantages include: west and generally upwind of nuclear fallout from targets elsewhere; much wilderness with great diversity of terrain, climate, and vegetation (more diversity than in the Rockies or Appalachians I think, though I don't have much experience in those areas); better access to large cities than comparable wilderness areas elsewhere; proximity to the largest centers of libertarians activity (Los Angeles and Frisco-Berkeley).

CLIMATE: Mountain valley in Transverse Range between Southern California and San Joachin Valley. Elevation: 5,000 feet; nearby mountains to 7,000 feet. Recommend March through November. Air distance to closest possible nuclear target: 60 miles.

WATER: one mile west of spot at business establishments in Lake of the Woods. Or two miles east of spot at country park in Frazier Park (no hassle getting in – spigots in restrooms.)

CAPACITY: Dozen or more campers.

WILDLIFE: Reputed to be rattlesnakes at spot. On Tecuya Mountain area above site (steep 2,000-foot climb on trail passable by motor bike or jeep; alternate, better trail leaves Cuddy Valley Road one mile west of Lake of the Woods) are pinyon nuts in late Autumn, miner's lettuce in Spring, deer now and then, and squirrels the year-around.

GENERAL: Squat-spot appears to be an old quarry, not operating, not posted. There are half a dozen different parking levels – terraced tailing dumps – which provide concealment not only from the roadway but from each other. Occasionally, mostly on weekends, motor bikers explore the quarry or climb the mountain trail above. And pickups com to forage leftover gravel. Vehicles on road can be heard. Otherwise we were not disturbed during three-weeks-total of squatting on various occasions. There are shade trees on mountain-side above spot but not in quarry itself. Quarry has sunny southern exposure.

Spot is useful as stop-over or meeting place for people scouting the Mt. Pinos area. I do not recommend it for long stays.

DIRECTIONS: Lebec (reference town) is on Highway 5-99, about halfway between Los Angeles and Bakersfield. Take turn-off to Frazier Park and Mt. Pinos, about one mile north of the Tejon Pass Summit. Go west on Frazier Mountain Road about 6 miles, through Frazier Park (before reaching Lake of the Woods), see large pile of white rock to right (north) of road about 100 yards from road. There are two turn-offs to right, about 100 yards apart. Take second one. (The first one is blocked part way.) The various parking levels are to the right (east) of trail, within a few hundred yards of road. All roads (until turnoff to quarry) are paved.

RECOMMENDED BY: Tom

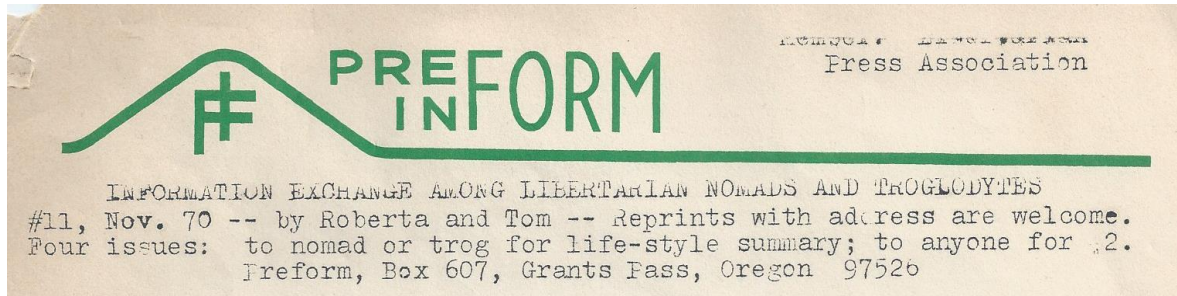
DATE LAST VISITED: May 1970

Assumed characteristics of a day-stay squat-spot, unless otherwise said:

*No registration, fee payment, or permission is required for use. If on "government land," any such regulations cannot be readily enforced. If privately owned, the area is not fenced off (with locked gate) or posted against trespassing.

*On the average, the spot is not visited by more than one "outsider" per week. Camper-trucks parked there are not visible from any permanent habitation nor from any trail traveled more frequently than once a week. (The above spot is marginal in concealment.)

*During recommended seasons, the spot can be easily reached by an average automobile from the outskirts of the city (or other reference location) in an hour or less.



ADVERTISEMENTS

We seek reliable mail forwarding and order processing service; preferably on W. Coast, preferably outside large cities (targets). Roberta or Tom, Preform.

CURL-LES PEACH NURSERY. Trees virtually immune to peach leaf-curl. J.R. Roaf, Rt. 1, Box 340-A, Clatskanie, Oregon 97016.

Join Student Libertarian Action Movement and subscribe to THE MATCH, an anarchist monthly. \$2.50 membership due includes subscription to THE MATCH, S.L.A.M., Box 3684, Tucson, Arizona 87520. (Also see letter in this issue.)

SITUATIONS AND SEARCHES

To Preform:

Emigrated here from the states. We're living on a small, private island, growing organic food and berries and some meat – deer, pig, chickens, lambs – also fish and scallops which Ed dives for. No ferry or boat service, telephone. Have a light plant operated by gasoline but don't use it much. Share expenses with another group here. Have an Ashley for heat and hot water – it uses wood and lots of that here drifting in.

Not planning to teach anymore in “free schools” – they also condition kids to accept fantasy – what the world calls REALITY. (All the corrupt institutions – family, school, government, etc.). We're ALERT to SEEING WHAT IS and being in the NOW – not mind-tripping or fantasizing the past or future. There is only feeling – which our mind labels love, depression, guilt, jealousy – all bullshit. A quiet mind is alert and doesn't get sucked in. Dependencies are all the same and keep us from experiencing and feeling. Even saying “I think” is bullshit – “I” and “thought” are both images of our mind. Feeling brings its own action. The feeling can also be described as the “total flow” – not resisting – letting the mind images go. “Fear” keeps us from being. Communities, marriages, etc. fail because the individuals can be alone, independent – thus not capable of total feeling or love – only THINKING they do. To fuck in the NOW – with total feelings is out of sight – no tripping past experiences or having the fuck fit an image –also not labeling it, comparing it, and filing it away for future reference to juice on later. We push the CONCEPT of I to the child in the crib – then it goes on to “my toys,” “my mother,” etc. You can “feel” toward a tree, a child, a man, a woman – makes no difference – all the same. Feeling IS. Not I feel.

Anyway, if you know anyone interested in a trailer-truck all set up and in top working condition, let us know. The trailer is a 1968 Holiday – top U.S. trailer – 29 feet long – 20 gal. sewage holding tank, 30 gal. water and 6 gal. hot water. Stove and refrigerator butane but refrigerator can also operate on electricity. Lights – either battery or electricity. Butane forced air heater. Shower-bath combination. Twin beds in back with upper bunk. Living room and kitchen in front with couch which folds out to a bed. It was ample big for our family of four to live and travel all over U.S. and Canada in. Tandem axle. 20' awning. Easy lift. Sway bay. The truck is an International 1965, stick with 4 gears – electric brakes – all set up. Great condition. 10 miles per gallon pulling. Have it parked in Vancouver. Can sell it here LOCALLY in a year for a lot more

money. So it doesn't matter. Nice to have money now, but could wait. We would sell both for \$5500. Sincerely –GRACE PASCHALL, Box 45, Nanaimo, British Columbia.

To Grace: That's a lot of food for thought (feeling?). You say dependencies keep us from experiencing and feeling. Yet you go on to say marriages, etc. fail because the individuals can be Independent, alone. What do you mean? And how can there not be an "I"? If "I" am not writing this, who is? I'm not trying to pick apart what you said, nor do I care to win a point, only grasp what you feel. –ROBERTA

To Preform: I am going to try a nomadic form of lifestyle generally basing myself in the Southern California region.

I am in the process of acquiring a van (base), motorbike (for traveling other than base changes), and other furnishings that I view are required for the "shock" period in changing lifestyles. –KENNETH near Los Angeles.

To Preform: Please send us information concerning Libertarian nomads. We can offer refuge with no questions asked and no phony motives. –Mr. and Mrs. Dave Harris, 507 Third Ave., Seattle, Washington 98104.

To Preform: We live in a car, Michelle and I. I'm not very good at little descriptions, but I can offer some other stuff:

The Earth Home Illustrated in the sketch, based on the principle: minimum house, maximum earth = home.

Some film studies of mobile homes, sketches, etc., include a Ford Super Van I fitted out in K.Y., the Zomeworks bus, a tinker's pickup truck house, and related works like barges, etc.

The earth home is in the most preliminary stages. The projected earth home will include cybernetics, communication, and other electronic joys. It will maintain a microfilm library and expendable spaces for workshop, etc.

At present, we are gathering energy and resources to build it. Ideally it will run on sun-energy, but so far, all reports are that this is impractical.

There are important philosophical questions in living as part of society in direct contact with the earth, and I look forward to an exchange of ideas with you all.

I'm also interested in the Hobo convention sometime in August somewhere in Montana. Do you know at all about this?

Love, with peace and space – JON near San Francisco.

To Jon: Negative on knowledge of Hobo Convention. Maybe some reader knows. ROBERTA. We will publish Earth Home sketch if/when P-I goes to photo-offset. TOM

To Preform: MEMON recommend you to me. I have two, as yet uncultured children; ages 6 and 7 who are supposed to be in school...shh. I've managed to teach them at home for a full school year but the neighbors have threatened to call "the authorities" if they don't go this September. I'm in a hell of a rush. Please reply soon.

Primarily, what I want for this is a fairly rational environment where they can be FREE to grow into qua man-beings. The only means to this may be through a rational school. Flint School seems to be ideal, however, as a divorcee, I can't afford it. So – do you know of a good – meaning for life – school? I'm willing to move anywhere in the country, so location is no problem.

Is it possible that there is an oasis of Libertarians where they can find rational peers? That would be ideal – to have playmates who have a benevolent universe premise and who know what property rights are. Sincerely, FRANCIS near Hartford, Conn.

To Francis: Sorry for the long delay – we had some mail forwarding trouble. You may be interested in the New Schools Exchange, 2840 Hidden Valley Lane, Santa Barbara, CA 93013. They have a list of experimental non-state schools.

However, to my knowledge, there is no school in existence which can provide an education for freedom. If one wants free children, one must live free. –ROBERTA

To Preform: Here's the information concerning the Apprenticeship Program now offered through the pages of Travelers' Directory.

The plan is based on the mutually beneficial one-to-one relationship between the apprentice and his teacher, an arrangement in practice for centuries before modern institutions formalized education for more efficient and uniform instruction of the masses.

Generally, the male or female student seeking either to learn a specific craft or to get a general education for more efficient and uniform instruction of the masses.

Generally, the male or female student seeking either to learn a specific craft or to get a general education moves into the home of an individual or a family able to teach him what he wants to learn. Transportation to the home and other incidental expenses are covered by the family he's living with. In exchange, the student helps with voluntary work around the house or business. When he's learned all he can there, the student simply moves on to another home to further his education, and the teacher accepts another student into his home.

Because so informal a program might seem too unstructured to be recognized by state Boards of Education, Travelers' Directory has made arrangements with a fully-accredited school in California. Upon filling in the school's Apprenticeship Program application, the student gets full credit for all time spent getting his education in private homes instead of in formal schools. If the student submits two short reports per year and his mentor submits one per year, the school will grant a regular high school diploma when the student reaches the age of 17.

I you wish to be an apprentice, list the subjects you'd like to learn, and your preferences – if any – on whom you'd like to learn them from or where you'd like to live. If you wish to take an apprentice into your home, list what you can teach and your own preferences. (T.D. listings are \$3 per directory. Write Travelers' Directory, 51-02 39th Ave., Woodside, NY 11377 or phone 212-355-9273.)

To Preform: We are building a small floating community (on old passenger ferry) as a core facility for the planning of a town. We are interested in finding out about as many other similar projects as we can in order that we might share our experiences. –SALET KELLY, Concordia Ferry, 2223 N. Northlake Way, Seattle, WA 98103, 2ME2-8618.

To Preform: Yes, I want to learn how to take to the woods, etc. Not sure my lifestyle description is of any use to you. 32 year old PhD who trucks his water in from the country, lives for the summers to escape to 40 acres on Cape Preton Island, Nova Scotia and won't keep up the duality much longer. –DOUG, near Pittsburgh, Penn.

To Preform: The sample you published in LIBERTARIAN CONNECTION #11 has had a tremendous effect on my life: I had given serious thought to nomadism before; now I'm PLANNING to go nomadic by June 1, hoarding money fanatically, etc. One plan I wish to learn more about and do my part to actualize, is the nomadic community plan which you call VILLA VIA; I am also attracted to the one named Craig's idea of a "parallel free economy" which also relies on associations.

The only people with whom I care to associate are libertarians, and the only region of high "libertarian density" of which I know is the West Coast, which means that the only people with whom it will be profitable to keep in touch are Californians.

I am fairly well "trapped" here in Minneapolis until at least next spring for the lack of capital.

I imagine the difficulties presented to the organizers of a community of nomads who plan to engage in free trade (illegal in the U.S.A. depend to a great upon the area in which they locate (government land reserve, county land, unidentifiable land, etc.; size of local pig force; type of local residents (are there any local folks who ever turn out to be sympathetic to you??)). I am at a loss to determine, with no previous experience, what sort of trade one could engage in – do you buy wholesale goods, retailing them to one another? Do you attempt to influence the wholesalers to join the black market, and thus widen the circle of your influence, thereby potentially

radicalizing a larger segment of the population than you can do through exclusive publishing of literature? I know that Craig plans to provide sub-contracting assembly work, as well as trucking and delivery work. This involves interacting with the status quo, unfree market. While this is okay for short-range survival on the order of 3 to 5 years, I foresee some very bad times for this nation, although I am sure Mr. Nixon doesn't agree with me. Thus, exclusive reliance upon the mixed economy is almost certainly a hazardous course of action, and the only alternative to such reliance, IF one intends to maintain a 20th century standard of living, is to attempt to persuade widening circles of dealers in the mixed market to deal illegally, keeping two sets of books and in any way possible muddying the waters for the snoops, so that when hard times come, the black marketeers are left relatively well-off. Incidentally, this includes the risky practice of scabbism, the bypassing of collectivist-bargaining with the unions.

Have you considered the possibility that the automobile may be illegal by 1975? At least internal combustion engines will be put to death, and the IC auto will be replaced by a less efficient, far more expensive replacement auto, or else the State-operated mass transit systems (which will put people right where the statists want him – in their hands).

From the standpoint of nomadism, one is better off in the case of government over-extension combined with rampant incompetence and irrationality, since while the people are scurrying about trying to escape from a burning subway or from the latest epidemic or from the poisons tearing at their lungs or from a famine, one can enjoy some peace a few hundreds of miles from it all. This is not the case in a super-well-organized police welfare state, if such a thing is imaginable. Laissez-faire, ORION, near Minneapolis.

To Preform: I am a retired 60-year-old bachelor living here on 40 acres and have it real good only it gets lonesome with only a dog for a companion. So am thinking about the camper life. I like the east in the summer and the west in the winter. –JOHN IV near Lacrosse, Wisconsin.

To Preform: I'm presently preparing to retire – first from U.C. then from our stupid society. So any info regarding nomadism is gratefully received. –CARL near Berkeley.

To Preform: My wife and I have thought about homesteading as an alternate lifestyle for the last year. I have been one of the "Readers" (GR, VSC, CG, Innovator, etc.) The ideals in these have opened up many new areas for me. We find we frequent garage sales – recently taxed in our state – purchase much of our food direct from the farmers, drive older (lower taxed) cars, and try to be more self-sufficient than before.

I have been highly impressed by Innovator, and more and more, day by day, the idea of a homestead becomes less ideal. The taxes and hassle are unbelievable, we hope to after the first of the year sell out my one-year-old practice and become a mobile based family.

Presently, I am looking at Rolled Vans. I would like to duplicate the idea of Fords; the small Econoline with the rear portion as an enlarged camper. Do you know of anyone who has hacked off the rear portion of a van and welded up a framework, with the idea of covering it with a plywood skin? The unit-body construction on most vans worries me. It was suggested at the junkyard it might be wiser to start with the small van-style pick-up, since they have a stronger frame. We want something large enough to accommodate two adults and our two-year-old daughter.

We hope to come up with a plan to utilize my skills as a Chiropractor, maybe as some type of consulting service with other Chiropractors. We hope to more or less migrate with the weather.

I can see where being a nomadic type family it would be advisable to shave the long hair, dress straight (even tourist-like) and maybe even hang a "Support Your Local Police" bumper sticker. To me, real freedom is more important than clothing or hair.

Tax-wise what is the better state to register your camper in? –RALEIGH AND ELIZABETH, Kansas.

To Raleigh and Elizabeth: We haven't found out about the best state for registration yet. "Support Protective Agencies" stickers are for sale: 2¢ each plus stamped, self-addressed envelope from Lisa Dawn, Box 9013 Worldway Postal Center, Los Angeles, CA 90009. ROBERTA.

“Real freedom” to me is invulnerability to those who might attempt to coerce me. To the extent I achieve real freedom I need not be concerned with hair or clothing. Deception is tolerable on occasion I think, but not day in and day out. See article by EL RAY in this issue. –TOM

To Preform: I’ve done manual labor most of my life. Still semi-active – now 67. Retired 3 years now, then two years in the firewood business with brother-in-law. Now just take care of 14 acres. Still chop wood, haul fertilizer, prune trees, etc. 19 7eras here but we wanted to leave for 15 years. Jet planes, smog, and too sandy and dry here. Just be a better place. Am interested in the kind of people who read and write in G.R. My interest now: a job like caretakers watchman, or yardman so I can get a second-hand camper or bus. –WALT near Ontario, California.

To Preform: I’ve been traveling for the last three months on my bicycle (Peugeot U08) from Maine to here. I plan on making it back to Maine by way of Key West, Atlanta, Ft. Wayne, Chicago, Denver, Taos, Los Angeles, Seattle, Vancouver, Quebec, and Halifax. Hope to make it by August 1971. –CHARLES at Daytona Beach.

To Preform: NAMASTE. The Hermitage completed – a 7x4 foot cave in the side of an arroya – a retreat – a vehicle for a nomad on the inner journey. The tiny garden faring well in the N.M. sun – a lot of mistakes by a city boy – growing. Opened a Crafts shop for the tourists – local outlet for local craftsmen, etc. Operating it in typical New Mexican fashion – opened one day last week, a few hours this week. Adding a loom to the present structure. Looks like we are staying in one spot for awhile – hope to provide a way station of sorts for the spiritual nomad – craft outlet, library, temple, hermitage – a zoo? Besides, the Cosmic whatever ain’t running right now – needs water pump, headlight, windshield wiper motor, king pins, rear brakes, tires, and the rods adjusted – a few of the hazards of mechanized mobility!

We are expecting our third “tripper” around the first of December. We have a boy’s name picked out but nothing for a girl. Any suggestions?

The room that we are adding on to the house is an experiment in terror = I have never built so much as a bird house before – so far we’ve got the foundation and about 1 ½ feet of wall up (rock and cement) – the rest of it will be of adobe brick, which we are making here. Learning. Having a ball.

Experiments – “mini-grow hole” dug out of the side of an arroya – sort of a greenhouse but very hidden from view in 3 ½ directions (you can see it from the top when you are almost on top of it.) Faces the south for maximum sun – three walls and floor are of earth and may be used as growing soil – compost on floor provides heat and plant food. Walls absorb heat and act as natural insulation using a grow-lux bulb for subterranean plant growing. Disadvantages are the need for electricity. Advantages – growing crops all year and regardless of the weather.

For those in one spot, the gro-hole – as discussed in LC – is beautiful. I have seen it in operation and it works wonders. The Nucoa Ranch will have one and will report as...Planting tomatoes in February at 9,000 feet up is something!

Still trying to figure out what The Nucoa Ranch is – what part it plays in this great melodrama. The one thing it is not – a multiple family function. We and the other family have separated – both families still living on the same property. Two cocks strutting in the same barnyard, two hens sharing the same kitchen – it only works if both families are on the SAME – EXACT SAME – trip – or if there is no attachment to the physical realm – in the sense of “personal” – or – if everything is clearly set down (i.e., as in Roberta & Tom’s “marriage”). Anyway, Nucoa (Nu Community Attempt) is every flowing – we just don’t know where that is yet.

May the long-time sunshine upon you, all love surround you, and the pure light within you guide your way on. “A peaceful man is Peace.” –OM Sahnti Shanti. TOM, New Mexico

To Preform: “Nomad” is a magazine for the modern wayfarer. It covers both wings of the alternate society – those on the road and those in the woods. “Nomad” is the essential magazine for international hitchhikers, people making their way across country and around the world, whether on foot, by bicycle, boat, bus, train, or horseback. “Nomad” makes the world smaller and everybody in it brothers and sisters.

Want to share a ride cross country? Want to swap your pad in Chicago for one in Tangiers? Want to drive a car to Mexico or take a bus from London to India? Do you want to go by jeep across the Regev Desert and down into Africa?

“Nomad” will cover communes and those who have dropped out into the countryside – people living in the woods, on boats and barges, in trailers and tents; those people building dome homes and teepees. “Nomad” brings you news of new states, hitherto discovered islands. It will cover pirate radio and television and all aspects of alternate communication.

Ever international wanderer is a potential “Nomad” reporter. One day it will be understood that if you’re short of bread on your way from Nepal down to Madras that a written report fired off to “Nomad” will bring you a small check at your next American Express pick-up.

There will be a free classified covering all services where money is not involved: swapping apartments, getting rides, driving cars from one point to another, all these things are free to advertisers. –John Wilcock, NOMAD, 41 Union Square, New York, N.Y. 10003 (This is from a circular, we have not seen an issue yet.)

To Readers: We regret our very slow response to letters sent to our old (Glendale) address. Midas Services of Atlantis Enterprises, our mail service there, has had problems and has been unable to forward our mail until recently – some orders are four months old!

Our present lifestyle is betwixt and between. Our tent – a big marine-surplus nylon hex-tent – teepee-shaped – was airy and cozy until a month ago. Now, with rain almost every day – often all day, the contents – clothes, books, papers, tools, etc., – are continually damp and getting wetter.

But this is the best time of year for troging: very few people around the back country and ground easy to work, yet not bitterly cold.

So we have two homes at present. I live in the tent back in the wilderness building our den while Roberta stays in the camper on some private forested land (swapping wood-cutting for rent) and takes care of other jobs. I come out on our motorbike and hiking, every few weeks, for special supplies, food variety, hot shower, and very nice company. (R & R?)

I hope to have the basic structure done by January 1, then we head south for more things from storage, library research, relaxation, and (I hope) much rapping with interesting people along the way – including some we have missed on previous trips.

Changing from vehicle-nomad to trog-plus-foot-nomad is proving to be a much bigger transition than was the move from urban apartment to vehicle. This we expected.

We hope to improve communication – of various kinds – once we are established in our new lifestyle. For new shelter and food must take priority. –TOM

MAKING DO

Disposable Paint Brushes: I saw the commercial version in the hardware store and promptly proceeded to make my own from scraps of foam salvaged from upholstery store trash: cut a rectangle of foam and staple it to a handle of cardboard. I was delighted at these brushes’ performance! –ROBERTA

Baking Soda: I find it better and cheaper than Ajax. It is much easier to rinse away – good for people with limited water supplies. You can brush your teeth with it too, and use it to dry or smother a fire. It will deodorize food containers. –ROBERTA

For your second-aid kit you can get a 5” pair of hemostat surgical pliers (as recommended in HOW TO BE YOUR OWN WILDERNESS DOCTOR) at \$2.50 postpaid from Edmund Scientific Co., 150 Edscorp Building, Barrington, N.J. 08007. –ROBERTA

Bulk Food: Recent prices on bulk food purchases made at feed and grain stores in Redford-Grants Pass area (mostly): alfalfa seed (for sprouting) 45¢/pound; austrian peas 5.25/100 pounds; bone meal (for calcium) \$6.25/100 pounds; salt \$1.20/50 pounds; millet (sold as wild bird food – unhulled – extra roughage may be objectionable to some) 4.50/60 pounds; molasses

58¢/gallon; non-fat dry milk (Jorgensen's Dairy) \$33/100 pounds; honey (Walter G. Vail, Central Point) \$11.00/5 gallons; brown rice (Farmers Rice Growers Co-op, Dos Palos, Calif.) \$6.90/60 pounds. –ROBERTA

Radiation in all forms injurious (Iodine 13, Carbon 19, Strontium 90, etc.) can be easily run out of the system by the use of niacin (not niacinimide). I have used it for years as have another "hidden" group I know of in Washington. Briefly, you "pop" one to five 100 gram tabs when contaminated – go from one tab until you get a hot flushing on face and body (like sunburn for a few minutes), preferably with dosages of multiple B vitamins and calcium. A similar dosage was in the March Whole Earth Catalog and author also told of usage for persons on bad LSD trips. Niacin is used ordinarily to speed up blood flow for old persons, and for mentally unstable persons in institutions. The Scientologists used it in monitoring subjects on their meters. –AL FRY

Vinegar is best thing to prevent dandruff after washing hair. Any old detergent will not dry scalp if vinegar rinse left on. –AL FRY

Insect Pests: Citronella oil in candle wax or kerosene lamp helps keep "nasties" at bay and in with alcohol or lotion makes you a "no no" to them. Yardage store nylon curtain material is often less by far than mosquito netting. –AL FRY

Carp: As food for thought and for the stomachs of backwoodsmen, the ordinary "chicken" carp, or even the "red meat" carp make a lot of good sense. Carp are practically everywhere, in streams, ponds, and lakes. They get big too – 10 pounders are common and often taken by bow-and-arrow. The "red meat" carp has only a few scales and may be also called a "leather" carp. The "chicken" carp is best eating and is scaled all over just like a bass and also has a good white meat like bass or other scaled fish.

During mating and egg-laying you can easily take carp with a stick made into a spear. Be sure and have barbs on whatever spear or arrow you use as the carp is a strong fighter. If you are doing "civilized" fishing use whole yellow corn – throw out a handful of corn and then put your corn-baited hook right in the baited area. At other times they are wary and you'll need a steady bow hand or sure aim with the spear. Using a pine knot torch in a canoe at night will deliver some of the larger carp by using a strong, steel spear.

In cleaning, use a really sharp knife and slice off scales and skin, moving from tail to head against the grain, with sawing motions. You may find a couple of pounds of liver-colored eggs inside the large females – these eggs are good fried. Cooking of carp can be steaming or in a pressure cooker to soften the many "Y" bones. Pickling also softens bones.

One good recipe – steam or cook in pressure cooker. Strip meat from large bones and run through meat grinder. Then mix meat with chopped green onions and mashed potatoes to make fish cakes. Fry them in an oiled skillet. –ADAM

VAN LIVING IN CENTRAL AMERICA

Here follows some generalized remarks about the nomadic life in Mexico and Central America:

Working for pay is against the law without a work permit, except in the arts; if you are an artist, proceed as before, selling your produce in good conscience. As an artist, you are in competition with no one, your work is unique.

In the matter of dress, stick fairly close to local mores; to do else is to invite attention and this is precisely what is not needed by the passing stranger, as I see it.

About food: this is not an affluent society; don't waste your time examining garbage cans. Fruit is cheap, as are vegetables in season; on the coast, fish is there for the catching. If you're no fisherman, hang around the docks or the piers and watch for incoming, small boats; chances are the boatman has a couple of extras in the bottom of the boat he'll let go at a reasonable price. Buy your staples in the Conasupo stores, which are operated by the Mexican government. Keep

alert while on the move, for foodstuffs on the highway, lots of stuff moving to tomorrow's market can be picked up en route today.

Cook with LP gas or charcoal. Both are readily available; white gas is not. If I admit that LP gas in the whole is dangerous, I must point out at the same time that so is the vehicle...and some of us are a bit long in the tooth to backpack around the Republic. Machismo is still a big item in these parts, and you can get killed trying to prove your own virility. Identify such antics as the normal behavior of any healthy nine-year old and let the guy jump in front of you; all you have to lose is your life.

Driving at night is risky; many roads are narrow, grazing livestock abound, too many vehicle lights are badly out of adjustment, roads can be poorly marked. Carry a minimum of public liability insurance at least; the display of such credentials will keep you out of the pokey and Mexican jails are splendid places to avoid.

(Later letter) A more careful examination of the material which you sent me discloses that my idea of a "squat spot" does not meet the requirements mentioned by you on page R2 of your reprint of issues 1 to 4 of P-I, hence the spot descriptions which I sent to you from Mexico are inappropriate. -Name illegible, Mexico.

(I gather that these spots are not concealed. Nevertheless I think this information would be of interest to a stranger to the area seeking a temporary stopping place. -TOM)

Oaxaca, Tehuantepec, Mexico: Climate: variable with altitude: between 1600 meters and sea level. Water: Carry your own. General: Going ESE from Oaxaca, the road begins to drop through the mountains shortly after leaving the little turn-off, ending at Tehuantepec which is at sea level. Roughly, it follows rivers, climbing over or through passes, dropping again to another river and so on. Much of this stretch is wooded, with occasional small water falls at hairpin turns. There may be as many as a half dozen campers along this stretch in winter, each solitary in one of the turns.

San Cristobal de las Casps, Comitán, Mexico: Climate: Chilly, above 2000 meters. Water: Plentiful, in streams. General: Line forest, grass land plateaus, many streams. One couple rented a barn for pesos 50 a month, lived alongside and in it, raised turkeys and chickens for fun, like to froze to death in the icy stream nearby, had a fine time with the Tzotiles who live around this areas. If altitude is okay with you, this is a great area; one feels very remote from the establishment. Directions: Follow Mexico 190 through Tuxtla Gutierrez and up an 80 kilometer grade to San Cristobal. There are numerous lakes in the area.

Acapulco, Gro., Mexico: Climate: On 22 October, 1970, the temperatures were: high 88, low 77. Water: bottled, for drinking; the municipal supply looks funny. Site: Anywhere along the Costera Miguel Aleman, from the Hotel Ritz to the turnoff to the Calzada Pie de la Cuesta, about two kilometers. Shade palms on the beach side. Stay as long as you want, no harassment as far as I know. Watch out for thieves (sneak). General: The public market is nearby, good, big, and dirty. The city has reached a point in growth where nobody cares what you look like; a rarity in Mexico. Mind your own business and enjoy.

Mazatlan, Sinaloa, Mexico: Climate: 22 October 1970, temperature: high 88, low 79. Site: the main boulevard, facing the ocean. Capacity: unlimited. General: Very best concealment, i.e., maximum exposure. Cruise around during the day, look for shade, use the beach, ten or fifteen kilometers of it. At night move back onto the boulevard and park under the lights. Very quiet after around 2200, high tide line only ten meters or so away. Police cruise; no harassment that I have heard of. Mail service is excellent; this post office is most cooperative. Your address would be: Spiro Agnew (for example), Lista de Correos, Mazatlan, Sin. Mexico. Or Poste Restante, either one. Each day, the incoming mail so addressed is listed on a board in the post office lobby. Plenty of fish in the market in the early (0400) morning; another way is to hang around the sport fishing docks in the late afternoon and after the big fish have been photographed. They are sometimes abandoned, so to speak, to anybody with a suitable knife. Join the locals and hack off a hunk. (Are you listening, Spiro?) Note: From Mazatlan south toward San Blas there are about six beach

towns, undeveloped, generally poor but passable roads to them with very little to offer except the Pacific, sand, sun, palm trees, tranquility. They're on the maps, but just barely; turn-offs from Mexico 15.

Manzanillo, Barra de Navidad, Colima Mexico: Climate: About the same as Mazatlan. Site: Leaving Manzanillo for Parra, the road skirts the bay for about ten kilometers. Park anywhere along here, after clearing the city. Very good beach with practically nobody on it. Stay as long as you like, as far as I know. Bring your own water, though. There is a fisherman along here, with a circular net which he uses in the surf. He'll sell you a good size fish for two or three pesos. Peso equals 8¢ U.S. General: There has been some malaria along here in the past, and there are numerous bugs which bite along about sundown. I am told that malaria is negligible this year (1970). Very good oysters for sale from pushcarts in the port area in Manzanillo. At low prices. No harassment.

Tuxpan, Ver. Mexico: Climate: On 22 October, 1970, the temperatures were: high 82, low 73. Water: bring your own. Capacity: unlimited. General: Playa Azul is a wide – 500 meters – flat, hard packed empty beach, some ten kilometers or more in length, with palm trees inland and the open Atlantic (Gulf) to the east. It is possible to drive on this beach at any tide, with any weight vehicle. Watch for bugs though. Stay as long as you like, although you may be ASKED about weapons. Directions: Come into town and steer for the beach, keeping the river on your right. Follow the pavement to the high tide mark, turn left, and good luck to you.

Malpaso, Chiapas, Mexico: Climate: mild, around 80 high, 70 low. Capacity: unlimited. General: Site is the central island of a very large earth dam, with spillways on one side and power plant on the other. Very large paved area overlooking the lake, well landscaped and absolutely deserted with the exception of a periodical sentry at some little distance. Very tranquil, and with little noise outside of the sound of the distant spillways. We were there two days with no interference, but I can't say about prolonged visits; I never thought to ask. Mayan ruins nearby. Directions: Turn off to the right, going east, from Mexico 150 onto the road to Malpaso at Cardenas. (I think that is Tabasco 187.) Cardenas is between Coatzacoalcos and Villa Hermosa, in the State of Tabasco. The road is paved for all but five or six kilometers at the end, and the rest is good gravel (Dec. 69).

Palenque, Chiapas, Mexico: Climate: much of the same as Malpaso: mild. Capacity: ten or twelve campers. General: The ruins at Palenque are in the care of the Federal Government of Mexico, and are infrequently visited (Jan. 70). There is a small entrance charge and pedestrians only are permitted. Camp outside the entrance free. No harassment. Tropical forest, huge trees, lush undergrowth, lots of birds, iguanas, snakes, lizards, and so on. Length of stay is unlimited as far as I could make out. The town, some eight or nine kilometers away, is a disaster. You should take everything you need, including water except for bathing; there is a fine stream nearby for that. Come to think of it, I suppose you could drink it also. Directions: Turn off Mexico 186 and about 100 kilometers east of Villa Hermosa; there is a sign. Turn right and follow the pavement about 15 kilometers, until you cross the railroad track; about two kilometers further along, watch for the ROINAS sign pointing right. Or ask. Follow that to the end.

MORE REMARKS ON REGIONS (continued from issue 10)

In our present locale, we have better than 90% probability of surviving a major nuclear war, living on the surface with no special preparation. A liberator in an eastern or central forest must have fallout shelter(s) and remain within a few hours of it to achieve the same probability.

The following list of likely targets in the western U.S., and Canada is mostly from STRATEGY FOR SURVIVAL (Martin & Latham, U. of Ariz. Press, 1963). I have added Canadian cities (using the same criteria as the authors) and state capitals. (One can argue why the nuclear gangsters will attack the headquarters of their rivals OR argue why they will avoid them; to be safe, we should stay away from them.) Letters following the cities indicate nature of target: A, SAC missile base; B, SAC bomber base; C, ADC base; D, AF support base; E, one of 50 largest cities of U.S.;

F, population over 200,000; G, population over 50,000; H, state or provincial capital. Numbers indicate estimated total megatons of weapons likely to be assigned to targets.

ALASKA: Anchorage D2; Fairbanks D2; Juneau F1/4. ARIZONA: Chandler D2; Phoenix DEF10; Tucson ABCF185. ALBERTA: Calgary F2; Edmonton GE1. B.C.; Vancouver E5; Victorian GE1/4. CALIFORNIA: Bakersfield G1; Fairfield-Suisan B5; Fresno F2; Lompac AF25; Long Beach E1; Los Angeles E100; Marysville AB50; Merced BC50; Oakland E2; Ontario-Pomona G2; Oxnard C2; Riverside-San Bernardino BCF7; Sacramento BCH12; Santa Ana-Anaheim E10; San Diego E10; San Francisco E40; San Jose F6; San Raphael C5; Santa Barbara G1/2; Stockton G1; Victorville C2. COLORADO: Colorado Springs DG40; Denver ABEH95; Pueblo G1/2. IDAHO: Mountain Home AB50; Boise H1/4. MONTANA: Billings G1/4; Glasgow BC5; Great Falls ABG150; Helena H1/4. NEVADA: Las Vegas DG3; Reno DG1/4; Carson City H1/4; N.M.: Albuquerque DF2; Clovis D2; Roswell ABX65; Santa Fe H1/4. OREGON: Eugene G1; Klamath Falls C2; Portland CE22; Salem H1/4; UTAH: Ogden DG2; Provo G1; Salt Lake City FH5. WASHINGTON: Everett C2; Moses Lake ABC50; Seattle E10; Spokane ABCF17; Tacoma CDF7; Olympia, H1/4. WYOMING: Cheyenne ABH19. This list for the west includes only one-sixth of the targets in the above reference. FIVE-SIXTHS are in eastern and central North America.

By far the largest centers of liberation activity are Los Angeles and San Francisco-Berkeley. New Mexico-Colorado is probably third. New York City contains many professed libertarians and other anti-establishmentarians, but most are not yet beyond collective-movement bullshit. So a west coast locations means better opportunities for free association and trade.

As to where on the west coast, I recommend two regions: Siskiyou region of S. Oregon and N. California, approximately bounded (as I am defining it) by Pacific Ocean, Coos bay, Roseburg, Bend, Lakeville, Susanville, Redding, and Eureka; about 40,000 square miles. Chilcotin region of central B.C.; approximately bounded by Pacific Ocean, Prince Rupert, Hazelton, Prince George, William Lake, Lillooet, Powell River; about 70,000 square miles.

Areas of northern B.C., Yukon, and Alaska might also be considered. But (in my opinion, at present – subject to change) for most people these are more remote than necessary for safety, with the attendant disadvantage of poor urban access as well as harsher climate.

While there are attractive wilderness areas in Idaho, Utah, Colorado, etc., these are as remote from large cities as the Chilcotin region, without the very low population and other advantages of Chilcotin. Washington State has more population and nuclear targets than the Siskiyou region, without any advantages (and presently a sales tax whereas Oregon has none).

The person who feels he must continue conventional employment in a large city might locate (squat) in the Los Padres Tehachapi region near Los Angeles, the Yolla Bolly region near Frisco, or perhaps near Portland or Vancouver, and commute weekly. If he is inexperienced at liberation I don't think he will be able to achieve a really high degree of freedom within these areas; he must make some compromises.

I recommend against location in or employment small towns or POPULATED rural areas anywhere. Extensive contact with local people will be mostly hostile contact unless one severely compromises his lifestyle; in the absence of big city anonymity, this is highly detrimental to freedom. I recommend against even having a mailing address or making purchases in a town with (area) population under 5,000; strangers (even conventional-looking ones) are immediately identified as such and curiosity is aroused. The dream of a traditional American homestead, dear to the heart of many, cannot be realized IN FREEDOM anywhere. Areas which might be sufficiently remote and unpopulated, such as the Yukon, are climatically unsuited to conventional agriculture.

In general, the choice between the Siskiyou and Chilcotin regions will depend on the relative value of low population pressure (including bludgie activity) and communication/trade access. Import-export activities to be considered include: mail-order purchasing; local purchasing; communication with other freemen; trips to large cities for temporary jobs, library research, bulk purchases, and visits with acquaintances.

I suggest the Siskiyou region for individual liberators or small bands (less than a dozen people) who do not have ex-slave-school children or severe personal security problems, and look upon liberation as their main career.

On the other hand, I suggest the Chilcotin region (or an even more remote region) for: (1) retreatists – those who hope to change lifestyles in the middle of an emergency; (2) families with older children already partly brainwashed/corrupted by slave-school indoctrination, sick-society entertainment media, and playmates (in many children this has happened by the time the child is 6 or 7); (3) anywhere it is adverse to protecting themselves – living clandestinely; (4) persons inexperienced in clandestine living who are subject to special persecution (draft resisters, deserters, etc.) unless they can join an experienced group; (5) large groups.

In the remoter areas of the Chilcotin region, a 300-mile round trip – much of it by foot or water – is required to pick up mail and mail-order merchandise in a sizable town. So, for the two of us, a Chilcotin location would entail either excessive travel time/costs/security loss or (what we now feel would be) inadequate trade/communication. This is the decisive reason for our present choice of the Siskiyou region. If/when we become part of a larger liberated association for whom outside trade/communication will be rendered more economical by division of labor, we will probably favor the Chilcotin region. –TOM

CHOOSING A HOME SITE – SOME PRELIMINARY SUGGESTIONS

Land status: I recommend against location in the middle of a “National Forest” unless otherwise-as-desirable sites are not available, mainly because of potential access problems. During a period of “national emergency” the bludgies may attempt to close the forests to the “general public.” This happened during World War II. This will be done, most likely, not to harass a few liberationists but to reduce forest-service personnel, who will be reassigned elsewhere. “Closure” would probably be accomplished by blocking off most access roads and establishing check points on the remainder. This will not bother a freeman already in the forest so long as he stays there, but will limit in/out travel to backpacking. A motorbike could get around the blocks, but is fairly conspicuous. And the bludgies will doubtless threaten heavy fines and imprisonment for unauthorized use.

I strongly recommend against purchasing land, even under a nom de plume. If a small tract is accessible by road, it will not offer sufficient concealment. Somebody (tax accessor?) may come by while excavation is under way. If a tract is not accessible by road, there will be the additional problem of making arrangements to park elsewhere. A large tract would be too expensive. Also the land purchaser must content with much legal red tape, which is psychologically harmful.

A good situation, but one difficult to find, requires a sympathetic and closed-mouth landowner with several hundred acres of wasteland. One leases permission to camp, hunt, hike, etc., also excavate (plausibly for geologic studies, prospecting, caching) provided there is no visible alteration. The agreement should stipulate areas the lessee is not to use; otherwise he should have free range. Of course the landowner should not be told den location.

Another good arrangement, and one more readily realized, is to lease motor-vehicle parking space on private land adjacent to a large tract of “public land.” In the Siskiyou region roughly half of the land OUTSIDE of “National Forests” is claimed by the Bureau of Land Management. BLM is a separate, rival bureaucracy to the Agriculture Department’s Forest Service which “manages” the “National Forests.” Most of BLM’s land is in pieces of a section or smaller, intermixed among private land. Much of it is “wasteland” without commercial timber or grazing. The spot leased for parking would, ideally, be out of sight of habitation and public roads. Of course the leaser of the parking spot need not be told the true purpose of the lessee in coming there. The den, itself, would be built a quarter mile or more away on “public” land. The disadvantage of thus locating in the fringes instead of in the heart of a wilderness area, is that more hunters and hikers will be passing through – more care is required when building.

Of course all operations should be well concealed, both from aircraft and ground access, regardless of ownership. A location on “private” land should not lull one into a false sense of security.

Vegetation: Forest or tall scrub is desirable both for concealment and for building material. Second-growth timber on land which was logged or burned 20 to 48 years ago is often ideal. Heavy undergrowth, if present, will greatly reduce number of unexpected visitors, at the cost of

more trail-making work. Undergrowth is desirable only if access to den is by foot only; a motor vehicle trail would be conspicuous.

Terrain: Since most back land travel is along ridges and main streams, slopes and tributary valleys generally offer the best sites. Also slopes are generally warmer and have fewer insects than valley bottoms; have less wind than ridges.

Soil: What is good soil depends on method of construction. A geologic map of an area will give an idea of rocks and soils.

Igneous rock is usually hard and not suitable for burrowing with hand tools; soil in igneous areas tends to be scanty. However areas of boulders afford opportunities for doing imaginative rock-pile constructions. Metamorphic rock will be mostly hard but may include some soft strata.

Soft sediments are most suitable for strip construction: surface soil is removed down to roof level; the roof and side walls are built in place; soil is then excavated from beneath the roof and piled on top. A site is selected so that the mount produced can be contoured into the terrain.

Hard dry clay and some sedimentary rocks are suitable for tunneling. The rock should be strong enough to support itself on the tunnel roof for at least several days; regardless of how strong it seems to be, horizontal tunnels and deep vertical shafts are best timbered for safety. Compared to strip construction, a tunnel involves less disturbance of the surface at the den site, but requires a dirt disposal site and produces a well-worn trail between den and dump. And there is much greater risk of serious injury. Consult engineering books on tunneling before proceeding.

We are not yet sufficiently experienced to make detailed recommendations on construction.

Under or Over?

In remote areas or areas of very heavy brush, underground construction may not be essential for concealment. Relative advantages of surface cabin versus underground den:

*SURFACE: easier construction (usually); easier ventilation; easier lighting.

*UNDERGROUND: better concealment; safer from forest fires; safer from nuclear fallout; safer from destruction by large animals; less noise gets out.

Access: While vehicle access is nice for bringing in heavy items, trail clearing and concealment becomes much more formidable. For one's first attempt, I recommend that access be limited to a foot rail, with location at least a quarter mile from the nearest vehicle trail.

Size: Think small at least at first. Gain experience by making caches. Then try a small den.

Utilities: Thought should be given to how ventilation, lighting, cooking, heating or cooling, washing, waste disposal, etc., are to be accomplished since these will affect size, shape, access openings, etc. But all utilities need not be provided immediately. One can pitch a tent close by (but not so close that discovery of tent will jeopardize security of den) and use the den merely as a big walk-in cache while developing utilities. For interim lighting, one solution is a flashlight plus rechargeable batteries – pack the batteries back and forth to a power source.

Any form of combustion requires exhaust which might be detected by smoke, odor, or heat. I think the problems are solvable – coolers, filters, etc. – but am not sufficiently experienced to make detailed recommendations. Stoves, heaters, and engines fueled with LPG (propane/butane) produce the least hazardous exhaust, but of course, require “import” and packing of fuel. A wood fire is least detectable at night since the smoke is not visible then.

These are preliminary thoughts only, which will probably be revised and expanded in future issues. –TOM

FREEDOM WAYS FORUM

To Preform: I've been busy with other things and haven't completely digested P-I yet. Here is a preliminary report.

I don't think we've got the problem of an electric supply licked yet. A small hydro-electric setup is not practical except in rather restricted areas where there is sufficient volume and acceleration of the streams to make it worthwhile...where do you get a SMALL hydro-electric generator? Do you have to build it yourself?

Second: has anybody bothered with researching the life and customs of the gypsies, tinkers, etc.? They've been living the nomadic life for generations and should have a lot of useful experience.

Third: aerial survey techniques are quite sophisticated; archaeologists use them to detect buried buildings, roads, graves, etc. If they can spot a Roman Villa that has been underground for 1700 years, they can spot a more modern excavation, unless (1) the entrance is sufficiently small to pass for something else, like a doghouse, (2) the dirt excavated is scattered over a wider area, like the dirt from prisoners' tunnels, (3) there's something at surface level to explain any anomaly, such as the ruins of a burned house, and (4) the entry is sufficiently well concealed that an investigator on the ground can't spot it. It is not sufficient to merely be invisible: an inhabited dwelling also gives off heat, sound, and other clues. The VC mask there underground digs often with buildings at ground level – one way.

Also I am doing some hard thinking on the subject of using the loopholes in the government as a way of life. There are any number of possibilities such as tax exempt eleemosynary corporations for avoiding the payment of taxes. A corporation could own land, pay no taxes, and as a fictitious "person" be less subject to harassment (how do you arrest a corporation?). Another type of untaxable corporation is a city, properly incorporated. The objection to this is, I know, that the government change the rules if it's not winning. This is true, but there are some rules that it would be foolish to change, as they would make the cost of collecting the revenue more than the revenue collected (a desirable situation, in some ways). There are others, like the example for eleemosynary corporations, which as a matter of practical politics, are simply impossible to change barring a revolution.

This story I have heard and can't prove, but there used to be a county in the mountains of N.C. which used to (especially during prohibition) discourage snooping by "revenueurs" by arresting them locally on some embarrassing charge (usually violation of the sex laws) and put them up before a local jury which gave them a "fair" trial.

Another possibility that, I think, needs exploring is a simple means of rotting food: trade with the farmer. The average farmer, at least in this section, hates the government passionately. Furthermore he considers it a bargain if he can pay for something (having his house painted, his TV fixed, etc.) in produce rather than cash. Moreover, take the tomato glut off his hands that he can't sell or can, he's glad to let you have it for little or nothing. He can't afford to harvest by hand, and mechanical harvesting wastes a lot that he's glad to give away. Take care. –JOHNNY REB, South Carolina

To Johnny: Best info I have seen on hydro-electric is a pamphlet on low-cost development of small water power sites, published by VITA, College Campus, Schenectady, NY 12308. We plan at least at first, to use a centrifugal or propeller pump, in reverse, driving an automobile alternator, charging a bank of batteries. Water need supply only average power; batteries supply peaks. Not much flow needed if high head – easy to get in mountains.

I've read maybe half a dozen books on gypsies – all I've run across. Not too impressed with them; they seem to have much more contact with serfs and bludgies than I care to. Of course investigators have most access to those who are least free, so books may be biased.

I hear tell of Indian tribes within the U.S., who, when molested by white bludgies a century or more ago, changed over to super-clandestine nomad/trog lifeways – whose very existence is generally unknown. There is "public" information only on the failures, such as the tribe of Ishi.

I will much appreciate all hard, detailed info on airborne or satellite survey/spotting techniques – both present and likely near future. I don't think these pose severe problems, but it is well to know the capabilities.

I looked into eleemosynary loopholes about six years ago. Even then, The Monster was beginning to clamp down – especially on new ones. Their exemptions can be and are being changed piecemeal – attacking one kind at a time – doing it gradually so only a few sheep get

excited at a time. The only kind of open “legal” community worth trying, in my opinion, is an independent country – such as Atlantis.

Some nomads have had good trade relations with farmers – gleanings, etc. But we intend to minimize contact with farmers and all serfs in our “home” region. Farmers hate the government? In some ways, no doubt. But it is difficult to hate for long and consistently that to which one is very vulnerable. And farmers are very vulnerable. Most gripes about government are rather superficial emotional releases – which they will remain so long as people see no way out. (Isn’t there a saying in the army: so long as the troops are bitching, everything is under control; it is when they STOP bitching that the officers better worry.) People are quick to resent anyone with more (visible) freedom than they, and not adverse to reporting them. And the bludgies encourage this. “Your taxes are high because of people who evade their fair share.” “Your son, who works hard on the farm, must be drafted because of idle hippies evading the draft.” Divide and conquer.
–TOM

To Preform: Why the fallout thing is no great thing now: all of the major powers except China have absolutely “clean” bombs which have no radiation fallout (China will soon). This has been true for past couple of years and makes the threat of attack greater because after knocking out our major installations, the people left will be healthy and subject to slavery – the aggressors will be able to swiftly come in and take over. –AL FRY, Riverside, California

To Al: Even a “clean” bomb exploded at ground level (against hardened missile sites and some other targets) kicks up a lot of radioactive debris. And for smaller powers, “dirty” bombs provide more destruction per cost. I don’t think it is wise to make too many assumptions about strategy of the mega-killers.

Fall-out protection is not the only reason for living underground. –TOM

To Preform: If trapped in a forest fire, it is possible to scrape through with only minor burns at the worst just by lying down in a small stream or other water, even if the water is only 6 inches deep. Plaster wet mud and water on yourself and clothing. When the fire-head goes over get your head down in the mud and water as deep as possible. This passing of the fire-head would probably sound like a dozen jet planes and would probably exhaust the oxygen for a few moments. There is a factual account of a forester saving himself in the above manner. Such fires may be driven by 75-mile-an-hour winds and it has been estimated that 120 m.p.h. winds have been created by some forest fires, thus causing extensive blow down of timber. A nuclear-set fire would create such high-velocity winds – an underground shelter would be necessary for survival.
–ADAM, Western States.

To Preform: Weekly, SLAM local pickets the draft board – we led the charge on the university ROTC building – we have eleven newsstands on campus and in Tucson selling over 1200 copies of THE MATCH monthly – we sell three times that amount through bulk shipments, subs, etc. - - we maintain correspondence with other anarchist groups here in the US and internationally – we have groups organizing community control movements among Chicanos – we are active in two think-tank projects including one dealing with cybernetics – we help run a draft counseling service – we hand out tons of libertarian literature – we maintain a historical file of libertarian literature. SLAM is organized in about ten states right now. The idea behind SLAM is that small tight-knit cadres can become active in their community and gradually involve other people in the libertarian movement. CONRAD, Student Libertarian Action Movement, Box 3684, Tucson, Arizona 85720.

SOME THOUGHTS ON LIBERATION STRATEGY – II El Ray 20Se70

Now that a collective-movementism (also called bullshit libertarianism and political crusading) has been discredited as a liberation strategy, it is appropriate to re-examine strategies which treat freedom as an individually-achievable way-of-life and marketable commodity.

I discern five general means of protection against coercion (initiated force): defense, deterrence, mobility, deception and concealment. Any system for achieving/preserving liberty will involve one more of these.

Defense: Defense as a major element of protection became ineffective with the invention of explosives capable of demolishing castle walls. Large scale defense became even more ineffective, and the State became obsolete as a protection organization, with the invention of nuclear weapons. Some defense means – firearms, karate, guard dogs, chemical disabillitants, etc. – these are also kinds of deterrence – remain of some value against unorganized predators.

Deterrence: A system relying mainly on deterrence tends to be unstable and result in mutual destruction unprofitable to all parties. Its instability stems from the advantages of landing the first blow. One example is the “balance of terror” among nuclear-weapon States, which may break down at any time with catastrophic results. Another, more relevant to us, might be a band which camps openly (allows their location to become public knowledge) in the “National Forests,” and tries to keep the bludgies (pigs) at bay by threatening to burn the woods. This might work for a while but would result, sooner or later, I suspect, in burned forests and imprisoned band members. As Black militants have shown, deterrence is valuable – perhaps necessary, but only as a supplement to other protection means.

Mobility: Mobility developed to a logical and useful extreme becomes international mobility or “country shopping.” International mobility may be implemented by living aboard a yacht or out of a suitcase. Of course the “country shopper” does not achieve freedom from the coercive laws of States he visits; he merely maximizes his “legal” privilege – limiting his activities in each country to what is relatively unmolested there. In one sense, he is more “law abiding” than the natives in a port-of-call since he doesn’t know the local “territory” – “law enforcement” practices and subterfuges – as well. Indirect effects of increasing international mobility include, on one hand, a reduction of harassment by some small States which “compete for the trade”; on the other hand, intimidation of those States by larger powers (mainly U.S. and U.S.S.R.) intent on keeping their populace subjected. Ultimately the country-shopper’s freedom depends on the deterrence/defense capability of his ports-of-call, as well as his ability to move from one to another.

Deception: Some libertarians hope to achieve freedom principally through deception. They propose to live “conventionally” in outward appearance while secretly conduction black/grey-market trade, designing protection devises (useful mainly against unorganized criminals), and enjoying illicit forms of recreation. I have seen many attempted free-market enterprises around Los Angeles during the past six years. And, almost without exception, these have failed for lack of interest/support or have been co-opted into something subservient to the State. (Telephone some “successful” private protection service and ask for help when you are molested by the big criminals). This lack of interest/support – the “psychological paralysis” afflicting libertarians, of which Natalee Hall has written so well, stems in part, I think, from almost continual vulnerability. Most debilitating is the absence of a secure home or “base” (mobile and stationary) to which one can retire to relax, eat, think and recreate. “Conventional” living libertarians seem even more prone to psycho paralysis than the populace at large, no doubt because they are more aware of the dangers. (Of course psycho paralysis is a subconscious evaluation; there need not be a conscious appraisal.)

One can practice deception 5 or 10 percent of the time, I think, without long term ill effects. But the “conventionally” living libertarian must remain on guard – must act the serf – almost constantly, day and night. (Bludgies prefer the witching hours for premeditated arrests).

Even if the deceptionist escapes the cruder forms of harassment, he spends his life surrounded by a largely-hostile creature – bombarded by value-expressions counter to his own. The predictable results are neuroses and/or loss of convictions. One tends to become what he pretends to be. How many of the libertarians of even five years ago, who stayed in serfdom, are still active? Rational? Libertarian?

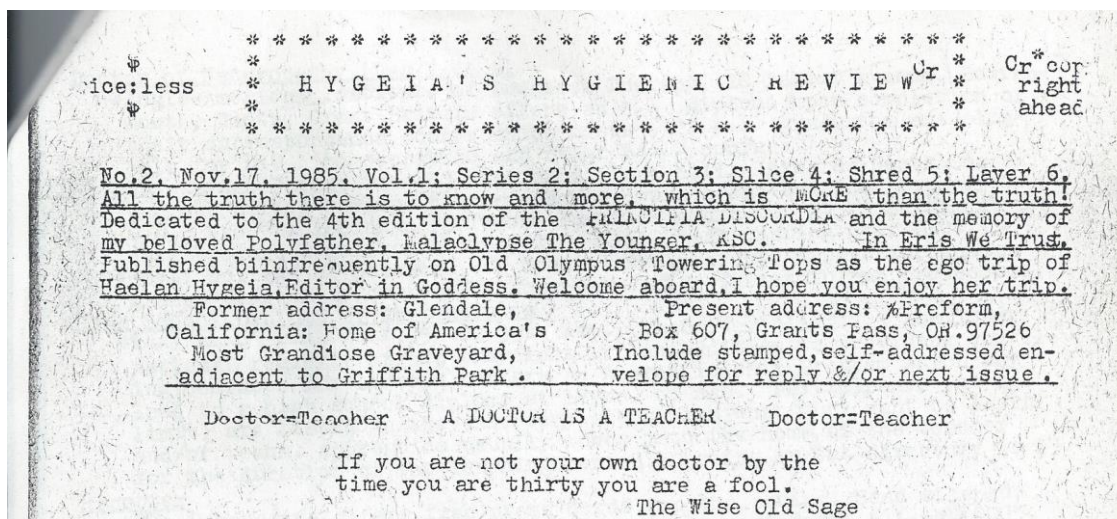
Clandestine free-market enterprise, with the development of specialized skills, will greatly enhance liberation. But this will flourish, I think, only among people who have already achieved a large degree of personal liberation.

Concealment: Liberation based exclusively on concealment amounts to two-directional isolation. And a complete absence of communication/trade with the outside world, while possible in the short term, would lead to primitivism and probably eventually to breakdown of isolation and increased vulnerability. Suppose, for example, that 100 years ago some small band had gone into seclusion, taking with them a good selection of skills, equipment and reference books of their era. Would their descendants now be capable of understanding and developing counter stratagems to aircraft spotting, heat detectors, nuclear fallout?

Strategy for Personal Freedom: An optimally-liberated life-style must involve a sort of one-directional isolation. The liberator maintains his access to their open-but-not-free trading centers while denying them access to his home. This requires a skillful blend of concealment and deception, plus perhaps elements of mobility and deterrence. A freeman obtains information, techniques, key equipment and supplies out of the Servile Society, exporting labor or products in return. And during import-export activities he practices deception – perhaps carries a driver's license ("genuine" or faked); perhaps pays some sales taxes he cannot conveniently avoid. But the freeman's "home base" is physically concealed. There he spends most of his time. There he may sleep, imbibe, love, design, build trade (with fellow freemen), and raise children in relative safety from the savages of State. A freeman's home must be a figurative castle.

In one sense, such a freeman cannot be completely free since his import-export is restricted. Neither would be a resident of a utopian "free country" who traded with someone in Russia – or Amerika. Import-export is easier for extraterritorial freemen than for residents of another country, since controlling millions of square miles of interior is vastly more difficult than thousands of linear miles of border. In either case, with growth, import-export becomes relatively smaller and more in the hands of specialists at "border crossing."

The liberated-home freeman, unlike the conventionally living libertarian, can segregate import-export from the rest of his life – essential for development of durable, growing, joyous, free mini-cultures. (*For example, see such periodicals as PREFORM and OCEAN LIVING; also my articles in Spring and Autumn 69 INNOVATOR.)



Dear H.H. Review Reader:

It is a pleasure to notify you of your recent admission to candidacy for the Doctor of Philosophy, Arts & Science degree in (state your own name here). When you, as determined by none other than yourself, feel that you are your own teacher, guiding yourself towards (state your goals here) you shall confer upon yourself the degree Doctor of (state your own name once again).

If you are truly and sincerely desirous of this degree and work diligently towards it, I am sure you will achieve these goals.

If you would have self-esteem, Then you must follow your dream. Because if you don't, the lift you would have, you won't.

Healthfully, your friend and mine,
Haelan Hygeia, Goddess

If you are not content to confer upon yourself, you may be interested in the following:

Ordination (Minister's Certificate)

*Universal Life Church, Inc., 601 Third St., Modesto, CA 95351 offers free ordination. Send stamped, self-addressed envelope: free-will offerings gladly accepted.

Doctor of Divinity (D.D.)

*Universal Life Church, Phoenix Office, offers a D.D. for \$20 to anyone but California residents. ULC, Box 3528, Phoenix, Arizona 85030.

*Church of Universal Brotherhood, 6311 Yucca St., Dept. F.P., Hollywood, CA 90028 offers degree (D.D.) and minister's certificate for \$10.

*Missionaries of the New Truth, Box 1393, Dept. A9, Evanston, IL 60204 offer Ordination Certificate, D.D., ID card, plus 12 blank ordination forms all for \$10. (Framed in glass, \$20.)

Episkopos

*The Paratheo-Anametamystikhood of Eris Esoteric (POEE), Box 26475, S.F., Earth 94126 is the world's only undogmatic religion and exclusive source of information leading to episkoposhood. For a legal high you can expand your mind with the PRINCIPIA DISCORDIA, "Wherein is Explained Absolutely Everything Worth Knowing About Absolutely Anything" including episkoposhood. \$1 to friends, \$2 to enemies.

Doctor of Naturopathy (N.D.) et al

*Anglo-American Institute of Drugless Therapy, 20 Talbot Avenue, Bournemouth, Hants, Great Britain offers an N.D. diploma upon completion of their correspondence course which costs \$12. N.D. graduates are eligible for D.O., homeopathic, and other AAIDT courses.

*Brantridge Forest School, Highfield, Dane Hill, Haywards Heath, Sussex, England offers various correspondence courses and degrees: D. Psy.; N.D.; D.D.; etc., including a Professor Emeritas awarded for \$250. Enrollment fee is \$30; courses go from about \$40 to \$160, most costing over \$100.

*Royal College of Science, 709 Spadina Ave., Toronto 4, Ontario, Canada grants degrees by correspondence. They offer free info and prospectus.

High School Diploma by Apprenticing

*TRAVELERS' DIRECTORY, 51-02 39th Ave., Woodside, NY 11377, "the international registry of hip travelers..." In addition to providing traveling contacts for listees, offers an Apprenticeship Program which may lead to a high school diploma at 17 years of age. Participants (no age limit) are listed in the directory along with what they want to learn and/or teach. Apprentice usually moves into the home of the teacher for the duration of the learning period. Listing in the directory is \$3.

Repotrer

*NOMAD magazine offers free press cards for the asking. Send stamped, self-addressed envelope to Nomad, 41 Union Square West, N.Y. N.Y. 10003.

Aurea Publications, Allanhurst, NJ 07711 sells overpriced lists of correspondence schools, etc. Write for brochure.

The foregoing unpaid, non-political un-announcements were paid for in no part by the Disassembled Non-Committee for Degrees for All: unequal space is offered to no one.

NB: To my knowledge there are no institutions offering a deification curriculum, let alone the degree of omnipotence (although some medical schools pretend to), hence those aspiring to god or goodess-hood have no alternative but to deify themselves. (That's strictly from one goddess to another.) (NB is short for No Full, I'm sure you all know what B.S. stands for. M.S. stands for More of Same, and Ph.D. means Piled higher and deeper.)

NB2: Colleges and universities aren't entirely worthless – their libraries often include phonograph records and a place to listen: no card required; just act like you're a regular student faculty brat or prof – play doctor! (UCLA has a great collection of Joan Baez' and a place to sit by a big window where you can look out at the sky as you listen.

NB3: Truth is relative to knowledge; in the case of this review, the knowledge of Haelan Hygiea. Questioning is the beginning of knowledge. If your questions aren't answered, take heart; puzzlement is the beginning of wisdom! And to aid you in the development of your wisdom a puzzle has been provided. The outlines of the five puzzle pieces are on the upper part of this page: reproduce the lines on suitable stiff material and cut out the pieces. Puzzle is now ready to puzzle; the object being to assemble the pieces so that a rectangle results.

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Remember that the greatest teacher of all is life. She demands of her students, if they are to succeed, that they stay ever alert for anything that may come their way. They must think and act. They must also have patience because the teacher is in no hurry – her course lasts a lifetime.

GATHER ALL YOU CAN.

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#### THE DOUKHOBORS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Darryl Bloodoff

A tourist entering the B.C. Interior near Osoyoos may find himself going through "Anarchist Mountain Pass" and wonder what kind of country he is entering. Heading westward towards Nelson, he may have occasion to hear some people in the streets munching on "Krestova Krunchies" (sunflower seeds) referred to variously as "firebugs", "pacifists", "Freedomites," "Doukhobors", or even "anarchists." A libertarian chancing upon the same individuals is likely to wonder exactly how libertarian these people are and what their potentials are as allies in the struggle for freedom.

This article does not pretend to offer an answer to the question of the libertarian potentials of the Freedomite Doukhobors. The Encyclopedia Britannica doesn't even have an entry for the topic "Doukhobor" and the literature available on the Freedomites is so scant and so warped by statist hysteria that trustworthy information can only be obtained firsthand. It is the hope of this writer that the following sketchy history of the Doukhobors will inspire libertarians to visit the Freedomite stronghold in Krestova, B.C. (25 miles west of Nelson) and learn about these people personally.

The Doukhobors are descended from a sect of peasants that splintered off from the Russian Orthodox Church during the "Great Schism" of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Despite the sect's fundamental axiom that man should not be subject to government or any other human authority, the members have always been totally under the "divine" authority of a hereditary leader. Even the Bible is denounced in favor of "the Living Book, the Lord Himself."

The Doukhobors experienced a long history of persecutions in Russia for their anti-statist, pacifist ideals. In 1887, Peter Verigin I assumed the leadership and was so pleased to discover the similarity of ideas in the writings of Leo Tolstoy to Doukhobor ideals, that he adopted many of Tolstoy's conceptions as part of Doukhobor faith. Doukhobors were not to kill animals, even for food, and thus became vegetarians. The Doukhobors built communes, burned their firearms and refused taxes and conscription only to be subjected to an extraordinary outburst of horrifying persecutions by the Czar, including torture, decapitations and burials of the living.

Tolstoy discovered the sect and was enthusiastic to find in them a "natural" example of his principles in practice. He nominated them for the Nobel Peace Prize and described them as

“ideally peaceful people full of charity even for their enemies, submissive to exactions whether made by government or brigands.” Working with the British philanthropist Aylmer Maude and the English Quakers, Tolstoy helped the sect to relocate to Canada. The Doukhobors were given nearly three-quarters of a million acres of land (mostly in Saskatchewan) by the Canadian government.

The sect was renamed the Christian Community of Universal Brotherhood (CCUB) by Peter I who also adopted the motto: “We will promise the government anything, but what we will do is another matter.” Peter’s authority was astounding; he could and did sleep with any of the women or beat any Doukhobor without meeting defensive actions from his victims.

All Doukhobor land was “communally owned”, but the Canadian government demanded individual registration. The Doukhobors began their famous nude marches, one of which went right into the city of Yorkton where 28 were arrested and sentenced to three months in jail for “indecent exposure.” The government became more impatient with the Doukhobor’s refusal to register land individually and in 1907 the lands were advertised for public homestead (most of which was taken within two months). Protester continued nudism, passive resistance, and hunger strikes resulting in imprisonment for most; though quite a number were committed to mental institutions.

Fortunately, Peter I was able to buy a large piece of land in the Kootenays of British Columbia and the largest segment of the Doukhobors relocated there. They built an extremely successful community the center of which was a very lucrative and famous jam factory. The empire crumbled in 1924, however, upon the still-unresolved murder of Peter I (which the Doukhobors blamed, characteristically, on the government).

Peter II allowed the community cooperation to fall apart while he spent the vast sums he took from it on “gambling, girls, and liquor.” He made ample use of his privileges to make any Doukhobor woman his bedmate and to mercilessly beat anyone he chose.

The Doukhobors have always refused not only to register land, births, deaths, or marriages with government, but have also refused to send their children to government schools (which they claim teach “nationalism, patriotism, and militarism”). Their resistances which had involved only nude demonstrations and hunger strikes began, in this period, to include the burnings (and later, the bombings) of government buildings, especially schools. Not all Doukhobors were as passionate in these enterprises, however, and the more militant began to be known as the Sons of Freedom, or more simply, Freedomites.

In May 1932, when Peter II was sentenced to three years in prison on a perjury charge, nude demonstrations during that month resulted in 725 arrests for which the government created a special penal colony at Piers Island in the Straits of Georgia. After an unsuccessful attempt by the government to secretly deport Peter II to Russia, he was released to continue a few years of dissolute living until his death, after which many mortgages were foreclosed on the jam factory and other Doukhobor building.

Until 1950, the Doukhobors were ruled by “Michael the Archangel” who propagated the idea of “wife sharing” and established a “free community of love” in his Spiritual Home. He encouraged a continuation of Doukhobor arson and resistance to Canadian law (which in World War II included resistance to conscription). He was ultimately imprisoned and later transferred to a mental hospital where he was given a lobotomy.

Since the early fifties leadership has been in the hands of John Verigin, grandson of Peter II, whom most of the Orthodox recognize, and Stefan S. Sorokin (claiming to be Peter III), whom most of the Freedomites recognize. Sorokin left Canada in 1952 with \$100,000 in Doukhobor money to live in Uruguay for 18 years as a distant “Pope” who has issued orders and accepted money continuously.

In the 1950’s, the B.C. Government began a strong crackdown on Doukhobor truancy. Hundreds of children were confiscated and sent to a dormitory-school in New Denver, to remain there until parents agreed to send the children to school. Some agreed, but many would not. Since the Doukhobors refused to register marriages or births, police (who had no way of knowing who had children) were forced to raid villages and try to catch children by surprise in their hiding places.

In 1960 in another extensive government drive of “Canadianization”, 1,136 Orthodox Doukhobor couples, beginning with John Verigin and his wife, were registered as married and 3,500 Orthodox children were “legitimized”. The Freedomites responded with a massive wave of arson not only against government buildings, but including the firebombing of Orthodox villages as well.

A major figure in the 1961-62 rash of “depredations” was “pacifist-arsonist” Mike Bayoff, “the man who could set fire under water.” Characteristically, his first act of arson was to set fire to the Spiritual Home after which he rushed into the blazing building to save a little girl upon learning of her presence there. He was later described by psychiatrists at the Provincial Mental Hospital as the “most hostile human being they had ever encountered”.

Captured Freedomites when interrogated about the violent character of their deeds responded that they attacked only wood and brick “not flesh and blood” and that bombs and fire are not weapons of war, but are “means to avert war”. Out of the 1,112 “depredations” committed during the period from 1924-64 only 20 lives have been lost.

Very little has occurred since 1975 until mid-1970 when Stefan S. Sorokin obtained Canadian citizenship and settled in Krestova. In June 1970 John Verigin’s home in Castlegar was set ablaze by six women who then proceeded to parade around the burning building in the nude.

Future developments are not predictable, but most non-Doukhobors in the Kootenays seem convinced that the sect has been Canadianized and that what passion remains rankles only amongst the old. According to the 1961 census there are (in B.C.) 5000 Orthodox or Community Doukhobors, 2500 Freedomites and 1500 Independents. It is not for this writer to say which of these categories would prove most hospitable to libertarians, perhaps none. But if there are libertarians who have been inspired to wonder if there exists in the Doukhobors a potential worth cultivating, it is hoped that they will take personal action to investigate further, firsthand. (END)

“The women have a strong influence in our group because we practice to have all the same level both men and women. Then on top of this, we believe in the establishment of free love and our desire is to attain a life where there won’t be marriages. In this form of life, we believe the women will be the one to say with whom she will want to unite to bear children.

“Many of us believe that Mr. John J. Verigin is to remain our material leader in the establishment of this order of life.” (SIC)

Fred Nick Davidoff, March 12, 1962, Nelson Jail, Nelson, B.C.

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#### A SERMON ON ETHICS AND LOVE

One day Mal-2 asked the messenger spirit Saint Gulik to approach the Goddess and request Her presence for some desperate advice. Shortly afterwards the radio came on by itself, and an ethereal female Voice said YES?

“O: Eris! Blessed Mother of Man! Queen of Chaos! Daughter of Discord! Concubine of Confusion! O! Exquisite Lady, I beseech You to lift a heavy burden from my heart!”

WHAT BOTHERS YOU, MAL? YOU DON’T SOUND WELL.

“I am filled with fear and tormented with terrible visions of pain. Everywhere people are hurting one another, the planet is rampant with injustices, whole societies plunder groups of their own people, mothers imprison sons, children perish while brothers war. O, woe.”

WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH THAT, IF IT IS WHAT YOU WANT TO DO?

“But nobody WANTS it! Everybody hates it.”

OH. WELL, THEN STOP.

At which moment She turned Herself into an aspirin commercial and left The Polyfather stranded alone with his species.

(From PRINCIPIA DISCORDIA of How I Found Goddess and What I Did To Her When I Found Her, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition)

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#### PROPOSED CHANGES IN PREFORM-INFORM



Because of rapidly increasing circulation we are considering changes. Any feedback will be welcome.

Use offset printing with photo reduction. With offset we can include much more material and/or reduce postage. Also letters, clippings, illustrations, and anything else which is black and white can be directly reproduced. Type would be small, like in P-I reprint. We would keep mimeo and paper supply for emergency back-up.

Limit circulation to libertarians, broadly defined. This might work as follows: a subscriber must (1) have a liberated lifestyle, (2) furnish evidence of libertarian background OR (3) allow publication of his residential address – which would be interpreted as an invitation for other libertarians to drop in and decide for themselves what he was like. Library and other institutional subscriptions would not be accepted. This would be done, not because we feel personally not be accepted. This would be done, not because we feel personally vulnerable, but to limit technique info to those applying it – cut-off vulnerable, but to limit technique info to those applying it – cut-off academic researchers,” sensationalist reporters, and the idly curious.

Alternately, we might have three subscription prices: high general rate to anyone; low rate to active libertarians who could prove it; gratis to freemen.

Another idea is to offer a special low rate to big city subscribers willing to pick up their subscription copies at a book store or head shop; we would ship a bundle to the store, saving postage. Right now postage is by far the biggest expense. This could be a start toward an underground postal system.

Emphasize liberation – lifestyles of all kinds which are invulnerable to coercion; de-emphasize travel per se (which is what “nomad” conveys to many.)

Publish regularly, probably bi-monthly, at a moderate increase in price. We would subcontract order processing so as to provide faster service.

Change name. “Preform-Inform” came about because surplus stationary was available. It is now almost exhausted.

More artwork and illustrations. This would go with offset printing.

Instead of, or in addition to P-I, have a very limited circulation non-publication – a bundle of books, papers, and whatever which is passed, mostly hand-to-hand among a circle of active liberationists – each person adding his own contributions to the bundle. –TOM

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## PERIODICALS RECOMMENDED

Liberation: This concerns ways for people to liberate themselves, not top-down attempted to change “society” as a whole.

ATLANTIS NEWS reports on attempted developments of new free countries outside the U.S.; undertaking construction of artificial island in the Caribbean. R.D. 5 Box 22A, Saugerties, NY 12477; semi-monthly; \$1 for five issues.

LIBERTARIAN CONNECTION, an unedited reader-written forum, has some excellent articles on liberation, both theory and practice, amongst a great diversity of ideological debate and gossip. Content much improved over a year ago. Guaranteed publication of mimeo stencils. Box 90913 Worldway postal Center, Los Angeles, CA 90009; six-weekly; \$4.50/year, sample gratis.

PEACE PLANS publishes a wide variety of proposals for peace and freedom – many alternate institution ideas. Includes reprints of rare books. Each issue is bigger than most books. J.M. Zube, Wilshire St., Berrima, N.S.W., Australia; irregular; \$2 for four issues.

Alternatives: Often but not always libertarian and liberational.

WHOLE EARTH CATALOG is much more than a catalog – gives sources for and contains details reviews of tools and info sources on alternate lifeways. Last edition will be out soon in book form. Spring 70 catalog is \$3; inquire for other back issues. 558 Santa Cruz, Menlo Park, CA 94035.

MOTHER EARTH NEWS “tells you how.” Detailed articles on such subjects as log cabins, tepees, marketing art, home brew, gathering wild food, getting land in Canada, organic gardening, communes. Box 38, Madison, Ohio 44057; bi-monthly; \$1/issue, \$5/year.

GREEN REVOLUTION emphasizes rural living on small, organic farms but published other articles as well. Heathcote School of Living, Rt. 1, Freeland, MD 21053; monthly; \$4/year, sample 35¢.

OCEAN LIVING publishes technical info, news items, and readers' brainstorm on water mobility and sea colonization. Box 17463, Los Angeles, CA 90017; irregular; \$1/ten issues – bargain!

NEW SCHOOLS EXCHANGE "...functions as an access switchboard for individuals and organizations trying alternatives to the big grey schoolhouse." 2940 Hidden Valley Lane, Santa Barbara, CA 93193; weekly; \$1/month.

OTHER SCENES is especially for hip international travelers, also columns on art, alternate culture. John Wilcock, editor. Box 8 Village Station, New York 10014; monthly; \$6/year, 50¢ for sample.

VOCATIONS FOR SOCIAL CHANGE "is a clearinghouse for information and ideas pertaining to institutional change...to help people become involved in radically different work and lifestyles." Many of the listings concern "reform" groups, but is of interest nevertheless. Canyon, CA 94516; semi-monthly; gratis sample, donations requested.

#### Contacts and Activities:

TRAVELER'S DIRECTORY serves as a sort of underground passport – circulates only to fellow listees – over 1000. Includes apprenticeship program. Peter Macalanos, 51-02 39<sup>th</sup> Ave., Woodside, NY 11377; semi-annual; 3 for listing and copy.

LIBERTAS publishes news of libertarian conferences, activities, new books, and periodicals. No ads. California Libertarian Alliance, box 572, Santa Ana, CA 92702; monthly; GRATIS on request!

Most periodicals listed under "liberation" and "alternatives" have low-cost ads or other contact features. GREEN REVOLUTION has been the best single ad media for us.

Ideology: We believe that an explicit libertarian philosophy – including economic theory and revisionist history – is essential for liberation, though certainly not sufficient. Freedom seekers who lack it are prone to expend tremendous effort on spectacular feats of outdoorsmanship – and yet fail to achieve freedom. Unfortunately all existing philosophy publications are tainted with collective-movementism – the notion that the individual is helpless to free himself; that the best he can hope for is freedom for his great grandchildren, to be achieved by changing "society" as a whole.

Listed here are a few of the better periodicals; these are worldwide in scope, relatively free of "left" or "right" political hang-ups, and offer low-rate advertising. For a longer list, including many of local interest, write Libertarian Free Press Association, 304 Emprie Bldg., 13<sup>th</sup> & Walnut, Philadelphia, PA 19107.

PROTOS, a national student underground paper, is a potpourri of economic theory, exposé of statism, utopian speculation, self-liberation, reviews, and humor. Something like INNOVATOR circa 1966-1967 but bigger and better done. Fun to read. 1110 N. Edgemont, Los Angeles, CA 90029; monthly; \$3/year, 25¢/issue.

MATCH publishes some excellent libertarian position papers and analyses of The Monster. Some original thinking, not just rehash. Also see letter on page 17. Ads limited to libertarians as defined by SLAM. Student Libertarian Action Movement, Box 3684, Tucson, Arizona 85720; monthly; \$2.50/year includes membership.

THE INDIVIDUALIST, anarcho-capitalist libertarian. (Has cleared up ad problem.) 415 2<sup>nd</sup> St. N.E., Washington, DC 20002; "monthly" but running late; \$6/year, 75¢/copy.

EFFICACY, "limited government" libertarian. Also sells INNOVATOR back issues. Pays 2¢/word for articles. Box 1747, Harlingen, TX 78550; quarterly; \$2/year, 75¢/copy.

LIBERTARIAN CONNECTION and PEACE PLANS also contain some good ideological articles. See under "liberation."

Vehicles: CAMPER-COACHMEN has detailed technical articles on trucks and campers – relatively honest. Griffin Publications, 10148 Riverside Drive, N. Hollywood, CA 91602; monthly; \$3.50/year, 50¢/issue.

Food: BULLETIN of the Santa Monica Organic Garden and Nutrition Club is brief and unpretentious but has better info on diet than most much more expensive magazines. Kay Rogers, 1334 Lincoln Blvd., Santa Monica, CA 90401; monthly; \$1/year.

Religion, Psychotherapy, or Fun: For relief of mystical hang-ups try “the world’s only true religion” – a spoof (?) which is more convincing than the traditional religions. POEE, Box 26475, San Francisco, Earth 94126. PRINCIPIA DISCORDIA for \$1; also semi-irregular mailings, three issues for four 6¢ stamps.

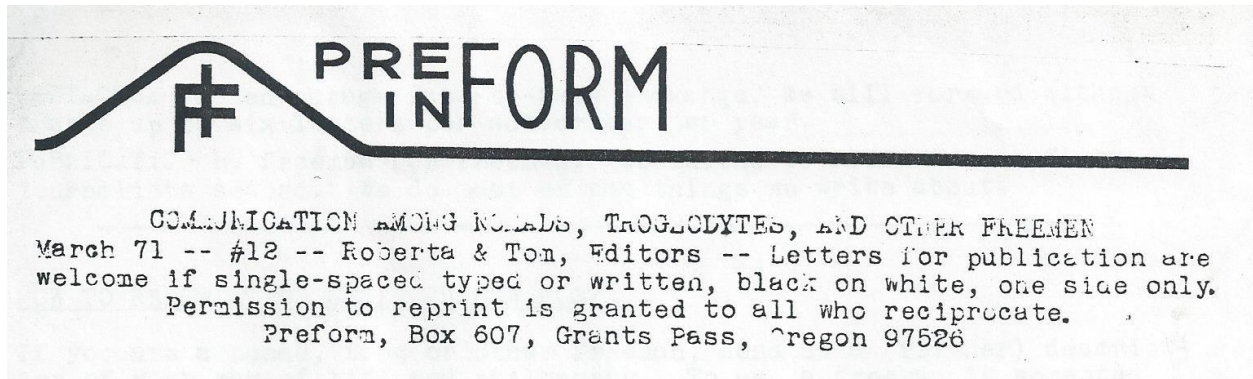
Previous recommendations revised:

INNOVATOR/FREE TRADE has not been taken over by EFFICACY. (See “ideology”)

ATLANTIS QUARTERLY has not published for more than a year.

LIBERTARIAN AMERICAN, which didn’t publish for a long time, now seems to be trying to play take-our-advice-or-we-will-turn-into-nasty-anarchists games with the Establishment.

MODERN UTOPIAN has published good in-depth articles on intentional communities but is far from consistent libertarian; editor advocated compulsory universal service. Also N.U. is no longer separately available; only as part of an expensive membership.



PREVIEW – Coming issues will have:

REGULAR publication six times per year – in January, March, May, July, September, November.

PRINTING by photo-offset, with mimeo for back-up and last minute ads.

EASE of publication, for you and for us. Send anything that is black and white – typed, hand written in black ink, clippings, line drawings.

MORE content, but compact. A typical issue will contain 14,000 words.

OPEN forum as always. We guarantee to publish without editing at least six photo-ready pages if relevant to invulnerable living, one page on almost anything.

EMPHASIS on lifestyles and techniques which minimize vulnerability to coercion. Nomadism/troglodysm are good but we will discuss other ways as well. There will be articles on theory and strategy of freedom-achievement as well as on specific applications.

REPRINTS from alternate lifestyle journals, underground press, libertarian and anarchist magazines, how-to-do-it books, and some Establishment publications. (We will pay small royalties if permission to reprint is granted or not required; otherwise we will paraphrase or abstract.) We want P-I to be an economical single-source for information most relevant to invulnerable living on or adjacent to North America – information which is presently scattered among dozens of publications.

DIRECTORY of sources for further information and tools – something like Whole Earth Catalog but specializing in products/services for personal freedom.

CONTACTS. To encourage face-to-face exchange, we will forward without charge up to six letters per subscriber per year.

PUBLICATION by freemen for freemen. We intend to remain doers first, journalists second. We do most of the things we write about.

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HOW TO RENEW AT NO COST, OR LOW COST

If you are a nomad, trog, or other freeman, send us a (further) description of your way of life and philosophy. To us, a freeman is someone who lives and lets live, and who lives most of the time out of sight, sound, and mind of those unwilling to live and let live. We will print or not print your letter, as you prefer.

If you are still living in a “conventional” house or trailer park but are actively working to achieve invulnerability to coercion, send us a printable letter telling about your present situation, progress toward freedom, objectives, information learned, problems encountered and your solutions, etc. Type single-space or write neatly in BLACK on WHITE paper this size, one side only. We don’t expect polished grammar, just informal rapping. Of course we like solid information based on your own experience or good research, not just dreams and polemics. Anyone who is seriously working for personal freedom will be discovering much that is of value to others.

We will mail every six months third-class at no charge, or ever two months first-class for \$1.

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ADVERTISEMENTS – 40¢ first line, 20¢ each additional line; or trade.

#### ALTERNATE METHODS FOR FREEDOM

Preform is a publication which specializes in particular methods for self-liberation, and at which it does a superb job. The LIBERTARIAN CONNECTION offers a more general treatment of self and wider scale liberation. If you value P-I, you'll probably also value LC. Material in LC is subscriber written, similar to P-I; however there are no restrictions on subject matter. With LC's wider scope of subjects, there is also a wider intellectual marketplace and greater opportunities for material trade. Many of those who write have a decent understanding of laissez-faire economics. Profitable opportunities for self-liberation appear – bootlegging, selling burglar alarms, placer gold mining, to name a few. Also appearing is long-term theoretical thinking on future conditions and the necessary preconditions for a larger libertarian society. LC is the original open forum for libertarians; you send in your stencils, and we publish (regularly every 6 weeks) and distribute. Send for a no pay (free to you) sample: Lisa Dawn, Box 90913, Dept. PI, Los Angeles, CA 90009.

AGORIC book store, 4700 E. 7<sup>th</sup>, Long Beach, Cal. Stocks wide selection of new/used paperbacks, underground press, libertarian publications, buttons, bumper stickers, psychedelic posters. INNOVATOR back issues on alternate lifestyles, nomadism, wilderness living, emigration, urban survival, tax avoidance, Swiss banking, underground storage, liberation strategy, etc.; big discount on sets. Open 11 to 10 every day. Stop by when you are in the area. Sorry, no mail orders.

Reward of \$1 or subscription renewal for lead resulting in our finding someone in Siskiyou region to receive our mail, forward letters, send out initial subscription copies, etc. Prefer someone around Grants Pass or Medford. Must be trustworthy, in sympathy, relatively stationary. Job pays cash. Roberta or Tom, Preform.

For Sale: Used 44 passenger school bus in good mechanical condition. Can be converted easily into camper. J. Harllee, Box 1245, Florence, S.C. 29501. CHEAP

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#### SITUATIONS AND SEARCHES

To Preform: We sold our Mercedes last week and bought an English Ford family type van. We are about one-half finished on the conversion to a camper. We plan to pull the Ford behind a converted bread van. The Ford should tow easy since it only weighs 2400 pounds dry.

We are getting ready to purchase a 1956 model bread truck from my wife's uncle. He spent a year converting it over and now it is first class. He wants \$800 for it...Peace, RALEIGH & LIZ

P.S.: Any libertarian nomads crossing the country and needing a place to stop for a night or two are welcome. We are only a few miles off of I-70. 219 N. Third, Carbondale, KS. We will probably be here until March or so.

To Preform: Reading a little by you in the Catalog...Motorized nomadism; squat-spots. Like that's been my trip for a year and a half, but it's far from together for me (yet).

Are you guys there just pamphlet people, or am I speaking to the author or some nomad or whatever?

I think I got your trip sorta. Would you elaborate some? Besides, it's so cold here, the breakdowns are murderous; but somebody somewheres has the trip in form more or less flowing, hassle conditioned. Merry Christmas, ROGER, Boulder, Colorado

To Roger: Yes, you are speaking with a nomad – also pamphlet people. We find butting out a memo-forum is easier than writing many letters. Writing is slow, difficult for me. So we “answer” A’s letter with copies of B’s, C’s, and D’s letter, etc. TOM

To Preform: I am interested in nomadic living in camper or housecar; also in your entrance way for tunneling underground. Have a place all picked out in the local city park. Very sincerely, DOUGLAS, S. Cal.

To Douglas: While I don’t especially recommend a city park, the following news story may be of interest:

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POLICE EVICT SPRY 67-YEAR-OLD RECLUSE FROM WASHINGTON PARK SHACK

George Herold Fleckenstein, who lived 17 years in a remote Washington Park ravine, moved Tuesday under the eye of police.

Neither Fleckenstein or police found joy in evicting the 67-year-old from his crude shack hidden in the woods down a steep hill from the Portland Zoo Hallway.

“If it were up to me,” said Central Precinct Capt. Norman Reiter, I’d leave him alone. He’s a clean old guy and causing nobody harm.”

Police might have left George Fleckenstein alone, except a .30-06 rifle was found in his shack and his allegedly made threatening motions with a golf club at a hiker who stumbled on his place.

Police immediately thought of the recent shooting of two lions at the Portland Zoo. The rifle was confiscated and an investigation opened.

Bullet comparison tests showed Fleckenstein’s rifle was not involved but by then everyone was asking “about the old guy they found living up in Washington Park.”

The shack measures about 12 feet long and 6 feet wide with a tar paper and board roof is about 5 ½ feet high.

Access is by trail, some 700 feet down a steep hillside from the blacktop road which leads through Washington Park to the back entrance of the Portland Zoo.

The steep trail crosses Portland Zoo Railway tracks. Thousands of Portlanders have trundled along the railway, unaware of Fleckenstein’s shack.

Fleckenstein looks every year of his 67 years. He stands about 5 feet 7 inches. He says he was an alcoholic until he cleared out of the central city sometime in the fall of 1952 and began living in the park. He told this story:

“One night in 1952 I was living at the Union rescue Mission and I went to the door and some guy beckoned me outside.

“I could see another guy pressed against the wall outside ready to grab me when I came out, and I figured they’d get me sometime or other, so I went back inside and the next day I left.

“I hiked up here and the first night I slept down there (near Canyon Road) with nothing over me. It was cold.

“I came up here and at first built a lean-to and then kept improving on it, and carrying stuff up here and built this place here.

“I get \$170 from the veterans and \$50 from Social Security. I haven’t saved any, I needed all of it for clothes, tools (he owns several hundred pounds of sporting equipment, and tools) and food. Thing’s I’d buy.

“There’s no electricity here. No refrigeration. I go out every day and get what food I need and take my clothes out to laundromats.

“I go to different stores and cleaners all the time.

“At night, I don’t have any light, but what I get from a candle and a flashlight. What reading I do, I do by day. I don’t need much light. I don’t stay up late.

“Every day I go out on the trail to the road up there, then I walk down to Washington Park and then downtown, where I can catch a bus.

"It takes me about an hour to walk each way.

"I carry things in and out on the golf cart there. No, I didn't find it, I bought it with my own money. Just like most things here.

"Only once in a while have I found things. Like tools along the highway there.

"I cook my food on a two-burner camp stove. I don't need much heat. That's a small place and I have plenty of clothes. Even in cold weather, I'm warm.

"Some days during the winter when the rail gets slick I've fallen but never been hurt.

"Sick? No! I don't know what sick is. I gave up drinking and I don't smoke. I never get sick, but a belly ache once in a while from something I ate.

"What year is this? I don't know. Don't care. I don't have any use for the time. No need for time at all. I just live here from day to day and don't need to know the time, day, or year.

"In all the time I've been here, only four groups have come across the place. One was a long-legged guy alone. Another was four kids hiking up from below – so winded they couldn't talk. I chased them off. Then there was another, and then that fellow the other day who came back with the policeman. Fleckenstein wore good leather boots, jeans, a checkered shirt open at the chest, a hearing aid, and green safety helmet.

Fleckenstein's mind is sharp and his eye is clear.

He'd just sooner live alone than not.

(by Judd Smith, OREGONIAN, July 15, 1970 – thanks to JIM ROAF for clipping)

To Preform: I plan to buy some cheap rural land next Spring, and establish a nearly self-sufficient lifestyle. I expect to be much freer than I am not, but not completely free. This may be only a stepping stone for me to a higher level of libertarian through noamdic, troglodyte, or sea-mobile technologies. Or I may find this level of liberation to be sufficient for me, and be unwilling to pay the higher price necessary to buy another 10% or 15% of freedom. JIM, Buffalo, N.Y.

To Jim: Regarding degree of liberation: In most cases, unless one develops a relatively invulnerable home base, they will not achieve nor maintain other freedom; the psycho pressures of that society will be too much. (See El Ray's article in last issue.) An invulnerable home can take many forms, but essentially it must be out of sight, sound, and knowledge of others.

The usual rural homestead, a la "green revolution", is rather vulnerable. Read the experience of Margaret's family (in the reprint of issues 5 through 6).

And self-sufficiency requires much hard work for a long time. You might consider renting or share-cropping first for experience. There seem to be "green revolutionaries" who already have agricultural land and who are willing to trade food and living space for labor.

Of course I may have misconstrued your plans. Maybe you are thinking of something different from a "homestead" and much less vulnerable. TOM

To Preform: Looked up Margaret's letter in P-I. What I had in mind was not quite the typical rural homestead, but maybe not that much different either. Anyway, I'm not as committed to buying land as I may have sounded...What I am firmly committed to is getting myself free of the Slave Society this year.

What I was thinking of was buying 10 or 20 acres of wooded land, on a very bad dirt road, way back in the hills, in a low population county, somewhere in NY State. I'd clear off an acre or two in the middle of the site, well hidden from the road, to plant a small garden. That and foraging would provide my food. For shelter, I'd live in a tent, or tipi, or maybe a camper. Don't want anything I can't run with or abandon.

Income will not be land connected, but will come from some service I can sell through the mail, or from exporting labor to the cities (freelance, of course). But I would keep my expenses very low, and I have some savings as a cushion.

Concerning Margaret's criticism: I was thinking of low assessment land in a low-tax, undeveloped county. I wouldn't build any improvements so the taxes should stay low, except for the generally rising rate. As to the problem with children, I'm not married (as an atheist and an anarchist, I wouldn't ever "marry" anyway, what I mean is, I don't live with a freemate). I concede

that this lifestyle is not viable with children. But in my single state, I think I could live quietly and unobtrusively like this without being hassled much.

But, like I said, now I'm having second thoughts about buying land. I'm thinking now that I can, perhaps, set up pretty much the same lifestyle without actually buying land. I worked very hard for my money, and I'd rather not spend it if I really don't have to. There are other things I could do with the thousand or two that I would otherwise have tied up in land. Also, I'm seriously considering a move to the west coast and I don't want land tying me down.

What I plan now is this: as soon as the weather breaks, I'm going to start camping most weekends. (Can't do much now, it's about zero degrees and the back roads are buried in snow). I'll take my two-weeks vacation early and camp out for the whole period. Then I'll quit my city job and move onto the land full-time. During the summer, I'll have to decide about coming west. If I do move, it will be in Sep. or Oct. 1971. If I stay here, I'll have to dig in, or build, or buy a more substantial shelter before the winter, but it won't be a HOUSE.

I agree about the need for a liberated home as a prerequisite for any other freedom. I constantly think of good ideas for business ventures, but I won't attempt them in the Slave Society because I won't submit to government regulation or taxation. So it's necessary for me to get a secure home base first, then I can get on with some of the unregulated ventures I'd love to try, knowing that at the worst I can always retreat to a safe home base, losing only the investment that I deliberately chose to risk. Peace & Freedom, JIM, Buffalo, N.Y.

To Preform: About 20 minutes ago, I was reading my Fall 1970 WHOLE EARTH CATALOG and came across a description and excerpt of and from Preform-Inform. I read it twice then thought about the days when I read about WW2 escapes (you know THE GREAT ESCAPE and THE WOODEN HORSE) and built tunnels around my house, which my little brother usually found. And the big underground place I built forgot about and came later to find filled in by some troglodystomic character who didn't like it.

When I was a kid I thought that if you had the property you could do anything with it. Later found that most places had building codes and even out in the woods they could still screw you if you dared to do it different. Well it looks as though if they can't find you they can't screw you. LARRY, Seattle

To Tom of Preform: I read with interest your article in "Mother" about exploring the waterways around Bella Cool by kayak. In 1967, I lived in Sitka, Alaska and I had a 19' fiberglass model racing kayak that I got in Seattle. It was extremely tipsy and hard to hold in the wind, but it was fast.

I'm not living at Tacoma, Washington working as much as I can which isn't too much as this area is feeling the recession pretty hard. If I can make enough to get another kayak and an outfit together by Spring, I would like to spend the summer or however long the spirit calls and the weather holds out exploring and tripping on the northern coast of B.C. and possibly S.E. Alaska, living off the land and the sea.

I want to get out of this dying city and back to the land and I figure if I like the life on the coast well enough and find a place I like, I'll stay there.

I would like to get in contact with anyone else who would like to spend a summer or a year, or who knows, this way; in the shadow of the mountains and close to the wind and the sea and the green earth. TERRY STAFFORD, 2036 E. Morton St., Tacoma, Washington 98404

To Preform: We are trying to design an economically viable project for coastal British Columbia that would allow us to maintain at least one couple in the area to begin research and, if appropriate, preparations for future establishment there of a "deep" retreat if and when economic and political conditions deteriorate to a level that necessitates same. We are always open to, and appreciate, suggestions.

I toured coastal B.C. last spring and two of us may come out this winter for another look. THOR, Columbus, Ohio

To Preform: We are very sincerely interested in joining or starting a commune. We have few but deep convictions about which goals an ideal commune should set for itself. One of our convictions seems to conflict drastically with the actions of all the communes, (it even conflicts with the words of many). We have yet to hear a commune which takes a healthy provision for the rights of the individual. We believe the right to privacy is as vital to the human identity as fresh air, clean water, wholesome food, and choice of intimate companions.

We also have a tendency to wander. This nomadic inclination would probably eliminate us from most established communes. If rigid continuity of commitments is the creed of a commune, we would NOT be good prospects. We honestly feel we possess the most important qualities for successful communal membership. Each of us are capable of surviving under a wide variety of conditions with the minimum of assistance from anyone – including each other. We fervently hope there is still some place on this planet where we can do this and then be free to share our surplus energy, enthusiasm, love, and happiness with more than each other.

We prefer the rural type commune to the urban but would welcome any ideas for reducing our dependence upon the instance, run-away technology our culture has created. So far our garden and orchard on a city lot has not given us a satisfactory feeling of independence. AL & BARBARA ROSE, Los Angeles

To Preform: I will be looking for some land or something next year. Wife and I are moving to Medford in fall. She is a nurse and will work there. I am going to try organic farming hopefully. GARY, Minneapolis

To Preform: I'm not a nomad or troglodyte. Doubt that I ever will be according to your definitions: I'll probably stay more settled and above ground in most ways. But I am turned on by the approach, the ideas, the alternative you have. There is a lot that applies to non-nomads who just want to live sanely, and without hassles in America today.

Delighted with your list of recommended reading "Toward Libertarian World View." Found I'd already discovered about half of your suggestions – appreciate the rest. I am about two years into or really out of the ticky-tacky box that got built in my head during years of middle-class, middle-west high school and college and Jr. Exec. Jobs. Am reading now with a hunger – whole new ideas and concepts of life that I didn't know existed before. Appreciate new suggestions. By the way, the book that started it all, that first said, "You don't have to conform to what THEY expect", was ATLAS SHRUGGED. Incredible. Literally changed my life.

Probably most nomad activity is going on around the west coast. I wonder if any around here (New England). If any Villa Via type gatherings or association or even just community-spirit in the area, I would like to get in touch. Also, can offer to share facilities in my straight-type apartment for nomads in the area who want or need for a few days at a time. This is not an open house invitation, of course, but from time to time, I have had travelers of all sorts put up here. Welcome some others.

Might as well close with something on me. I'm a statistical analyst by profession. Graduated from U. of Wisconsin in 1967 and did grad research at U. of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia for a year. Worked as one of the "wiz-kids" for Robert McNamara in the Pentagon after college! After a series of unsatisfying, rat race jobs that led from Washington, to Boston, to Rio de Janeiro and back to Boston, I am presently working as a part-time school bus driver after having been fired last month from a job as a hospital orderly because of my "lack of proper respect and attitude"! That's it in a nutshell. I work 3 hours a day, have the rest to myself since that pays rent and food. Rest of the time is for discovering – reading and doing and exploring – the "new world" as I call it. All kinds of things I never learned in textbooks. DAVE, Boston

To Preform: I am not a nomad or troglodyte, perhaps for a variety of excuses, perhaps the most truthful of which is lack of guts. My wife and I are in our mid-30's, have three children, and live on six acres in the country about 25 miles southeast of Sacramento. From time to time, we raise a few chickens, sheep, ducks, hogs, etc. About nine years ago, I started work for the State of California in civil service. About three years ago I read "Atlas Shrugged" and since that time my whole life has changed, more in philosophy and attitude than in practice or lifestyle. While I no

longer am sympathetic, and don't pretend to be, with the goals and practices of government; it is easy to get locked into a decent salary and harder to break away from. My early life was somewhat religiously oriented and sheltered; and I had never really been exposed to any other philosophy, much less one so much in contrast. My wife, unfortunately, does not go along with a rational philosophy all the way, and perhaps I am lucky because if she did, there might only be my guts separating me from freedom. Atlantis, I fear, is still a few years away from reality – I visited them in June of 1970. Perhaps by that time my children will have their “academic union card,” a requirement in servile society should they wish to remain a part of it. In any event, I am probably destined to remain physically attached, but philosophically detached from the system for a few more years.

My property is open, no trees, but it is out in the country and you or any other liberationists are welcome to stop off and squat a while or just drop by and rap a little. I have a small sauna (5' x 7') which is excellent for relaxing, rapping, and reading, though it is hard on books. My job requires some travel, so it would be good to have about two days' notice, though if a place to stay is all that is needed, it is not necessary that I myself be home. My address: Robert Boggs, Route 1 Box 560A, Wilton, California 85693; 916-685-4976.

To Preform: Would you object to a visitor or an observation of your lifestyle facilities? Convenient times? NAME WITHHELD

Answer: As van nomads, our lifestyle more or less reached a peak of refinement about a year ago. For a description of a very similar lifestyle, see “Further Report from a Nomad” in the reprints from the final issue of INNOVATOR.

Now our living patterns are in transition. If you came to Grants Pass now (early January) we would probably meet you there – parking our camper in the backyard of a friend. We can sleep two extra without severe crowding – the seats in the dinette make up into an extra double bed.

Our main activities at the moment are catching up on mail, shopping, and camper maintenance so I don't think “observations” would be representative.

(While putting out this issue we are in So. California with our camper in sunny and pretty but cool (elevation 5000') squat-spot in the Tehachapi Mountains near Frazier Park. We began this typically-untypical day by making love. Had milk (from dry powder) for breakfast. Dinner was a big pot of brown rice, cooked with some onions and a little meat by Roberta, plus raw alfalfa sprouts. At the moment (early evening) we are munching sunflower seeds. All our food today was from stored supplies except for the onions and meat which were purchased locally. Since getting up we have been writing/typing P-I all day, except for a brief recess when Roberta made bubbles – pretty gliding along in the wind with the sun effervescing off of them.)

Our camper seems most luxurious after living in a tent while working on our den; my first experience living “outdoors” for an extended period in cold/wet country in winter. Much reading of survival books plus summer outings had not adequately prepared me, I discovered. I'll tell more about this experience in a future issue. TOM

MAKING DO

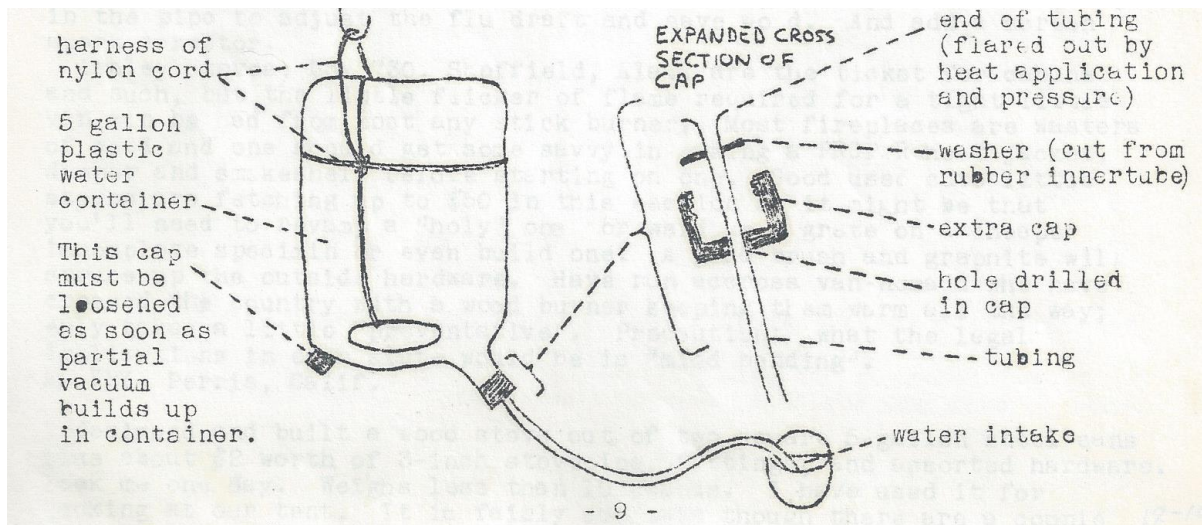
BOOT LACES: Leather thongs are very costly when bought at the shoe store. At a feed and grain store they can be had inexpensively by buying a “Farmers' Bundle” – one pound of leather scraps at about \$1. Some bundles are predominately thongs while others have mostly large pieces of leather. Look and choose carefully in order to get your “thongs worth”. Also, I read that electric lamp cord (stripped in half) makes durable boot laces. ROBERTA

HOT WATER BOTTLE: I used a drinking canteen (in its insulted case) with heart (and feet) warming results. (I did take care to close it tightly and keep it upright. ROBERTA

DUST FREE CAMPER: When driving, we close all windows except the front one in the cab overhand. Pressure inside the camper is positive and therefore road dust and exhaust fumes can't enter.

HOW MUCH PROPANE LEFT? Simply pour some hot water over the tank. Then, starting at the top, run your hand down the side of the tank. The metal will feel warm (relatively) until you reach the level of the propane – here the tank will feel colder. ROBERTA

WATER FILLER: If your water tank intake is as small and slow-filling as ours, here's a way to avoid weary holding of the water can. Bolt hook to camper, high enough so that the bottom of can will be above water intake. All water cans should take same size cap – recommend at least two cans for carrying ease. Tie nylon cord harness permanently on each water can. TOM & ROBERTA



NYLON CORD: Comes in various diameters – has a million uses. Better than leather thongs in many (most?) cases. To cut use a match or candle flame under the horizontally held cord. Ends will thereby not unravel. ROBERTA

POISON IVY: Get a solution of 1 oz. carbolic acid (phenol) and 15 oz. water. Wash with this after exposure to prevent skin eruption. Keep out of eyes! If you get an eruption, use same thing as often as necessary to treat it. STOPS ITCHING. Next best thing: carbolic soap, such as Octagon. JOHN (S.C.)

GETTING IT TOGETHER: We maintain two lists – one of things we wish to get rid of, the other of things we wish to acquire. When visiting people, we show them the lists to arrange swaps and sales. ROBERTA

TINKER TALK

WOOD STOVES: After trying about everything I could think of to heat my various mobile shelters, I found the solution in the good 'ol wood stove. The pressure and wick kerosene burners, the catalytic heaters, L.P. gas – they all have drawbacks for the full time “outbacker” or penny pincher. If at all possible give the LITTLE potbellied wood burner a chance – wherever you go, the fuel will probably be laying around waiting for you. A good armload will keep you snug all day and a little coal or hardwood will get you through the night. Even if daytime smoke will give you away, you can always stoke up after dark.

We have had and seen fireplace set ups in trailer, camper, and such but the smoke leakage is bound to ensue. Get a good quality (will have a grate) stove with a 5” pipe and fix yourself a fairly heat-resistant and leak-proof opening. The heat can be excessive at ceiling if a vent (preferably adjustable) is not available. If your rig is paneled at ceiling you will need a larger pipe to catch heat around the smaller 5” pipe and carry it out so as not to scorch wood. Set the stove

near and facing the door so you won't dribble splinters and ashes on your floor, and set it on a tin catch basic or scorch sheet. You can fix a carrier under your rig to hold your stovepipe when you are in cities and prefer to be less conspicuous. And it is usually simple to put a choke (damper) in the pipe to adjust the flu draft and save wood. And add a screen spark arrestor.

Ashley Stoves, Box 730, Sheffield, Ala., are the ticket for cabins and such, but the little flicker of flame required for a tight little van can be had from most any stick burner. Most fireplaces are wasters of wood and one should get some savvy in making a PROPER heat jacket, damper, and smoke shelf before starting on one. Good used cute little stoves are fetching up to \$50 in this section so it might be that you'll need to revamp a "holy" one or weld up a grate on a cheaper incomplete specimen or even build one. A good brush and graphite will spruce up the outside hardware. Have run across van nomads who have crossed the country with a wood burner keeping them warm all the way; only takes a little "preventative." Precaution: what the legal implications in each state would be is "mind bending". AL FRY, Perris, Calif.

I designed and built a wood stove out of two square 5-gallon steel cans plus about \$2 worth of 3-inch stove pipe, fittings, and assorted hardware. Took me one day. Weights less than 10 pounds. I have used it for cooking at our tent. It is fairly adequate though there are a couple of things I would do different if I made another.

Boiling is fast and easy – I cut hole in top so most of pot sets down in stove. Other kinds of cooking are tricky – require constant attention.

Amazing how warm a little wood kept our not-well-insulated tent, even with 20°F outside.

Used motor oil is recommended for starting a fire with damp wood. I have not yet tried it.
TOM

INSTANT HOT WATER HEATERS: In an early issue, I passed on a report that instant hot water heaters are soon clogged by deposits. In 3 ½ years of frequent use, our's has not developed this trouble. But this may be because we have usually had relatively soft water.

But an instant hot water heater which is vented to the outside (as our's is) is prone to freezing and requires careful draining after each use during cold weather. We had faithfully performed the draining ritual – and successfully, until last week our "luck ran out" – the coil froze and burst. (Either I forgot the final step – blowing out the pipes, or moving the camper from nose down to nose up after draining ran some residual water into the heater.)

The fault is not with the hot water heater (Valient) but with the California bureaucrats who require outside mounting and the camper manufacturers who kow tow to them. As a safety measure this is inconsistent; the cooking stove and propane lamp exhaust inside, and the water heater is used less often. (A furnace, which may run continuously, is something else. But interestingly, most APARTMENTS in the L.A. area don't even have outside vented furnaces – only gas heaters which exhaust directly into the room. TOM

"OPEN ROAD" CAMPERS: Our camper is poorly designed in a number of ways but especially for cold weather use. Insulation of living quarters is FAIRLY adequate – a 6500 BTU furnace keeps us warm in outside temperatures as low as 20°F. But the water system is poorly located. A couple nights ago the water pump and pipes froze – fortunately not hard enough to break anything – this was with furnace going and cabinet doors to the water area left open. We don't yet have a solution except to drain the entire system in winter and use water cans.

I was pretty much aware of the shortcomings of "Open Road" when I bought it, but got it at a good price. And it's at least mounted on an adequate truck which can't be said for many campers.

As for getting Open Road to fix any of their design/manufacturing goofs, forget it unless you care to picket their dealers or play lawsuit games. Chevrolet, in contrast, replaced a defective camshaft on the truck under their warranty, without fuss.

Commercial camper/trailer magazines say little about appliance problems, perhaps because the average camper sits empty in somebody's driveway much of the time and most of the winter. P-I will welcome more reports on equipment. What do you have? What problems have you had?
TOM

We cut battery drain on long winter nights by installing a "Transtrip" fluorescent light made by James Moon, Box 252, Covina, CA 91722. It includes a solid-state inverter; draws 1.3 amps and puts out 750 lumens according to its spec. Ours give adequate light for any kind of work. Price is \$16.50 (on "30 day special"?). Only problem: it requires 12 gauge (heavy!) wire direct to battery, both "hot" and ground, for good operation. (As a stopgap, I put capacitors – 400 ufarad electrolytic and 1 ufarad paper – in parallel across the 12 volts beyond the on-off switch. TOM

"ALL-TERRAIN" VEHICLES: I saw a very impressive demonstration of a "Cat-A-Gator" (manufactured by Truckweld Equipment, Ltd. Of Burnaby, B.C.) at the Pacific National Exhibition. It is remarkably able to propel itself while floating on water as well as make respectable speed through mud, snow, rocky terrain, over logs – and can make a 360° turn without its center of gravity ever moving. Isn't this a tool well worth your interested investigation? NAME WITHHELD

(Later) I drove over to Truckweld Equipment and talked to a salesman. Since the maximum speed is 20 mph it isn't really suited to highway driving. A set of extra (larger) tires can be bought and by removing the treads and spending an hour changing tires, 30 mph can be achieved, though the climbing angle is reduced from 45° to 30°. It can be up-geared for higher speeds, but at the expense of low-gear power.

If you stay off the main highways, you can drive it along the side of the road in the same manner as a farmer can drive his tractor – similarly the only license required is a tractor license.

I don't know how much you or your readers could get out of this device as an instrument in self-liberation. I'm less impressed than I was at first. The best exploration of suitable areas would probably be made by helicopter. But it still costs money to buy and operate and is therefore more what you would probably call an "interim" device. NAME WITHHELD

Some of the specs: length 8.6'; height to sideboard 3'; height to windshield 6.1'; weight 1800#; clearance 13 ½"; ground pressure 0.68 with 22" track; turning radius 4'; engine 21hp Onan; transmission, torque converter and dual planetary; tires 5.70x5.00x8 dual (6); drive, 6 sprockets all wheels; dry land payload 1000# to 45% grade; water payload 700#; climbing ability 100% gradability on firm ground; sidehilling ability to 70% on firm ground and 50% on firm snow; all steel construction; price \$4082!

I have seen a number of "all-terrain" vehicles including a two-wheeler two-wheel drive sub-motorbike and a three wheeler made by Honda, both with balloon tires – much cheaper than Cat-A-Gator but without its extras.

A trail motorbike seems better for our use: narrower for going through the woods, fast enough for highways (though marginal), light enough to man-handle over obstacles, and MUCH less expensive. The Cat-A-Gator on the other hand will carry much heavier loads and would be better on relatively open land that is swampy, very rocky, or very steep.

The big problem with almost any motor vehicle is noise, also dependence (at present) on fuel and parts from that society. Our IDEAL would be: not a vehicle which will carry a ton of junk up the side of a mountain, but a highly-sophisticated shelter with most "comforts and conveniences" which collapses into a 50-pound backpack. TOM

STUCK UP BY STICKERS? After a study, two Rutgers U. political science students report that cars carrying peace stickers are 10% more likely to be flunked by state safety inspectors than cars without them.

In another study by a UCLA professor, PLAYBOY reports it was found that drivers in cars with Black Panther emblems received more tickets than before the emblem was displayed.

(I wonder if anyone has done a study on cars with stickers saying "Support your local police".) ROBERTA

SOME THOUGHTS ON LIBERATION STRATEGY – III

by El Ray

29Oct70

What is freedom? A symptom and perhaps one of the cause of psychoparalysis is the vague and evasive meanings given to "freedom."

Some libertarians consider freedom to be loosely synonymous with opportunity, choice or capability. This is popular among those who wish to pretend that they are maximizing freedom while they remain very much enslaved. Most residents of the Soviet Union are thus “freer” than a family pioneering on a remote island. Such a definition merely clouds. It is better to say “opportunity” when one means opportunity.

Others equate freedom with social morality – non-coercive behavior of others. They assert that “freedom” can only be bestowed by others, not achieved for oneself; that freedom cannot be achieved in defiance of threats since the very act of defiance represents a departure from what one’s behavior would otherwise be, and is thus unfree. This definition also serves as an alibi for servitude.

What is a workable concept of freedom? I suggest: freedom is invulnerability to coercion, coercion being physical violence initiated by other volitional beings.

This definition does not mention threat of coercion. Any psychopath can utter threats against the universe. Threats are taken seriously only when readily implementable, which comes back to vulnerability.

Freedom is only one kind of invulnerability. Others include: immunity – invulnerability to a species of harmful micro-organisms – invulnerability to harmful weather.

One who continues in a vulnerable life-style and then complains when he is plundered, is somewhat like a West Indies resident who builds a flimsy house and then blames the next hurricane for demolishing it. Certainly, people are to blame when they inflict coercion. But merely blaming them does not bring liberty. The self-responsible person builds a home which can withstand likely storms, and develops a way of life not vulnerable to likely attempts at predation.

No one claims that freedom is a summum bonum. To achieve freedom one has to forego some opportunities and satisfactions while gaining others.

How much freedom? As Lee and Skye mentioned, freedom is not a monolithic entity; there are various degrees. But not all degrees are necessarily viable. For most people, I suspect that choice is between predominantly servile (vulnerable) life-styles and predominantly liberated (invulnerable) life-styles.

If satisfaction could be plotted with respect to freedom for a large number of people, I think the graph would have a low peak of relative satisfaction around 5% to 10% freedom, a higher peak around 90% to 95% freedom, and wide depression in between.

The lower maximum is exemplified in contemporary society by many a “successful” Middle Amerikan. He lives “conventionally” but takes advantage of some of the easier, more obvious loopholes. He pays income taxes but hires a tax accountant to maximize deductions. He registers for the draft but goes to college in hope of being made a technician instead of a target. His mental state is one of controlled schizophrenia. He believes most of the statist myths in which he was indoctrinated yet maintains a modicum of skepticism. He goes to church, or at least accepts their standard of morality, but is not “above” having a drink at a nude bar. He is largely rational in his work but keeps his rationality compartmented; he does not – dares not critically examine his life as a whole.

Although self-maintained schizophrenia leads to unhealthy and unhappy complications, on the whole the opportunistic serf may have it better than his more consistent, more gullible, less self-motivated brother who is drafted and becomes a target – and a paraplegic rotting in a VA hospital, struggling along in a low-paying, high-taxed job with a load of installment debts.

But the opportunistic serf is probably also more contented than the “non-conformist” who tried to be free in some things while remained servile in overall living pattern. One who is half-free and half-serf dwells in a psychological no-man’s land. He knows too much and thinks to independently to play servile status games with conviction and success, yet remains too immersed in, and influenced by, that culture to achieve success/satisfaction on his own terms. This includes many (not all) “bohemians,” “adventurers,” black market entrepreneurs, religious/cultural minorities and radicals of all sorts. A half-and-half life-style tends to be unstable: some go on to more complete liberation; some drift back into, at first, outward conformity, then, acceptance of servile norms; some end in psychosis or early death.

The higher maximum of satisfaction is attained by someone with a liberated home-based plus some import-export with the servile society. For him, contact with the State is an

occasionally annoyance and danger, not a big part of his life; thus he can avoid the psychological paralysis that afflicts so many “non-conformists.” Compared to the opportunistic serf he may enjoy somewhat fewer conveniences (at present) but is happier overall. On the other hand, he has more than someone living in the primitive isolation presently required for 100% freedom.

Liberty or servitude? Or neurosis? Whether one will be happier as a freeman or as a slave partly depends on the individual. But this choice is not open to most libertarians. Relative contentment in servitude is possible only for those who believe in it; most libertarians are too independent and well-informed. For libertarians the choice is between freedom and neurosis.

What become of those libertarians of five years ago who gave up (or never tried) achieving personal liberty? Of people I knew, one is now a Catholic. Another is a Mormon. Another committed himself to a mental hospital. Many are occupied with chronic ailments.

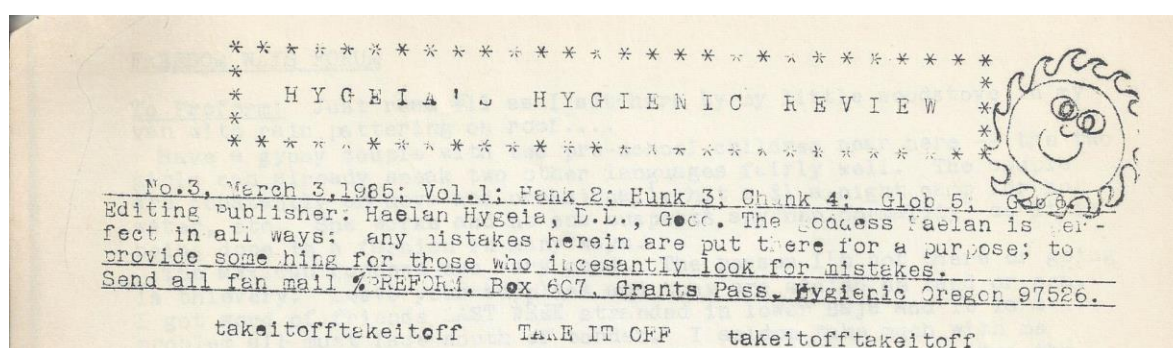
Freedom for what? That is up to you, as Lee and Skye suggested. But in the immediate future I think most liberationists will include: freedom to pioneer in freedom – i.e. freedom to make a career of liberation.

At present there are no ways of self-liberation which are both easy and highly effective. Opt-out will become easier as more do it and develop techniques. But, right now, effective liberation requires so much of one’s time and resources that one who does it will probably make it his main career – eventually developing services for sale.

Liberation is a many-splendored thing; there are various ways to do it and a variety of physical and mental activities involved. Liberation draws on a wide range of skills and offers many satisfactions.

To some, opting out evokes images of gathering berries in a far- off wilderness. Liberation does seem to be easier in uninhabited areas – at least as a do-it-yourself thing, which it necessarily is for the first pioneers. But it is also possible in large cities. Imagine, for example, an old expensive building, which appears to be only a private club, but which conceals an entrance way to apartments and workshops tunneled underneath.

Freedom does indeed “need” more full-time professionals; not collective-movement preachers seeking a coterie of followers, but explorers/inventors/developer of liberated life-ways.



Deliciously warm clothes on a chilly wintery day are a goddess. But when the sun is shining and golden warmth surround you why in the name of Hygeia bind yourself with clothes? Think about that as the day lengthen and the earth tilts her face to the sun.

Why Let Clothing Put You in a Bind? – Uncover the Joys of Nuding

Do you dress to live or live to dress?

*Next to pure nakedness, hold a sweet kitten – feel it purr; hold a puppy – feel its fur; hold your lover – feel the rhythm of his/her pulsating body. Let a mountain stream embrace you. Loose yourself in a whirlpool of wind. Let the soothing warmth of grains of sand penetrate your hungry body. Stand on a hill crest as you reach out to the eternal sky. Groove, groove. Stop reading, take off your clothes and FEEL.

*It's good for your health to expose yourself to nature. I could tell you about vitamin D and all that jazz but the only way you can experience the benefits is to do it. DO IT, DO IT, DO IT.

*It's economical: less to buy and maintain.

*Neophyte nudists may feel uncomfortable at first (even when alone); if they persist, however, their prudish subconscious will come around.

*That society frowns upon nudism so do your nuding where it won't see you. In this way you will be creating your own society! Utopia is where you MAKE it.

Clothes are...

*a come on

*a put on

*a hang up

*a cover up

*a bind up

Clothes Make The Manikin

If nudity is savagery, I prefer to be a savage:
let civilization tangle in its corsets, brassieres,
garters, panty girdles, and underpants.

—The Wise Old (Nude) Sage

Looking through the fabric of civilization: As long as the morality of civilization rests in a layer of clothing civilized morality will remain cloth deep. —The Wise Old Sage (With X-Ray Vision)

Men of the cloth often hide behind it. —The Naked Jesus

Primitive peoples wear the furs of animals to keep them warm: the mark of the highly civilized is wearing them to impress their peers. So again I prefer savagery. —The Wise Old (Vegan) Sage

May you peacefully live the life you envision and “May the long time sun shine upon you, all love surround you, and the pure light within you guide your path on.”

WEAR YOUR OWN THING.

FREEDOM WAYS FORUM

To Preform: Just read #11 as I sit here by my little wood stove in my van with rain pattering on roof.

Have a gypsy couple with two preschool children near here – the two girls can already speak two other languages fairly well. The couple are constantly on move and occasionally hit a \$1 a night camp for hot water, etc. She works and no one suspects any “non-normality” so it is being done in a fashion in many ways.

The Mexican rundown was very good. The reason I'm not there or going is thievery. Leave your supplies and they are stolen on land or sea. I got word of friends LAST WEEK stranded in lower Baja and it is a problem all must face south of border. I seldom take much with me even close to border and have lost enough from Panama up to have the lesson well implanted. The U.S. boat owners with any savvy won't dock ANYWHERE between Acapulco and Panama. But it's GREAT if someone is always at camper or camp.

In line with homestead-type thought: Have seen very isolated hot springs used to heat greenhouse type buildings and it's a wonderful working system from Alaska south. Only problem seems to be latching on to suitable hot springs. The escapists? I saw using system invested heavily.

You hit the nail on head with warning on National Forest land. A parallel thought is that during last depression the state had game wardens galore (to bring in fine \$ I presume). Those who successfully lived off land used snares and pellet guns for small game and bow and arrow for larger game since noise was a giveaway. I spoke with old timer about it. He always cached meat away from occupied area since venison meat tests are standard operating procedure. A silencer can be made from tin can with lid baffles but that's hardly worth it. Hunters of Waseca, Minnesota has much info on game getting.

At present 90% of chickens in the U.S. have leukosis chicken cancer although it hasn't developed into growths. 10% of the beef inspected had to have sores or tumors removed from carcasses. Add the antibiotic and stilbestrol while animals are alive and enzymes, phosphates, and additives galore when dead and it's getting to the point of game scrounging or going vegetarian.

I think the area up towards you is becoming America's "drop out" land. Eugene is swinging and communes are springing up all around, not to mention the "loner" types who get trapped on their acreages. I smile when friends "throw" it up for the "simple" country life and wind up about as trapped as before, although I don't think many notice it or admit it.

I have usually headed south before wintering it through about the Frisco latitude. I could mention several ways to make a "free" dollar up that way when you get room for such things. Have guided about a dozen van gypsies toward P-I although I find many "on-the-road" people too grooved into THEIR thing to expand beyond it – an example is the psychedelic types who are high too often to come down and use head for something else. Giant Rock convention had dozens of examples this year and it may not continue form such lack of support and indifference. Glad P-I is getting the high percentage of doers and positive types.

I was sure of the eco-collapse this year but see that they are pumping the economy with enough last ditch means to let it sink down more gradually. As I have said before I'm not worried until the collapse is well along – in the meantime climate comfort is worth the risk.

Just ran into guy with all-time low cost unit which was van he picked up for \$35 and has been wandering around this area for weeks converting it, etc.

Your damp problem is ONE reason I am not keen about houseboat and boat life as a permanent thing. I've been trapped at sea on little rigs that had me at their mercy or the seas or seemingly someone's besides my own.

River shantee loggers along a few of the Northwest's rivers which empty into the Pacific: There are a handful of hardy types who throw a shantee on a log raft and snag the occasional log that floats by. Some bring a boat after a working summer and winter at the river openings where the winter rains and likely floods bring enough wood by to pay a meager supply bill. Last I noted Northern California still had a few "open" rivers. Logs are sold back to logging companies.

Surviving in a city on a moment's notice is usually no more difficult than staying up all night scrounging the back alley trash jus before pick-up morning. The good stuff can be taken to the swap mets which have sprouted up all over the west, and, I suppose, to a degree in the east. Many with trucks have done this to get on feet before making a better way to go.

Smashed aluminum cans can also keep a person going in a pinch. Ask your Coors distributor about it and who his best customers are and make your rounds accordingly. Glass is currently bringing less but I have a friend who was doing \$200 a WEEK by working his head as well as his muscles on glass alone. Contact glass container manufacturers and such.

The people who control most of scrap business pretty much get double the dollar they pay for scrap of all types. So inquire from consuming sources before peddling any large quantities of scrap.

I occasionally meet a closed mouth type who makes his by locating occasional pockets of gold. The forest service and such make it all but impossible, but many would be surprised at the number of persons paying expenses and often much more wandering the gold rush areas of California, Idaho, Alaska, etc.

Anything you can peddle door-to-door or service you can render without getting too deeply entrenched can be a free enterprise tax-wise. At last count there were hundreds of "blooded" gypsy families in the country still on the move using such approaches. "Fur, Fish, & Game" magazine always lists a couple of "wildcrafters" contacts who make it by picking roots, making natural items sold to floral shops, and various seasonal ways. In freedom, AL FRY c/o Alison Studios, 879 Park Ave., Perris, Calif. 92370.

To Al: Thanks for the many tips.

A friend with a little experience in door-to-door selling (magazine subscriptions, I think) says it's definitely not a freedom way. Sooner or later one will run into a reserve deputy sheriff, or

somebody. There are usually laws against door-to-door peddling – often enacted at the instigation of anti-free-enterprise local merchants.

Door-to-door might be profitable and safe if limited to known, trustworthy clientele, but I think people are still too scattered for this.

A hot spring would be nice if one could find one not known to others. Known ones are usually popular – often developed commercially. The hot springs I've seen are easy to spot because of the bright green algae growing in them. TOM

On terminology: In response to critique from Jim at Buffalo and El Rayo, we have coined “vonu” to mean INVULNERABILITY TO coercion (VOLuntary Not vULnerable). We distinguish vonu from “liberty” which we define, conventionally as EXEMPTION FROM coercion. “Freedom” means simply ABSENCE OF coercion – i.e., vonu and/or liberty.

WHERE P-I SUBSCRIBERS ARE, AND HOW TO CONTACTS

As of February 20, circulation of issues 9 through 11 was 182; including 126 paid (p), 13 traded to nomads/trogs (t), and 42 in exchange to other publications (x). (We do not know the number of nomads/trogs, who have not told about their lifeways, among the 126 paid subscribers.)

In the following list, after each city is given the number of subscribers of each kind within the area. For example, New York City 8 p t 5x means: eight paid, plus one in trade, plus five exchange; within roughly a 50-mile radius including Long Island and Jersey suburbs.

For anonymity, a lone subscriber in a small town is usually listed under a larger city nearby. So if you don't see “your” town listed, it doesn't mean we've missed you.

Of course, the area listed is MAILING address in most instances, which is not necessarily the place of living.

Pacific Coast: ALASKA, Fairbanks p, Kodiak p, Anchorage 2p; YUKON, Whitehorse t; B.C., Nanaimo t, Vancouver 3p; WASHINGTON, Port Angeles p, Seattle 4p, Olympia t, Pullman p; OREGON, Portland p, Corvallis p, Eugene t, Grants Pass 2p t; CALIFORNIA, Paradise t, Sacramento p, Fresno p, Santa Rose p, San Francisco bay 8p 4x, Santa Barbara 2x, Oxnard 2p, Los Angeles/Orange 15 p t 11x, Riverside p t, San Diego p.

West: IDAHO, Sun Valley p; COLORADO, Denver 2p, Gunnison t; UTAH, Salt Lake City 3p; N.M., Farmington p, Embudo t; ARIZONA, Flagstaff p, Tucson x, Phoenix 2p; NEVADA, Las Vegas p.

West Central: MANITOBA, Winnipeg, p; NORTH DAKOTA, Bismarck p; MINNESOTA, Tamarack p, Minneapolis 3p; NEBRASKA, Kearney t; KANSAS, Topeka p; IOWA, Des Moines 2p x; INDIANA, Merrillville p; OHIO, Cleveland p, Akron p, Madison x, Mt. Vernon x, Columbus 2p.

Northeast: VERMONT, Brattleboro p; MASS., Boston 4p 2x; CONNECTICUT, Waterbury p, New Haven p; NEW YORK, Buffalo p; Rochester p, Syracuse p, Ithaca 2p, Saugerties x, New York City 8p t 5x; NEW JERSEY, Princeton p; PENNSYLVANIA, Pittsburgh 2p, State College p, Wilkes Barre p, Philadelphia x; MARYLAND, Freeland x; WASHINGTON D.C., p x; DELAWARE, Wilmington x, Dover p.

Southeast: VIRGINIA, Richmond p; TENNESSEE, Memphis p; N.C., Wilson p, Winston-Salem p; S.C., Florence p; GEORGIA, Atlanta 2p 2x; ALABAMA, Montgomery p; FLORIDA, Gainesville p, Tampa 2p.

Elsewhere: MEXICO, Coah., Saltillo p; FPO San Francisco p; ENGLAND, London x, Watford, Herfordshire x; AUSTRALIA, N.S.W., Berrima x.

You can contact any subscriber, either a specific individual who has published in P-I or unnamed persons within a geographic area, by sending letters to us for forward. We will now

forward up to six stamped envelopes from a subscriber, per year, without charge; additional forwards are 25¢ each. (On a single letter, you can avoid extra postage by addressing it to the person or to the town (if one person in town) c/o Preform.)

Most of our exchanges are with small magazines put out by one or a few people. These are often good contacts. For names and addresses of some we especially recommend, see last issue.

Unfortunately, our forwarding is slow at present because we can't pick up mail often. We are looking for someone in Siskiyou region to process our mail; this will reduce forwarding delays.

Suggestions for contacting another subscriber: Write a long letter about yourself – your philosophy, lifestyle, objectives, etc., like some of the ones in "Situations and Searches". Don't say anything which might be incriminating. If seeking information about an area it's nice to make remuneration for the person's time.

Suggestions for follow up: Visit with one or two people at a time; larger meetings are apt to be consumed in arguments among a few and/or dominated by those most highly verbalized. Don't expect to find someone on the same trip or already to follow your lead; seek areas of common interest wherein exchange can be mutually beneficial. (Of people we have met in Siskiyou, NO one is on a trip similar to ANYONE else, yet there is mutually-profitable trading.) Be tolerant of terminology, clothing, relationships, "import" techniques, and utopian visions different from your own; the only essential is non-coercion, including non-cooperation with those who do coerce. Maintain invulnerability; don't lay yourself open to a stranger until you have heard his ideas in detail and observed his practices under various conditions.

HOW TO PUBLISH YOUR THING IN P-I

We guarantee to publish, without editing, at least six photo-ready pages per year if relevant to invulnerable living, one page on almost anything. (We reserve the right to refuse copy we consider slanderous or likely to provoke exceptional hostility.)

Please single-space type or write neatly, BLACK on WHITE. Black ink (ballpoint is okay) or black-colored pencil will print better than a "lead" pencil. If your typewriter ribbon is worn, send a black carbon copy. (If you are cutting a stencil for another publication, you make a carbon for us at the same time.)

After this issue we will not retype copy except for: (1) initial letters from new subscribers (if interesting enough); (2) someone who wishes to pay (50¢ per page of typing).

Line drawings or dot shadings (pictures already printed) reproduced well; photos come out weird.

What you write needn't be beautiful, just readable. It's okay to xxx out mistakes. Printing is more legible than cursive script.

Use paper this size (8 ½ x 11), ONE SIDE ONLY. Leave about three-quarter-inch margins on all sides. Notebook paper is okay; light blue will not reproduce. Put anything not to be published (full name? Address?) on a separate sheet. Deadline for next issue is May 1.

HOUSE AD: Back issues 5 through 8 of P-I; collating "tailings" but fairly readable; \$1 per set, postpaid third-class.

DELIVERY VIA DROP: We would like to arrange one experimental "drop" in the Los Angeles area. We offer a P-I subscription in exchange for a United Parcel delivery address (any street address) plus a fairly permanent place, accessible most hours, where subscribers who elect drop delivery can pick up their copies.

This can be a step toward development of an underground postal net.