

“how to live and let live, out of sight and mind of those unwilling to let live, by people
who are doing it”

VONULIFE – VONULINC

**THE FULL COLLECTION
(MAY 1971 – NOVEMBER 1974)**

liberty under attack publications

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

VonuLife 1 (May 1971).....	p. 8
VonuLife 2 (July 1971).....	p. 17
VonuLife 3 (September 1971).....	p. 46
VonuLife 4 (November 1971).....	p. 68
VonuLife 5 (January 1972).....	p. 86
VonuLife 6 (March 1972).....	p. 111
VonuLife 7 (May 1972).....	p. 144
VonuLife 8 (July 1972).....	p. 174
VonuLife 9 (September 1972).....	p. 198
VonuLinc 10 (November 1972).....	p. 224
VonuLinc 11 (January 1973).....	p. 245
VonuLife, March 1973.....	p. 270
VonuLinc 12 (May 1973).....	p. 391
VonuLinc 13 (July 1973).....	p. 423
VonuLinc 14 (September 1973).....	p. 443
VonuLinc 15 (January 1974).....	p. 455
VonuLinc 16 (May 1974).....	p. 470
VonuLinc 17 (November 1974).....	p. 480

FOREWORD

229,000 words & 366 pages later, and VonuLife/VonuLinc is officially digitized, in the span of just a couple of months. Lifetimes of knowledge, 3 or 4 years' worth of publications, and we now have it easily available via our fingertips or eye holes...a true compendium of the self-liberator's pursuit of freedom, *whatever* that subjectively means to them.

Acquiring Jim Stumm's entire collection of vonu/libertarian zines (everything from ~1962-2020 – the latter dates being his own publications) was both a blessing and a curse. It was a blessing in the sense of actually acquiring all of the publications I sought after for years, getting into contact with one of the few folks alive that had actually met Rayo, back in 1971; the “curse” part being, *how in the holy hell do I find time to digitize all these?* A prioritized plan HAD to be made, or I would have no other time for anything else, despite typing 150+ word-per-minute with just a few errors.

So, I prioritized VONULIFE – the March, 1973 edition remains my most favorite vonu publication, as it is the most radical, and the most practical. The entirety of this collection definitely meets, if not exceeds, that bar.

Anyone who's tuned into the “Selections from VonuLife” series in 2024 knows this for a fact: “It's a goddamn goldmine,” as I put it to *Vonu Podcast* co-host, Kyle Rearden...whether you're investigating parenting & child-raising; shelter; alternative identity; living on a boat; starting a new country; wilderness vonu, any other radical, alternative lifestyle in pursuance of freedom, or merely inspiration...THIS collection is for you.

To refresh, VONU as a freedom strategy means the pursuit of an invulnerability to coercion. For the most part, the individuals who contributed to these classic vonu & libertarian zines were ethically and morally aligned with me (and those I associate with) in their pursuance of this freedom strategy; others were happy to siphon (steal) some gas to make their van nomadism more expense-free; and there are even a couple of folks whose “double lives” should be scrutinized further, which (fortunately & unfortunately) further validate the efficacy of vonu as a strategy.

A number of years back, *Liberty Under Attack Publications* published a book by Kerry Thornley titled, “The Permanent Floating Voluntary Society.” Of course, at that time, like 99.9% of the rest of the world, I had not read Jim Garrison's files pertaining to his investigation of the JFK assassination. On the front page of Garrison's file on Thornley, it references Officer J.D. Tippits. The only reason the local police gave a shit and began to investigate the assassination, was sparked by the killing of a bludg. Kerry Thornley pulled the final trigger to kill aforesaid Officer Tippits, which brought the local bludg into action.

You see, most everyone wanted JFK dead at that time. And Kerry Thornley, likely being deep Naval Intelligence, shadowed Oswald in the late 1950's, literally wrote a book on all of this before the assassination even happened (“The Idle Warriors”), and served as one of the individuals setting Oswald up for the assassination – Oswald & Marina's neighbors weren't even sure which one she was married to – Kerry Thornley, or Lee – they looked so much alike, and they were both there that often.

Kerry Thornley first supported the official story (can be seen in old vonu zines); a handful of years later in the same vonu zines, he claimed Oswald was a patsy; and then, a decade later, basically implicated himself in the entire thing, in hyper-public statements discussed in books, such as “In History's Shadow” by Joe G. Biles and “Caught in the Crossfire: Kerry Thornley, Lee Harvey Oswald, and the Garrison Investigation”.

There's a lengthy letter he wrote on May 27, 1992 (found in Caught in the Crossfire), that is basically a confession – what he did, is connect himself directly to many of those involved, and basically laid out all the players. An excerpt from that letter:

I pointed out to Dr. [Redacted] that with no effort on my part at all, I have met an unusually large number of accused JFK assassins. I was a college fraternity pledge brother of Gordon Novel, a suspect in the Garrison probe. I was in the Marines with Lee Harvey Oswald. In New Orleans, on separate and apparently unconnected occasions, I met Guy Banister, David Ferrie and Clay Shaw – Garrison's three main suspects – before the assassination. A few weeks before the assassination I discussed killing Kennedy with David Chandler, a stringer for Life Magazine who was also on Garrison's suspect list...

That same year [1966], independent of any of these other meetings, I met Mafia don Johnny Roselli – accused...of firing the fatal shot from the Grassy Knoll that actually killed the President.

If I believed that I have met eight accused assassins and three accused accessories after the fact by coincidence, then I would be crazy. And I confine myself to the officially accused. At least four others I have met have been accused in private conversations with people who seemed to know what they were talking about. **[Emphasis added]**

Do you also recall the "Second Oswald" taken out from the second floor of the theatre? THAT was Kerry Thornley...and unlike most patsies or "agents", he was protected, not killed. For the full, brutal, and gory details, check out Cory Hughes' "Bloody History Podcast", wherein he literally spent some 20+ hours going through Thornley information.

Early on, Kerry definitely had the argument of being young, dumb, and naive, beginning to shadow Oswald when he was 19/20, but his later testimonies disprove any of that. This was a long-standing, infiltration operation into the alternative lifestyle zines. And this also leads into the Discordian Society, which seems to inevitably be another counter-culture CIA front.

So, to conclude this section on the now-dead Thornley, this is definitely not an example of vonu shown to be efficacious. Rather, I think it is important for two reasons: 1) these small libertarian zines were valuable enough to warrant such infiltration; and 2) noting the Discordian Society again, it's another important lesson/reminder that the opposition is usually controlled. And 2.1) a further important reminder that the CIA/State was heavily involved in 1960's counter-culture. After reading Kerry's writings, I had a hard time accepting these conclusions; but Garrison knew it back in the 60's...and I am there myself.

Then there's this super recent discovery, that I'm having a hard time logically disproving...

Thankfully, for your sake, a lot of editing has been done to this collection that was previously mimeographed, typewritten (i.e. by a TYPEWRITER), or various other issues with reprinting I can't fathom dealing with today...but if you read the submissions from Paul Doerr, he's EITHER maximizing his space (cost-per-word mattered back-in-the-day), OR he was a straight up retard – OR, the new possibility: a highly, HIGHLY intelligent autistic...serial killer...deeply fascinated with ciphers.

Doerr also made some super strange comments that even raised an alarm within me when digitizing, though I didn't know why at the time. Things like, "You can get letters to the SF Examiner without street address," and admitted to killing people, and that you should kill your enemies in the early 1970's, referenced below.

To spell it out for you: Paul Doerr **MAY HAVE BEEN THE ZODIAC KILLER**. Further supporting points of evidence, vis-à-vis Paul Haynes:

It's not any one data point that sells Paul Doerr (b. 4/1/1927, d. 8/2/2007) as Zodiac, but rather, all of them combined that make it appear probabilistically impossible Zodiac was anyone other than Doerr.

Let's start with Doerr's favorite pastimes: writing letters to the editor (mostly to zines), which he'd been doing since his youth. To the extent his letters—and the many mimeographed zines he made himself—are archived digitally, they offer a wealth (understatement) of info.

In issue #9 of his zine PIONEER, Doerr describes a formula for a homemade ANFO bomb. It is virtually identical to Zodiac's bus bomb formula, and features the same crucial omission (a starter). And both Doerr and Zodiac knew this bomb must be kept dry.

In a 1974 letter to GREEN EGG—his favorite zine—Doerr admits having killed people. (And in his zine PIONEER, he advocates killing your enemies.)

In April 1972, Doerr wrote a letter to the editor of the SF Examiner making reference to methods of torture, and people as animals and slaves.

In a letter to VONULINC, Doerr informs readers that "a letter to sf examiner, sf will reach it without street address." All of Zodiac's mailings to the EXAMINER and other recipients were sans street address.

Doerr was into cryptography and published a cipher in his Tolkien zine (HOBBITALIA) three days after Zodiac sent his "Z13" cipher.

Now, I have not gone much deeper into the Doerr/Zodiac topic, but I do plan on eventually reading the book by Jarret Kobek, the author who first published this theory.

These are slightly uncomfortable conclusions for me, to be sure, but it's also good news for the efficacy of vonu. Even if he was a nut-job, loony, serial killer, he still shared a lot valuable information that could be utilized for peaceful applications, and the strategies and tactics worked.

This is similar to learning from organized crime when it comes to increasing the efficacy and longevity of the Second Realm: there is so much we can learn, even if these 1960's/70's counter-culture vonu circles were littered with creeper killers and Feds. Keep in mind, during the most recent "Patriot uprising" (circa 2016), the Malheur Wildlife Refuge Occupation, literally half of those in attendance were some sort of paid informant or explicit government agent.

This collection is now also entered into the archival record, stored for posterity. Some of these minor details (to us) may end up being valuable points in the data stream of a researcher. And more importantly, easily made available to the self-liberators that come after us – there's no reason for them to repeat past failures.

It definitely wasn't a guarantee, but I was able to squeeze the massive *VonuLife, March 1973* in here too – this is the first time I've so narrowly approached the upper limit our printer allows, but I felt it was important to strive to have it all in one place.

In terms of this digital transcription, a few notes: for ease of readability, I tried to correct typos and such as I went. Any errors that remain are the responsibility of your humble transcriptionist. There are some letters or articles that have illegible parts, whether due to a bad scan, or "bad typewriter ribbons" (I guess they're called) – this is indicated by [illegible]. The font might be a little small for some, but there's no way all this would have fit with a size any larger.

As I finalized this project and typed those final words for VonuLinc 17, it was done with an almost heavy, somewhat hurting heart – no hyperbole intended. Like I said, these were the most valuable, most radical, and most practical zines around in the 1970's, and they still meet that marker today. There's literally no other comparison that existed, at least before "The Vonu Revival" in 2016 by myself and Kyle Rearden...but these freedom pioneers of the past laid this wonderful foundation. I shared a similar message across some of the *P.A.Z.NIA Committee of Correspondence* chats, with an idea that had NEVER popped into my head before:

Maybe it's time for VonuLife - VonuLink to make a comeback...just maybe.

But for now, regardless of what transpires in the future, we have this collection now. I sincerely hope it provides you with windfalls of inspiration and the guidance & education necessary to make your liberated lifestyle a great success. Just for the love of Creator, please don't become a Naval Intelligence spook, or turn into a nut-job serial killer. Otherwise, yes, vonu is indeed yours for the making.

Cheers from #TheFreeRepublic of P.A.Z.NIA!

Shane/Rayo2

March 24, 2024

The Vonu Podcast/LUA Publications

VONULIFE 1, May 1971 (formerly PREFORM-INFORM)

[COMMUNICATION AMONG NOMADS, TROGLODYTES, AND
OTHER INVULNERABLES]

VONU LIFE, BOX 607, GRANTS PASS, OR

Editor, RAYO | Associate Editor, DR. GATHERER | Publisher, MIKE FREEMAN

ABOUT VONU LIFE

“Vonuu” (rhymes with SO-new) is a coined word meaning invulnerability to coercion – coercion being physical attack by a volitional being against another volitional being or his non-coercively-acquired property. I distinguish “vonuu” from “liberty” – exemption from coercion. Liberty depends on other people; it exists only to the extent that those capable of coercion abstain from it.

Coercion, especially the institutionalized forms – war and regimentation, is one of the major problems of mankind. Practically all past efforts at solution have been directed toward LIBERTY – trying to change the behavior of large numbers of OTHER people. There have been countless attempts to reform governments, take over governments, destroy governments, and manipulate “public opinion”. You know the results.

I believe that enduring peace and freedom can be realized only thru vonuu – by reducing vulnerability to coercion. Vonuu will most likely come gradually, primarily through lifestyle changes by individuals and small groups. But vonuu is not necessarily only for a few. Vonuu will expand as far as there are people willing to do.

Purposes of VONULIFE include: encourage individual achievement of vonuu; make known useful techniques and sources; develop vonuism as a freedom philosophy without theory-practice dichotomies, to supplant the many futile utopian ideologies; make contacts among vonuans leading to various forms of association and community.

The last purpose is perhaps most important for us. If you are squatting for a while in Siskiyou region, we would enjoy meeting you. (If you are just passing thru, you will probably be gone before we know that you are here, because we are able to get mail only infrequently.)

Readability: If you have trouble reading this small type, I recommend a hand lens or cheap reading glasses plus plenty of light. With skyrocketing postage rates there is a trend toward smaller type among periodicals. With this photo-reduction we can put the equivalent of 32 typewriter pages on four sheets.

Advice in brief (to be elaborated in future issues): The way to be serious about vonuu and to be taken seriously is to do it. If you dream of a free city on the bottom of the Pacific, or somewhere, that’s fine. But you are more likely to get there thru small steps of your own – van nomadism, foot nomadism, or whatever – than by sitting in some apartment waiting for others to “get organized.” (I wasted quite a few years doing the later.) Dissatisfaction with the Silly Society plus ideological eloquence, alone, won’t get one anywhere.

If an when there are any large vonuu ventures, the people welcome will most likely be those with demonstrated initiative and self-reliance – ability to structure with their own time – to accomplish things on their own and to enjoy themselves in relative isolation.

Thanks to Roberta and Tom of Preform for much advice and assistance on this first issue, and to all who have sent materials. RAYO

To Readers: As part of our lifestyle experimentation, we will live during the next year secluded in a remote wilderness area.

El Rayo, Dr. Gatherer and Mike Freeman, themselves van nomads and longtime associates, have kindly consented to manage VONU LIFE during this period.

“May the long time sun shine upon you, all love surround you, and the pure light within you guide your path on.” ROBERTA and TOM, Preform

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To VL: I don’t plan to “pass through” Siskiyou. I’m gonna live there, summer and winter and in between. I’m following your recommendations of the region. Also I checked temperatures out there during the winter and it looks like mild winters.

I’m getting out of motorized nomadism, before I get into it. I’ve decided the old van and I can’t make it – I’m not rich enough for it, and owning vehicles is too much hassle for my liking. So I’m going to become pedestrian (and bicycle) nomadic. I plan to roll into your area about first of June. I head to N.J. in another week or so for a brief visit, then start pedaling west (Schwinn 10-speed) about May 7. Don’t know how long it will take. On a good day (no head wind or rain), on flat land, when I’m well rested, I can make 200-240 miles in a day. In windy mountain areas...?

The only help I’ll need, if you’ll have time to do it, is in finding a good campsite to pitch my tent until I get familiar enough with the region (and camping in general) to find the good ones myself...

I can now grok those comments in Preforms 9 and 12 about lightweight, small, and collapsible equipment. A 50-pound backpack IS the ideal nomad’s home. The human body is the perfect ATV: requires little maintenance, can get into places NO motorized ATV can get. Squat-spots can be in far-out places (between 4 big trees...). And for road travel, a bicycle brings great benefits at little expense or maintenance (or hassles with the State over licenses, registration, and vehicle equipment), and adds plenty of cargo capacity over single backpack.

Not having a vehicle will hinder my plans to establish a thriving parallel business (import-export). If I get another vehicle, I’ll go into it jointly with other business partners and it will be strictly for hauling, not live-in. Initially I’ll have to find some way to bring in money mail-ordering, I guess, even though I detest the vulnerability of sending things via the postal system...

At present the fruits of technology you advertise in those ads for Preform are supplied by THAT SOCIETY, by the Coerced Economy. I want to get into making that no longer so. But I anticipate many more problems in creating a Parallel Economy via pedestrian nomadism/troglodysm than by motorized nomadism. I’ll be glad when I can assess the possibilities on-site. And I’ll be interested in what you may have to say.

Well, here’s to meeting you at the terminus of this long, stranger voyage that’s ahead! I can see me now, a lone figure (tall in the saddle) against the South Dakota sunset, miles from any villages, peddling toward the west, never looking back (except to see if the carrier is still attached to the back wheel)...ah, the anticipated joys of cross-country cycling: Far-Out. Life wishes, NAME WITHHELD.

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Reply: I look forward to meeting you and, hopefully, to many mutually beneficial interactions of our proto-micro-parallel-economies. We will be gone “into the woods” from early June through early July. If we don’t meet before we go, please stay around. RAYO

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APRIL 21, 1971

Preform: With great satisfaction I can at least write in and claim a money subscription to VL: On March 1, after 2 ½ years of work and preparation I moved into my converted van to begin living as a nomad.

My van is a Ford vanette. 20’ bumper to bumper. 12’ behind the driver. Walking etc. The entrance is the door on the drivers’ side. Feasible since the drivers’ seat folds forward out of the way. In front of the other front door in the cab my desk and book shelves are built. Storage everywhere. Compartments under the floor, under the desk, above in the cab. In the first six feet

behind the driver I have on the side the kitchen counter with three burner stove and oven, double stainless sink, Carlson space heater, stove hood, window above sink, cabinets for food, dishes, etc., file drawer, and under the cabinets is ten gallon hot water heater while on the other side I have shower/toilet, refrigerator, drawers for cloths and hanging closet. I got the hot water heater instead of an instant heater on the basis of information that now at ears to be erroneous that the instants clog up. But I am quite pleased with the way my heater works. An hour suffices to make 10 gallons of hot water which is far more than I need to shower, etc. After that it takes minimal gas to keep it hot or the heater can be shut off. My shower is custom built by yours truly to fit my requirements of hand laid one piece fiberglass construction. It really does a great job. Monomatic in it too; works great. Shower hand is type with on/off button in handle on hose; conserves water but not a bit of inconvenience. Under the chassis I have a 30 gallon water tank (Inca plastics: best made in my opinion as long as you take care in how you count it) and water pump with pressure switch. I've found that the pressure switch is temperature sensitive so when it gets cold the pump may start and not shut off. As long as my hot water heater is on conduction thru the copper tubing is enough to prevent this but I've installed an inside switch to shut off my water system is necessary. The refrigerator works excellently and requires little gas as long as I am moving or if stationary reasonably level have a holding tank under the shower and a 12 gallon LPG tank permanently mounted under the chassis with a quick-fill conductor. In cold weather it lasts 8 days or so; much longer I expect when the space heater does not have to be on. My space heater keeps my van warm in freezing temperatures. The walls and ceiling are insulated with ordinary house type fiberglass insulation while much of the floor has two inches of polyurethane under it. The only heating problem is that the front doors fit very poorly and are quite drafty. In the rear 6 feet I have on one side my bed (high bunk) with an electronics bench underneath. On the other side in the rear is a high bench on which I will put a combination lathe/milling machine as soon as I can afford it. The rear doors are still functional and much of the rear is open so if needed I can carry considerable cargo.

While all the basics are in there is still quite a number of things that I have to do yet to get things to a completely finished state. My electrical and lighting system needs to be built plus all the electronic instruments for my electronics bench. A few bits of cabinetry need to be finished.

I have yet to become completely comfortable with my new lifestyle but with time and effort I expect I'll develop places to stay and ways of doing things; now I am really enjoying the getting there although at times the peculiar difficulties of my situation are trying.

My experience so far indicates that there is minimal danger of harassment if minimal intelligent precautions are taken.

The usual impression that PI gives is that being a nomad means being a hermit, living primitively and giving up the profits to be made by trade with other (non-Libertarian at least) people. This has turned off a number of people I have talked to who were initially very interested in nomadism. While some people may wish to do this it is not necessary and not very rational. While I have some interest in the potentialities of deep wilderness I intend to be a different kind of nomad. I intend to carry on work of a high technological level and be comfortable; to live say 60% of the time in moderately accessible stationary locations away from cities and the rest of the time be in cities or traveling. The time I spend in cities will be for business, supplies and some work while the time I live in the country for most of my work and thinking and writing. But I still have a considerable amount of work to complete before I can build my way into that desired pattern of living. -PYRO

I've had a truck for about 1 1/2 yrs. now and have been living out of it for just over a year. It's a 1950 Ford van, with a 1955 Thunderbird 292 cu.in. engine, that used to be a "Mother's Cookies" delivery van. It's 20' long, approx. 7' wide, and 8 or 9 feet high (outside dimensions). It's ivory-colored and has the P-I symbol attached to the back (the one you sent out last year), although the black paper has faded to gray. Also there is a poem on the back:

Don't lose your head  
To save a minute.  
You need your head  
Your brain is in it.

That was put on by the previous owner.

The main thing I don't have is a shower; got plenty of books though—probably the best mobile anarchist library in the world.

So far I've mostly stayed in Berkeley, except for going to L.A. for the March 1970 Libertarian Festival—had hoped to see you there, Tom, but I heard from Don S. that you hurt your back and couldn't make it, and since I've never met you, Roberta, I couldn't have known that you were there.

Also, last fall I took a 3 1/2 week, 3700 mile trip through Nevada, Utah, Wyo, Colo., N. Mex., Ariz., & back home via Death Valley & Lake Tahoe.

I'm still working at ... since it offers a number of advantages—working for good friends

... at a reasonable rate of pay with considerable flexibility in terms of working more or less hrs. per week, and arranging to take off when I want to. From their point of view, they have a trusted person who can run the show when they want to go away. One disadvantage for me is the psychological pressure of dealing with hordes of people, many of whom are "psychologically discounteous" is not outrightly obnoxious in the way they come on—the "human zoo" aspect of the city in microcosm, I guess. I'm not a public person and I just can't relate to herds or masses. In some ways this is probably not as severe here near the Univ. campus as it would be out among full-fledged boofus Americanus... ERIC near Berkeley

Have you checked into the idea of a propane powered mobile rig. In Kansas many farmers use propane in their cars, but from what I hear they registered with the state and pay tax on the propane. But there would probably be little question about extra-large tanks on a camper. Operating costs should be about 1/2 if no road taxes are paid, but this of course is up to the individual. I'm looking for an article in another Earth news on the propane conversion.

We utilized the inner tube idea on using them as strips to pull the van out of a ditch.

Do you have a copy of "Be your Own Doctor" Ann Wigmore. I've got alot of good info on natural health. (Some of it is questionable. But the main thing is that she is really into natural, <sup>healthy</sup> ~~different~~ <sup>different</sup> types of preparations. She will really send you a packet of interesting material, plus the B.V.O.D. booklet (43 pgs) for only \$1.00.



Dear Brother Tom - In - FREEDOM /

how vastly enjoyable may

exciting  
encouraging  
helpful  
hopeful

to know you exist  
more we are  
there's lots of us.  
Perform but it

I've been begin  
seriously for  
California people  
(the turtles

around everywhere  
I wish I had  
being friendly -  
even down.

heavy. I can't  
longer look for  
here in only  
of their existence

I've found  
sculpture is  
happily turned  
really speaks  
looking

offer  
supplies,  
a shower  
workbench

dropped down in chains. My oxygen & acetylene tanks (I'm a welder-sculptor I guess)  
are upright just inside the door, fuel box right there too. So I'm a mobile  
workshop for metal work, maybe fixing bumpers, building jungle gyms & free-  
standing abstract sculpture on location wherever.

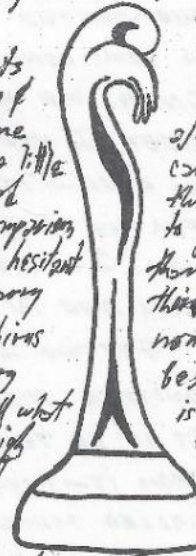
Notes on truck: 58 Ford "breadbox." Propane furnace, 3 burner stove,  
flask pilot, sink with air-pressure tank water. Use a tire pump. Oil candle to keep  
tank unfrozen. Salt solution in toilet. 2 Batteries, so I enjoy a Potomac Products Bank  
Wagner 12V/110VAC. Warm, dry, HOME!! Lived in truck in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, & now  
Colorado. Hope for Yellowstone & then the Northwest this SPRING.

Om, Roger

ROGER

ESQUILDER, COLO

out there & what's  
root & happening &  
I don't feel so alone  
also shames me a little  
to put this normal  
two years & in comparison  
I'm slower & more hesitant  
hesitant?) Turtles coming  
they go too. Amphibians  
swamp to really say  
well I'll try to tell what  
Boulder is super high  
for the need of it  
recompense.  
pay for the



after doing  
course  
thing together  
to you  
than a bottle.  
these houses  
normal, those  
beside just  
is actually  
& that's  
but no  
Purple  
essentials

plus ego-maintenance. The only way  
to convince people they need me  
give it to them if they seem  
on by whatever. If the piece  
then they & their friends start  
for more of me & usually  
at least expenses of  
materials, a meal here,  
there. I have my  
jammed up on the right outside,

To Roger: Your nomad ways and equipment sound like they are very well put together. People who get there faster (if they do) start out with factory-equipped rigs. But, before then, they spent long years earning the breed. So who are the turtles?

Please do illustrations in black. I don't think green or blue will photo-reproduce.

I have just one item which may be of general interest, and that is my mobile home. It is a VW bug (sedan), 1962, which sleeps two. Like Mr. "Urbman", I sleep on city streets, below eye



level of passers-by. The removal of the rear seat and a folding platform, plus oodles and oodles of compartment space in door panels, trunk lids, ceiling wires, etc., etc. give me more than enough room. (The entire left front door panel is a huge litter box, with entrance thru the map pocket.) I call it AIKIDO, the dynamic sphere.

Alas, my one tie to society which I can never break is my weakness for gourmet dining; you might say I have traded in a hot bath every night, in exchange for oysters Rockefeller.

I shall reuse my flabbergastion, now, as I continue reading your newsletters. (The home under the island off Chile, WOW!) –Aikido Al. (near Chicago)

In response to your query about our lifestyle, we – Eva & Robert – are freemen (sic), and our lifestyle might be called *Slipping Through The Cracks*.

We keep moving most of the time, in a VW camper. We never stop in a trailer park or the like, we are very careful about talking to casual acquaintances and we try very hard to avoid getting mixed up in the affairs of others.

It is difficult to remain completely uninvolved though; last month we found ourselves up to here in a (successful) attempt to spring two people busted in Puerto Escondido on a drug rap. They had been informed on, we were bilingual, and there was nothing else to do.

We try to remain as inconspicuous as possible; if the need arose we could be seen wearing duck-billed fisherman's caps, suitable lapel buttons and with the usual American flag decal somewhere on the car. I suppose.

We range mostly south of the U.S.-Mexico border, going as far as Panama from time to time. A grateful nation pays me compensation for disability incurred in time of war and Eva and I live on that. We buy our clothes from Goodwill when we are in the U.S., we try to stay near the sea – fish is cheap – watch the sun rise through clear air and trot naked along hard-packed and empty beaches. Pollution or no, the sight of a thin column of light blue smoke rising straight from a palm thatched hut in the middle distance is a fine one.

We read, we talk to each other, we keep contact with a few people in the world, in Canada & France & Guatemala. (Even the U.S.) We listen: the surf, a burro, a bird, wind in palms – or pines. We believe in our own integrity, two among more than a few like us, in "Democracy, which is a charming form of government, full of variety and disorder, and dispensing a sort of equality to equals and unequals alike" quite a bit of the time, and in the possibility that today may be our last – but probably won't.

Anyway, thanks for asking. –ROBERTA & TOM

Almost bought a van the other day but the rust turned out to be too much (a problem is this area) so we are sticking with our travelall. Have you ever driven on Newfoundland? The West coast has very impressive scenery (like that last glacier missed it, or something) whereas the East is barren. I have not seen the North but was told of fjords. The people do not think of themselves as Canadian (they don't play the Canadian anthem, playing their own leftover from their period of interdependence) and the people in the West don't think much of the provincial government either. Met numerous people who were there to escape – whether the U.S. or Canada – from "too many people." In addition, of course, there are the French Islands of St. Pierre and Michelon(s?) off the South Coast. You might be interested in a book titled: This Rock within the Sea: A heritage lost. Will write more if you're interested, but the wind is making this difficult. –DONG

Presently I'm a grad in applied physics here at Cornell Univ. Just came last September after having spent 4 years at Iowa State Univ. as an undergrad. Originally I intended to get a Ph.D. here, but there's hardly any time left for that, with the people of this country abandoning reason. Unfortunately, I'm kind of locked in here, so I expect to leave next spring with just an M.S.

I have enjoyed very much the issues of Preform which you have sent; however, at present things are not quite so hopeless as to lead me to the life of a trog. Close, but not quite there yet. But I fear that day is coming, and so I have recently begun to invest in camping equipment. By next spring I should have the necessary resources to do most anything I want: either get out or stay in.

I have kept an eye on the Atlantis people in Saugerties. I expect to pay them a visit in a couple weeks.

If all goes well, my roommate and I will do some exploring in Montana, Idaho, Utah, Wyoming, and Colorado (time permitting) at the end of the coming summer. From what I've read, that part of the country seems ideal (relatively) for survival as a trog; I haven't been able to understand why almost all your correspondents live primarily on the West coast.

I have not done any camping here, but there are at least several state parks in the area. Not the best place to stay, perhaps, but I know of no other places at present.

I will be at the present address through this summer. Anyone (lovers-of-freedom only) who needs a roof over their head for a night or two will probably be welcome here. -DENNIS EDWALL

**[HANDWRITTEN LETTER  
BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE]**

my71 VII 4

April 8, 1971

HELLO TOM AND ROBERTA!

I GUESS IT HAS BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH YOU. THIS NEW METHOD OF PRINTING IS A SLIGHT PAIN-IN-THE-ASS, BUT IF MY PRINTING THIS INSTEAD OF WAITING IT SAVES YOU SOME EFFORT, THEN IT'S WORTH THE TROUBLE. I'M ENCLOSING \$1 WITH THIS DIATRIBE, HOPING YOU'LL FIND SOMETHING IN HERE TO MAKE IT WORTH PRINTING, TO PAY FOR 1st CLASS MAIL.

HOW'S LIBERATION AROUND N.Y.C., YOU ASK. WELL, I DON'T REALLY KNOW, 'CAUSE WE HAVEN'T LIVED AROUND THERE FOR A YEAR. LAST SPRING, AFTER OUR CARETAKING GIG AT THE HOTEL IN THE CATSKILLS, WE CAME HERE TO THE NEW ENGLAND COMMITTEE FOR NONVIOLENT ACTION, IN VOLUNTOWN, CONN., A PACIFIST GROUP ENGAGED IN DIRECT NON-VIOLENT POLITICAL ACTION—FIGURED TO GIVE POLITICAL ACTION A LAST DITCH TRY BEFORE GIVING UP ON IT, AND TO ALSO EXPLORE COMMUNAL-STYLE LIVING. WE'VE BEEN HERE FOR A YEAR NOW, AND WE'VE LIVED A LIFETIME IN THAT YEAR, THE LIVING HERE IS SO INTENSE, WITH SO MUCH HAPPENING. THE BUS HAS BEEN PARKED HERE, AND WE'VE BEEN LIVING IN A CONVERTED CHICKEN COOP—A BEAUTIFUL, COZY PLACE—WHILE I'VE BEEN PICKING UP A WEALTH OF SKILLS IN REPAIRING CARS, BUILDINGS, AND GROUNDSKEEPING, AND GAIL IN FOODBUYING + COOKING, AND MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL, IN RELATING TO EACH OTHER AND EVERYONE MORE OPENLY AND FREELY. NEW ENGLAND CNVA IS PRIMARILY A POLITICAL ACTION GROUP, AND THE TIME + ENERGY TO DEVOTE TO INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS IS SCARCE AND HARD TO COME BY. A COMMUNE, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAS, OR SHOULD HAVE, THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS AS ITS PRIMARY GOAL. THIS SUBTLE DIFFERENCE IS IMPORTANT, FOR ALL INTERPERSONAL RELATING OCCURRED OUTSIDE OF THE GROUP STRUCTURE (WHAT THERE WAS OF IT, ANYWAY).

RIGHT ABOUT NOW, YOU MAY BE WONDERING WHAT THE HELL ALL THIS HAS TO DO WITH LIBERATION. WELL, MY BODY HAS BEEN LIBERATED FROM MOST ALL UNDESIRABLE THINGS ("JOBS," FINANCIAL CONCERNS, HOUSE, ETC.) FOR SOME TIME, BUT THE HEAD AIN'T BEEN DOING AS WELL, ABOUT A LOT OF THINGS, SOME INTERNAL, SOME EXTERNAL. WHAT FOLLOWS ARE SOME OF THE THINGS I'VE LEARNED, OR GOT SETTLED IN MY HEAD, WITHIN THE PAST YEAR.

ONE OF THE BIGGEST HASSLES HAS BEEN THE IMPLICATIONS OF INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS IN OUR LIFE STYLE: LIVING IN THE BUS, ON THE MOVE OR BY OURSELVES SOMEWHERE, LIMITS OR ELIMINATES CHANCES FOR EFFECTIVELY ENGAGING IN MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER PEOPLE. WHILE THIS MAY BE DESIRABLE SOMETIMES, FOR ME AT ANY RATE, A STEADY DIET OF IT SOON LEAVES ME FEELING VERY EMPTY, AND THIS WITH ME, WHO ALWAYS CONSIDERED HIMSELF A LONER. I NEED PEOPLE, BUT NOT ALL THE TIME; I ALSO NEED TO BE ALONE, BUT NOT ALL THE TIME. THE PEOPLE I NEED ARE THOSE I CAN RELATE FULLY TO. MOST PEOPLE HAVE A WALL OR SHELL AROUND THEMSELVES TO KEEP THE OTHER WORLD OUT AND PROTECT THEMSELVES. VISITING COMMUNES, STAYING AT PLACES THEY DIG,

THIS WALL OR SHELL BECOMES A BARRIER, UNKNOWNLY KEEPING OUT THOSE WHO WE MOST WANT TO LET IN. AFTER NINE YEARS OF MARRIAGE, GAIL AND I FINALLY SURMOUNTED THESE BARRIERS, IN THE CONTEXT OF A SEMI-COMMUNAL SETTING HERE AT NEW ENGLAND CNVA. WE NOW HAVE A RELATIONSHIP SO INCREDIBLY DEEP, I NEVER WOULD HAVE BELIEVED IT COULD BE SO DEEP—IT TOOK INVOLVEMENTS WITH OTHER PEOPLE FOR US TO REALIZE HOW SHALLOW OUR OWN RELATIONSHIP WAS. IT TOOK THOSE OTHER PEOPLE TO INVOLVE US WITH AND IN EACH OTHER.

GETTING INTO ANOTHER PERSON IS FRIGHTENING, LETTING ANOTHER PERSON GET INTO YOU IS DOWNRIGHT TERRIFYING. IT IS SO TERRIFYING, SOME PEOPLE RUN AWAY COMPLETELY FROM IT—PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY. MENTALLY, IT IS CALLED SCHIZOPHRENIA. ONE WAY OF RUNNING AWAY PHYSICALLY IS TO BECOME A HERMIT, TAKING TO THE WOODS AND LIVING ALONE, AVOIDING OTHER PEOPLE. THIS IS WHAT MOBILE LIVING IN A CAMPER IMPLIES. THERE ARE MANY GOOD REASONS FOR MOBILE LIVING—RUNNING AWAY FROM CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS IS NOT ONE OF THEM. REASSESSING OUR REASONS FOR LIVING IN THE BUS IS A JOB TO BE DONE, NOW, TO MAKE SURE WE ARE INTO IT FOR THE RIGHT REASONS.

MEANWHILE, WE ARE FAIRLY STATIONARY, COMPARATIVELY SPEAKING, IN THE PHYSICAL WORLD, WHILE OUR UNSEEN WORLD ROARS ONWARD. WE'VE MOSTLY KEPT TO THE CNVA FARM, TAKING TIME OUT EVERY NOW AND THEN TO GO ON AN ACTION PROJECT—SUCH AS A WEEK LAST SUMMER IN BALTIMORE, MARYLAND, ON A CHEMICAL + BIOLOGICAL WARFARE PROTEST ACTION, AND SEVERAL LOCAL WALKS + DEMONSTRATIONS. IN MID-JANUARY, I WAS BACK IN ROCKLAND COUNTY IN NEW YORK STATE DOING A JOB, COMMUTING BY HITCHHIKING TO AND FROM THE FARM EVERY COUPLE OF WEEKS. WE ARE ON THE VERGE OF MOVING TO WILTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE, WHERE GAIL HAS A JOB AS A COOK AT HIGH MOWING SCHOOL, A PRIVATE BOARDING HIGH SCHOOL. WE GET A WHOLE HOUSE TO OURSELVES, PLUS BOARD + SALARY. GAIL HAS BEEN UP THERE FOR THREE WEEKS, NOW—I'M STILL HERE AT CNVA BETTING ODDS + ENDS TIED UP, AND WORKING MORE ON THE BUS. IT'S BEEN THREE YEARS, NOW—ONE OF THESE DAYS IT'LL BE FINISHED.

WE EXPECT TO BE IN WILTON FOR AT LEAST A YEAR, AS WE CONTINUE TO GET OUR HEADS AND RELATIONSHIP TOGETHER, WITH LOTS OF VACATION TIME FOR TRAVEL—3 WEEKS THIS SUMMER, 2 WEEKS IN THE FALL, 2 WEEKS IN THE SPRING.

AL + BARBARA ROSE FROM LOS ANGELES BRING UP AN INTERESTING POINT—NO COMMUNE I EVER HEARD OF HAS ANY PROVISION FOR MEMBERS TRAVELING EITHER. WHY NOT? A GROUP OF PEOPLE COULD GET TOGETHER FOR THE EXPLICIT PURPOSE OF PROVIDING EACH OTHER ANY SUPPORT NECESSARY FOR EACH OF THEM TO TRAVEL. OF COURSE, THE WHOLE COMMUNE COULD TRAVEL, LIKE THE HOG FARM DOES. OR AL + BARBARA COULD TRAVEL AROUND



THEIR THOUGHTS ON PRIVACY ARE ALSO VERY PERTINENT—PEOPLE IN A COMMUNAL SETTING DO NEED PRIVACY, THEY DO NEED A PLACE TO GO TO BE ALONE. IT ISN'T SO NOTICEABLE IN A MARRIAGE, WHERE THERE IS ONLY ONE OTHER PERSON IN AN AREA AND THE LAW OF AVERAGES IS ON YOUR SIDE—~~YEAH~~ BOTH OF YOU ARE NOT ALWAYS GOING TO BE IN THE SAME PLACE AT THE SAME TIME—BUT WHEN YOU'VE GOT A HALF A DOZEN OR MORE PEOPLE IN A HOUSE, AND NO MATTER WHERE YOU GO THERE IS A PERSON AROUND THAT YOU HAVE TO RELATE TO, YOU WILL VERY SHORTLY BE CLIMBING THE WALLS. REALLY RELATING TO PEOPLE IS HARD WORK—IT CANNOT BE DONE CONSISTANTLY, OR IT WILL WEAR A PERSON DOWN.

WHILE I'M ON THE TOPIC OF COMMUNES, I'D LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT AN INDIVIDUAL IN A COMMUNE IS NOT FREE. COMMUNES ARE NOT THE WAY TO TOTAL FREEDOM. YOU ARE ONLY AS FREE AS YOUR GOALS AND THE GROUP'S GOALS MATCH. EVEN THEN, YOU ARE SUBJECTING YOUR EVERY ACTION TO THE APPROVAL OF THE GROUP. THIS, OF COURSE, BRINGS UP THE DEFINITION OF JUST WHAT BEING "FREE" IS. TOTAL FREEDOM, IS PROBABLY UNATTAINABLE. IF IT WASN'T, I'M NOT SURE TOO MANY PEOPLE WOULD WANT IT, ANYWAY. NOW, THIS IS BEING FREE OF OTHER PEOPLE, FREE OF CARING FOR THEM, FREE OF FEELING RESPONSIBLE FOR THEM, ETC., ETC., NOT FREEDOM FROM MATERIAL POSSESSIONS. IF YOU HAVE ANY SORT OF A RELATIONSHIP WITH ANY OTHER PERSON AT ALL, YOU ARE NOT FREE. TOTAL FREEDOM IS CUTTING YOURSELF OFF FROM EVERY OTHER PERSON IN THE WORLD. I KNOW I DON'T WANT IT—IF I HAD TO DO IT, I'M NOT SURE I COULD TAKE IT. I LOVE LOVING TOO MUCH.

A SUGGESTION TO AL FRY'S SUGGESTIONS ON WOODBURNING STOVES: SEARS+ROEBUCK, AND MONTGOMERY WARD BOTH SELL NEW WOODBURNING STOVES+HEATERS. FOR A SUITABLE ROOF VENT PIPE: I BOUGHT A COMMERCIAL MOBILE HOME VARIETY FROM A MOBILE CAMPER SUPPLY PLACE. IT HAS 5" PIPE, SURROUNDED BY ASBESTOS PACKING IN ANOTHER, SLIGHTLY LARGER PIPE, AND AN AIR SPACE AROUND THAT, ALL WITH AN INTEGRAL SQUARE MOUNTING PLATE. I MOUNTED IT WITH BUTYL RUBBER CAULKING AS A SEALER, AND HAVE HAD NO LEAK PROBLEMS

RIGHT ON! TO HYGEIA'S JOYS OF NUDISM. THERE IS JUST NOTHING LIKE IT.

RIGHT OFF! TO THE GENERAL PARANOID LIVING INDICATED FREQUENTLY AMONG YOUR PAGES ("DON'T LAY YOURSELF OPEN TO A STRANGER..." ETC.). MAN, YOU CAN GO OFF YOUR FUCKING NUT LIVING LIKE THAT! YOU SURE AS HELL CAN'T LIVE FREELY LIKE THAT—IT'S AS BAD AS BIG CITY DWELLERS BARRICADING THEMSELVES INTO THEIR APARTMENTS (CAGES?) AT NIGHT; BARS ON WINDOWS, BOLTS+LOCKS ON DOORS... WHEW! BETTER TO LIVE A LIFE ONE CAN FREELY TALK ABOUT THAN GO THROUGH LIFE PARANOID. WHO'S DOING SUCH BLATENTLY ILLEGAL LIVING ANYWAY, THAT WOULD REQUIRE SUCH PARANOID? SOMETIMES YOU SOUND LIKE A LITTLE BOY'S DREAMS OF ADVENTURE, WHAT WITH

SECRET DWELLINGS, CACHES, SUPPLY ~~AND~~ DRAPS, "INVULNERABILITY," ETC.—LIKE THE FBI AND THEIR GAMES.

PEACE + LOVE  
Bill

## VONULIFE 2, JULY 1971 (formerly PREFORM-INFORM)

### [COMMUNICATION AMONG NOMADS, TROGLODYTES, AND OTHER INVULNERABLES]

VONU LIFE, BOX 607, GRANTS PASS, OR

Editor, RAYO | Associate Editor, DR. GATHERER | Publisher, MIKE FREEMAN

#### SITUATIONS & SEARCHES

Dear friends: I read your article in the Whole Earth Catalog. To dispense with a lot of bullshit, I'll say that I think your ideas and thoughts are GREAT! I have come to the same conclusion as you considering owning land and using motorized vehicles to live in. If it takes licenses and deeds, etc., you're not really free and are tied to a big investment.

I am interested in PRACTICAL views only, as I have had enough "Back to the Earth" bullshit to last me a lifetime. Any new and unusual ideas as to acquiring food, shelter, and remaining unnoticed and hidden from the general populace will be appreciated.

One question, I am from the Midwest (St. Louis) and have met one person who remained out in the woods for six months with short visits back about once a month. Other than this person, I only know two other people who are REALLY into the whole thing seriously. I want to ask how many people you know of who also feel as strongly as you do about it. As far as I can see, we are few and far between. –Pex, DONALD near St. Louis

Reply: We know maybe two dozen at present who are seriously working toward vonu. These are mostly scattered physically and are trying various approaches, which may be just as well at our present level of knowledge. There are undoubtedly hundreds, maybe thousands more we don't know. –RAYO

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Dear Preform ones: I saw you in WEC. Still don't know what you deal with too well. Is it ways to get land and natural resources? Or rather ways just to use land and natural resources without legally getting them? Or are you chasing dinosaurs just for fun till you/we get stepped on (it may tickle dinosaur, toe nails are hairy they say) or till you don't? I've met so many people who need access to land and we can't all go to NW or BC. –WARREN near Scranton, Penn.

Reply: I've read that less than 6% (some say 2%) of land in the U.S. is occupied. Much less is used in Canada. This is on the surface. Underground there are a few earthworms but no dinosaurs. –RAYO

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To Preform: Business is very slow. We are 70% Aerospace – test stands and special machines; 30% food processing equipment – electronic scale, slicer, decanner and conveyors. Both areas very slow and I am just holding on to key people (7).

I hope to be in Au mining in the near future. I have a small lab and working on quantitative analysis methods for Au and Pt group. Second step will be to buy or build a 3" or 4" dredge, a dry washer, rail bike, and a helicopter for exploration. Long range I will try to develop a small mobile automated plant for processing low grade Au ore found in dry placer deposits. Planning to be fully in the field before the major economic crash hits. –G., Los Angeles

Reply: Many abandoned mines in Siskiyou region – Au, Ag, Hg, and ? This is something we aren't into yet, but hope to be after we have shelter and food supply well in hand. –RAYO

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Well, what if you did get in a car or whatever and leave. Leave the whole stinking mess behind. What if you needed a job? How would you get independent contract? I've never done it

before. Who would you ask? How would you get books if you had no money? How would you born your own children? (I have Rh negative and my companion, love, boyfriend, or whatever has Rh positive.) Where could you go to plant, live, love and be free? Just fifty million questions. Maybe you could answer a few. –TERRY, Redondo Beach, Calif.

Reply: We are still working on answers for ourselves. Hopefully these will suggest answers for you. But it is mostly up to each person to work out his own.

For independent contracting, I'd try small businesses which need whatever I can do. I'd tell them I want to work for them but only as an independent company, not as an employee. I'd point out that they will save on taxes, 'unemployment insurance', accounting, etc. Most will say no – too set in their ways, or scared of the bludg. But if I try enough of them, some will say yes. – RAYO

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To Preform: We have decided that mobility will bring us into contact with those who are already freemen themselves. Have been working on a 20 foot tipi and converting our Ford Econoline into a camper for very short stops.

As this pattern unfolds, I hope to write an article for you. Until then, we send our vibes. – RA-OM, KRIS and AMY, Victoria, BC

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Am I into van living? Well, I have been into it and out of it several times. It all looked so easy at first. Little did I realize the problems. Not with the van, but with me and other people. I'll write a longer letter soon explaining these problems. It may be of some help to others trying to free themselves.

Right now, I'm getting ready to put all the fittings, bed, refreg., stove, etc. back into the van for a trip sometime soon to Cal. I hope to live there. Maybe we'll see each other. I hope so.

I have an answer for Al and Barbara Rose at L.A. If you have their address, tell them to write to Mr. Tim Zell. He and some friends are forming a commune. They are libertarian pagans, Church of All Worlds. If you read Stranger in a Strange-Land by Heinlein, you'll understand. I know Tim and his friends personally. I can truly recommend them.

If I didn't want to live along the west coast, I would be joining their group. Tom, if you haven't exchanged publications with Tim, you should. He has a newsletter and will run ads for you and P.I. More in my next letter.

Sincerely,  
Daniel Norman, CHICAGO

Reply: We are exchanging newsletters with them. Their, GREEN EGG, is an open forum/ongoing discussion of their project. Libertarian? Yes. Vonuist? Don't seem to be – not yet anyway. They are still trying to play legal interstice games with the Monster. –RAYO

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Tom and Roberta publishing details of my nomadism in earlier issues of PIF, with periods of work or country living, growing my own food, etc.

Reading of members various experiences, and the many that have not yet met out on the "Freedom Life", I have a few suggestions that might help, especially to those that have a very small capital, and are timid in making a break with their daily habits.

Make a down payment of #10 on one of the many land deals and pay the similar monthly amount. Erect a tent or small plywood cabin and make a garden to grow your vegetables. If there is no water on the site, you'll find some locally and country people are usually helpful if one explains that you can't put down a well until your plans are more definite, or that you're taking a leave of absence from your job and trying out your country snot until you can come down and build! If the simple life doesn't suit you after giving it a fair try, you can leave as the land reverts to the owner which he will resell at the full price, and during your occupancy, you have not been put on any tax roll as you didn't own the land.

I guess I'm not alone in having way-out ideas, but I never share them until I know a person well, and at all times I have a normal short haircut, wear normal clothes, and don't plaster my truck with slogans.

I was not raised in areas where there were vast forests or deserts, consequently I don't feel qualified to take off into wilderness areas alone to live, so when I travel, I find some rural area of small farms and seek permission to pitch my tent in one of their fields.

At present, I'm living in a small, scattered community. I draw no attention to myself either by word or appearance. When I meet neighbors down the lane at the mail boxes, the talk is of weather and garden, and when I came here, I made it known that I'd left a job dealing with thousands of people (hotel) and that I intended to live like a hermit, (all said jokingly, but in my own mind knowing it was a fact).

I'm living in Florida, Bahamas, British Columbia, Nevada, Oregon, Mexico, England, New England, and cycled and hike camped in other European countries.

To be really free, one has to accept it rentally first, and physically I found bicycle camping the freest way to live.

I'd be pleased to correspond with anyone interested in my lifestyle and possibly meet them if they'd started out on their own travels.

-ROD BARKER, near Portland

I suppose that I am a libertarian according to the definitions which you furnished in your letter. I am not a nomad – yet – since I live in a home which is a solid old farm house, one which has had a town grow up around it. My family and I are attendees at the local Friends meeting (which is a Quaker “church”), and we abhor force which is imposed by persons whose station allows them to abuse other persons. We are also a part of the stationary community in which we live, so we are not habitual dissenters or widely known for our controversial opinions. It is likely that we hold opinions which are not controversial at all, generally speaking.

We must be bourgeois; we must be pacifists as well. We are a lot of different things – just as you are a lot of different things. Perhaps labels on people are useful to a certain point – then afterwards they become a hindrance or harmful.

We shall purchase a camper vehicle for an extended vacation trip this summer. We shall be travelling to the maritime provinces of Canada, god willing. The entire family numbers husband and wife, four children, and our dog, Charlie. The van will be designed so the family members may become isolated from one another if they feel like it. We shall carry tents and minimal comforts. A canoe will perch on top.

The children will become better known to their parents, and the parents will become better known to their children. Tasks and chores will become necessary and voluntary once we have separated ourselves from the ambience of consumerism. I shall draw and do watercolors – the kids and my wife will do the same. We'll fish! It will be educational for all of us.

Regards,  
[illegible], near Chicago

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## TINKER TALK

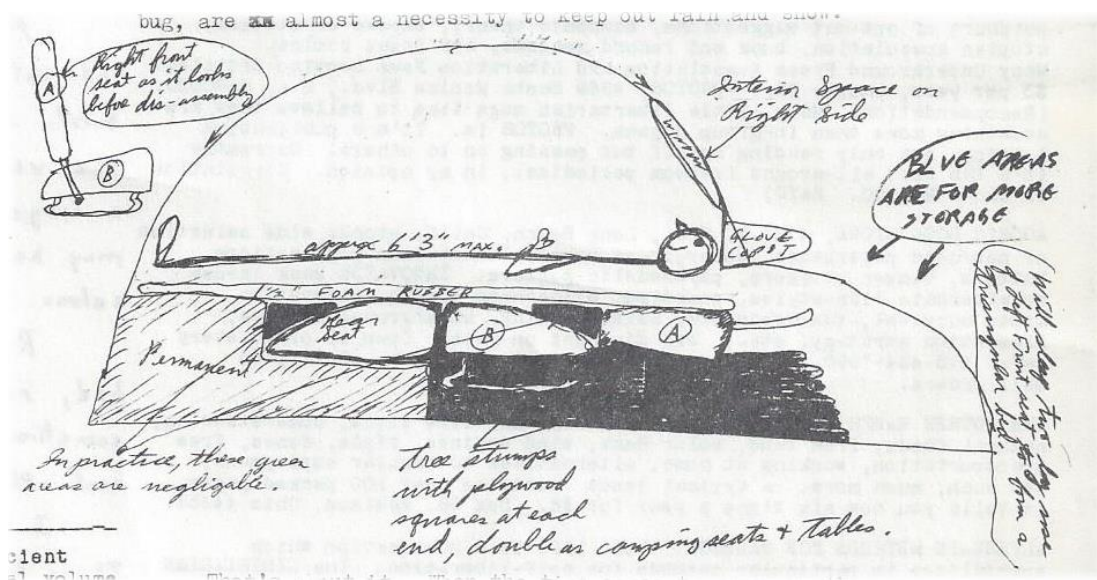
My use of the VW bug (not bus) for travelling is based on economy, and the acting out of some basic principles which are essential for nomadism, whether it be on foot or car or whatever.

The total amount of room that a vehicle has is irrelevant to the usefulness it has. Rather, the usefulness is linked to two things: (1) to have a possession within easy reach when it is needed, and (2) to have that same possession out-of-the-goddamn-way when it is not needed. (#2 is probably the more important of the two.)

With these things in mind, I have fixed up the bug with many compartments for getting stuff out of the way. Although they are mainly for maintaining travelling-sanity (don't let the drives



get you!), I realize that they could be used for various nefarious purposes, such as smuggling tacos out of Mexico, or foo-yong out of Eggland, etc. (Vincent Price will probably star in the maybe-forthcoming movie "The SmuggleBug".)



The door panels are hinged halfway vertically, so that instead of merely holding betting for noise proofing, they now hold a two-man rubber raft on the right side, and a huge litter-box on the left. The map compartment is cut open in back of the elastic pouch, for a direct access. The door holds about a two-week's supply for garbage; for removal, the hinged panel is opened and Fibber Magee's closet once again comes to life!

Likewise, the panels below the side-rear windows are used as holders for books or booze, etc. The regulation little spring-clips which pop into the holes are all removed, and replaced by wooden blocks epoxy'd onto the car shell behind the panels, and small screw hooks are run through the panels. In this way, the presence of a panel is concealed, because the hooks are there "to hold washcloth, etc."

The 1/8" wires supporting the ceiling fabric are exposed by cutting ONLY the threads adjacent, and now can be used for clothes hangers near the ends, and to support all manner of maps, clipboards, folders, etc., in the middle of the ceiling. A guitar is supported diagonally on these next to the ceiling, and surprisingly the guitar is more out-of-the-way than a flute, which I was unable to find a suitable cubbyhole for.

The panel under the right front floorboard conceals about a half a cubic foot of space; a custom-fitted cardboard box with its own door is inserted therein.

Curtains are custom-fitted to each window, and made of corrugated cardboard covered with drapery material. These are snugged into the windows, using auxiliary holders on some of them. The reason for panels rather than loose curtains is 1) storage: neat, and 2) when parked on a steep hill, the curtains will not hang towards the center of the living space.

The paperback library is supported from the trunk lid by a web of rubber bands hooked to knobs epoxy's onto its inner surface. Capacity about 15 books.

The upright portion of the rear seat is stored at someone's house, possibly forever. This gives rise to the possibility of making a bed, and also greatly facilitates use of the horizontal portion as a 3-cubic-feet container. Hinged cardboard panels close by means of Velcro fasteners (open and close a million times and take up no space at all). Another cubic foot of space is the left side of the floor under the rear seat which is the other side of the battery compartment.

There are many other little cubbyholes around the place, like the fabric scuff-panels to the sides of the front feet area for holding maps, etc. Also, behind the panel in the trunk which protects the electrical wiring area, I have 2 cigar boxes, a hand drill, about 4 smaller plastic boxes, and the piece-de-resistance, my entrenching shovel!

Now for the bed, and for this, a picture will tell the story better than words. One word of caution is to always keep both windows open for good circulation, or you may die, as quite a number of people have in tents, campers, etc., when their air circulation was not adequate. Two inches per window is good because more than that, and strange hands may conk you while you sleep. Also, window “awnings”, standard accessories for the bug, are almost a necessity to keep out rain and snow.

That’s about it. When the time comes to move on, the section (A) is moved backwards about a half a foot, and you are on your way, in about ten seconds. And you might saw off your gear shift till it is no higher than (A) to get it out of the way at night. And oh, yes, the two golf woods are suspended below the running boards.

One more important point is that the tree stumps are of different heights and the top and bottom ends are not parallel. They are angled to best accommodate the (A) and (B), and that way you can always have a level camp table even on a hill, just by rotating them.

Best wishes,  
Aikido Al, near Chicago

Comments: Like you, we have found that efficient (ingenious) use of available volume is more important than total volume. Most house-dwellers are astoundingly inefficient.

I once compared exterior dimensions and weight of VW bug, square back, and bus. There is surprisingly little difference, as I recall, even in weight. The bug is nearly as long as the bus but loses much inside space because of its teardrop shape. So, for forest living, I think the bus is the better choice. Also, it has a bit more ground clearance. But I can see the advantages of a bug around a city – less suspect as a liveaboard vehicle (so long as the window covers aren’t noticed).

Please write only on one side of paper. (I made an exception to my no-retyping rule this time, but I don’t make many.) Also, do illus. in black only. –RAYO

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#### DATSUN TO PRODUCE EXTERNAL COMBUSTION AUTOMOBILE IN 1978

Minto’s car is so pollution-free that it is 200 times closer than the standards the government hopes to be able to require by 1980. It’s powered by the “steam” of the common refrigerant, Freon. And a clean external combustion (to heat the Freon) replaces the traditional internal combustion engine, which inherently, by the very nature of its actions, must produce pollutants.

This is no “dream car,” too impractical for man production. On the contrary, one of the world’s largest auto manufacturers – Nissan Motor Corporation of Tokyo – has signed a contract with the inventor and plans to have Minto engine-equipped Datsuns rolling off the production line in 1972. One day this spring – perhaps before these words reach print – Minto’s model or prototype car (built into the body of a Datsun station wagon) will be given a public demonstration run in Sarasota and perhaps in Washington. And then it will be shipped off to the Japanese manufacturers.

In Minto’s own words, the “secret” of a pollution-free engine is no secret at all. Sitting back at his desk at Kinetics Corporation, tall, moustached, and down-to-earth, he explains briefly the physics and chemistry of combustion. When burning takes place at normal atmospheric pressure, with proper engineering and plentiful oxygen, ideally everything burns up, and the only products of the chemical action are two normal components of the atmosphere: carbon dioxide and water. That’s external combustion, which is used in the Minto engine.

Internal combustion, on the other hand, involves explosions within the engine cylinder. It’s combustion under pressure and without enough air, and this process dictates unconsumed substances which are emitted as air pollution. “It’s a built-in phenomenon,” Minto says. “You can’t clean it up.”

The trick is designing the car, then, was not any new discovery about how to burn cleanly. Rather, it was the inventor’s choice of a highly suitable vaporizing substance (Freon or fluorocarbon) to provide the “steam” and good engineering in the development of construction and parts fashioned to make the most efficient use of Freon power.

The system is a closed circuit. Liquid Freon is vaporized in a boiler, which is heated by kerosene (or any other fuel). The expanding vapor turns the motors, then goes to the condenser

(a bank of finned tubes placed on the roof of the prototype car but to be installed under the hood of later models). Here it turn back to liquid again and is returned to the boiler for reuse.

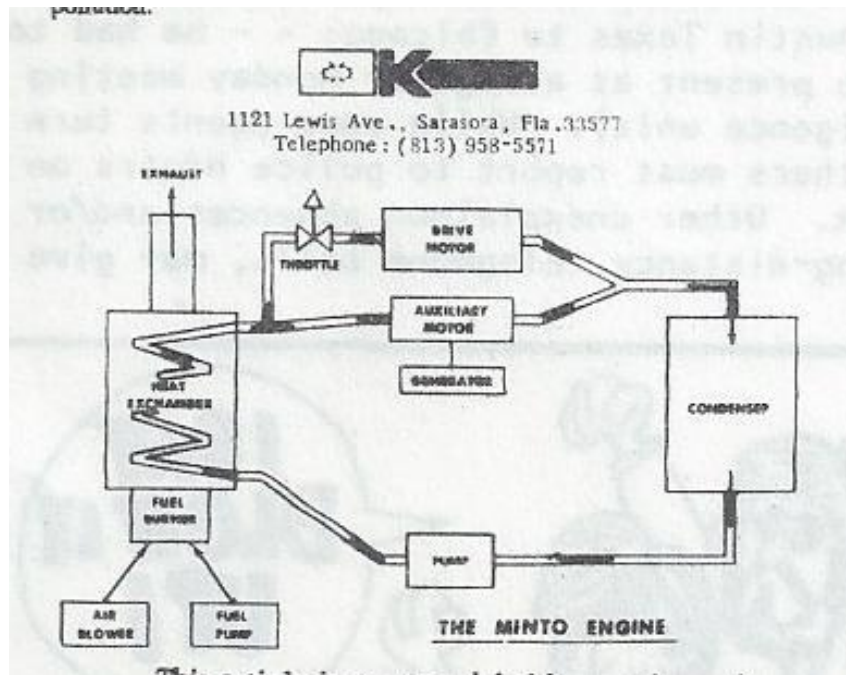
The old Stanley Steamer worked on a similar principle, though it differed substantially in the particulars of design. But the early steamers and water, of course, to produce their expanding vapor. And water had too many built-in problems to make the steam engine practical in competition with the internal combustion engine. Water froze in the winter. It had to be heated to a temperature that could cause fatal scalding in a car accident. It was required in large volume and hence demanded oversized, unwieldy boilers and pipes.

Freon, however, poses none of these problems, and it has a number of additional assets as well. It doesn't freeze. Its boiling point is only 117° F, much cooler than the 140° at which your hot water runs at home. And it is a highly dense substance, requiring much less volume than water and permitting light, compact pipes and boiler. The refrigerant is also nonflammable – in fact, it is used as a fire extinguisher. And “it's a nice, dry gas,” to quote Minto, “so that the equipment it travels through should last indefinitely.”

Because no car, however pollution-free, will appeal to the American public unless it has other selling qualities as well, we ought to examine some of the additional advantages Minto claims for his vehicle. These indicated that it is not only possible to eliminate pollution from auto exhausts (Detroit to the contrary notwithstanding), but to make such a car with considerable sales appeal.

### Performance and Durability

\*Minto's engine system can apply full torque to the wheels from the moment the engine starts to turn over. Its torque output (or twisting force at the wheels) is high and relatively constant from 0-70 mph, so no complex automatic or manual shift transmission is required. The engine is direct-coupled to the drive wheels, with important savings in friction issues.



\*Powerful reverse torque is available at all times for non-fade high speed braking.

\*The entire system has less than 1/100<sup>th</sup> the number of moving parts found in the conventional engine system. Accordingly, there are fewer parts to wear out or break down.

\*The moving engine parts never come in contact with flame or the corrosive products of combustion. Neither does the lubricating oil of the engine system. Oil never has to be changed.

\*The car is cheaper to build and maintain and has comparable fuel economy to the internal combustion engine.

\*Since the fuel is burned non-explosively, the car needs no muffler and the engine is virtually noiseless.

\*When the vehicle is stopped in traffic, the engine is motionless and no fuel is burned to keep it idling. This cuts down on city thermal pollution, as does the car's quietness cut down on city noise pollution.

[This article is excerpted (with type size reduction) from the magazine, Prevention. In the magazine, the writer tells how the Kinetics Co. and Wallace Minto are going on to prove that electric power can also be economically generated by the use of Freon gas from sources of heat which have been until now been wasted, and that these methods are also free of pollution.

Interested readers would do well to subscribe to PREVENTION MAGAZINE which deals in general with all areas of health, and good foods and the prevention of disease by more natural methods.]

REPLY: The Minto and other external combustion engines interest me, not so much for pollution reduction (we pollute little because we drive little, and we spend little time where other people are polluting), but for ending van-people's dependence on "imported" petroleum. The fuel burned can be replaced with one burning wood or charcoal or, in stationary applications, with solar, geothermal, or nuclear heat sources. (Even EXTERNAL combustion of wood forms pollutants, but humans have had a million years evolutionary experience with them.) Thanks to Johnny Reb for clipping. –RAYO

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## ↔INTER↔

### **'Garbage Kids' Vex**

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) – City officials say hundreds of young people living in an assortment of homes on wheels are strewing garbage and human wastes in the streets, causing concern for public health.

"First it was the 'flower children' invading the Haight-Ashbury district during the mid-1960's," said David P. Roche, head of the police department's legal affairs office. "Now we've got the 'garbage children' scattered all over the city."

They've squatted with their vans, trucks, campers, buses, and cars in some of the most scenic areas near marinas, waterfronts, beaches, and parks.

To combat this problem, the police and health departments will ask the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to enact a new police code section barring anyone from living the parked vehicles between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.

Violators would be liable to a maximum fine of \$1,000 and six months in jail.

"It is aimed solely at squatters who take up residency in their vehicles on the streets, parks, and other public places," Roche said.

"It would not affect legitimate tourists and families traveling campers, trailers, or autos who usually do not camp out like gypsies in a metropolitan city," he added. "They could still come here and park while they sight-see or visit."

A health department spokesman said the practice of squatting in vehicles began about two years ago.

He said his office has received complaints about noise, garbage, human waste, and rat infestation.

"There's no garbage collection for these nomads," Roche said, "so either they just throw the stuff out for the rats or they use street receptacles, which means the city is doing their garbage collecting for them."

"None of these mobile living quarters is connected with sewer lines. Some of the better behaved people dump wastes into street sewers, with pretty disagreeable results when there is no rain for flushing."

“What we hope to encourage,” Roche added, “is for people to move on to trailer parks for the night.”

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There seems to be an increasing number of cities with ordinances prohibiting parking a camper on the street overnight. I would like to suggest that all RecV owners make a united response to such discriminatory legislation by refusing to buy gasoline or supplies in any city with such an ordinance. When driving into a filling station, every RecV owner’s first question might be: “Am I allowed to park my camper on the street overnight in your city?” If the answer, is, “No,” then your response might be, “If I can’t park on your streets, I don’t care to buy your gasoline.”

Camper Coachman might supply a list of cities which have such ordinance so we could avoid giving them our business. I support ordinances against throwing perhaps on the street but I don’t appreciate being told that I can’t park overnight on a public street which all of us pay for by our taxes.

John F. Veldhuizen
Oakland, California

Camper Coachman is aware that San Francisco’s City Council did pass such sweeping anti-RecV legislation recently. While aimed at “hippies” living in vehicles without self-containment, the statute which became effective early in May could actually impose a fine of \$1,000 or six months in jail or both on anyone who would even stop in a self-contained RecV on the streets of the city between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. to wash his hands.

COMMENTS: The first article [“Garbage Kids” above] is from 8mr71 TOPEKA STATE JOURNAL (thanks to Raleigh and Eliz., also to several others who sent in the same). The second is from July 71 CAMPER COACHMAN.

Together, they illustrate the reflexiveness of most State coercion and the value of mobility/anonymity; the people most hurt by SF’s ordinance are not the few hundred nomads (who can simply move to a friend’s back yard or to another town) but the thousands of sheep-people trying to ‘play it straight’ – who are the people paying most of the taxes which make possible the harassment.

We have squatted overnight on streets in many cities – some of which probably had anti-living ordinances, without much harassment. Our rig is ‘straight looking’ and usually licensed out of state, which may help.

The only effective way the bludg can squelch squatting is to ban ALL parking on streets during early morning hours. A few towns have done this. But this really upsets the sheep, especially in older neighborhoods without off-street parking.

So long as all overnight parking is not banned, one tactic, if there is a knock on the door in the middle of the night, is to ignore it – remain absolutely quiet and still. Bludg will be reluctant to break into a vehicle which is most likely empty. But if they do, one innocently explains that he was driving home, became very sleepy, pulled over to rest, in a sound sleeper, etc. A private criminal, on the other hand, will be reluctant to break into a vehicle which may be occupied.

The preferred STRATEGY is to live in a city as little as possible; to park most of the time in secluded squat-sports, or better yet, use a motor vehicle only for “import-export”.

We still don’t have a fully satisfactory way to dispose of shit in the city; plastic bags pass odors. Perhaps a Porta Potti is an answer. As for the city doing our garbage collecting: tough! – RAYO

RUSSIAN-STYLE “HIPPIES”

They’re called “bichi.” They wander over the vast, remote regions of the Soviet Union. The Soviet version of the “hippie” (or neo-nomad) does not flaunt his lifestyle and is careful to avoid confrontations with the police. He knows the mere fact of being what he is – a social dropout –

can land him in jail. Thus, he is different for his convictions. He doesn't demonstrate, wave placards, or shout obscenities in Gerky Amusement Park. He does not wear weird clothing, erotic hairdos, or the rest of the paraphernalia affected by Americans to indicate their contempt or indifference toward the "establishment". The Soviet "Bichi" may feel just as contemptuous – or indifferent – of his own society's values, but he is not eager to publicize it. On the contrary, he does all he can to blend into the society he dislikes. Trying hard not to draw attention to themselves, "bichi" roam from town-to-town, seeking, whenever possible, to avoid taking permanent jobs. For this reason, the "bichi" have been labelled "parasites" by the Communist Establishment. Procurator General Roman A. Rudanke, the Soviet Union's equivalent of the U.S. Attorney General, in a recent issue of Pravda said: "At present, when we have no exploitative class in our country (ha ha – the editor), the parasites – as well as any other antisocial elements such as thieves, plunderers, bribers, and hooligans – remain the last boarers of bourgeois and petty bourgeois psychology." Rudanke said that the "parasites" represent only an "insignificantly small part" of the population. Nevertheless, he said, they "still render a bad influence on morally unstable people, and often involve teenagers in their criminal activities." Besides turning up the volume on its exhortations that 'everyone must work,' the government has made it increasingly tough for the able-bodied individual who refuses to take a job. He is now subjected to an escalation of punishment from exile to a specific place, such as a factory in Siberia, to two years in prison. The new "parasites" include many who would be hippies in the American sense. Like the American version, many Soviet "bichi" are offspring of the middle class – office and factory managers, professional people, and party functionaries. But the "bichi" appear to be a distinctly Russian version of the social dropout for two distinct reasons -- the labor shortage in the eastern and northern regions of the Soviet Union and the danger of imprisonment for loafing. Bichi is the Russian word for beaches and it is used in the sense of sailors lolling on the beach between voyages. Its members include dropouts that, according to Kemsemlskaya Pravda, come from all parts of Soviet society. There are bank tellers who were unhappy with their wives. There are former prison inmates who failed to be "rehabilitated" into the world of Soviet society. There are "disappointed artists, graduates of circus schools, and piano tuners. The bichi have supposedly thrown out the attitudes of conventional society and "are wallowing in dirt and drink, wandering from one remote region of our country to another all year round..." "They are not connected with our society in any way," said the Soviet newspaper. "They do not listen to the radio, they do not read newspapers for months or years." It added: "Many of them do not have a (required) labor card, trade union membership card, or even a (domestic) passport." Yet the bichi seem to have relatively plenty money. Manpower-short state farms and factories thought the more remote areas of Russia are willing to pay high wages to workers to meet production quotas. The bichi take such jobs for short periods to finance their lifestyle. To avoid arrest for violating labor regulations, the bichi relate tear-jerking tales of some massive personal misfortune. They claim they are only seeking to earn enough money to return to their wife and children and their rightful place in Soviet society. Labor-hungry managers don't look too closely into the stories. They are glad to get help, even if it is only temporary. But top Soviet officials view the situation with concern. As Procurator Rudanke put it: "It is clear that our society cannot tolerate those who violate rules of public life and do not want to join honest labor activity."

(I'm interested in the Bichi, not because their techniques are necessarily useful for us, but because they show the interstices which exist in a society which is (reputedly) more totalitarian than 1971 Amerika. This article, also the book review below, are reprinted from Aug.-Oct. 71 INVICTUS.

IV-F: A Guide to Medical, Psychiatric and Moral Unfitness Standards for Military Inductions by David Suttler

If you are a draft-available young man and you like your freedom, you'll love David Suttler's book, IV-F. The author describes the book as "a practical guide for those who do not feel they should have to wear either military khaki or prison stripes..." IV-F contains valuable information

regarding the Army's standards of medical, moral, and psychiatric fitness, information that might enable one to legally avoid the draft. As Suttler puts it, "The Army's own fitness standards make every potential draftee a potential draft reject."

Among the valuable contents of IV-F are: a guide to medical groups whose members have indicated a sympathetic attitude toward young men seeking to avoid induction, a chapter reprinting in full the Army's standards of medical fitness, discussions of the grounds for psychiatric or moral exemption, directions for making a claim for exemption and for appealing a medical classification, and information on the operation of the new lottery system.

Although the book is concerned primarily with informing rather than entertaining, there are, however, a few passages of very irreverent and enjoyable humor. For example, Suttler opens a chapter on moral unfitness as follows: "A man who murdered as a civilian is unacceptable to the Army, which trains men to kill. A convicted arsonist cannot be inducted for shipment to Vietnam, where American soldiers burn villages. In short, the citizens whose demonstrated talents indicated the greatest potential are summarily rejected by the military."

In an increasingly statist society, every individual desiring freedom should be concerned with liberating himself, i.e., discovering methods of avoiding or evading the State's encroachments upon his liberty, and the draft is an encroachment of such magnitude that it is obviously worth escaping. David Suttler's IV-F just might help you take an important first step toward self-liberation. Ad at \$1.50, that's a bargain!

Reviewed by the Libertarian Avenger

UNCOVER UNDERCOVER

(This is one of ten parts of an Anti-Repression Kit by RESIST. It is well worth the dollar cost of production.)

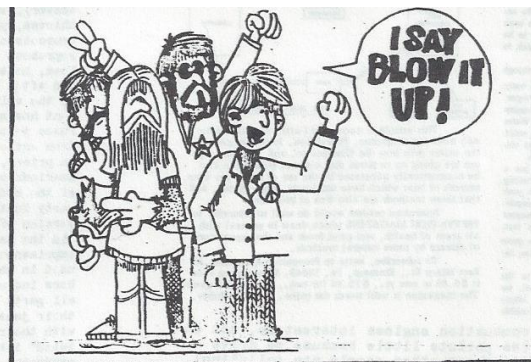
POLICE AGENTS IN THE MOVEMENT: It is clear that for some time tactics which one associates with U-2 flights, the Pueblo, and the bay of Pigs have been applied to the primarily on evidence gathered or fabricated from wiretapping, electronic surveillance, informers, infiltrators, undercover policemen, and agents-provocateur. Of 40 substantive prosecution witnesses in the Conspiracy trial, 35 were police agents or infiltrators of some kind. This must be taken politically as proof of the seriousness with which the government views the Movement. It is also proof of the government's conspiracy against us, since agents are usually placed into an organization or action well in advance of the commission of any supposedly illegal acts. The Chicago trial vindicates those who have seemed the more paranoid among us, but it is important that we avoid over-reaction to the realization that the organizations of the movement are penetrated with agents. To begin to totally distrust each other is to degenerate into agent-baiting, thus serving one of the purposes for which agents are used. It is more appropriate that we learn to exercise reasonable caution in our political activities, in order that we don't inadvertently provide evidence that can be used for our prosecution.

WHERE THEY COME FROM: Most undercover agents have predictable affiliations that come from local police departments, the FBI, and various branches of military intelligence. Undoubtedly, the CIA also has agents in the movement, but it is unlikely that nay will surface in the near future. The Chicago Police Department occupies a special place in undercover surveillance of the movement: it employs over 1000 people to gather information from across the country on "subversive" organizations. Some agents are full-time employees of the police departments or FBI: others are part-time informers or provocateurs, others become agents after being arrested and threatened with long prison term. Some agents have several responsibilities – e.g. intelligence gathering, provocation, and entrapment – while others are simply snoops, picking up whatever information they can but no seeking to influence or direct policy. Some work full time with particular groups; others appear only, but consistently, before major local or national actions: still others merely report whatever useful information happens to come their way.

SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR WITHIN A GROUP: Agents often act as provocateurs. The police provocateur is almost always the most militant and aggressive in suggesting illegal activities without providing a political justification for them. In the small group that supposedly plotted to blow up the Statue of Liberty, the deciding vote (and the most insistence voice) for the sabotage plan was that of a police agent. When one's militancy rises without a corresponding increase in theoretical radicalization, suspicions should be raised. Police provocateurs also often try to discredit leader who will not be pushed into action without sound political reasons. Some agents engage in illegal action -- e.g. dropping acid or providing grass for other members -- in order to win the confidence of the group. (Once an agent's cover has been destroyed, he might assist in the prosecution of those with him when he engaged in such activities).

MOST AGENTS are not interested in radical theory and few have a flair for it. One should be very suspicious of those who remain reluctant to be involved in theoretical discussion even after heavy attendance at meetings and conferences. Agents tend to be interested in potentially-illegal activities but not in the rationales for them. But one should also suspect leading questions related to revolutionary actions, especially those planned for the future. Agents want to collect personal statements encouraging riots, disruption, sabotage, and physical violence. One can safely explain revolutionary theory in great detail, but to be legally damaging, statements must involve advocacy of actions. Often police agents will pump members of a group, hoping to shake loose such statements. Information-gathering is the chief activity of some agents. Information-gathering is the chief activity of some agents. Membership lists, files, fundraising contacts, and information on the whereabouts of radical militants are fundamental to the work of the police, and crude undercover agents often give themselves away by moving too quickly to get a mailing list or learn the identities of other contacts in other areas.

INCONSISTENCIES IN PRIVATE LIFE: Undercover agents must necessarily keep their private lives quite separate from their movement activities. Many have wives or girlfriends who are not involved in the movement, and such agents are especially uncomfortable when they encounter political "friends" while off duty. If members of a political group seem to hide their private lives from other members, of course there is reason for suspicion. If on the other hand they do not "cover their tracks", other clues to their identities often appear. One Chicago agent's girlfriend mentioned repeatedly that he was employed by the police department, but movement people refused to believe it. Agents have been discovered through straight-forward credit checks; such as a checkup recently revealed that two "members" of a Chicago MDS (Movement for a Democratic Society) chapter worked for the Chicago Police Department. Use of money, too, may unmask an agent. One who had affected the poverty he thought typical of the Movement suddenly had enough money for a plane ticket from Austin Texas to Chicago -- he had to be there in time to be present at a regular Monday meeting of the PIU (police intelligence unit). While some agents turn in written reports, others must report to police headquarters on the same day every week. Other unexplained absences and/or frequent, often long distance telephone calls, may give the agent away.



BEHAVIOR TOWARD POLICE: Agents usually behave peculiarly around police. They have a strange way of not being disturbed by the presence of cops. However, in confrontations or when about to be arrested, they may encourage tension and promote conflict. Undercover agents often are separated from others after they have been arrested, and they often enjoy other forms of special treatment. One agent was seen getting in and out of police cars during the Democratic National Convention, but no one drew the obvious conclusion. Par-time informers usually are more difficult to spot. They may or may not be paid. They might report directly to the local police station or central headquarters. Or they might be secondary informers whose information is passed on to the police through a third party. Often they are disgruntled or former members of a group (seeking revenge or Establishment grace), or people in the community who have had previous trouble with the police.

WHAT TO DO: Such behavior must be taken seriously. There is no cause for panic – all radical movements for political reform have been subject to such surveillance – but there is a greater need for awareness and scrutiny. Possible clues to an agent's identity must be noted and investigated. If this is to happen, Movement people must be sensitive to the ways in which agents are likely to betray themselves.

Once identified, an agent must be handled carefully. If he is unmasked, he will only be replaced by another and the process of detection will begin all over again. Once you know someone is an agent, it may be smarter to keep him around. Then you know and can often control the information to which he has access, and you can respond to his provocative acts with the certain knowledge that they are just that. Once in a great while, it may be possible to win him over and then turn him into a counter-agent. Needless to say, this is a very risky business and must be handled with extreme care by experienced people. Another possibility not often considered is that of recruiting friendly policemen for counter-intelligence work. They usually have access to central police department files and can obtain useful information about police strategy...The finding and dealing with agents demands our serious attention. At the same time we must refuse to be distracted from our work in the movement, the promoting of those ends which gave our foes supposed cause to spy on us in the first place.

SAN DIEGO DOOR / FRINS

Liberty With Love

By El Rayo and Dr. Naomi Gatherer

Are you seeking someone to share your way of life? Here are some suggestions for doubling your fun while developing your freedom:

LIBERATE YOURSELF FIRST, then hunt for a freemate. Not only will you be more attractive as a doer than as just a talker, but you will attract those who want liberty rather than just talk of liberty. Finding a compatible mate before opting out is very difficult: While you remain in the servile society, you will be judged mostly by its standards. And most liberationists are too independent and knowledgeable to play status games with the conviction necessary for success. But even if you superficially “succeed,” you will not be achieving what you really want, and you will seem to be just another malcontented “loser.” Furthermore, anyone you do attract will probably be someone who likes status games. (Opting out may sound like fun to someone. But until she/he tries it, she will have little appreciation of any physical difficulties or psycho problems. This goes for you, too.) Finally, you will sabotage your self-esteem doing one thing while believing another. My own experience has been: after opting out, I was able to meet/date many more interesting people during a brief visit to Los Angeles than I could, previously, living there full time.

BE YOURSELF. Don't spend time or money trying to enhance your “beauty” or “personality.” Beauty and personality are highly subjective; one person's delight may be another's dismay. No matter what you have or don't have, some will like it, some won't. Of course, if your attributes are unusual or unattractive by local standards, you may spend much time looking – sorting

through large numbers to find a few you are right for. Nevertheless it may be better not to be conventionally “beautiful” – attractive to most. If you are, you will be chased by many who want you (knowingly or not) as a status symbol. They will waste your time and perhaps involve you in unhappy affairs. Don’t take this as an argument for becoming, say, sloppy fat. Keep trim and hard to be healthy and vigorous (if you value health and vigor), not to impress others.

BE GENUINE. Act yourself. Don’t try to “put on” or “have a line.” Phony people not only turn off other people but lose their own capacities for joy.

MEET PROSPECTS DIRECTLY: don’t rely just on introductions by friends. You won’t meet enough people through introductions to have a good selection.

BE BOLD. Don’t hesitate to start conversations with strangers, so long as you are not someplace where physical assault is likely. And/or have “conversation starters” with you: books, unusual jewelry, or other objects which indicate your interests/activities and attract questions. Large public beaches are ideal meeting places: thousands of people spread out; most not intensively occupied; easy access to them; good view of them; many indications of their interests; quiet for easy conversations; bright confidence-inspiring environment; sunshine and exercise as part of it. Don’t limit yourself to customary roles; prowling if you are male, sitting and waiting if you are female. Try the other role as well. Whether you prowl or sit, do it alone; companions usually complicate things. Of course, if you have found some other way of meeting which works well with you, stay with it. Regardless of techniques, expect to sort through hundreds of people for every interesting date; thousands for every serious relation. Don’t give up after a day or two.

STAY WITH THE SIMPLE AND INEXPENSIVE if you patronize date-finder clubs. And don’t expect too much. Avoid the pretentious and expensive matching service. One cannot be adequately evaluated by a battery of psycho tests nor by a third-party interview; especially someone as unusual as you probably are.

MEET IN A PUBLIC PLACE or double date with your friends, for the first few dates, for maximum safety and minimum inhibitions against dating. This way you can avoid divulging your residential address to a stranger or riding with him. (For early communication with him, use a friend as message service.) Other possible safety measures: exchange and check out references first; carry a disabling device such as a tear-gas gun in your purse and train yourself to get it into action fast; become adept at karate.

EXCHANGE PLENTY OF PICTURES AND TAPE RECORDINGS if you develop a relation by mail. It’s easy to build false images from written words alone, causing disappointment when you meet.

CHOOSE DATING ACTIVITIES WHICH REFLECT YOUR WAY OF LIBERATION: hiking, sailing, spelunking, camping, or whatever. Dates can also involve supporting activities such as library research and shopping for equipment and supplies. Not only will you save time and money, but you convey an idea of your life ways. And you are able to evaluate each other under realistic conditions. Also, with liberation a rarity at present, such dates can be more entertaining than the dinner-and-movie routines – another reason for opting out before mate hunting.

KEEP LOOKING until you find someone who shares your values and objectives. Don’t settle for a “masturbation aid.” Warm bodies are more trouble than they are worth. (If you really think a warm body is enough, make yourself a life-size electrically-heated doll, with vibrator). Don’t grab onto a mate to impress friends and relatives. And don’t assume someone will change to suit you.

LIMIT YOUR REQUIREMENTS TO ESSENTIALS. If someone is compatible but seems physically unattractive, for example, give your aesthetic preferences a chance to change; one’s perception of “beauty” is not only subjective, but fluid. On the other hand, don’t involve yourself with someone you CONTINUE to find ugly, in the mistaken belief that you will have less competition; someone else will find that person beautiful. Constantly check your motives – beware of subliminal ego games.

HAVE REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS for a relationship; don’t assume you will live together happily ever after. Each of you is continually growing – changing. And growth is much too complex to be accurately predicted; even YOU do not know what you will be like in 10 or 20 years. A couple may grow together, remaining compatible. But often they grow apart. So be prepared to terminate your relationship, upon reasonable notice, without severe complications.

EXECUTE AN EXPLICIT PRIVATE CONTRACT if you enter an extensive relation. While a written contract won't assure happiness, it will minimize chances of misunderstanding or unintentional exploitation and, most important, will encourage you to thoroughly think/talk through what your relation is to be. The contract should include: disposition of any pregnancies; authority and responsibility regarding any children (never attempt to separate authority from responsibility); items of common property, if any; disposition of common property in event of break-up; responsibility for income, and division of income between persons and common pots (if any); responsibility for expenses outside relations, if any allowed one person without specific approval of the other – this should cover not just sexual affairs but ALL involved relations including employment and ties with relatives; notification period required in event of break-up; method for choosing an arbitrator to resolve any disputes not resolved by the parties themselves. For a copy of our contract (as an example only), see below.

KEEP YOUR RELATIONS FREE of the institutionalized criminals. Don't let them dictate how you live your lives. The State makes itself a third party to any "legal" marriage and abrogates to itself the upper hand in any dispute; for example, a husband and wife cannot execute a divorce by mutual consent even though they are in a complete agreement. If you do secure a State-recognized marriage for tax or draft purposes, put a clause in your private contract disavowing its terms. To the degree that you are liberated – invulnerable to coercion – the State contract is unenforceable anyway. Don't have a church wedding for the ceremony; with some imagination, you can create your own.

LIBERATE YOURSELVES BEFORE HAVING CHILDREN. Children become acculturated very early; many by age 5, most after a year or two of slave school. If you then become van nomads or move to a South Sea island, they will most likely be unwilling companions, yearning for pals and pastimes they left behind and running back to that society as soon as they are able. Also, the time and resources needed for a young child can inhibit liberation.

HAVE AN OVERALL OBJECTIVE – a long range purpose into which most interests/activities integrate. An overall objective catalyzes your energies; enhancing productiveness, happiness, and attractiveness. (Happiness, itself, cannot be an overall objective because it derives from accomplishing things.) For a fulfilling relationship, all parties must have the same overall objective.

Our trip is liberation – reducing vulnerability to coercion – first for ourselves, then as professional liberators offering services to other libertarians. Institutionalized coercion is one of the major problems of mankind; the potential demand for realistic individually-applicable solutions is enormous. Liberation involves a wide range of physical and mental activities, and offers many satisfactions. Of course, don't let us or anyone else lay his trip on you. Your objective must be your own.

FREE MARRIAGE CONTRACT

(Introductory Comments: We composed this about two years ago for our own personal use, not as a general form. We publish it only as an example. Little time was spent on the actual writing, and this shows: terminology is often cumbersome or legalistic.

It consists of two parts: the contract itself, and an agreement of particulars which specifies amounts, time periods, items of property, etc. This separation helps assure that the candidates for arbitrator understand the basic contract while allowing the specifics to be changed without notifying them.

The section dealing with pregnancy and children is brief because we had no children and didn't want any in the immediate future. For someone who has or plans children this needs further elaboration.

In comparing a free marriage with a State marriage, please remember that this contract corresponds, not with the vows said at the wedding, but with the myriad statute laws and legal precedents which a State court will follow in resolving any disputes. The traditional wedding ceremony and vows are strictly gingerbread.

A State marriage is not truly an AGREEMENT at all, since the State can unilaterally alter the terms, by passing another law or reinterpreting existing laws, any time it pleases. Rather, a State marriage is an affirmation of joint servitude to the State.

A free marriage can include any ceremony and vows desired. We did not have an explicit ceremony.

Since composing and signing this contract, this is the second time we've looked at it. In two years of free marriage we've had no contentious discussions over property and income (what belongs to whom, who owes what to whom, etc.). And we have no fears that, if we should break up at any time, one of us would have been or would be exploited by the other. This indicates that our contract has fulfilled its primary purpose: encouraging us to learn our own minds and each other's.

Another reason for the contract was to clearly differentiate our relation, in our own minds, from 'living together out of wedlock', and the latter relation's connotation of guilt, whim, irresponsibility, ephemerality, and exploitation. Making no contract at all would be, in a sense, sanctioning the State's claim to a monopoly of marriage. Dr. G & RAYO)

Contract: _____ and _____ hereby agree to become freemates in a relation of free marriage, in accordance with and only with the provisions of this contract.

Any dispute arising under this contract which is not received by the freemates alone shall be resolved by and only be an arbitrator chosen, at the time of the dispute, from three candidates in the following manner: beginning with the defendant, the defendant and plaintiff shall alternately reject candidates until one candidate remains: this person shall be arbitrator, and shall specify arbitration procedure and set fees for his services. The freemates can thereafter override the decision of the arbitrator by unanimous agreement; otherwise, they shall be bound by it; in either case they will pay arbitration fees.

In event of a dispute, each freemate is free to interrogate or obtain a commitment of any candidate with regard to arbitration procedure, interpretation of evidence, prejudgment, arbitration fees, involvement with the other freemate or any other matter relevant to resolution of the dispute, prior to selection of arbitrator.

_____, _____, and _____ hereby agree to be candidates for arbitrator of this contract, in exchange for payment to each of a \$3 initiation fee. This agreement in no way commits a candidate as to availability or capability in event of a dispute. With the exception of the agreement of particulars, this contract becomes effective upon consent, evidenced by signature of first name, by both prospective freemates and all three candidates. The initial agreement of particulars becomes effective after this contract is effective upon consent by both freemates.

This contract can be terminated by either freemate by giving notice to the other freemate the NOTIFICATION PERIOD in advance. Or in event of violation of this contract by a freemate, the innocent freemate can terminate this contract upon immediate notice and, at the option of the innocent freemate, make time of termination retroactive to the time of violation.

A freemate will not coerce the other – coercion is here defined as deliberate initiation of physical force against person or property of the other. An act of coercion shall constitute violation of this contract whether or not such act is in accordance with laws or traditional customs. However, the use of reasonable private means to take possession of property or funds due a freemate under terms of this contract shall not constitute coercion.

Except in an emergency: joint property shall be modified or moved only with the consent of both freemates; joint funds shall be used only with the consent of both freemates; personal property of a freemate shall be under sole control of that freemate. In an emergency, if one freemate is unavailable, the other freemate may use property or funds, joint or personal belonging to either, for purposes reasonably considered to be in the best interests of freemates in the context of the emergency, without consent.

A freemate shall make CONTRACTUAL PAYMENTS to the other freemate and to joint funds. Gross income from any joint activities shall go to joint funds.

Joint property shall consist of C-PROPERTY, I-PROPERTY, and D-PROPERTY. C-PROPERTY is defined as any non-divisible item purchased with joint funds or constructed through joint activity of the freemates. D-PROPERTY is defined as supplies which are equally divisible within 1%. I-PROPERTY is defined as any non-divisible item initially provided by one freemate, but

thereafter usable and maintainable by both freemates. Each freemate shall have one-half equity in each C-PROPERTY. A freemate shall initially have full equity in each I-PROPERTY he furnishes; the other freemate thereafter acquires equity in the item at the rate of 1% per month for 100 months; thereafter, each freemate shall have one-half equity. In event of termination of contract, each freemate shall openly bid for each C-PROPERTY and I-PROPERTY, and the time shall go to the highest bidder upon payment by him to the lower bidder of bid times equity held by the lower bidder. In event of termination of contract, D-PROPERTY shall be divided equally between the freemates.

Each freemate shall have equal use of and shall devote equal labor-time to the maintenance of joint property, except as may be otherwise agreed.

In event a freemate dies, joint property shall go to the other.

Unless/until both freemates agree to attempt procreation, each freemate agrees to use extreme care to avoid pregnancy; this care to include the use of at least two different reasonably-reliable contraceptive techniques with coitus. However, if despite these precautions a freemate becomes pregnant, the other freemate shall pay her within one month a PREGNANCY REIMBURSEMENT. The pregnant freemate shall have sole authority and responsibility for the fetus and any resulting baby, except as may be otherwise agreed.

A freemate shall have an OUTSIDE RELATION only with the permission of the other freemate; an OUTSIDE RELATION is defined as any sexual relation or any extensive work, avocational, social, family, or other type of relation, with a person other than the freemate.

Agreement of Particulars: (much abbreviated) I-PROPERTY includes the following items: (van), including permanently mounted attachments plus items used mainly for its use or maintenance including electric extension cords, water hose, jack, tire-repair tools, tire chains, cooking/eating utensils, and linens. Personal property not part of this item include motorbike and electric blender. (tent).

C-PROPERTY includes the following items: (storage caches); finder's rights to squat-spots occupied since August 1, 69; each squat-spot considered to be a separate item.

D-PROPERTY includes food and other supplies on board the van or in storage, excluding precious and semi-precious metals.

Rayo shall make the following CONTRACTUAL PAYMENTS: periodic payments of \$90 per month plus 35% of personal income to joint funds; periodic payments of \$25 per month plus 5% of personal income to Gatherer.

PREGNANCY REIMBURSEMENT shall be \$1000.

NOTIFICATION PERIOD shall be six months.

OUTSIDE RELATIONS permitted are: Rayo, technical consulting work for (specific company) on commercial products or on standard products offered for sale to all comers; Gatherer, correspondence with mother.

HAVE YOUR CHILD IN YOUR OWN HOME

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Life in the United States today is nearing a famous Orwellian fantasy. Many of the areas of our personal lives are now tainted with government intervention. Sometimes, we are all overwhelmed with the disheartening feeling that nothing we do today is personal and private. So many young couples have shared in a moment of triumph in having outwitted the government in a few areas.

Government sanction of marriage is now being scoffed at by increasing numbers of this generation. But eventually many of these couples decide to make a further commitment to each other by having a child. From 1910 to 1960, the U.S. government certified the birth of every child born in a hospital delivery room. The appropriate papers were filled out with information garnered from one of the newborn's parents. Before mother and child left the hospital, the information was certified and the mother signed a document that was filed in one of the state's agencies. There really was nothing that could be done.

In the early 1960's, the practice of home deliveries was resurrected. Its rebirth was due to several factors, the most notable being the popularity of unmedicated childbirth and the increase of breastfeeding. And there were also other considerations.

Fathers and mothers were dismayed at the impersonal treatment of mother and child in the hospital. Nurseries were filled with screaming infants with faces contorted by hunger. But the nurses only brought babies to their mothers for feeding at four-hour intervals. In many instances, fathers were forbidden to touch their child. Mothers, supposedly "resting and recuperating" from childbirth, had time to relive their labor. They remembered nurses popping in and out of the room at frequent and distracting intervals. They became further aggravated when they are ordered to bed, although their contractions were lasting only a few seconds and appeared every five minutes. Toward the end of their labor, they were transferred from their bed in the labor room to the delivery room where they were placed on uncomfortable delivery tables – all of this totally unnecessary. Isn't it possible to deliver in bed? Motherhood is so totally dehumanized in most hospitals that the effect could only be depressing to a new mother.

As home deliveries became more popular, more and more advantages became apparent. Of course, the family pocketbook is not depleted by hospital costs. Women I know who have had both hospital and home deliveries also claim that they don't get "post-partum" blues after having a baby at home. They say it is because they can care for their babies right away in their own homes which run more smoothly since the mother has not been away for a period of time.

My husband and I decided early in my pregnancy that the prime advantage of having our baby at home would be INSURING THAT IT WOULD NOT HAVE A BIRTH CERTIFICATE. We examined every possible angle and came to the conclusion that a baby born at home – even with a doctor in attendance – need not have the state acknowledge its existence. Only when a child is born at home can this be true.

Refreshed by the idea of giving our child a chance to possess a unique freedom – the chance to live his or her own life without kowtowing to such government whims as taxes, Social Security, Selective Service classifications, and the perils that the State might construct in the future – we decided to further investigate the possibility of having our own child in our home.

We started out with one advantage many young couples in similar situations don't have. My husband had known two couples in New York who had home deliveries. We were able to profit from their experiences. We realized that there would be one prerequisite for a home delivery; we would both have to participate in natural childbirth. If we had a baby at home, it would not be a matter of taking classes and then progressing through unmedicated labor until the contractions got too strong. There would be no nurse to administer a shot in our own bedroom.

I had previously read several books on prepared childbirth and had decided before I conceived that I would want to deliver my children in that fashion. I was pleased with the idea that having a baby could be a small triumph and not a major anguish. I dug the idea that the father and the mother shared in the rewards of labor and could be together when their baby was born. I was also impressed by articles concerning the effects of drugs used in labor and delivery upon the newborn. I was a bit perplexed by doctors who heartily discourage use of any drug, including aspirin, throughout the nine months of pregnancy and then routinely drugged the expectant mother into oblivion for hours before the birth of her child. It seemed to me that natural childbirth was the best way to have a baby.

My obstetrician in La Jolla, California, applauded natural childbirth but hesitated when my husband and I suggested that he agree to a home delivery. He had recently established practice in the conservative Southern California city. He was far from anxious to encourage the attitude among the citizens that he was too "avant-garde."

However, when I was five months pregnant, we moved to the Washington, D.C. area. The metropolitan area is very liberal when it comes to childbirth practices. Several prominent obstetricians endorse natural childbirth methods. After talking with my new neighbors, I discovered, the names of two doctors who had performed deliveries at home. I telephoned the first doctor's office and made an appointment. When I went to see him, his nurse informed me that he would only agree to deliver a baby at home if the mother had had two uncomplicated previous pregnancies. He reaffirmed this. After I left his office, I telephoned the other doctor and

explained to his nurse that I was interested in a home delivery. I went to his office the next morning.

This doctor was quite enthusiastic about home deliveries and scheduled two each month. We had a discussion on natural childbirth, breast-feeding, birth control pills, and religion. When we finally got around to the discussion of having babies at home, he told me that it was his policy never to deliver a child of a first pregnancy. Without even waiting for the inevitable question, he stated that he preferred to know how the mother's previous pregnancies had proceeded. He explained the likelihood of complications reoccurring. After listening to him as patiently as I could, I launched into a monologue on why we wanted our baby born at home. When I got up to leave, he asked me to bring my husband along on my next appointment and then added that we would discuss the possibility of a home delivery at our next meeting.

My husband accompanied me to my next appointment. After making a few comments on hair length, the doctor then asked my husband if he was as serious as I about having our child at home. Before giving him a chance to answer, the doctor informed him that the father was as important as the mother in a home delivery. When my husband assured him that he wanted this as much as I did, the doctor then agreed to amend his policy and allow us the privilege of having our baby in our own bedroom. A factor in his decision was our closeness to a hospital. We lived less than five minutes from a suburban medical center and I and the baby could be rushed there in the unlikely event of an emergency.

Our child took his first breath in his parents' bed. His mother and father counted and recounted his toes and fingers and finally counted the individual hairs on his head. To our dismay, he had fewer hairs than fingers and toes. The doctor, midwife, and the new father celebrated his arrival with a glass of brandy. And when the doctor left, he "forgot" to find out the information required on the birth certificate. Our child was literally home FREE!

If you are considering having a baby and the idea of having a "non-existent" child (in the eyes of the state) appeals to you, here's how to go about it!

First, READ SEVERAL BOOKS AND ARTICLES ABOUT NATURAL CHILDBIRTH. Since an unmedicated birth has less risk than one aided by drugs, you cannot expect your doctor to agree to a home delivery unless you are certain that "natural" childbirth is for you. If you plan on using some sort of medication at any time during your labor, veto the idea of a home delivery.

In the United States, there are two types of natural childbirth. The first, inaugurated by Dr. Grantly Dick-Reed, is emphatically NOT the method most physicians prefer. But his book *Childbirth Without Fear* is a mystical and beautiful volume. Since I am a confirmed coward who faints when I have a blood test, I kept my copy handy for those moments when I knew that I just couldn't go through with it. Quite honestly, after reading just a few pages, I would then decide that I could not resist being an active participant in the birth of our child.

The most respected method of prepared childbirth is the Lamaze method. For your introduction into its whys and wherefores, I suggest that you and your partner read *Thank You, Dr. Lamaze* by Marjorie Karmal. Mrs. Karmal goes into the history of how Dr. Ferdinand Lamaze imported the Russian idea of "psycho-prophylaxis (prevention by physic means) of pain in labor" to the Western Hemisphere. She also tells of her two experiences with the Lamaze method. The paperback edition contains an appendix with several exercises which will aid in breath control, a necessity for successful natural childbirth. Should you be interested in Lamaze childbirth, another book to add to your library would be *The New Childbirth* by Erna Wright. Following the suggestions and instructions that this book offers is only a little less helpful than attending classes in breathing and exercise techniques.

Secondly, IF YOU HAVE DECIDED THAT NATURAL CHILDBIRTH IS FOR YOU, FIND AN OBSTETRICIAN WHO FAVORS UNMEDICATED LABOR – PREFERABLY BEFORE YOU ACTUALLY GET PREGNANT. The easiest way to find a doctor who agrees with your own ideas about labor and childbirth is to contact any of the following organizations in your areas; Childbirth Education Association, American Society for Psychoprophylaxis in Obstetrics or The La Leche League. If you are unable to locate these organizations in your area, a listing of their national headquarters will appear at the end of this article.

When you are talking with a representative of the above organizations, mention that you would like to deliver your baby at home. She will be able to inform you as to what doctors are

willing to do home deliveries. She will also have information concerning which doctors require midwives to assist in the delivery.

Make an appointment with one of the recommended doctors. If you are not yet pregnant, tell him that you plan to conceive soon. Don't be afraid to ask him as many questions as you like about natural childbirth and home deliveries. It is ideal to have the preliminaries over with early in the game.

If you are already pregnant, ask your doctor about classes in the method you prefer. While some doctors recommend beginning with the classes in your sixth or seventh month, others enthusiastically endorse initiating classwork on the fourth month. Judging from my own experience and that of most of my friends who have successfully delivered their babies without medication, the earlier you start your classes, the better. You are much more comfortable learning exercises and breathing techniques when your stomach has not yet obscured your toes. Also, the longer you practice, the more proficient you become. Should you tire of the daily routing of exercises interspersed with "pant, puff, blow", just remember that it is a necessary part of having an unmedicated delivery. Those of us who practiced daily, had shorter labors and tired less at crucial moments.

It is also quite important to most women that the child's father be with them throughout the entire labor and delivery and that he be an active participant. The extent to which the expectant mother is aided by coaching from her partner is dealt with in Dr. Robert A. Bradley's *Husband-Coached Childbirth*. One of the reasons that my husband and I opted for a home delivery was that we both wanted to be as fully aware of the process of our own child's birth. Hospitals are alien environments to most of us, but they are more awesome when a man is about to be a father. Hospital corridors are seldom cheerful enough to alleviate the nervousness that proceeds the birth of a man's child. At home, the father is more comfortable in his familiar surroundings. No doubt, he is a better coach for the mother-to-be when he doesn't have to leave the room each time the nurse comes in to check on the course of the labor.

YOUR NEXT STEP MIGHT BE DETERMINING WHETHER OR NOT THE DOCTOR WILL "FORGET" TO FILE A BIRTH CERTIFICATE. Before our son was born, I engaged my obstetrician in a discussion of the draft. I started out by explaining that my husband and I were hoping for a girl because we just shuddered when we thought of our own son having to be forced to bodily defend our country in a war he might consider immoral or unjust. My doctor agreed with my point and stated that he had two nephews who at that time, were 1-A. He was distressed at the possibility of both having to fight in Viet Nam. I then brought up the subject of a volunteer army and he expressed his belief that it was the only solution to the dilemma.

Later, my doctor and I discussed the inequity of Social Security and taxes. Since we agreed substantially on these matters, I had the suspicion that he could be talked into conveniently "forgetting" to file a birth certificate.

Also, IF YOU PLAN A HOME DELIVERY, KEEP IT A SECRET FROM FRIENDS AND FAMILY. If you simply must spill the beans, then be armed with a few facts to offset the mild panic you will create. You will undoubtedly be asked, "How safe is a home delivery?" The Frontier Nursing Service, a group of midwives who operate in Appalachia have not had one mother mortality in twelve years. The rate of infant mortality is slightly lower than that of hospital births. The Chicago Maternity Center has assisted in the delivery of over 8,000 babies at home in the Chicago slums. They have never lost a mother. To compare this with the national average, one mother is lost during every 1,000 live births.

Next you will be bombarded with remarks about not being able to care for the baby in your weakened condition. Point out to them that the baby will require less attention because you will be right there to attend to his needs. He will not be left alone to cry out his hunger in a busy nursery.

In order to further reassure critics of the ideas of delivering your baby at home, tell them that your doctor does not perform this type of delivery unless the mother is in good health and lives within a fifteen minute drive from a hospital. What's more, that excuse is not even a little white lie as I know of no case where a doctor has been willing to perform a delivery at home when the pregnancy was complex and when the woman did not live within a reasonable distance from a hospital.

When the labor pains begin, you will share an experience that many mothers and fathers treasure. Since you will deliver at home, you are already somewhat more relaxed. If this is your first child, the first few hours of contraction will be not at all fatiguing. In fact, you can go about doing little household chores with ease as the contractions are brief and widely spaced. Staying in bed should be avoided unless you are very tired.

Most fathers are more apprehensive during this initial period than are the mothers-to-be; keep them busy. Have them prepare a snack or a meal for those present.

If you have a midwife, she is an aid in relaxation. Most midwives are amiable and easy-going. They are more of a boon to father's when it comes to easing fears. If you are hungry, eat. But try to eat high protein foods and fruit. After the pains become longer and more frequent, you will need extra energy. When you first notice that longer contractions have begun, taking a bath is a helpful idea. Warm water eases the sensation as well as relaxes you. Showers are taboo as your balance may be slightly affected by the contractions. As the labor progresses, it is nice to have a bowl of seedless grapes by your bedside. Prop yourself into a semi-reclining position and pop a grape into your mouth between contractions. They are easy to swallow and that natural sugar boosts your energy level when you need it most.

Since hyper-ventilation is possible as you breathe more rapidly as the contractions increase in frequency and strength, it is advisable to KEEP A BIG PLASTIC BAG NEARBY. Place the bag over your mouth and breathe into the bag whenever you feel that you might hyper-ventilate.

AS YOUR LABOR NEARS ITS END, FIND SOMETHING PLEASANT TO CONCENTRATE ON. As the actual time for delivery approaches, you will feel exhausted. To ease your mind, add something new to the room. It could be a poster with names you have chosen for the coming baby. It could be a caricature of you at your most pregnant next to another sketch of a sviete [sp? illegible] you. Anything will do as long as it is bright and colorful.

When the child starts upon his actual descent to the world, FOLLOW YOUR DOCTOR'S INSTRUCTIONS TO THE LETTER. Push when he say push. Stop when tells you to stop.

Finally, when the baby is born, share in the ecstasy that you have created.

If your doctor is going to quiz you for information for the birth certificate, he will do it shortly after the baby is born. Don't get abnormal or upset if he should go through the questioning procedure. Answer all questions normally. He will return to his office and give all the information to his secretary. She will type it up and send it to you for your signature. She will enclose an envelope addressed to your state's Department of Records. It will be up to you to send the signed and completed form to them. DON'T. No one will ever be the wiser.

If you are concerned about this lack of identification, forget your fears. When the baby is several weeks, old, take him to get a passport. The passport authorities seldom ask for a newborn's birth certificate.

Having the baby christened or baptized is also another way to get around a birth certificate requirement. I have yet to hear of any official agency that will not accept a baptismal certificate in lieu of a birth certificate as a means of identification.

At the turn of the century, many people went through life without a proper identification of birth. Hopefully, at the close of the century, a colony of people will exist who began life by evading the state and kept on that course throughout! Maybe then our first steps towards freedom will become giant leaps.

Out On A Limb Of His Own

Ken Whiting built a tree house in Palo Alto, California. Ken is the caretaker of a Sequoia forest and an architectural student. So he built the tree house, using no nails, with five floors, kitchen, workshop, bathtub, all the necessities of home, 48 feet above the ground.

But, this split-level high rise was a bit too new an idea for local authorities to handle with any good sense. The police, on the other hand, had the good grace to see no harm in his effort

and went back to fighting crime. But the local building inspectors had different ideas. They investigated and they investigated – for six months or more! Result? Ken can live there, but only part time.

Part-time living, you see, does not require building codes. Full-time living requires that you build, (create) and live (free) according to county building codes and bureaucratic revenue-producing regulations.

It is this kind of rampant bureaucratic idiocy that is creating a lot of part-time Americans. More citizens leave our shores every year, for good, and one of the main reasons cited etc. after TAXES AND INFLATION, is political harassment.

(Reprinted from Apr. 71 DOLLARS AND SENSE, National Taxpayers Union.)

WILD WAYS

TOWARD FOOD INDEPENDENCE

Most people who claim to 'live off the land' for a short time, in reality live mostly off their fat. A pound of body fat supplies about 3500 calories; most refugees from the Slob Society have at least 15 pounds, which will fuel them for two weeks to a month, depending on how active they are.

My own experience: Even in the middle of summer while eating a wild berries in large quantity (often a gallon per day), I also consume about a pound of staples per day; in winter it's more like two pounds.

Our immediate food objective is to obtain fats, proteins, and vitamins – everything but total calories and maybe some minerals – through a combination of foraging, hunting, trapping, underground hydroponics, and cryptoculture (camouflaged farming) plus simple processing techniques, and do so in 3 hours a day or less, on the average. We will 'import' only staples – mostly grains and pulses – which are very inexpensive in bulk and which can be stored many years in a cool, dry, inert atmosphere. We hope to accomplish this within another year.

When visiting the SS we will still happily eat some of its tastier and less-contaminated goodies, but will not depend on them. We value food independence second only to a vonuum (invulnerable home base).

Here are some more reprints from GUIDE TO COMMON EDIBLE PLANTS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, Szczawinski and Hardy, British Columbia Provincial Museum, Dept. of Recreation and Conservation, Victoria. Unless otherwise noted, we have foraged all of these ourselves at one time or another. –RAYO & DR. GATHERER

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### **Bracken Fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*)**



*Other Common Names.*— Brake fern, eagle fern, pasture-brake.

*Description.* – Coarse fern from long underground rootstock (rhizome). Frond distinctly 3-forked, broadly triangular in outline with numerous, oblong to linear divisions. The mature spores give a brown, velvety appearance on the under-surface.

*Habitat and Occurrence.*—Dry open woods, pastures, and clearings. Generally throughout the Province except at higher altitudes; reaches its best development in the Coastal forests.

*Food Uses and Comments.*—The rootstock may be roasted, peeled, and powdered; the inner starchy substance may then be eaten or ground and used as flour. The young unfolding stems may be used as a cooked vegetable; to many people they taste like asparagus. Pick the stems when they are about 4 to 10 inches high, remove the brown wool-like covering, wash, and boil in salted water.

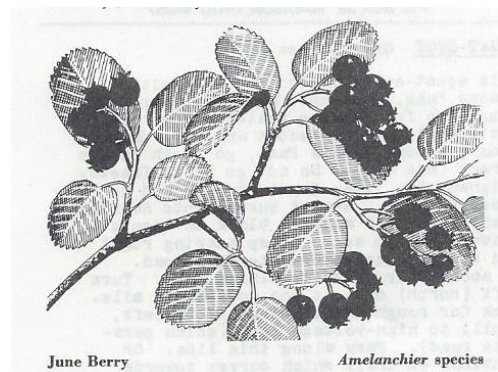


The bracken is most widely known and is the commonest of our ferns, but very few people realize its use as a vegetable, especially early in the spring, when cultivated vegetables are scarce.

*Other Ferns.*—A few other ferns are tender enough to be used as emergency food, but some of these are bitter and unpalatable, and as there is usually an abundance of bracken, sword fern, and ostrich fern, there is seldom need to utilize the inferior species.

*Caution.*—No one who is not absolutely sure that he knows a true fern from other delicately cut-leaf plants should try to eat them. Some plants, such as poison hemlock, have leaves that, to the untrained eye, could easily be confused with fern fronds.

### June Berry (*Amelanchier species*)



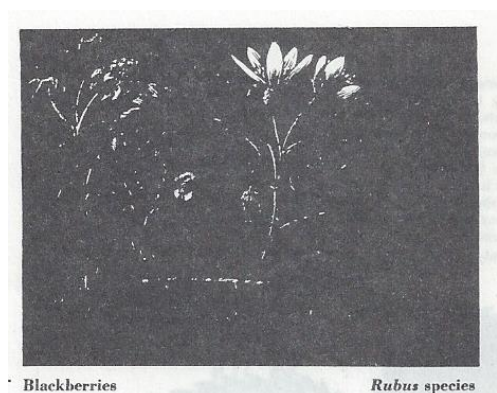
*Other Common Names.*—Saskatoon berry, service berry.

*Description.*—A shrub or small shrubby tree, with oblong or roundish, coarsely toothed, alternate leaves and smooth greyish bark. Flowers in elongate drooping clusters, white and rather large. The berries are on slender stalks, round to pear-shaped, purplish or blue-black, with calyx lobes at the summit, very similar to the fruit of an apple in miniature.

*Habitat and Occurrence.*—Roadsides and moist banks and slopes throughout the Province.

*Food Uses and Comments.*—Because of the excellent quality of the fruit, june berry is valuable for making jellies, preserves, pies, and sauces. The berries may also be dried or canned for winter use. The dried fruit is used also as a substitute for currants. In the early days, Indians used to mix the dried pounded fruit with cornmeal, meat, or other food to make cakes of pemmican.

### Blackberries (*Rubus species*)



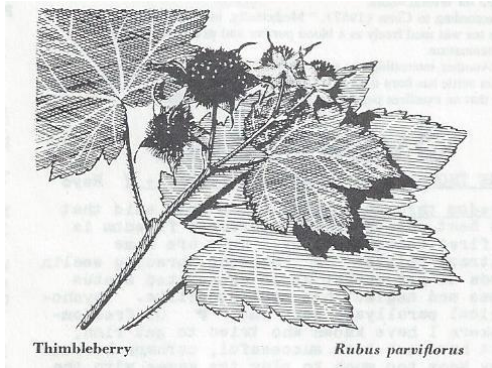
There are a number of shrubs commonly called blackberries as they produce a black fruit well known to everyone. As the blackberries are so closely related and in habit are so similar, there is no point in discussing each one individually. Blackberries and raspberries belong to the Rose Family (*Rosaceae*), and it is the fruit-growers who separate them according to the color of the fruit.

A number of blackberries occur throughout our Province, each one varying to a certain degree from the other. All have trailing stems, armed with sharp thorns, alternate leaves, deciduous or persistent, white or pinkish showy flowers, and dark-purple to black juicy fruit which is an aggregation of weakly connected drupelets.

The species illustrated is *Rubus ursinus*, our native blackberry, which has a fruit of excellent flavor and is the source of several horticultural varieties, such as loganberry, boysenberry, and many other strains.

Blackberries grow prolific in Siskiyou, but mostly around cultivated lands, unfortunately. But we have found black-raspberries in quantity on clear-cut timber lands near the coast.

### Thimbleberry (*Rubus parviflorus*)

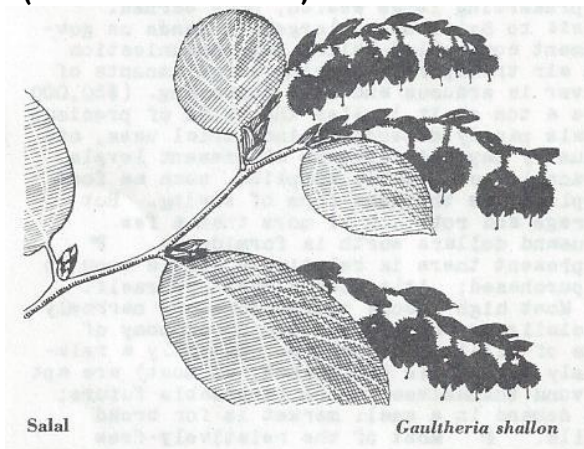


*Description.*—Erect, unarmed shrub, up to 8 feet tall. Leaves large, deeply cut, resembling maple. Flowers large, white, in terminal clusters. Fruit red, hemispherical in shape.

*Habitat and Occurrence.*—Open, wooded, moist, and dry places up to subalpine level, particularly abundant from the Coast to the Rockies. Occasionally very profuse, forming thickets.

*Food Uses and Comments.*—Similar to those of the blackberries. Very squish – best eaten as picked. Also very seeds – I usually spit out the residue.

### Salal (*Gaultheria shallon*)



*Description.*—Erect or partly prostrate wiry shrub, with evergreen, leathery, ovate leaves. Flowers in clusters, whitish-pink. Fruit black, hairy, and berry-like in appearance.

*Habitat and Occurrence.*—Salal is the Coast Indian word for this shrub, the berries of which played an important role in their daily diet, being utilized in various ways. For example, the berries were made into a syrup or dried in cakes. Salal is so abundant on the Coast and grows to such an extent that nearly all are familiar with it.

In the opinion of the authors, the fruit is not only edible, but also pleasant in taste

when ripe, and since it is so plentiful on the Coast, it should be placed high on the list of possible sources of food for those lost in the bush.

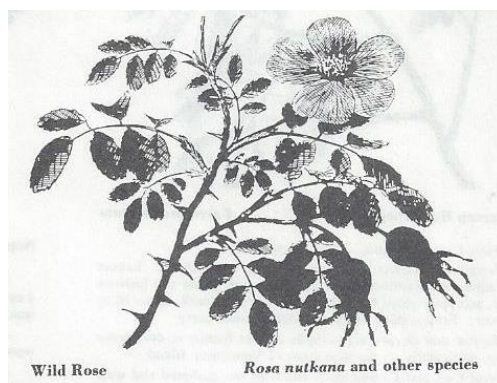
### Oregon Grape (*Berberis aquifolia* and *B. nervosa*)

*Description.*—Shrubs with evergreen, compound holly-like leaves and yellow flowers in an elongated terminal cluster and with blue berries.

*Habitat and Occurrence.*—Woods and dry hillside thickets in most parts of the Province.

*Food Uses and Comments.*—The berries may be eaten raw or used to make an excellent jelly.





### **Wild Rose (*Rosa nutkana* and other species)**

*Description.*—Erect shrub usually with thorny stems, and with normally 7 broadly ovate, toothed leaflets. Flowers usually solitary, pinky, and showy. Fruit (hips) orangy-red; very conspicuous.

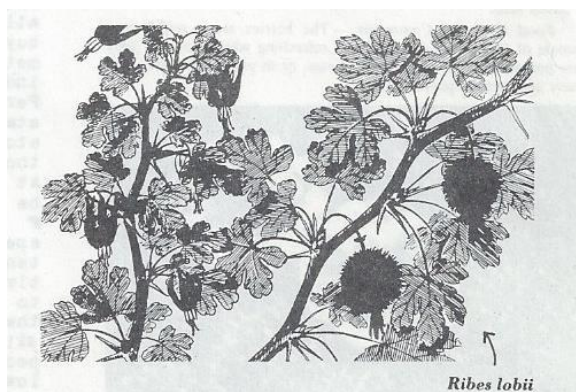
*Habitat and Occurrence.*—The fruit or hips when ripe make excellent jelly or marmalade. One method for making marmalade is as follows: To 1 pound of hips add  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint of water, boil till tender, pass pulp through sieve, mix in 1 pound of sugar to 1 pound of pulp, and boil again until it jells. Any preserve from rose hips is usually unusually rich in Vitamin C. For this reason, medical authorities emphasize their value as they are richer in Vitamin C than oranges. We enjoy the raw hips, which often remain on the bush and palatable well into winter. But we question the value of PRESRVES for Vitamin C. Vitamin C is easily oxidized – destroyed in processing.

### **Gooseberry and Currant (*Ribes* species)**

Native species of gooseberry and currants are quite often found in our Province. None of them are poisonous, and some produce a very palatable fruit. Almost everyone knows them, as in habit they closely resemble the cultivated varieties, and can be easily identified by the maple-shaped foliage. The fruit is a familiar berry with quite a characteristic flavor. The fruit of the wild species of currant is generally small and often sour, but it may be eaten raw or used for preserves. That of the wild species of gooseberry varies greatly in size and quality, with some species having a pleasant sweet tasting fruit.

To represent this numerous genus, one species of gooseberry, *Ribes lobii*, and one species of currant, *Ribes lacustre*, are illustrated and discussed.

*Ribes lobii* is the gooseberry with the largest fruit, but is found only in a very limited area on Vancouver Island. Its fruit resembles a cultivated variety of gooseberry and is delicious when ripe.



### **Elderberry (*Sambucus cerulean*)**

*Other Common Name.*—Blue-berried elder.



*Description.*—Coarse shrub with several stems from the base, up to 15 feet tall, with brittle, pithy twigs. Leaves divided into 5-9 leaflets; leaflets lanceolate to elliptic. Flowers small, white, numerous, in flat-topped umbel. Fruit globose, bluish-black with a waxy bloom.

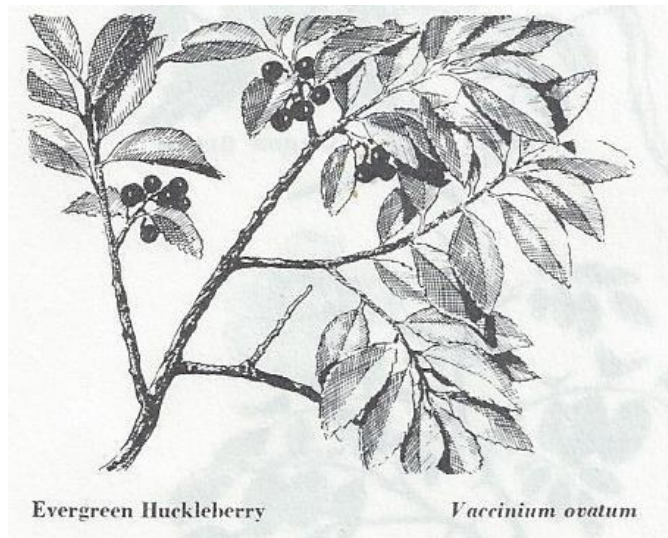
*Habitat and Occurrence.*—Valley and stream borders in open situations. Restricted to Vancouver Island and southern British Columbia.

*Food Uses and Comments.*—The berries may be boiled; raw berries steeped in water make a refreshing drink. They are also used for pies and jellies.

This species is known under the synonym of *S. glauca*.

The other species, red-berried elder, commonly occurring throughout the Province, has an unpleasant taste, although considered to be harmless.

Foliage said to be poisonous; pick carefully to minimize stems. Dr. G. became sick once eating elderberries in quantity (Mt. Pinos area, S. Cal.); Rayo didn't. First try just a few.



**Evergreen Huckleberry (*Vaccinium ovatum*)**

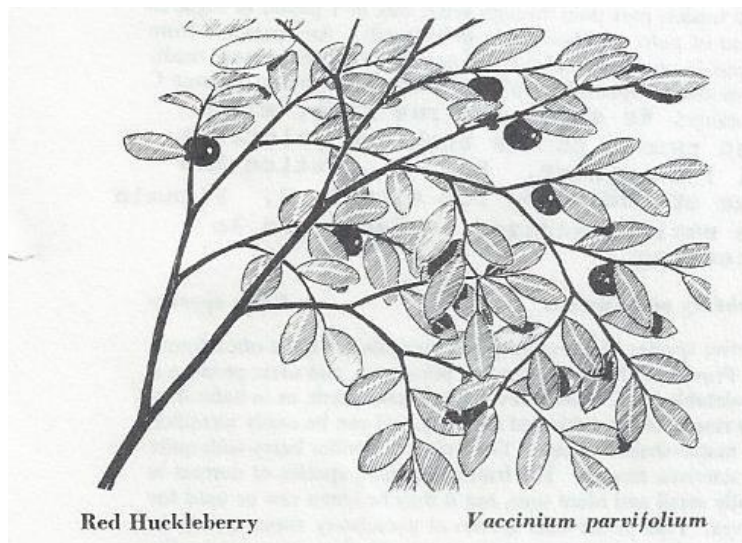
*Other Common Name.*—Shot huckleberry.

*Description.*—Erect, evergreen shrub to 8 feet tall. Leaves very numerous, narrowly ovate, leathery, dark green, and lustrous above, and paler green beneath. Flowers pink, small, up to 10 in a cluster. Fruit a shiny black or reddish-brown berry.

*Habitat and Occurrence.*—Soils rich in humus in coniferous forests, particularly on the west coast of Vancouver Island.

*Food Uses and Comments.*—The fruit was gathered and used by Indians for food, but it is a bit too acid and too small for commercial use. As the fruit occurs in such profusion, many people along the Coast eat it fresh or preserve it for the winter.

Very common in Siskiyou. Berries ripen gradually through much of the year; not many at any one time so they are time-consuming to gather in quantity. I have picked as early as July 1; as late as New Year's Day.



### **Red Huckleberry (*Vaccinium parvifolium*)**

*Other Common Name.*—Red bilberry.

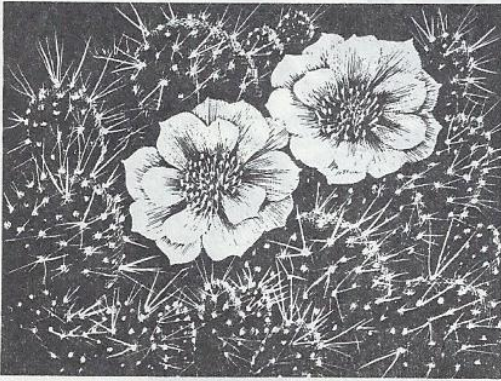
*Description.*—Erect shrub with green stems prominently angled, up to 12 feet tall. Mature leaves deciduous, thin, oval to oblong-elliptic, not toothed; juvenile leaves persistent, leathery, finely toothed. Flowers pink, in the axils of the leaves. Fruit a globose, bright-red berry.

*Habitat and Occurrence.*—Open coniferous woods in the Coastal area.

*Food Uses and Comments.*—The berries are a well-known article of food, very delicious and refreshing whichever way they are prepared. They may be eaten raw, or in pies, jellies, etc., and have commercial possibilities.

Some of the best-known edible berries growing in our Province belong to the group which we indiscriminately call blueberry, huckleberry, bilberry, wortleberry, or cranberry. Whatever local or common names they are given or whatever color of berries they produce, all belong to the same genus, *Vaccinium*, and are members of the Heather or Heath Family (*Ericaceae*). In our flora this genus is represented by some fourteen species. They are chiefly erect shrubs or sub-shrubs, and produce fruit which is so familiar to many of us. Without exception, all of them are edible and some even choice. Only a few of the most interesting are discussed in this booklet.

### **Cactus (*Opuntia polyacantha* and *O. fragilis*)**



Cactus

*Opuntia polyacantha* and *O. fragilis*

*Other Common Name.*—Prickly-pear.

*Description.*—Perennial prostrate plant, forming low spreading clumps. Stem joints egg-shaped, armed with needle-like spines. Flowers yellow, showy, short lasting.

*Habitat and Occurrence.*—Common in the dry Interior of the Province, on Vancouver Island in isolated rocky localities on the coast, and on some of the Gulf Islands.

*Food Uses and Comments.*—The young fleshy joints may be roasted, boiled, or fried, after first removing the spines by burning or by slicing off spines and outer coat in one operation.

Prolific in S. Cal. coastal hills. Fruit ripe in late fall – turns purple, wrinkled. Pulp is then easily

squeezed out – looks and tastes like jam.

### Nettle (*Urtica* species)

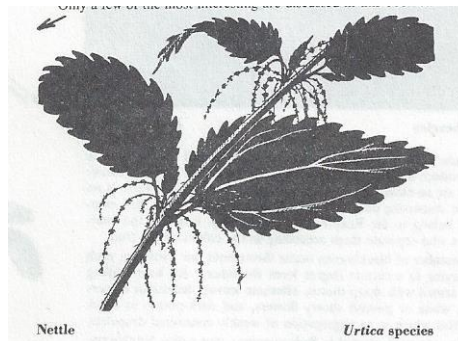
*Description.*—Tall perennial plant with simple erect stem. Leaves coarsely toothed, and with stinging bristles. Flowers very small, green, and inconspicuous, in the axil of opposite leaves.

*Habitat and Occurrence.*—Shady borders along streams, in woods along the Coast and in the Interior.

*Food Uses and Comments.*—The young shoots as they appear early in the spring may be boiled and used as a spinach. Nettle tea: one quart of boiling water to five large handfuls of young tips; infused for several hours.

According to Coon (1957), “Medicinally, in herbal practice, nettle tea was used freely as a blood purifier and as a possible cure for rheumatism.

“Another interesting use is as a fiber for textile purposes. In Britain nettle has been used as a substitute for flax and it is said as well, that an excellent paper may be made from these fibers.



Nettle

*Urtica* species

## OVERVIEWS

### SOME THOUGHTS ON FREEDOM STRATEGY – V

Freedom through wealth? Some have said that the best way to achieve personal freedom is to first become wealthy. Here are some contrary points: Someone pursuing wealth tends to get caught up in associated status games and neglect his real objective. Psychological paralysis sets in.

Of freedom-seekers I have known who tried to get rich, most have not been successful, perhaps because they know too much to play the games with the same dedication and intensity as do the Middle American strivers. The few wealthy libertarians of whom I know first became wealthy, then libertarian.

One is more apt to be successful, and perhaps even get rich, doing something he enjoys doing which he can do without contradicting his values, than he is doing supposedly high-income activities which he doesn't enjoy.

There are formidable and increasing hazards to preserving large wealth, once earned. Access to Swiss banks largely depends on government controlled mails, telecommunication and air transport. Caching large amount of silver is arduous and time consuming. (\$50,000 buys a ton of it.) Also, the value of precious metals partly depends on industrial uses, and industry may not continue at present levels. Personally-consumable supplies, such as food staples, are the best form of saving. But storage and rotation of more than a few thousand dollars worth is formidable.

At present there is relatively little vonu to be purchased; it's mostly do-it-yourself.

Most high-income professions are narrowly specialized: dependent upon an economy of tens of millions of people. But only a relatively few people (thousands, at most) are apt to vonu themselves in the foreseeable future; the demand in a small market is for broad skills.

Most of the relatively free people in North America today have relatively low incomes: "hippies," hobos, some Indians, some Blacks.

Historically, Jews have been more successful than Gypsies at surviving and maintaining heterodox cultures, despite their greater emphasis on wealth. (For what it's worth, Gypsies have enjoyed better "public relations".)

The emerging vonu minicultures will probably be more "tribal" than "capitalist" in form; invulnerability precludes large open markets.

There are already millions of people striving for wealth by non-vonu means. So let us develop vonu techniques and products to sell them.

Personal experience: I have only moderate savings; I'm not wealthy by most standards. But my achievement of vonu has been limited much more by time and personal skills than by money. There are many products and services which I could and would purchase if they were available; they aren't.

Of course someone already into a skill or business whereby they can earn much money easily may well be advised to keep at it for a few years and build a nest-egg. But, for most vonuists, I don't think wealth is worth much effort. -RAYO

## **Almost Anything Department**

To THE MOTHER EARTH NEWS:

Dear Mother,

We were happy to see the articles by nomads in TMEN #8, including the reprints from PREFORM-INFORM. But we were puzzled by your "warning" (p.28) that "most of us are "far-Right".

Tom ONCE was somewhat of an Ayn Rand fan. Roberta had socialistic leanings. So Preform is sort of a left-right merger. If anything, more readers/contributors have grown out of the Left than the Right. But the important thing is: GROWN OUT OF. People busy creating freedom for themselves and comrades lose interest in power games - Right or Left.

Among us the Left-Right thing is passé. We oppose wars AND all taxes AND all personal interference - anti-sex laws, anti-drug laws, 'vagrancy' laws, etc. - which puts us clear off the power-seekers 'spectrum'.

No, we don't see "agents of insidious Big Government lurking behind every bush" - which is one reason we live 'out in the bushes'. We do admit to a "strident tone"?

Anyway, we'd like to hear from other nomads, whether they are "left", "Right", contrawiddershims or green with purple polka dots, so long as they are peaceful. PREFORM-INFORM is an open forum - publishes what subscribers send in. To full-time nomads troglodytes it's free; to others, three recent issues are \$1.

Peace and freedom,  
ROBERTA & TOM, Preform



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THE MOTHER EARTH NEWS

...it tells you how (six times a year)

April 22, 1971

Dear Roberta &amp; Tom:

Thanks for your March 25<sup>th</sup> letter.

No need to be puzzled or hurt by our intro line on your material.

We are reaching and turning on a whole new audience for you and this Great Middle Class jolts easily. We have to spoon-feed 'em a little.

If we didn't like you, we wouldn't have featured you...but we have to do it OUR way. As for me...I think the whole political label thing is a bunch of lull anyway.

Just live and let live and open the channels of communication.

Right on, Folks! And we'll continue to introduce new readers to you as rapidly as we can...but again, we have to do it the way we have to do it.

Peace,  
John Shuttleworth  
Editor – Publisher

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**SQUAT-SPOT: Grant's Pass NE7**

This squat-spot, chosen for proximity to Grants Pass, can serve as a temporary campsite for someone visiting the area until he is able to scout around.

From downtown Grants Pass, go north on 7<sup>th</sup> street (one way). Do not go on to freeway (highway 5); stay in right lane and go under freeway. Street curves into Scoville Road. Go north about a block to Scenic Drive and turn west. Keep bearing right and street becomes Granite Hill Road. Go about four miles to Winona Road. Turn left (north) onto it and go about ¾ mile. Look for rough trail going off to left, uphill to high voltage line (which parallels road). Park along this line. Or continue on trail which curves towards southwest and goes back into the trees (where there once was some logging).

There is water (probably year round, though I'm not sure) in creek about 100 yards to east of Winona Rd. (runs parallel to Winona Rd.). There is a residence about ¼ mile uphill, so I do recommend boiling or chlorinating the water.

This spot is not recommended for trailers nor for autos with little ground clearance. –RAYO

## **VONULIFE 3, SEPTEMBER 1971 (formerly PREFORM-INFORM)**

[COMMUNICATION AMONG NOMADS, TROGLODYTES, AND  
OTHER INVULNERABLES]

VONU LIFE, BOX 607, GRANTS PASS, OR

Editor, RAYO | Associates, DR. GATHERER, ORION | Publisher, MIKE FREEMAN

### SITUATIONS & SEARCHES

At this time, I am in what I hope to be only a transition period. I am working on a secure based in Colorado Mountains for Summer and Fall, and then travel southern NM and Arizona in Winter and Spring. I find I can blend in as a tourist in all these areas. However, I still have to work from time-to-time to gather up some money to get strung out. Embudo NM is about 260 miles away til they get new short cut road finished. -E., near Farmington, NM

We've been traveling since January 1970. We go up north when it's hot down south and go south when it's cold in the north. Except this past winter - we wanted to go through the winter to see what it's like. Kind people let us stay on their farm in a bobhouse - that's a fishing house. We went through the worst months and started traveling again. We live off the land, the food of the earth...We also have a mother cat and two kittens travelling with us. -ALBERT & MARY, New Hampshire

Hello. My name is Randy. My travelling companion Coke and our three children left New York in our school bus headed for Montana with high hopes and trust in our fellow man. You know the story - hassles. So after reading an old issue of ESQUIRE, I'm writing to ask for further details on spots we can park. We are planning to split Montana as soon as we reach some resemblance of financial stability - heading in a southerly direction looking for a place to blunt the garden we couldn't get together here in Missoula...—PEACE, Randy

My current plans (June 19) are to return to the West Coast this fell. If I could meet vonuans, I would try to stop in the Siskiyou region for a spell. After that, I intend to continue down to LA and try to find work. If things work out okay and I can spare the money, I'll be trying to start a nomadic business this winter. It's an uncertain thing (especially without much capital) but if I can get something going, it might provide employment and stimulus for vonu activities and people. In any case, I want to meet as many such people as possible with a view toward prospective commerce. -PYRO

Hello! I'm a freek who lives in a strange place - a prison...W.F.C. turned my friend on with their catalog and it was the first decent thing I've read in two years - because they've just finally opened up the mails for us prisoners. NO mail and reading matter censorship anymore...I lived at Morning Star for a year back in 68...a few miles from Sebastapool in Calif. I came up here to Washington after that and I was living in this house in a little town out in the woods with a landlord and rent and all the other crap that goes along with it. Dig - I had these super square neighbors and one day half a dozen of them came up to the house and told me I GOT to cut the grass cause I'm runnin' down their neighborhood! And I told them the grass was beautiful and to go trip on it for awhile and they'd see - but they just didn't want to see. Then my "landlord" says pay the rent and cut the grass and I said fuck all this shit, packed my shit in a 37 Chevy pickup and split into the heart of the forest and loved it. Yes, there were lots of hassles but not by people - that is for two months when a crew from the "forest service" discovered me and I had to split again - unfortunately, to the city, where I got busted with a healthy amount of weed. So now I've got time to do for the State (all powerful Gods that they think they are).

But they haven't and can't change me any so, so...same old lifestyle, it will be cause I love it...—Love, Kurt, Washington

Am OLD School of Living buff, 1946 circa. Attended Ralph Borsodi's seminars one summer at Suffern, N.Y. (then fresh out of U.S. Army) and hired on as apprentice farm hand for room, board, and Borsodi's wisdom. Later to U.C. Berkeley and years of Entomology (i.e. Academic Union Card) plus work for corporate U.C. in Blo. Control field (17 years.).

Now retired on Soc. Sec., U.C. pension, & V.A. disability – am I ever wired into the Corporate State!

My head has been turned on by your beautiful brochures and possibly Ayn Rand's "Atlas" – but I must re-read her works – now that I have TIME to think a philosophy through. Of course, the "Slave State" has a leash on me – one at 65 can't do things like young ones -- -but I intend to try the nomad thing – perhaps in 4wd camper-truck, self-contained, e.g. Jeep or Land Rover plus Alaskan Camper – if possible. However, another alternative (might get "cabin fever" in camper!) is a mobile home on Oregon Coast (know of one near Lincoln City) instead of trying to squat on beach or in hinterlands. Would hope to live off land, beach, ocean, streams, etc. – but of course then I'd be tied into the State! If younger, there'd be no doubt as to course of action.

I do hope you folks keep going – especially on practical, realistic objective side of "Flight from Urbania" and don't get mired in the philosophy. Good health, good luck, and peace from an old brother. –CARL, near Berkeley.

Am thinking of backpacking in the northwest next year as prelude to year-around wilderness living. Would like to hear from kindred souls in Chicago area. –BILL, Riverside, Illinois.

Hello and best greetings: I am a subscriber to VONU LIFE and would like to correspond with other neo-nomads, trogs, etc., if possible.

I will shove off during the last part of August and would like to travel other SW areas and maybe meet other people of the vonu life attitude.

I have included a brochure on the Shower Ring which takes care of showering in van vehicle I find...I have a ready-made one – it works fine; just a pan and you have a bath...—DOUGLAS MILLER, San Diego, CA

To Douglas: Thanks for info on Shower Ring. Do you or anyone know their address – the brochure had order form (with address?) slipped out? –RAYO

Anything you make or have or do that someone else can use: Put it in black and white on an 8 x 11 piece of paper (drawings, photographs, whatever) and the People's Products Clearinghouse will print, as is, in a giant catalogue of People's Products. Be sure to include: what you want in return; how many you've got or want to make; your address.

We have gotten rid of our truck and camper – now we have a rototiller and goats. We have vague plans for going nomadic again – this time on foot – the roto-tiller stay behind, the goats will go with us. BUT – we will not travel because it is good to do so – to share with others the new freedoms we know – internal and external. One of our goats kidded last month giving us 1 mule and 1 female kid. Since we are not meat eaters and since Kevin adopted the mule as his own, we are looking for ways to utilize the buck's size and strength – goat carts – ideal for riding to B.C. and local grocery store – also, if and when we travel again, a cart or two might be handy for carrying needed supplies and small children. Also goats are supposed to be able to pull small plow set ups. Unfortunately, I have been (as yet) unable to find plans for carts, harnesses, etc. Does anyone OUT there know anything about such things? –LOVE, PEACE –TOM

SOME "MATERIAL" FROM ORION

August  
25-28,  
1971

From the mail service



Howdy, folks! During August, I was your mail service for VONU LIFE. No other human hands touched the insides of your envelopes once you saw them disappear down the slot. The "busy office of VONU LIFE" (where dozens of people sit around all day sorting mail & answering letters, just like at TMEN (uh-huh)) this month consisted of a small nylon backpacking tent, and a paint can stuffed with envelopes. So, mistakes in processing are quite probable. If something's missing you should have got from V.L., let me know.

It surely is regrettable that most folks are still sending \$2 for subscriptions (as advertised in Fall '70 WEC). This is an old, old price from before Preform/Inform #12 which now only buys 3rd class delivery of 3 issues at a time, every 6 months. If you'd like VONU LIFE #4, 5 & 6 sent 1st class to you as published, please send another buck! I felt really bad watching the sub. money come in (specially cash) & not being able to send you anything. But see! You ain't been ripped.

## My life style

Is kind of nothing right now. Didn't make it cross-country by bicycle as I said I would, in VONU LIFE 1. (Good old "name with it"!). Biking is cool if you want to go SLOW & enjoy the scenery. Like, 3 1/2 - 4 months cross-country! Not 1 1/2 months...

Plan to get set up in a good sized lean-to [6 mil polyethylene to start, heavier materials as needed, will report more in January] back on National Forest land before the mean Oregon winter attacks with its rains (in mid-October). Also have use of a friend's half-finished house for when winter gets too heavy. That's the easy way, I know, but I've never lived in anything but a house and — well, more on purism in a moment.

Don't own any sort of vehicle now. I hitch some, backpack some, and get taked around a lot by friends, with all my possessions. Since I got to Siskiyou region early in July, I've had 5 different week-stay squat-spots, 2 of them while doing work for people. This sort of non-vehicle nomadism is not so cool. A definite base is a necessity: place where one constructs a good fireplace & cooks most meals, has library, work & crafts "shop", and keeps majority of possessions. In other words, h's

Vonuum (see VL #1 for term). For people who dig truckin' around a lot, this is the place you can leave for 2 weeks while you're hitchin' to Eugene or Port Angeles, or bicycling to Crater Lake (haven't done it yet, but I'm gonna, dammit) and come back to, with no paranoia while you're on the road, of "aw shit, is some bludge or redneck hunter a-goin' to find my camp & rip it on me?" The central point is that most people, and me, just dig having possessions & having a place to keep them together. I started to get off onto a primitivism kick where I thought I could carry all my shit in one backpack load, or 2, or even on a horse, and just drift around. But it don't work that way with me. First a guitar, then a "few" good useful books, then some cooking utensils... & pretty soon you've got a pile, man. So, recognize the facts, & provide a place for your possessions, to keep them in good shape.

Strugglin'. But then, nobody's ever written a book on living without a "legal" type residence, a "homestead", on getting a civilized life together in the 20th century that is "out of sight, sound and mind of those unwilling to live and let live"; now have they? Looks like it's us, people, whose writing that book. There are no "manuals for a vonu life" save this one.

So let's hear more from you people, nomads & tramps! ...Anyhow, I have scouted a very small portion of Siskiyou & haven't found my vonuum — "base camp", as Western States Adam calls it, yet. Had a good camp with the Wonder Meadow Family, back in a National Forest, for about 10 days this month. The Wonder Meadow Family, we were just a flamin' group of funky freaks who came together by mutual love of the Meadow. But I couldn't get all the way into the Meadow camp, because it's not vonu — it's on a Forest Service Road, albeit a poor road, marked "Dead End" at the entrance, enough to discourage most folks; and it's exposed to view. While the forest police are being cool right now (they visited us, laid on us a rap about forest fires, dig around the campfire &c) there's no tellin' when the scene could get uncool. In Takilma now (just south of Cave Junction Oregon) the vibes are verrry unmellow, people are gettin' 20 yrs when they go to harvest their cannabis, the freaks had to shoot (with sub's) at a group of vigilante rednecks who came to throw them off the land (mostly "public" land). So the bludge can play forest boy games, too (though I suspect that the plots of marijuana weren't well hidden & were easily staked-out). Wonder what the narcs do with all these plants. Hmmm...

oooooXooooo

## Political ruff

Well, Nixon (a Republican ~~is~~) has done the thing we've all been waiting

se 71 VL3 2



for. How much shit can you people take? "Well, let's combat inflation, o.k.? Let's have everything planned & controlled. Let's have no more uncertainty, o.k.? It scares us. Do your part, will ya? " Things aren't quite bad enough yet to go live in a tent, are they? When will they be ...? Well, I'm happy anyhow. A ~~very~~ very good brother just wrote me a letter and I don't think he'll mind if I share part of it with you:

"I'm coming out, soon, like 3 or 4 weeks. I've been mostly stuck in what Rayo calls psycho-paralysis for a couple months, but the latest dirty deed of the Munster - wage & price controls - has shocked me out of my lethargy. Not that it was unexpected; we knew it was imminent for months now. But the reality of it, man, it's like a nightmare came true. Anyway, I decided long ago that I'd never work for a controlled wage, so that tears it. Nothing left but to get off the sinking ship fast, get underground, & start building a free life."

Beautiful.

Pardon us; we far-right libertarians" (Ayn Rand-Type) do get a little heavy when it comes to fuckers tryin' to push us. End of political rap. (I'm not an Ayn Rand type) libertarians any longer. I'm an "Onion type" libertarian.)



lary, sue & i out at the Meadows dropped some heavenly masculine one nite, i noticed that my phosphene patterns were free, loose, flowing like the creek near the meadow. when i lived in the city & dropped masculine my phosphene patterns were geometric, circles, arrows, tri patterns, interesting, n'est-ce pas? Before you trip, spend the whole day lying by the water, watching it swirl over the rocks.

### On Purism

To Adam, Western States. Man, I can dig your trip. Very similar to mine. But watch it! Your ideas on the MMM are pretty right-on, but you are still implicitly a vehicle nomad if you hire a retired farmer or odd-jobs man with a pickup truck". [people wondering about this rap? see p. 8 of VONU LIFE #1 and Adams' article in Prefrom #12(?) Or the couple who "stuff selected personal goods into duffle bags & climb aboard a Greyhound bus headed for the small town where they'll hire the truck driver." I was groovin' on your article till I came to this paragraph. Man, what happens when gasoline for that farmer's truck is available on ration basis (it's coming, people-don't shit yourselves) & costs \$3.50/gallon (\$3.50 9/10)? Those PPW-Vs people better know a better way to move their stuff. What happens when the Greyhounds ain't runnin' - or are carryin' troops to quell the fucking hunger riots? (just my "far-right" imagination gettin' away on me) Anyway, Adam, we're interested in livin' out there in those boonies, aren't we? even when the juices ain't flowin'. [Perhaps the prettiest time of all, also the least populated time, is winter after-ali]. Not livin' in the city! I don't think the Post-Catastrophe era you envision will be too bad out in the country. At least here in Josephine County Oregon, the people are a bit of a stronger breed than elsewhere I've been. They're rough & tumble & they're rednecks, but they are more self-reliant than city/sub-urb types. They keep to themselves and they just want to be left undisturbed. You can play the freeks versus the rednecks" games with them if that's where your head is at, and many of the Takima freeks are wastin' their energy this way. You can also deal with them on their terms, trade with them, learn country life from them (like, I could use some lessons in horse riding & care).

Myself, I want to make money in parallel to the state. This requires a vehicle. And PYRO EGON has helped straighten my head on the "MMM" aspect of vehicles (Man-Made Murder machines) by making me think it over some more. Thanks, much, PYRO. Really! Let's hear more from you!

- 1). Nomads drive very little, therefore pollute very little, therefore also conserve the metal resources wrapped up in their engines.
- 2). Nomads hang on to their rigs for as long as possible, since these are their homes/livelihoods. This conserves metal resources.
- 3). Nomads drive carefully as a rule. They are truckin' their homes with them, remember. Killing effects on highways due to assholes, not vehicles.
- 4). Internal combustion engines can be converted to run on methane
  - a) fuel, which is a highly ecologically wise fuel (see Jim Stumm's excellent article elsewhere in the issue). Also, it makes engines
  - b) pollute less, and because they burn cleaner they last longer which
  - c) conserves metal resources

As for what vehicle, think over the following: 2-cycle motorbike, 4-wheel drive, small van or 4-wheel drive pickup. Motorbike has interesting advantages: one can easily store (cache) 100-200 gallons of gasoline which is good for 3000 - 10000 miles depending on the bike. This way, when the rationing comes, one doesn't have to change from reliance on vehicle to feet, discontinuously. 4 wheel drive will carry more freight - an item of interest to those attempting to make money - and get into hairy spots. Best vehicle is 4 wheel drive pickup I imagine, tho servicing is expensive. With all these vehicles conversion to methane combustion frees you from the gasoline racket, which is ecologically not too sound at present (kind of "stuck" at times too) & is depleting resources of oil, causing Alaska to be fucked over, as well as



being thoroughly wrapped up in the state (I hear Wars are fought over oil) So who's going to be the daring entrepreneur who opens the first Underground methane-bottling plant? Methane is exquisitely subversive stuff, ain't it? Anyhow Adam, be aware of "impurities in your life-style". Recognize them & account for them. Why don't you come on out to Oregon & get together a community with us, anyway? You dig isolation from other vonuans? I sure don't.

Another "impurity" I might mention is that of associating with people not vonu - especially living on homesteads. I see nothing wrong with staying here at my friend's half-finished home, or even when it's finished (except that I may not get enough practice in remote living), since he's sympathetic to vonuans (just "doesn't want to live in a cave 'til he has to", which I can dig, especially since he's far better at survival than I am).

One other interesting "impurity" is with people who think they're being "primitive" and "gettin' back to nature" and then buy hiking boots made in a factory, or even use a plastic jug to get water (or a welded magnesium pack frame for back-packing). The Aquarius Project in Berkeley has many succinct thoughts on this matter. Fuller is right. Technology is where it's at. (You too, PYRO). Do more with less, via synergy. Now the task is to get some of that technology out of the fucking hands of the state & into the hands of some vonuans. PYRO, that's your thing & I'm really comin' to dig it, man.

The word on "impurities": be aware. Don't delude yourself. (I did, for a time.)

SEARCH SEARCH SEARCH SEARCH SEARCH SEARCH SEARCH SEARCH SEARCH

For people who want to get into a community of nomads in SW Oregon - NW California. Nomads of all kinds, van, pedestrian, horses, motorbikes. I am very interested in getting together one group initially, say 5-10 folks, for a very secluded/secure base camp. Eventually have in mind a network - a group of base camps over the entire Siskiyou area as defined by Tom of Preform & El Rayo, then a group of these groups over the entire Western States. There are many freeks in SW Oregon, sure, but many are ~~not~~ either not interested in trade or even against it (give things away). And a lot of freeks rely exclusively on FOOD STAMPS for their income, if you can dig where that's at, shunning opportunities for trade. Still, there are many good people out here, and the local freek population will be an asset, not a liability, in the Post Catastrophe. A lot of people will get shook up by the earthquake; I think they'll get off their asses. I think S.W. Oregon could become the world's first freehold, if the freeks get off their asses. Had a good rap with the guy who runs Field of Merits Natural Food Store in Grants Pass, on the topic of the Catastrophe. If yer passin' thru G.P. Stop in there on rte 99 for some mellow vibes if not the world's best selection of nat. food.

I am especially searching for a young chick (I'm 20) who could get into the vonuans' life. Please, if you think your head is any - where near where mine is, write a letter.



COMMENTS: New third-class subscribers receive introductory info plus some issues ‘immediately’ (which may be a month by third-class mail). A few who ordered in August didn’t, due to a mix-up of instructions. My apologies.

I like most of your words; especially your report on the local ‘freeks’ (‘long-hairs’) and your thoughts on ‘purism’. I seek vonu (invulnerability to coercion), not self-sufficiency particularly except as it contributes to vonu. For example, I see no need to dress in animal skins if I can, more easily, procure and store a 20-year supply for used clothes. (The local dump is often a good gratis source.)

On one point I disagree; trade and other association with local non-vonuans should be minimized, I believe. More self-reliant? In some ways, maybe. But they watch the same TV shows and deliver their kids to the same sort of slave schools as do their city brethren. And they are even more vulnerable in many ways: they lack the anonymity of city folk – everyone tries to mind everyone else’s business; and the mobility – they have a house they ‘own’, not just some apartment furniture, to lose if they ‘misbehave’.

Some freedom-seekers like to believe that, in a disaster, the federal bludg will be fully occupied maintaining ‘law and order’ in the cities, so rural regions will be virtually autonomous. This is wishful thinking. The country is where the food is raised, which the bludg need to feed their troops and agents and workers in ‘essential industries’. In the 30’s when the USSR bludg had to choose between letting Moscowites go hungry, and confiscating the harvests of Ukrainian peasants and letting them starve, they chose the latter. And they were able to do so despite nationalist traditions and relative self-sufficiency of the Ukraine.

The ‘rednecks’ (‘hicks’), here and elsewhere, do not even have the self-sufficiency and courage of Ukrainian peasants. If ‘conditions worsen’, expect them to bitch – but obey. The ‘freeks’ are more promising; most of them will also conform gradually, but a substantial minority are part vonu and may go further.

Dr. Gatherer and I chose the Siskiyou region for its uninhabited ‘wasteland’, not for its ‘rednecks’. We have little contact with local non-vonuans and expect less in the future. We look forward to the time when there are 20 or so vonuans here – enough to warrant a weekly van to Eugene, Berkeley, and maybe Los Angeles, and Portland. –RAYO

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## OVERVIEWS

THE YEAR 2000 by Natalee Hall (reprinted from 18je71 LIBERTARIAN CONNECTION)

There are some powerful trends which we can see today that will exert tremendous influence upon the world in the year 2000. The ones I choose to consider for this essay are those I believe are quite unavoidable in any context I can imagine. 1) The requirements for nuclear weapons are computer time and either rightly purified U235 or trigger. All of these already are or will become available to even the smallest country and to a great many organizations and even some individuals. There is no way of preventing the smuggling and planting of timer detonated nuclear weapons. Wars could become chaotic and protracted, with no safe havens outside of the wilderness, and with uncertain knowledge of who is doing what to whom and why. 2) The doubling time of knowledge will continue to decrease and accessibility of the knowledge will increase due to commercial plain language user interactive search services. 3) All sorts of medical goodies will come along. The FDA and the medieval medical guilds will slow things up, but sooner or later you can get anything you want at Alice’s restaurant. 4) A general decrease in respect for the State. 5) Tolerance (not approval) toward individuals with differing values will increase.

War is one critical human problem which has defied solution. It is a much worse problem today than previously due to the existence of weapons of fantastic destructive capabilities. Anyone who lives in a large city in the U.S. should be aware that there are large H bombs aimed at his city and that if he is there in the event of attack, his survival is not too likely. At first, only the United States possessed atomic weapons. Secrecy, when there are thousands of people involved, hasn’t worked out too well, and the technology of atomic weaponry has spread rapidly to other countries (USSR, China, France, perhaps others). As the expense of the processes involved (such as uranium isotope separation) become cheaper, there will be more and more

countries with the ability to manufacture atomic weapons (a country with the capacity is unlikely not to use it). We can assume that by the year 2000, dozens of countries will have them. And it's also likely that numerous private organizations and persons will have the resources necessary to build such weapons, plus the even cheaper (but still devastating) biological and chemical weapons. Any large concentrations of population (especially cities) will be highly vulnerable and essentially defense-less against such weapons. I see no reason to think that political mechanism will enable people to solve their conflicts any better in 33 years than today, and there will be many embittered and hostile subgroups in America in 2000, as there are today. But while today, the more violent dissatisfied splinter groups can do a great deal of damage with conventional bombs, Molotov cocktails, etc., there will be a potential for immense destruction in the year 2000. Police stations will be unable to defend themselves against attack, should the attackers have atomic bombs. And woe betide any innocent bystanders! What this all means to the people living in 2000 is basically this: the existence of widespread knowledge of possession of highly destructive weapons will limit the viable forms of living. Large concentrations of population, i.e., cities, will be obsolete. Those with the foresight will plan their lives so that they will be geographically separated from cities, away from fallout zones, but with the ability to communicate with and travel to cities for trade when desired. The back to the country movement has probably not considered this aspect of things very much; their main considerations seem to be environmental. Nevertheless, country living and survival skills will continue to increase in popularity and as the realization of the threat of planted atomic bombs becomes more known, there may be a general move out of cities for those who have the ability (and care) to do so. The State will never admit this danger because to do so would be to admit that it (the State) is incapable of defending its citizenry and this is one of the major rationales and excuses for the existence of the State. But notice that nobody talks about Civil Defense anymore (the supplies in the shelters setup years ago have not been replenished, the medicinals have aged beyond their expiration dates, etc.) because there is no way to protect civilians. Bombs can be planted in cities, either by foreign powers or domestic terrorists (you don't even know who is attacking you), and no defense is possible. Although there is a solution to the war problem – namely, an abandonment of the political system which fosters and grows healthy on war – this is unlikely to have occurred on any large scale by the year 2000, so we must plan on its continuing dangers.

There is no single agency or group of agencies, including governments of the world which control the accumulation of knowledge. The instruments, journals, know-how, etc. are diffusively spread through many private organizations, as well as among many government bureaus. Computer search services are now available for a large variety of types of information, such as knowhow on atomic weaponry, can only slow down not stop the eventual spread of available information to private and public groups. The spread of available information to private and public groups. The application of new theories in control of aging, increase of intelligence, cure of various diseases, etc. cannot be stopped by attempts to set up committees to evaluate technological developments (to ostensibly prevent such problems as the thalidomide situation or DDT long-range effects). Such committees simply don't possess the resources necessary to control the myriad channels of black market trade. LSD is an example of a drug for which a great amount of effort and resources have been spent in a futile attempt at control. When enough people want something, some black market entrepreneur will try to supply it at a profit. All the government attempts at control can accomplish is to drive up the price, as with heroin. In general, the fact that data is beyond the control of any group is a factor which leads to the only form of workable "democracy"; in the marketplace, anyone who wishes to purchase something may seek a seller. There are enough producers of information that anyone will be able to find data to purchase, if it is available. The attempt by the State to control technological development will lead to increased cost and more sophisticated methods of trying to get around laws. The State bureaucrats will not, of course, stop trying. But by the year 2000, I think that widespread lawbreaking will have reduced the State's "technological control" to a level not much higher than just propaganda. There will be available on the black market methods of increasing intelligence and lifespan, cancer cures, mind-altering mood drugs, and others.

Authoritarianism versus libertarianism is the major human problem-solving issue being decided in this century. The two means of human interaction, force and voluntarism, are

mutually exclusive. The inability of politics – i.e., force sanctioned by most of the populace – to solve basic human problems (e.g., pollution, overpopulation, poverty, etc.) is not generally leading to a philosophical insight to the defects in politics. There is some conceptual understanding of the difficulties involved in attempting to solve problems using force among the younger generation which has been subjected to the slavery of the draft and to coercive sumptuary laws. But, for the most part, the failures of politics are leading people to experiment with other forms of interaction, or to drop out of participating in politics. Seeing that politics cannot solve the problem of pollution doesn't necessarily lead one to decide where the where the solution lies outside of politics, but may lead one to stop wasting his time trying political solutions again and again. Tolerance for different ways of living may not come about because of any great intellectual realization concerning these other lifestyles, but may simply result from seeing that the usual "solution", to use force to make people conform, is just not working anymore. Hippies are not being stopped by laws against drugs and rock concerts. Truancy is not being stopped by reform schools and compulsory school attendance laws. Draft evasion is not being stopped by prison sentences for evaders. Etc. The Middle American "Mr. Jones" (who knows that somethin' is happening but doesn't know what it is) is "getting used" to the existence of diverse lifestyles and, while he may not like it, can see that there's nothing he can do about it. By 2000, this trend will be quite thorough in America. There are no forces left to hold America together – no great "national goals", patriotism, etc. – and as the old fogies die out during the next three decades, the splitting up of America into small voluntary cultures will become greater. The cultures will resent the intrusion of other alien cultures into their spheres. The "mind your own business" attitude will become stronger. A large minority of people will escape 1984 for themselves by learning how the laws can be flouted with success. Those who choose to obey will, of course, end up with the "Big Brother" they always wanted.

For others, taxes can be avoided, drafts can be evaded, black markets can be set up, etc., all using the same modern technology of defense. For example, telephone scramblers will soon render wiretapping obsolete. Phony black market documents can enable a person to assume many identities. The use of such opportunities has been fairly low because the tyrannies to be avoided were not worth the cost of avoidance to most people. But with the tax rate well over 40%, not many people will wish to continue working under the ordinary circumstances (with their incomes accessible to the State). More groups which used to be blindly loyal to the government are becoming rebellious (for example, miners are being harassed by forest rangers and are beginning to counter. Some rangers are even being shot). There will be even less reason to be loyal to the State in 2000 than now; the State will be able to provide no protection from attack by foreign powers or domestic terrorists (and these attacks will be real rather than imagined). The welfare programs will be bankrupt and with the tax rates rising continually. By 2000, the State may have lost most of its power to control its citizens, basically because without the voluntary sanction of its victims the State hasn't got the power to maintain itself. It's possible that by this time, a tax revolt will have rendered the State as no more powerful than, say, the Pope today. Of course, the politicians will never admit that the State has little or no power left but one can watch for the signs of its decline with little difficulty. One important signpost will be the extent of participation in elections. By 2000, I think that only a very low percentage of the population will bother to vote anymore. Another signpost is the extent to which protection of lives and property is done privately rather than through State auspices. Since there is no carrying out their "protection" in the year 2000 than now, the present trend toward private protection is very likely to continue unabated.

SUMMARY: People will live in scattered communities, not cities. There will be limited wars being waged nearly continually. The State will be in a position of low esteem among the populace, as goods and services it has claimed to provide can be obtained at lower prices and hassle privately. America will be composed of large numbers of different subcultures, most living at peace with their neighbors. Communications and transportation technology will allow a high degree of trade among the various groups, to the extent desired. Likewise, avoidance of State agencies, with their controls and expenses, will be practiced widely. State agents will avoid certain areas where they commonly "disappear."

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### **ATLANTIS III DEVELOPMENT** (Condensed from 18mr71 THE ATLANTIS NEWS)

Our immediate plan calls for establishing a few hundred square feet of real land in the Caribbean shoals we have located. The creation of this real land is most necessary and primary since features below the surface of the ocean cannot be claimed. This first landfill step is relatively easy.

To substantiate our claim for title and sovereignty, we must continuously inhabit and use this land. We must work it. Since our first little island will be low and frequently under water when the seas are high, the second step will be to erect thereon a habitat on a tripod 20 feet above the surface. A miniature "Texas Tower" as it were. This small dwelling will house three people, and provide all facilities for a safe and relatively comfortable existence. The ATLANTIS III will be our supply vessel, and our three pioneers will spend their time charting the reefs, channels, and bottom contour of this sea mount.

Approximately six months after completing the first habitat, we will begin the next stage, which is the step-by-step construction of our Sea City. Many of the concepts to be employed here were developed by the Pilkington Glass Company and published in their breathtaking booklet "Sea City". In appearance it resembles a football stadium, but is vastly larger. The area corresponding to the playing field is a sheltered lagoon, on which floating structures can be erected, and where cargo and passenger ships can tie up. The oval outside all is immensely solid and provides protection from both the pounding sea and the relentless prevailing wind...(The ATLANTIS II is presently under construction at the Atlantis motel in Saugerties, NY. They hope to begin landfill soon.)

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Would any readers like to get into free market fuel production? Methane can be produced from manure, sewage, garbage, almost any organic material, with simple equipment that could be carried in a vehicle, or hidden in the woods like a still. You could compress it into tanks, or liquefy it, to transport & sell. With a methane fuel system, vonuans would control right from the source, & be completely free of the corporate oil cartels. Everything from propane lamps to car engines can be simply converted to run on methane, making possible a one-fuel housecar.

A vonu methane co. is the key to many things; transportation, electric power generation, light, heat, power for production machinery, etc. And the ecological aspects are very attractive. You start with waste materials, garbage, sewage, etc. The production process is clean & simple, & the residue left over is fertilizer – throw it in your garden. The end product, methane, is a clean-burning fuel (natural gas is mostly methane). Think of the market you could develop among non-vonu freaks by stressing ecology & recycling. Imagine a nationwide movement among vonuans & green revolutionists to home production of methane in "stills," with job opportunities in designing stills, building them, selling bottled gas, doing conversions on car engines, etc. And there are no road taxes on methane. (credit to Orion for preceding paragraph.)

Here's a quick summary of all that I know about methane, with sources. All organic materials decompose (rot) unless you make an effort to prevent it. If decomposition takes place in the absence of oxygen (anaerobically), methane gas is one of the end products. Usually, you cut off the air by putting the organic material under water, as in a swamp (swamp gas), or in a sewer (sewer gas), or underground (natural gas). But you can also accomplish this by shutting the material up in a can (as Harold Bate does).

Your best source for info on production of methane is THE MOTHER EARTH NEWS, issue #3, May 1970, available for \$1.00 postpaid. This issue contains these pertinent articles:

p. 41 – Solution to Pollution – discusses production of methane as a means of recycling municipal sewage & garbage. Mentions a sewage plant in Pasadena where the gas produced (using only a small part of the sludge) was used to run 5 internal combustion engines of 200 to 800 horsepower. Also discusses a plant to process the sewage & garbage of 50 to 100 people. This plant will produce about 500 cubic feet of gas per day with 650 BTU's per cubic foot.

p. 44 – Now...electricity from manure gases – tells about a farmer named Groth, of San Diego County, Cal. who makes gas from hog manure & uses it to run a 10-kilowatt generator.

p. 45 – How to generate power from garbage – gives complete plans for building a homestead or commune sized gas generating plant (out of concrete & steel, so it's not portable). This 9 page

article is full of technical data, detailed blueprint type diagrams, & a complete description of the gas-generating process, & how to go about building & operating the plant.

A later issue of TMEN (#8, Mar. 71, also \$1.00) has a half page article (on p. 9) entitled: Harold Bate & His Marvelous Chicken-Powered Car. This tells how Bate, a British farmer, has been running his car, a 1953 Hillman, for the last few years on methane generated from chicken shit. Methane production takes place outside the car in a device that appears much smaller & simpler than the gas plant described in TMEN #3 (it seems to be a modified 5-gallon can). Another story about Bate printed elsewhere says that he also runs a 5-ton truck & heats his house with methane.

Bate markets a complete conversion kit which includes a patented carburetor attachment (which will also work with gasoline, propane, and natural gas), fitting instructions, & details & drawings for at home methane production.

Another reference to Bate is found in Jan 1971 WHOLE EARTH CATALOG. On p. 12, 3 letters from Bate about methane gas production are printed.

Also, on the same page, is this short piece entitled: Methane Production in India. An earlier report (Jan 1970 WEC) suggests that this source may have info on running lanterns, stoves, etc. on methane.

Also, Jan 1970 issue of WEC recommend the book COMPOSTING by Harold B. Gotaas (World Health Organization) which has a whole chapter devoted to building a methane generator.

The Mar 1970 issues of WEC on p. 40 has an article entitled: The Use of Propane, much of which also applies to methane. It tells about the advantages of converting your car to run on propane. Such conversion will reduce emissions by 50% to 80%, cost about \$300 per car, reduce engine fouling, & add 2 to 10 years to engine life. Conversions leave your car still able to run on gasoline if necessary, but propane is widely available, cheaper than gasoline, & has no highway taxes on it yet. Also, this article mentions that Pacific Gas & Electric is converting some vehicles to run on compressed natural gas (methane).

The Aug 1970 issue of POPULAR SCIENCE (p. 30) has a more detailed article about Pacific Lightning Corp. converting its trucks to CNG (Compressed Natural Gas: Another Clean-Air Fuel). Tests show emissions reductions of up to 90% & longer engine life. But CNG vehicles accelerate poorly & have only a 30 to 40 mile range per tank. This problem can be solved by storing the fuel in liquid form. The article says: "Visionaries already call LNG the fuel of the future." That's liquid methane they're talking about.

For complete, detailed instructions on how you can convert your car to run on propane (much of this should be relevant to methane) see:

POPULAR SCIENCE, July 1970, p. 43 – You Can Drive a Pollution-Free Car Now – Convert to LP Gas.

POPULAR MECHANICS, Oct. 1970, p. 85 – Propane Power – Should You Switch to LP Gas.

Best wishes, & "power" to the people.  
Jim Stumm

Reply: I'd be interested in providing or working with you on a vonu shelter for a methane plant in this region. I suggest a small operation selling only to vonuans in the immediate area. If you can replace our own hydrocarbon imports this will be a big step. Later, perhaps, you might export equipment and knowhow.

I don't think vonuans can competitively export methane itself in the foreseeable future. It's relatively heavy per value. And I doubt that dead vegetation is as rich a raw material as shit. (A few vonuans plus maybe a dairy goat don't produce much shit.) –RAYO

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### THE POORMAN'S MOTORHOME, ETC.

Sooo here another summer is almost gone and 'Uncles' controls are a little tighter – New laws in some California counties (like Riverside) make any trespassing on private property a legal no-no. Bikers have most often been 'burned' not 'overnighters' will be next I presume. Arizona at last word still has an 'open arms' policy on campers and many public camps have free electric plug ins, and propane trucks coming around to keep you in gas. Don't know if Colorado pushed



through the 'camper tourist' tax law yet but the trend in making it tougher for the 'vanite' is plain enough.

Since good used buses and vans are getting scarcer, let me mention that summertime is the right time to pick up used school buses since the new buses are acquired a little before school starts. Quickest way is to look up the new & used bus dealers in the big city phone book, but the cheapest buses can be had by making the rounds to dozens of schools. The big flat nosed, rear engine rigs are generally the greatest potential motor home bargains in the country and with luck, a little motor work on a less than thousand dollar investment you can turn it all into a triple humdinger of a home worth many times...What many 'big rig' people fail to realize is that truck stops will pump you gas for at least a dime less a gallon if you have a super size tank. This makes stuffing gas down the big gas burners a lot less painful. Diesel is always a reliable way to go for persons who really put on miles but a little tricky to work on for the 'shade tree' mechanic. Lately, there is also a trend for states to tax all diesel outfits going through (on fuel).

Price wise, the L.A. bus lots are getting at least \$1500 out of a 50 + front engine school bus – 3 bills for a late big rear engine job – \$1000+ for a city bus with the big diesel engine (most are handicapped by lower speed rear end) – 4 to 8 bills for the beautiful little gas "Flexible" highway buses and slightly less for the slightly larger diesel buses. Spotting backyard buses and knocking on a lot of doors will often solve much of the market value problem. Converting the price is a labor of love and something we can possibly go into late. One thing every potential 'vanite' is in danger of is getting stuck with a low speed rear end. Converting to a 'freeway good' van can be a real hassle as the two speed and higher speed rear ends are really expensive & used ones are as scarce as hen's teeth. Unfortunately, far too many persons fail to try fixing their own rigs when little more investment than a set of wrenches and effort is required. For instance, brake cylinder leakage will often run you \$60 to get fixed on a truck. By doing it yourself, the rubber cup replacement shouldn't be over \$10 and you can use some emerycloth around a rubber hose if you don't have a cylinder hose. Generally, most trucks will come apart just like a car but the parts may be more expensive unless you get a mechanic friend to get your parts or use an appropriate 'moniker' for 'truck firm' discounts. Really it takes a little repair money to go mobile unless a person adapts to becoming handy at 'fixin' things. Battery chargers and tool are almost on a 'must list' to our way of thinking. The cheapest insurance you'll find for keeping your engine in good order is good high detergent oil. Go to your local wholesale oil dealer with containers for at least ten gallons of oil and ask for the H.D. stuff that is used in the heavy equipment, it will run you around a quarter a quart and be better than what your service station will supply for twice the price.

Soooo today we scrounged some window screens to use in drying some of the dried fruit that we scrounge...even bananas. The summer Calif. sun does wonders on most everything edible...yesterday it was playing in a secluded mountain stream with lots of delightful kids. Freedom is nice. Anyway, till later. –AL & SANDY FRY

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Dear Vonu-Folks,

Very enjoyable hearing from you recently. I think your treatment of the Mother Earth News was superb. Their letter was so packed with phony liberal bullshit it didn't require any comment. That is not to say I don't find Mother a worthwhile source, but let's maintain the utility-affect distinction (user her, don't lover). A couple of warnings to fellow readers. The \$9.50 "Retreater's Bibliography" is probably not worth it to Vonu readers. It is a convenient and compacted source, but if you already recognize names like Rodale, Gibbons, Angier, et al, there isn't much new. A real rip-off goes by the name of "Alaskan Sleeping Bag Company." They are the people who advertise the Cunningham book on making your own light weight camping gear. Send them money and after awhile, they tell you they can't supply the book and that's it. Months later, no refund. I heard of people who sent them money for a pair of down bags over a year ago and still nothing.

Regarding Rayo's comments on wealth...I am certainly in general agreement but would add following: In "Operating Manual for Spaceship Earth," B. Fuller supplies a definition of "wealth" which comes very close to what psychological testers would use for "intelligence." Now many of us have been relatively crippled by an emphasis on symbol pushing (whether math, psych., or

German Lit. is beside the point) at the expense of thing manipulation. Thus, one place for investment in mobile, unexpropriable and relatively non-perishable assets is your head. That is, an increasing range and quality of abilities. While initially I thought of hunting, carpentry, gardening, etc., I have now concluded that certain “intellectual” skills might be worthwhile for some purposes. For example, one or two foreign languages for personal purposes as well as possibility of earning through teaching or translating.

Funny thing about the Harry Browne trip – gold is currently at a two year high while silver continues downward. I am not knocking a small amount of silver coins, but they clearly aren't perfect plus they are not of inherent value (are you planning on making your own photographic film in the woods?). So how about .22 cartridges for barter. Have you seen the Armalite .22 which fits into its own stock? Looks nice, but haven't used one.

Well, enough of this rambling for now, keep up the effort and left us hear from Roberta and Tom.

Reply: Thanks so much for info. “Retreater's Bibliography” was only thing of its kind when it first came out, but now there are many better, cheaper sources. MOTHER EARTH is still our favorite alternate-lifestyles magazine, despite their minor transgressions. They publish info on a wide spectrum of non-conventional living ways, unlike some of their competitors who get hung up on organic farming or something. They put out a big book every other month. And, again unlike some of their competitors, they don't try to play god – limit source listing to people THEY like; they accept classified ads. –RAYO

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#### Scouting Public Lands for Primitive Living:

In early June and again in late July, I lived briefly in a foothills region of the Rocky Mountains, at an elevation of about 6000 to 7000 feet. One could live, without inconvenience of snow, in this region from about May through September. The foothills are gentle ridges with draws and little meadows in between. There are beave ponds in most of the draws. The trees are mostly lodgepole pine (plenty of dead ones for tipi poles) and aspen – the beaver seem to like to cut down small aspen poles for food and building dams.

I am writing about this certain region and will not locate or name it, for obvious reasons. But I believe there are foothills regions with similar possibilities for primitive nomadic summer living all up and down the Rocky Mountains. The peaks reach to around 12,000 to 13,000 feet but I stayed in the foothills where living and backpacking were easier. Carried a 30lb. Kelty pack, slept in a 5 lb. backpacking tent and 4 ½ lb. Dacron 68 bag that even in late July froze my tail off on some nights. One needs a thicker or better sleeping bag – probably a down bag weighing a total of 4 ½ to 5 lbs. would be about right. Day time is just right for shirt sleeves but it gets nippy around 2:00 A.M. and you wish for a thicker sleeping bag, or a double bag with a mountain-going female warming the other half.

Out alone in the wilds at night with only long-knife and Colonel Colt for company sometimes gets a little lonesome, but it doesn't last. It's too damn good just being out there to worry about anything. There's little to bother you unless you get between a moose and her calf – one moose and calf came to within 50 yds. while I was trout fishing on a sandbar and the .45 was back at the supply dump. Skunk odor was coming from somewhere upwind and across me to her but she finally winded me and took off back across the creek with red calf close behind. Just like with bears, don't monkey around with mama mouse and her calf.

Living alone in the mountains can give you a real sense of doing what is right in this life. You begin to realize that you can make it on your own. I've been tramping the mountains for a few years and generally used the “remember where you're going” method of not getting lost. But I am beginning to use compass bearings more than in the past. I practiced some of this – taking off on a certain bending into new territory and then taking the reverse heading back to the starting point. It's a great relief not to have to remember how many ponds you passed or how many ridges you crossed.

This particular area would not be ideal for winter unless you prepared in September to stay in there until May. There is only one black-top road into the general region and it is about 40

miles to the nearest town – too far to go in on snowshoes or skis. The road is closed to vehicles in winter. However, summer is another story. I parked my car within 2 miles of my base supply dump and then backpacked goods to where I needed them. For a full summer's stay I would have to leave my car or truck in some town, somehow or another. The foothills area was not used by horsemen, hikers, campers, or backpackers. These people get on the marked trails and head for the lakes in the high country. I actually am convinced that I camped and walked over some sports that hadn't been visited by man in over 50 years – yet, the western edge of the area was within hearing of cars on the black-top road.

A primitive style agriculture could be used in this region if you stayed there all summer. I got the idea of using the downhill edges of beaver ponds for little vegetable plots – some would be so small they'd only grow a few hills of squash, melons, or corn. Beaver might cut down the corn, but there's a good chance that they wouldn't. They are probably too turned on to aspen bark to bother with unknown foods such as corn stalks. Planting of melons, potatoes, tomatoes, corn, and squash would be made on the downhill side of ponds in the damp, rich black earth that has built up over the centuries. Also, when needed, you could open a little hole in the dam to let irrigation water out to your crops. The beaver would plug the hole the following night. I believe this beaver pond agriculture is one way a vonuist could work with nature rather than against her. Trying to raise a cultivated garden in the western mountains is working against nature because there is little or no rain from about June through September. The beave and his pond has added that lacking element – natural water and rich humus.

In this region, the beaver have dammed most of the draws and rich humus has built up deep in between the ponds. The ponds also allow one to camp back on the lodgepole and aspen covered ridges and still have water within 30 yds. for drinking, cooking, and nude bathing. Let's hope no one would even consider taking soap into a pond or stream or washing crap from dishes in there. Jump in and thresh around and get wet and then soap up and pour water over yourself from a stew pot or dish pan – or just use water and some benign green leaves to scrub down while in the pond.

For a long time, I've been trying to mesh the idea of living a nomadic life in the mountains with carrying on a little informal agriculture. First, I thought of putting a regular cultivated garden patch downhill from a pond or stream and then using gravity irrigation. This would be a lot of digging and extra work in addition to being easily spotted as a permanent fixture back in the mountains where there should be no permanent fixtures. Then I came across the beaver pond idea and believe it has some real merit for the nomadic backpacker. It would spread your "garden" over a square mile or so and would remain invisible from the air, as well as from the ground. If you're not familiar with such ponds, they are usually in strings down the center of a draw and with seepage from leaking down to the next pond. I don't believe flooding would wipe out your crops even during heavy rains because such ponds are engineered by the beaver to control flooding and grass and forbes grow below and all around such ponds. Therefore, your crops should also do well there.

This beave pond agriculture also fits in with the idea of backpacking and living over a large area, fishing, picking wild foods and enjoying life as you go. Early-day primitives may have used this beaver pond method of agriculture – they usually did things the natural way in agreement with nature. I believe modern man is in deep trouble just to the degree that he has deviated from following the ways of primitive man.

For spring-to-fall living on public lands, I am now thinking of using foothills areas more than the higher mountains. The high mountains have lakes, steeper trails, visiting hikers, and horsemen, colder nights and longer distances from the main road – none of which is useful to the vonuist nomad.

–Adam, Western States

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### **TENTS – SOME PRELIMINARY REMARKS**

Most tent and tipi makers do not live and work in their products. If they did, few of their present models would be on the market. Specific complaints:

\*LIGHTING: Most tents are dark inside – poorly suited for indoor work during cloudy, wet weather which is when a tent is most needed.

\*SHELTER: Almost any tent will repel a brief shower. But after several days of steady rain condensation drips, if not leaks, wet everything inside.

\*SHAPE: The tipi was efficient when the only materials were animal skins which had to be sewn together anyway. But with availability of yards-wide synthetic materials, a tipi is unnecessarily complex and costly to make for the space it encloses. The same goes for round, square, hexagonal, etc. tents.

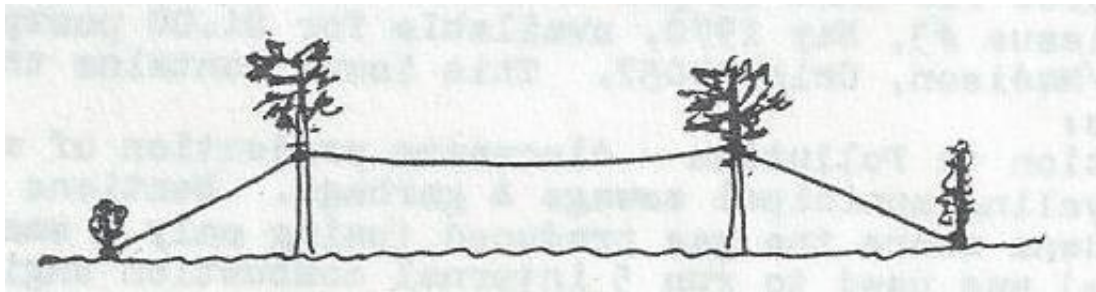
\*FLOOR SPACE: One needs plenty on which to set things and work on things since there are not the tables or shelves of a den or cabin. Few tents are big enough for full-time living, even for one person.

\*MATERIALS: Canvas tents tend to mildew and rot; many nylon tents are sewed with cotton thread which rots. Zippers jam or don't hold after a few hundred uses.

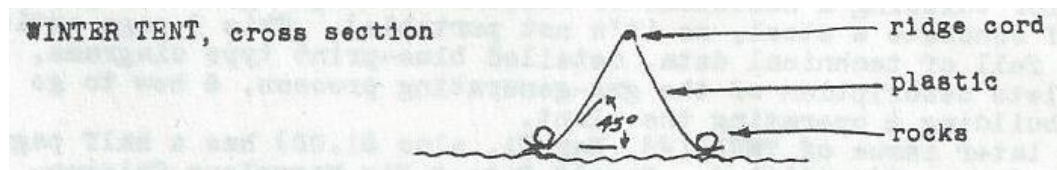
These complaints assume full-time tent living. For fair-weather camping during brief vacations a tent is usually not needed, other than a mosquito bar.

Dr. Gatherer and I have lived in tents about half the time during the past year; full-time for periods of a month or more during every season. Six months ago, in disgust, we moved out of a large, elaborate military-surplus tent, threw a poly tarp we had been using as a ground cloth over a rope, and found this to be a big improvement. We are now experimenting with further refinements of this and some other new approaches, and will report the results in future issues. Until then, here are preliminary suggestions for anyone new to full-time tent living who is locating in a wet-season forested region:

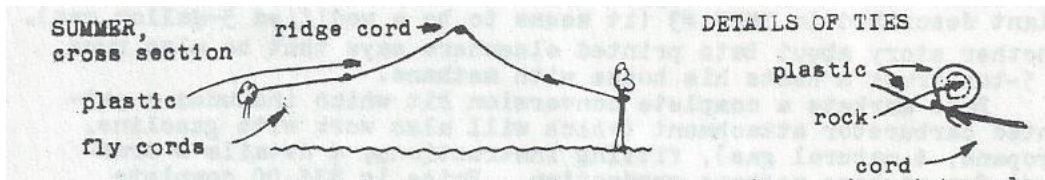
Don't spend money on any conventional fabricated tent or tipi. Get: (1) 6-mil-thick clear polyethylene plastic film; (2) cord, at least 600-pound test; decron or polypropylene is best – doesn't rot, stretches less than nylon. String the cord between two trees. If the trees are slim, use more cord and brace to the bases of other trees or bushes. (See below.) Drape the plastic film over the cord.



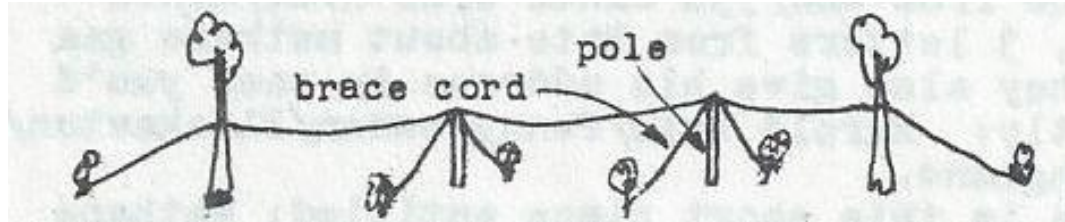
During cold/wet seasons set rocks or logs on the edges of the film. Overlap the ends loosely, leaving at least a foot separation for ventilation. Do not stretch the plastic to a gradual slope; keep the angle 45° or more so that condensation will run down the underside of the plastic rather than drip off. For the same reason do not place anything in contact with the plastic. Ventilation will be sufficient for breathing plus a candle; if cooking is done in the tent use a wood stove (made from 5-gallon can or ?) and use a stovepipe to vent to outside.



During summer tie the sides out for greater ventilation while keeping off dew and brief showers. Tie to the plastic by bunching it over small roundish rocks. Don't tie to holes in the plastic, these will soon rip out.



For a very long tent (over 30 feet?) brace the ridge cord at intervals of 20 feet or so with poles. Poles can also be used in dense forest for zigzagging a long tent around obstacles. (I have not tried this.)



6-mil poly film is sold by some building supply stores; also by Wards and Sears catalogs. A 20-by-50-foot roll, costing about \$15 and weighting about 25 pounds, forms a tent 12 ft wide by 30 ft long by 8 ft high down the middle. 100 feet of light polypropylene rope costs about \$2.50. A fabricated tent of comparable size would cost hundreds of dollars and probably not be as bright, waterproof, and flexible.

A piece 10 by 10 feet of 4-mil (sufficiently thick for that size), costing less than \$2 and weighing less than 2 pounds, will protect a double bed from dew and showers during summer trips away from base camp.

Poly film can also be used for ground cover to minimize dirt pick-up and loss of small objects. But use separate pieces and keep the edges well inside of the tent plastic so that condensation running down the underside of the tent will soak into the ground rather than running along the floor. Don't use a single piece of plastic for both tent and flooring.

Disadvantages of polyethylene: gradual deterioration in sunlight; visibility (of clear) from the air; insufficient strength for high winds; easily ripped up by a large animal. The first 3 problems aren't serious in a forest; a green translucent dull-finished plastic would be better but we haven't found a source yet. The last is a problem with any tent unless it's suspended high in the trees (which we are also experimenting with).

Supplement tent with: mosquito netting over bed during insect seasons (a nylon mosquito bar 6x3x3 feet is sold mail order by Herters, Waseca, Minn. for about \$5.); black poly film (4-mil sufficient) over bed area for black-out while reading or mending during long full and winter nights.

I have no experience with and do not recommend this form of tent in places of high wind, full sunshine, or intense, dry cold. -RAYO

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### **Foods for Storage: Some Preliminary Suggestions**

Our food objective is to continue eating without being vulnerable. "Living off the land" sounds appealing. But doing it successfully month after month in all seasons, requires much experience and long hours. After about two years of vonu living, Dr. Gatherer and I obtain perhaps 20% of our food on the average from hunting and foraging; this is figuring raw weights – in calories foraged food provides less than 5%. We expect to do better as we gain experience and have more time – at present various forms of shelter are still taking most of our time. But a new vonuan should not expect to live off the land immediately.

Conventional agriculture is of course hopelessly vulnerable. We have thought about cryptoculture – growing crops in small, irregular concealed plots. But there are many problems to be solved. It's feasible right now maybe for high-value crops such as pot, but not for the bulk



of one's food. So the way to become as vonu as possible as quickly as possible is to eat mostly storable foods. These must be "imported" of course, but not every day or even month – many will store 10 years or longer. And in 10 year's time, we can most likely learn to live off the land if we have to.

We seek foods which are storable for a year or longer, preferably at ordinary temperatures; inexpensive – total cost not much over \$100 per person per year; nourishing – a healthful diet without large additions of fresh foods; light and compact; tasty; easily tested for edibility.

| food                 | gr/day     | calories    | protein   | fat         | lb/yr      | ¢/lb | \$/yr         | storage |             |
|----------------------|------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|------------|------|---------------|---------|-------------|
|                      |            |             |           |             |            |      |               | min     | max         |
| wheat, whole grain   | 188        | 640         | 24        | 2.9         | 150        | 6    | 9.00          | 400     | 750         |
| brown rice           | 94         | 333         | 7         | 1.5         | 75         | 12   | 9.00          | 75      | 150         |
| popcorn              | 38         | 97          | 5         | 1.7         | 30         | 13   | 3.90          | 30      | 60          |
| lentils              | 75         | 255         | 15        | 1.0         | 60         | 15   | 9.00          | 100     | 200         |
| red beans            | 25         | 85          | 7         | 0.2         | 20         | 17   | 3.40          | 50      | 100         |
| dry non-fat milk     | 25         | 90          | 9         |             | 20         | 35   | 7.00          | 25      | 50          |
| dry (dead) yeast     | 6          | 16          | 2         |             | 5          | 70   | 3.50          | 5       | 10          |
| nuts (hulled weight) | 95         | 570         | 17        | 52.0        | 75         | 40   | 30.00         | 75      | 150         |
| dry fruit            | 31         | 83          |           |             | 25         | 40   | 10.00         | 25      | 50          |
| honey                | 87         | 256         |           |             | 70         | 20   | 14.00         | 360     | 720         |
| <b><i>totals</i></b> | <b>664</b> | <b>2425</b> | <b>86</b> | <b>59.3</b> | <b>530</b> |      | <b>103.80</b> |         | <b>2240</b> |

Here are the storable foods we are presently eating, and/or expect to eat in quantity over the next year.

All of the above figures are per person. Protein and fat are grams per day; storage is in pounds. We may substitute some other grains and pulses for some of the brown rice or lentils, etc., but this will give an idea.

Weights, cost and calories assume one is sedentary (or small) and living exclusively on stores. Of course we need many more calories when active. But we eat other foods; not only wild foragings but some purchased fresh foods during trips "outside." The total cost includes \$5 allowance for food supplements. The maximum and minimum storage are objectives for this autumn; we hope to eventually increase these to a ten year supply as we gain knowhow and facilities.

Comparing nutritional elements with those recommended:

| substance  | recommended     | provided by   | supplements used      |
|------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------------|
|            | min.            | above         |                       |
| protein    | 70 gr/day       | 86 gr/day     | none                  |
| fat        | 54 gr/day       | 59 gr/day     | none                  |
| calcium    | 0.8 to 4 gr/day | 0.6 gr/day    | 2.0 gr/day            |
| phosphorus |                 | 2.0 gr/day    | none                  |
| iron       | 10 mg/day       | 21.7 mg/day   | none                  |
| Vit. A     | 5000 units/day  | 586 units/day | 5000 units/day        |
| Vit B1     | 1.6 mg/day      | 2.8 mg/day    | none                  |
| Vit. B2    | 1.8 mg/day      | 2.1 mg/day    | none                  |
| niacin     | 21 mg/day       | 21.9 mg/day   | none                  |
| Vit. C     | 75 mg/day       | negligible    | 200 mg/day            |
| Vit. D     | 400 units/day   | none          | sunshine or 400 u/day |
| Vit. E     | 25 units/day ?  | substantial   | 200 units/day         |



Apparently not much is known about the amount of fat needed, except that some polyunsaturated fatty acids are considered essential. The conventional wisdom right now seems to be that 20% of calories should come from fat with at least two-thirds of that from unsaturated. However, many people, especially in oriental countries, live healthfully with 10% or less of total calories from fat. I have eaten as little as 6% for a month or more but developed a craving for fat. Since fat foods are the most expensive, the most difficult to store and are often contaminated, this deserves further investigation.

At the moment we are avoiding processed oils and margarine entirely. Not only are the ingredients apt to be of low quality but various chemicals of unknown toxicity are introduced during commercial processing. And such oils can apparently become appreciably rancid without change in taste; rancid oils are reputed to be a major cause of aging. Oil sold by health food stores, to which no antioxidants are added, can be even more dangerous unless it has been continuously refrigerated since manufacture; the oil becomes rancid quicker. The information on oil rancidity is scanty and often contradictory; in the absence of more knowledge we are playing it safe.

Nuts we eat include walnuts, filberts, almonds, peanuts, and/or sunflower seeds; which ones we purchase depends on price and taste preferences. The above weights are for hulled nuts; however all but the sunflower seeds are purchased and stored unhulled. Raw sunflower seeds are purchased (hopefully) shortly after the hulling and placed immediately in a CO<sup>2</sup> atmosphere. In the future we hope to store all nuts, especially sunflower seeds, at not over 35°F; however, we have stored nuts for a year at 55°F with no appreciable change in taste. Hulled sunflower seeds sprout well; a test of their condition – how good a test for oil rancidity we don't know. In the past we have used soy beans as a fat source. But soy beans are apparently even more difficult to store than nuts. Ominously, soy beans will not sprout if stored at room temperature for more than one year.

Our present diet includes moderate amounts of powdered milk and dry food yeast. These foods are questionable nutritionally: their processing and storage as fine particles forms oxidized substances which are apparently a major cause of degenerative diseases.<sup>1</sup> Milk is controversial in other ways as well: some nutritionists recommend plenty of it, *especially* non-fat dry milk; others do not recommend it unless it is raw milk fresh from the cow – drunk within a few minutes of milking; still others are down on milk in all forms – these people include not only vegetarians but some who recommend fresh meat. Also milk and yeast are relatively expensive and difficult to store. And they are not needed for protein content. But, with the present primitive state of the 'science' of nutrition, I prefer to hedge my bet by including at least some foods of animal origin. And I seem to digest milk well; easier than wheat or beans. As we grow in ability to hunt and trap I intend to phase out milk.<sup>2</sup> We have stored dry milk (Challenge non-instant, Jorgensen X-grade) for a year at 55°F average with no change in taste.

Dried meat and fish are much too expensive to be considered. And we can get small amounts of meat without even spending time hunting by killing the slow animals we meet: an occasional rattlesnake, crayfish or porcupine. Anyone avoiding animal foods entirely should include a Vitamin B12 supplement; B12 does not occur in vegetables.

Wheat continues to form a large part of our diet and an even larger part of our stores, even though it is not as palatable or digestible as rice and many other grains. Not only is it inexpensive – it stores well. And samples can be sprouted to test condition. Rice sprouts poorly if at all and is reputedly difficult to store – oil becomes rancid. Unless rice can be stored at a low temperature, white rice may be better than brown, despite the loss of B vitamins and the flat taste. Lentils and red beans both sprout well; we know of no special storage problems. We eat more lentils because we like the taste better.

We purchase only whole grain; never flour or cracked cereals. Commercial flour and the pastries made from it are apparently the major cause of arteriosclerosis, arthritis and similar degenerative diseases.<sup>1</sup> Whole wheat flour and whole grain cereals such as oatmeal and granola may be even more harmful than white flour because the oils quickly become rancid after grinding due to oxidation of vitamin E, the anti-oxidant; the vitamin E is oxidized within days after grinding.

Dry fruit may not be justified for nutritional content but is included for taste variety and related psychological reasons; we don't want to unconsciously associate "goodies" with *that* society. For price reasons the fruit is mostly raisins, figs, dates and prunes. We eat dry fruits mostly during winter and spring; during summer and autumn we forage fresh berries. We have experimentally dried several kinds of berries with good results but not yet in sufficient quantities to replace imports. Honey is also not justified nutritionally, but a generous amount is included, not only because it stores indefinitely, but to avoid any craving for sweets. White granulated sugar is suspect as a food; in experimental animal feedings refined sugar produced ailments in cases where equivalent amounts of honey or other sweets did not.

No dehydrated vegetables are included. In this area at least a few greens can be foraged the year around at lower altitudes. These and sprouted alfalfa seed, lentils and wheat provide taste variety and a nutritional safety factor.

For a calcium supplement we are using bone meal, but it may switch to oyster shell if we can purchase it in powdered form. Oyster shell tastes better than bone meal and has a higher calcium to phosphorous ratio. Some prefer dolomite because it has magnesium as well as calcium. Some nutritionists say the minimum calcium required is 0.8 grams per day; others say twice as much calcium as phosphorous which for us would be 4 grams per day. This is further complicated by the relative assimilation of Ca and Ph from various foods.

Other supplements presently include alfalfa seeds for sprouting, vitamins A, C and E, kelp for trace minerals, and various seasonings. Vitamins C and dry E will apparently store indefinitely in sealed, opaque containers; vitamin A and oil E must be kept cool. Vitamin E reputedly counteracts the effects of rancid oil in the body so we take a substantial dose in addition to what our food supplies.

Dr. Gatherer and I differ on the relative merits of organic and non-organic food. Our present policy (compromise) is to pay a substantial premium for organically grown fruits and fresh vegetables (when we buy them) but no more than 10% premium on grain or nuts.

Our long-term storage of grains and nuts is within an inert atmosphere in polyethylene bags in sealed drums. To obtain the inert atmosphere we put ½ ounce dry ice per gallon volume in bottom of drum, pour in food, tie bag loosely and place top loosely on drum. After a few hours the dry ice will evaporate (bottom of drum will no longer feel cold) and pressure will be equalized. Then we tie the bag and seal the drum tightly. We have stored wheat this way for over three years (and it was at least a year old when we bought it); it still sprouts well.

The yearly cost can be reduced to \$60 or less per year by increasing consumption of wheat and reducing consumption of everything else. But while such a diet still provides adequate protein, B vitamins, etc., we hesitate to depend heavily on a single food, both because of nutritional uncertainty and for psychological reasons.

<sup>1</sup> "Stale Food Versus Fresh Food," Robert S. Ford, Magnolia Laboratories, 701 Beach Blvd., Pascagoula, MS 39567. "When food is stored too long, particularly after it has been ground up, cooked or exposed to air, sunlight and microbes, portions of the cholesterol and other waxes, fats, oils, proteins, etc., become oxidized, hardened, dried up and changed into durable non-food materials which the cells of our bodies cannot utilize. When we eat these stale foods, some of the deteriorated materials become semi-permanently lodged in our flesh as arteriosclerotic deposits... The condition that makes fatty rubbish from flour so much more dangerous than any other food is its finely ground form, so fine that it can slip through the walls of our intestines with the food stream and get into our blood very easily, whereas if it were coarser most of it would pass out of the body with little harm... Taking both the food and the quantity usually eaten into consideration, flour products such as bread, biscuits, and ready-to-eat cereals, cake and crackers are the big killers, probably accounting for 60% of arteriosclerosis damage. Next come bacon, ham, sausages, sardines, etc., accounting for perhaps 20%. Mayonnaise, cheese, margarine and ice cream probably cause less than 15% of the problem, and the other miscellaneous items are only a trifle." Ford recommends eating as many foods raw as possible, and cooking only by steaming or boiling.

I've always been rather skeptical of most health-food advocates because their explanations tend to be mystical and their recommendations contradictory. But I'm quite impressed by Ford's

work, partly because his hypothesis integrates a lot of seemingly-contradictory evidence. I recommend his booklet despite its price: \$3.50 for 48 pages – money back guarantee, however.

<sup>2</sup> Many adults, including most American Indians and Blacks, lack an enzyme needed for converting milk sugar, and are given indigestion by milk.

## **HYGEIA'S HYGIENCIC REVIEW**

Sept. 1985

### Whheeeeeeeeeeeeat...WHEAT!

Put yourself on top of the wheat field by reading this exclusive interview with Wheater Eater, World's #1 Wheat Feeder & Eater. (Hygeia speaks in all caps. Wheater responds in lower case.)

HYGEIA: WHY DO YOU EAT WHEAT, WHEATER?

WHEATER: It offers me and inexpensive long term storage food relatively high in nutritional value.

H: WHAT KIND OF WHEAT DO YOU USE?

W: I use hard red winter wheat for its high nutritional content, as opposed to soft spring wheat.

H: HOW DO YOU USE YOUR WHEAT, WHEATER?

W: For getting the most nutrients from my food, I strive to cook/grind as little as possible. When I do grind my wheat, I use a Deseret grinder.\* It's adjustable to make a coarse grind ("cracked" wheat) or fine grind (flour). I like it better than the Corona cause it's cheaper and only one grinding is necessary to make flour. I grind no more than can be used in one or two days, since whole wheat flour is countless times more perishable than whole kernels. Here are the ways I use the wheat:

\*Plain. If I haven't soaked/sprouted any wheat I sometimes eat a few spoonfuls of whole raw kernels. Or I will cook the kernels (sometimes called berries) like rice: I put wheat in pot, add cold water, stir, dump out water – that's to wash it. Then I add water to cover wheat and bring to a boil. Then simmer about 20 min. depending how tough or tender I want it. If I want it dry like rice, I use less water.

\*Soaked. I eat the whole kernel, raw or cooked, after it has soaked in water for about 12 hours.

\*Sprouted. This is the way I eat most of my wheat. I use one-quart wide mouth mason jars. I cover the top with a piece of fiberglass window screen (building supply stores) cut to size, held on by the screw-on rim. Or a piece of nylon stocking held on by a rubber band. I fill the jar about a third full ow wheat, affix top, and then pour in water and swish seeds around to wash them. Then I drain off the wash water and fill the jar with fresh water. I soak the wheat about 12 hours, then I pour off the soak water and drink it or use it to cook with. I pour in fresh water to rinse, then invert the jar and let the wheat drain a few moments. Then I place the sprout jar on its side and let Nature do her thing. I rinse the wheat two or three times a day for about two days, then eat – feed the wheat, either raw or after simmering a few minutes. I prefer raw sprouted wheat when the sprouts are about half as long as the berries. It tastes funny raw if sprouted longer but may still be palatable cooked.

\*Wheat grass. If the soaked or sprouted wheat is placed one layer thick on some moist dirt, on the ground or in a container (I use a cut down bleach jug) it will grow into wheat grass. Keep the paper moist, remove it after a few days and water the grass directly. When it's a few inches tall, I cut it and eat it straight or in a salad. After a few days, you can make a second cutting. Then turn the dirt over and plant again.

\*Cracked. Can be eaten raw or cooked. I don't use it much.

\*Cooked breakfast cereal. I hardly ever make it since I get better nutrition from whole, sprouted wheat. But if you like Cream Toast flour in a pan on the burner or in the oven then put it in a pot, add water and cook slowly. Use low heat and stir often. The less water you use the thicker the cereal.

\*Raw cereal. I eat the flour raw and dry, straight from the grinder. I've read that cereals are most readily digested when dry because starch is not water soluble.

\*Familia (uncooked Swiss cereal). Nuts, fruit (dry/fresh) and honey are added to the flour.

\*"Popped", Troasted. I troast (toast? roast?) the wheat in a frying pan (without oil) on the burner until it is tender. Some kernels will pop! (they don't expand as much as popcorn though). It just takes a few minutes. The troasted wheat can be eaten as is (crunchy) or cooked in water (chewy).

\*Chapatis. They are like tortillas except made with wheat instead of corn and common to India instead of Mexico. The Healthy Hunzas eat them. I make them occasionally as a treat. All I use is flour and water: I add enough water to moisten the flour but not so much that the dough sticks to the bowl. I mix and knead with my hands for about 5-10 minutes and then let the dough sit about ½ hour while the gluten develops. Then I take a golf ball size piece of dough and roll it out thin between two sheets of plastic (from supermarket bags). I sprinkle some flour under the dough and on top of it so it won't stick. I use a jar for a rolling pin. I peel off the plastic and carefully place the chapati on a very hot pan. No oil. If there is a sticking problem, I sprinkle a little flour on the pan. In about 2 minutes, I turn the chapati over and cook another 2 minutes. Sometimes I cook it longer to make it crisp.

\*Pie crust. Like chapatis but a couple of tablespoons of oil is mixed with the dough before adding the water. For pie crust, I don't roll as thin as for chapatis. Bake in oven (filled or unfilled).

\*Bread, unleavened. I simply mix flour and water. With the right amount of water and enough mixing the dough won't stick to the bowl. I let the dough sit about ½ hour and then I shape a loaf about one or two inches high and place on floured aluminum foil to bake at about 350° for about 1 hour. For bread sticks I roll a ball of dough into dowel shape. For crackers. I roll dough thin. Sometimes I add oil, powdered milk, honey, molasses, etc. to the flour and water. As it bakes I take samples to see if it's done.

\*Sourdough bread. To make my starter I used flour and water only. (I didn't add commercial yeast but depended upon the naturally present species.) Basically, I followed Bradford Angier's directions for the starter (letting it sit in a warm place for about a week or two to develop.) I also used his bread and pancake recipes (but I usually omit the baking soda, oil, etc., using only flour and water). (See "How to Go Live in the Woods on \$10 a Week" by Angier.)

\*Gluten. This is what's used in some imitation meat products. To obtain gluten, one washes away the wheat's starch: I placed a ball of dough in a nylon stocking and submerged it in water overnight. Then I kneaded it (while it was still in the stocking) in a stream. After I got tired of kneading I left it in the stream, returning in a few hours to knead some more. The starch washed away and I was left with the gluten and bran in the stocking. I washed off as much of the bran as possible. I made patties with the gluten, breaded them in flour, and fried them in a little oil. They were chewy and tasty but it was a lot of work and the whole wheat is probably healthier so I haven't repeated the experiment. (After Ann Liston, TMEC, July 70.)

\*Yeast bread. To about 6 cups of flour, I added some water and a tablespoon of active dry yeast dissolved in about 2 tablespoons of lukewarm water. I mixed and kneaded the dough with my hand until I had a nice elastic ball – about 10 min. I put some flour in a pot (to keep the bread from sticking) then put the dough in, flouring the sides as I pushed it down. I set the pot in an inverted drum, in the sun, and let rise for about 3 hours. Then I punched down the dough and let it rise another 3 hours. Then I baked it above hot coals in a wilderness oven (made out of 5 gal. cans) about 1 ½ hours.

\*"Dumplings"/Matzo balls. I simply made flour and water dough, let sit for about ½ hour and then broke off small pieces of dough and rolled balls between the palms of my hands. I cooked the balls for about ½ hour in a simmering soup (of wheat berries and peas) The balls were on the tough side.

H: WHEATER, WHY HAVEN'T YOU GIVEN VERY EXACT MEASUREMENTS?

W: Because I usually don't measure! For the baked goods, just grind some flour, add water and get your hand into it. Add more water if dough is too dry or more flour if dough is too wet and knead 5 to 10 minutes until you have a ball of dough that's a doughy (sort of like putty – it's hard to explain dough consistency in words, but you'll know it in feel after some experimentation.)

WHEATER WISHES YOU GOOD WHEATING. EAT YOUR OWN THING.

\*About \$10 from Deseret Supply Company.

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BOOK REVIEW: "Up Against The Law: The Legal Rights of People Under Twenty-One" by Jean Strouse (Signet). Reviewed by The Libertarian Avenger (reprinted from INVICTUS, c/o CSCLA Students of Objectivism).

The author of "Up Against The Law" says in her foreword: "No area of law is in greater flux than that of kid's legal rights. For almost every court decision, granting a specific right to a student or minor, there is another decision denying him the same right."...A list of chapter headings gives an indication of the scope of the book – "Student Rights," "Parents," "Marriage," "Drugs," "Sex," "Driving," "Employment," "Contracts," "Getting Busted," "The Draft." The author deals with each of the above-mentioned areas, discussing relevant laws (Constitutional and otherwise), relevant judicial decision and interpretations, and common practices (of judges, cops, school administrators, etc.). The purpose is primarily to delineate what the DE FACTO law is governing these different areas of activity. "Up Against The Law" is apparently aimed at young people wishing to know what they can safely do, and what they can be legally subjected to, within a conventional (non-liberated) lifestyle. Even so, the book does have some indirect value for minors seeking a liberated lifestyle. It is certainly helpful to know what the laws (and associated penalties) are concerning your activities. This book will give you a pretty good idea...although (to quote the book's back cover), it "is no substitute for a good lawyer..."

Dear Nomad, Troglodyte,

Villa Colon, Costa Rica, Aug. 19, 1971

Read your thing in Mother Earth News, and although I can't exactly figure it out, we're happy to let people know how, and how well, we live.

After the usual process of getting fed up with urban U.S. living, we took stock of our assets, which totaled \$4,000 and a paid for '68 Microbus, and packed up and left for Costa Rica, a tiny country between Nicaragua and Panama. Be depended on our good luck to make it here, as we knew not a person in the country, and had spent ¼ of our money on equipment, intending to buy a small farm here and figure out what to do next after that. We have two children, 3 and 19 months, and have a friend who was interested in leaving with us. We planned to leave on a good day, astrologically, for travel, and it must have been effective, as we were here only a few weeks when we found, through a new local acquaintance, a fifteen acre coffee farm in the cool, green mountains 25 kilometers west of the capital city of San Jose. We paid three thousand dollars for the land, \$70 for a title search by a local lawyer, and moved up here in our 10 by 18 feet Camel tent. We put in a garden, albeit a tiny one, immediately, and are already (only three months later) eating fresh vegetables out of it. Dick, my husband, built a henhouse from the bamboo growing on our property, and we now have a constant supply of fresh, brown eggs. Another of our first purchases was a small herd of goats, for to begin with, one giving milk. They were inexpensive because one was deathly ill with an udder infection, and had been so badly neglected that she couldn't walk for weeks. The nursing doe had been underfed, and was malnourished. We put them all on green pasture and whole grain feeds, and they've improved to the point that they now look like a bargain to us. One is pregnant, and delivered four kids last time around. We've started building a house out of the local stone and concrete. It'll take a while, as feed must come first. As much as possible we barter for our necessities we can't raise here. We're fortunate to have hundreds of banana trees and other fruit trees, and five acres of coffee as a cash crop. I also write articles on the things I know best, childbirth and now homesteading, for alternate lifestyle magazines. This brings in enough cash to pay for store bought goods like matches and vitamins. Our lack of knowledge of Spanish, the national language here, has proved no handicap at all, and in the months we've been here we've learned enough to get along very well. We find the climate at this altitude delightful, a sort of perpetual late spring, the soil fertile and the people friendly. Our aim in leaving for here was never to have to work at a "straight" job again. My husband and I wanted to be together during the day, feeling that the 9 to 5 separation imposed by a job is unnatural. Soon another family will be joining us to farm and live cooperatively



with us. We hope to eventually eliminate most of our cash purchases, and barter for everything we need. We've met other young expatriates farming here, and intend to arrange a system of barter with them. The country here is rich in wild food for foraging, and in fish on the seacoasts. No one who could climb a tree would starve in Costa Rica, and the climate is gentle and healthy. When we have our house finished, we'd welcome guests, who would help in the garden in exchange for room to sleep and food. The lack of a winter here makes Costa Rica a great place to homestead and we'd be happy to correspond with anyone interested in doing so here.

Sharon Wallace Maehl

P.S. Land is available here for about \$150 to \$500 an acre. This is prime land for small farming, or even cattle grazing. We know of some right here. Tourists are permitted to buy land here, too. For now, we'd be happy to have visitors if they have their own sleeping bags and can get to San Jose. Again, we'd like to correspond with them and discuss it. A visa is easy to get, although the border types discourage long hairs. We could swap info on warm climate farming with anyone interested.

P.P.S. Land mail takes months to reach us.

## **VONULIFE 4, NOVEMBER 1971 (formerly PREFORM-INFORM)**

[COMMUNICATION AMONG NOMADS, TROGLODYTES, AND  
OTHER INVULNERABLES]

VONU LIFE, BOX 607, GRANTS PASS, OR

Editor, RAYO | Associates, DR. GATHERER, ORION | Publisher, MIKE FREEMAN

### SITUATIONS & SEARCHES

TO VONU LIFE: RAYO: Last January, I bunched the insurance business (claims adjusting) and started bumming around in my old home-made camper. At first, I crashed with friends caught up in the materialistic, Plastic world. They of course being firmly entrenched in their environment, could not identify with me anymore. Some became quite hostile and bigoted, so I took off for the hills. Being divorced (hell of an experience) for several years, I went off by myself. Well not quite, I took my two cats. I had some money saved and also drew unemployment, so I managed fine. Because I bought all my groceries, I spent too much per week camping out. My salary used to vary 800 to 1000 a month, so when I lived on 100 and less per month, I felt I had accomplished a lot.

I looked straight, no one bothered me. I did some solitary camping and hiking for a good solid 5 months. I did a whole lot of reading and sorted out values in my grey matter. One book I read, "The Greening of America" by Richard Reich; this book and others sure helped me sort those things out. I also did a lot of rapping with other libertarians, which helped a lot. I feel quite happy with myself that I have given up the Plastic life Values and materialism. I had completely forgotten how happy I could be without these things. Each day, I become more at peace with myself.

I am not interested in in owning any real property, as I have been that route before and it didn't turn me on at all.

At the present time, I am in a State institution (no I am not nuts!) for an old traffic violation for drunken driving. They caught up with me. I am due out of here in December. At that time, another guy and myself are going to take off in my camper. He has a valid driver's license and I don't. We are going to travel up and around the Olympic Peninsula where we are going to dig clams, hunt, and fish for our livelihood. He knows more about it than I do; I am learning from him. As we progress I hope to write some articles about how we did it in hopes it might encourage others. I also would like to get in touch with anyone who might want to exchange information, or any person or group who might like to get together.

I cut a car in half and built my 8-foot cab-over chassis-mount camper. I can take any car (truck or bus) and make a livable basic camper for under \$300. I hope to get a group together up here so we can help each other making campers so they can also become liberated (co-ops).  
-BRUCE in Washington

TO VONU LIFE: There are three of us: Tom, Gracie, and Diogenes; 22, 21, and almost 2. My occupation is injection molding mechanic; Gracie is a machine operator. We are laissez-faire libertarians; and believe in total freedom from government restrictions and depredations, present and future, as you do. We also prefer private ownership. We are not interested in group sex. Also like crafts, music, technologies, and all outdoor activities, although we have not been able to do as much as we would like. Our money resources are almost non-existent, so we will be working in the LA area until spring. We are not yet nomadic but fully intend to become so. One of the main reasons for writing this letter is to ask for your help.

I have no experience in converting a bus, and am open to any and all suggestions. For instance, I am especially interested in the costs of insurance and registration (Oregon?). Any

little tips would be appreciated. I plan to convert one of the smaller school buses; this would be an ideal size for my family. What do you think?

–Yours in FRIENDSHIP, Tom, Los Angeles.

P.S. I am also interested in maybe having or being part of a caravan for part of the year.

REPLY: Your letter to Tom and Roberta came to me, in their absence. I am publishing portions of it in case some readers may be able to help you.

I think a bus is too big to be very vonu in most situations. Also buses are expensive to buy and maintain. I would not recommend a bus unless one is an experienced mechanic and/or has many thousands of dollars.

However, for some suggestions, see Al and Susan Fry's letter in VL3. Also Howie Roman was writing a book on buses (VL1).

Oregon registration is relatively inexpensive for campers not over 10 feet long (\$10). I don't know about buses. Write Department of Motor Vehicles, Salem, Oregon. Tell them you are planning to move here. –RAYO

TO VONU LIFE: We have been out of touch for the last six months or so, getting a retreat stocked and liquidating some of our vulnerability to government.

I sold my practice and equipment. I'm now working with two other doctors in a clinic. This type of arrangement works out better with old long-term arrangements...

Let me know what you think of the enclosed information. I have written a letter to Joe Gator for further details.

Can you imagine a cost-free, silent, small source of power for a retreat or squat-spot?

The enclosed information was taken out of proceedings Vol. 9, Number 7. This was put out by the people (George Van Tassle) at Giant Rock. Have you any dealings with Van Tassle?

Hope you are enjoying wherever you are at. –RALEIGH, Kan.

REPLY: No, we have not heard of Van Tassle. Thanks for the lead.

The diagram shows what would be an electrical 'perpetual motion' machine; the article mentions taps to the earth's electro-magnetic field, but these are not shown in the diagram. Of course 'perpetual motion' has not been proven impossible; the 'law' of conservation of energy is simply a summary of what has been so far observed.

The information is rather vague; not enough details to go build one.

I have learned (from sad experience, sometimes) not to try to innovate on many different fronts at one. At this time, I believe I can achieve the most vonu the quickest by doing most of my innovating on the 'systems level'; using existing materials and devices in new ways. For now, I prefer more readily available if less-ideal power sources. If/when Joe Cator develops and manufactures his device, I will happily buy one. –RAYO

TO VONU LIFE: Dear Brothers and Sisters: I saw your information in the Last Whole Earth Catalog, and I'd like to see what ideas you have, since I've been living the same way for the last few years in Montana, Washington, and Idaho. Can't afford a subscription right now but figured I might be able to pass on a useful idea...for a warm, well camouflaged, almost free dwelling that doesn't take a whole lot of anything but a few tools like an axe and shovel and a little hard work to put it up.

I got the idea from a survival manual written by a very right wing Christina dude named Dallas Roguemore called "Get Thee to the High Mountains" from the Adobe Hacienda in Glenda, Arizona, and used a few of my own ideas to make construction easier.

It's called a Shuswap Indian dwelling, and the Shushwaps are a small tribe who live in the Canadian Rockies. The only non-treaty tribe left in Canada. Got a little information from one of them I was in jail with and I guess they're pretty nomadic now too. From all I gather they must have some piss and vinegar behind them.

The dwelling is a small dome dug into the earth with lodgepole pine for beams and saplings over that, then I use a layer of visqueen, and over that the dirt you dug out, or adobe if you have the time and the dirt is right for it. I've built four now, and each one is a little different, the biggest being 18 feet diameter and eight feet from floor to ceiling in the middle, and the smallest twelve by six. Skylights are nice if you can get some old window, rawhide, and varnish, or even visqueen will do I guess, but it should probably be doubled.

I usually find a small old barrel at the dump for a stove and flatten the top to put pots on, and run the stove pipe out the entrance hold, which I cover with a small dismountable A-frame, or dome made of willows canvas. The A-frame is three sided, the fourth being canvas flap.

A piece of drainpipe makes a good ventilation hole if you can find one.

It's also a good idea to ditch the outside perimeter and run your visqueen all the way down, then fill the ditch with the rocks you've dug out of the hole. Usually there is more than enough.

The main beams can be bolted, spiked, pegged, or lashed together, and I've always nailed the saplings to them.

The ladder is simply a log with notches cut for steps in it.

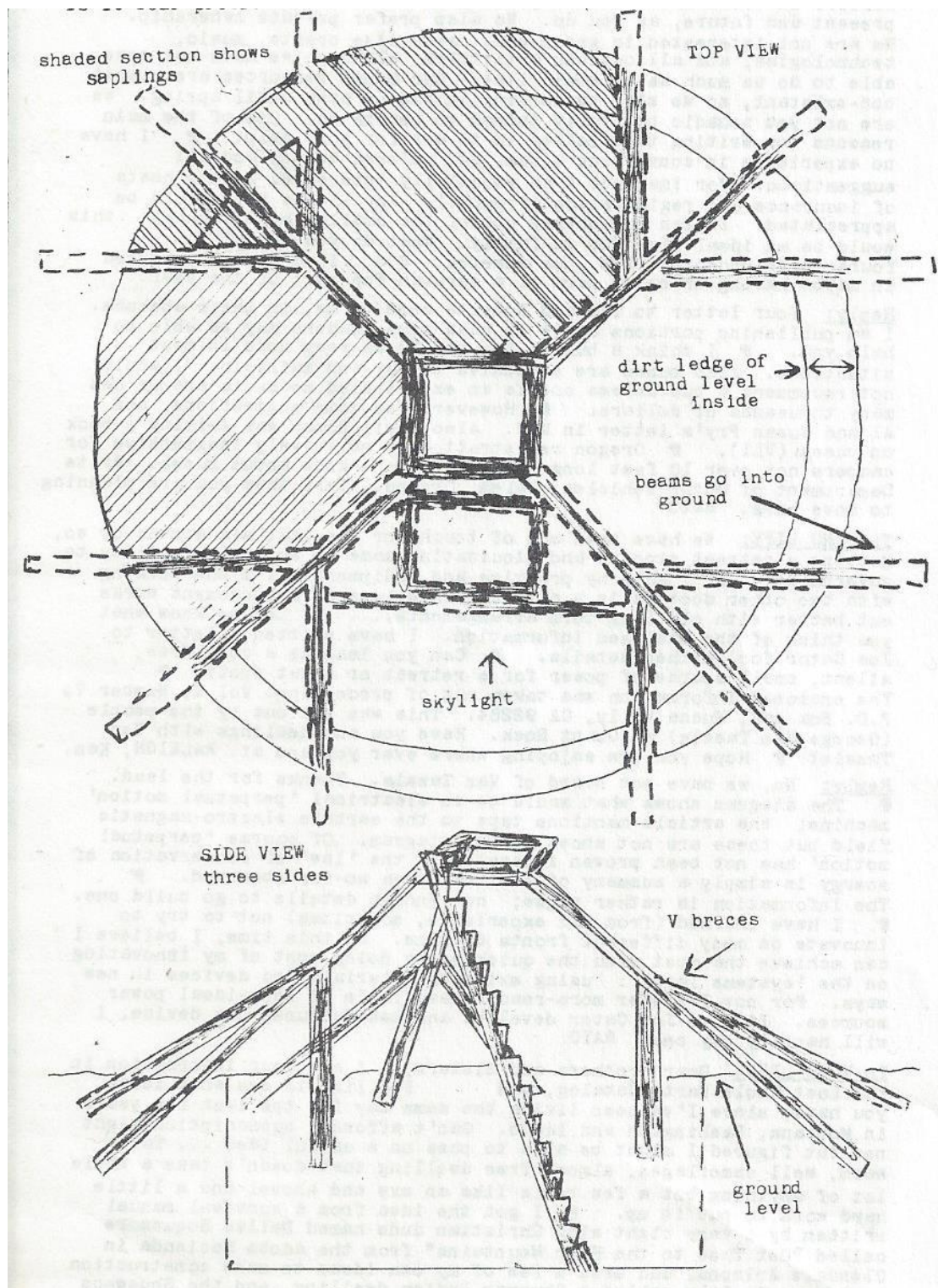
One person can build one for himself if he's into a solo thing, which is handy. I finished my first; after putting some large stones for steps on with the help of Claudia and Lynn, it collapsed due to excessive weight and faulty spiking. So we did it all over with two feet of snow on the ground and I spent the winter in it, warm and comfortable with temperatures outside as low as 40° below. We had a hot springs nearby and it was truly a blessing for laid back bathing. They're really easy to get strung out on you know.

I've dropped back in to help my small-kid-time neighborhood friends get it together, and we're doing a laminated hardwood pipe and buckskin pipe bag thing for awhile, so I can be reached through Mother Earth, and will be pleased to help any of you in any way I can if you are seriously into doing one and I've missed any details. Plan to make another for my lady and I as soon as we get this cycle through with our pipe and bag thing. –JEFFRY YAMANDA, "The Wild Cat from Montana"

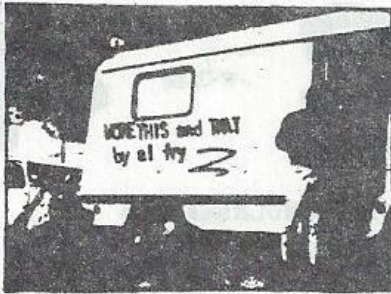
Reply: Thanks much for Shuswap dwelling info, which trades for subscription. Have you had any problem with condensation inside during summer? (Outside air is then warmer than ground and carries water vapor which will condense out if the air gets inside.) Or do you move out in summer? (Also, most wood will rot in a few years if it wet most of the time or in contact with the earth, but this isn't a problem if a new one is built every year or so.) Some friends have had condensation problem with a storage den – further underground than Shuswap dwelling but similar I think.

Have you built any in bear country? Is it bear-proof? –RAYO

**[IMAGE IS ON  
NEXT PAGE]**







Having had teeth go bad in various parts of the hemisphere, we have over the years decided that an ounce of prevention far better than being caught short in the boonies or at the mercy of some expensive dentist. We now take enough bone meal with us whenever we go to further reduce the chances for new cavities and see to it we don't overdo the sugar consumption to many days in a row. (Once gave my soft teeth two cavities in a month eating large amounts of ice cream in Panama).

One item that should be in every duffel bag is a little bottle of Oil of Cloves. This along with several other oils will quickly kill the most deadly bacillus on a wound or stop the most painful toothache in jlg time. -mixed with a little beeswax or melted pitch etc, you can fill a cavity and go for months with only an occasional refill. After scraping away the decay as best you can put a bit of the oil in the

cavity area, swish out your whole mouth with a diluted 'Clorox' solution and you can even put in a more permanent filling material. If in the outback you can use some filings from a silver coin or zinc, mix in a little mercury and have a very decent filling or even better if you have a little foresight and about \$6, is a bottle of medium yellow & grey FILLING PORCELAIN which you can get in most large cities from dental supply houses if you indicate you're a dental technician. My silver fillings seem to fall out not too terribly long after they are put in and so this procedure has saved me a great deal of time and money. For persons with gold caps and such a little of 'Flocks' tooth cement will also come in handy, although for other purposes it is not as hard or durable.

Usually, we go below the border if we have any major repair work to be done because of the cost savings. Asking any 'expatriate type' about the dentist situation will get you a decent job done for a lot less. Oddly enough many larger cities will have older semi-retired dentists who will also do dental work for much much less if you can find them. Recalling many persons on the road with bad teeth over the years I can also remember many with a lack of money (and good humor simply for the lack of knowledge above).

Making 'Hooch' is not terribly difficult but I have come to the point of believing that alcohol isn't very healthy in any form. So some time ago I started making my own 'flask Juice' for pennies. The art is similar to making booze and will save you a lot of money if you have to have your 'pop' or is a heck of a lot better to me, than sipping on some weak herb tea. The thing is, you can make the stuff from commercial extract such as 'Hires' root beer or you can mix your own concoctions from spices etc such as ginger or go round up some spruce buds, lemon grass, or whatever turns you on from the fields of mother nature. Either way the secret is getting your hands on a stainless steel tank of some kind which will hold pressure and have a good corrosion free valve on it. Best of all are the 5 gallon tanks used to dispense fountain 'Coke's' and such, and probably the easiest to find are the stainless steel type of beer barrels although the valves are a little hard to come by at the 'swap meet' type of source. At any rate do not use brass or any soft metal tank or you shall be inviting disaster with a case of metal poisoning. By using your head and improvising a little you can now fill the thing with luke warm chlorine free water, a little yeast, and your favorite flavor and get ready for the sitting process whereby your elixer will turn all of the yeast and sugar you add to carbon dioxide bubbles. Turn on the tap in a few days and the stuff will come roaring out at a furious rate and in a glass of ice it will taste pretty good no matter what it is. I for one have never gotten the carbonation as complete as in a glass bottle but it is so much easier than bottling all the time that it is worth it regardless. The 'Hires' Co. of 2201 Main St. Evanston, Ill. will send you a sheet with details on using their 'extract' thusly or you can get a bottle of extract of root beer and directions from many grocery stores. Hesters, of Waseca, Minn. has an all natural root extract at about the same cost of 40¢ a bottle which is good for 5 gallons. In any event this winter will be a good time to keep your eye peeled for the proper outfit and next summer you will be in business.

**COMMENTS:** The teeth repair info is especially welcome because this is one potentially-big expense we have not had a way around.

Mercury is a VERY nasty cumulative poison if absorbed by the body; some dentists are now using an epoxy instead of silver-mercury amalgam. A dentist told me that household epoxy glue (two phase) would probably be okay for a temporary filling. (Dentists consider any filling but gold to be 'temporary'; apt to need replacing after a few years.)

Dental costs in that society are inflated not only by taxes and 'high overhead' but by the bludg's monopolistic licensing requirements. I wonder if some dental assistant, with years of experience but no chance to work her way up to dentist in THAT society, might be encouraged to become a 'black market' dentist?

Thanks also for "How To Survive A Depression". The advice is good, I think, but directed mostly for people remaining in that society which is why I haven't reviewed it. Why not send in a phot-ready ad (up to a half-page counts as 'almost anything'). -RAYO

### FURTHER REPORT ON SHELTER

Dr. Gatherer and I are living in an A-tent made by placing polyethylene film (20 feet wide) over a rope strung between two trees. Our tent is 9 feet wide, 7 to 8 feet high in the middle, and 35 feet long! This is the first time we have had ample vonu work space sheltered from the rain and snow. One change we have made from our previous A-tents is to leave the ends open, which



results in less underside condensation – no drips. We plan to fabricate triangular sections from scavenged cloth which will cover the ends (under the poly) to stop breezes and allow some solar heating. Another change: bracing poles (two pairs) are also placed in an A shape which leaves an unencumbered walkway down the middle. Cost of the poly plus rope was about \$15.

Near one end of the A-tent lays our newest creation, in which I lie typing this: we call it a foam hut. It's about 9 feet long by 4 feet wide and 2 feet high, tapering toward the foot end. It is made of 2-inch polyurethane foam, glued together with a special cement (which may be 3M77, the can which was purchased at Hill's in Grant's Pass, is unlabeled). In one side of the hut is the door, covered by a flap of one-inch foam to which rocks are tied at the bottom to keep it snug. In the other side is a window, covered inside and out with a transparent vinyl-type plastic. (The foam itself would probably pass enough light now, but foam darkens with age.) In the roof at the head end is a screened hole for extra ventilation when our kerosene lamp is lit or in warm weather; a piece of foam plugs the hole when not needed. The foam alone (open cell) provides sufficient ventilation for breathing.

The hut is sort of like a giant sleeping bag except that the domed roof is firm enough to hold position. Under the floor, extending from shoulders to knees when sleeping, is an extra 3 by 4 ½ foot piece of 2 inch foam for comfort and additional insulation.

Based on the few temperature readings so far, the hut provides about 20°F above outside temperature with one person inside, 35° two. This is the body heat alone; when the lamp is burning we must open the door. The coldest morning so far: outside temperature was 20°, inside 57°. We were comfortable nude under 3 blankets.

The foam hut is a big step forward for us in comfort-with-vonu. Until now, when tent camping in winter, we could be comfortable huddled in a sleeping bag doing nothing but reading, on one hand; or doing strenuous physical work, on the other. But how does one typewrite, sew, or repair machinery – work requiring bare hands – in below freezing temperatures? Keeping a stove going for heat means much extra work and less vonu. Incidentally, this issue of VL is the first one typed and pasted up in a tent; until now we have done it in our van.

The foam hut is also a boon for Dr. Gatherer's sprout farm – a tray of glass jars keeping warm with me in the head end. Sprouts grow poorly or not at all during cold weather if just in a tent.

The hut weights about 20 pounds and rolls up into a bulky but backpackable bundle. So far it survived, undamaged, one trip from our van to our base camp. About four 45" by 76" sheets of 2 inch foam went into the construction. Material cost about \$50; fabrication (not counting design time) took two days and required two people at times.

We expect to live in our tent and hut full-time this winter except for our brief trip in our van to the Bay area. Our van is presently stashed several miles away; we are still using it for work requiring electricity, which we don't have at camp yet. In the future we expect to use our van mainly for 'import-export' transportation.

You asked some questions about jungle living. My experiences may not be too applicable to your purposes as I had the problems of conducting a business to cope with. With anywhere from four to ten men working for me at any one time and with gas, oil, and equipment problems as well as basic supply problems, my supply problems were on a far different order of magnitude and cost than I see discussed in your magazine. Nevertheless, you might find some of my experiences in handling them interesting.

The most reliable form of transporting supplies was by backpacking. I became accustomed to using a head strap and found this technique that is used universally there by the Indians to be a marvelous improvement over our Yankee method packing. It takes a bit of experience to learn how to set this strap so that you are comfortable.

After a time, I realized that backpacking was consuming too much time that should have been utilized by the crew in dredging for diamonds. After a few expensive experiments I found out how to fly in the bulk of both foodstuffs and gasoline so that supplying the camp by air was more economical than by land means. The trick I had to figure out was how to drop both food and gas from a low flying plane without the use of parachutes. This can be done with very little loss if you do three things (1) keep the individual weights of dropped parcels low (2) leave room

in the heavy duty jerricans for air compression. Don't fill them to the top (3) drop solids into a new growth type of jungle, preferably a formerly burnt over area with a new growth of saplings, and for liquids drop them into streams.

I have also used small 2 and 4 foot parachutes for dropping gas in small clearings and found 90 to 120 lbs of gasoline can be dropped safely and accurately from tree top height by Cessna 90's or 85. You remove the door for these drops of course.

I can also drop gas into the jungle without parachutes but that is a little more tricky.

Naturally, the cost of the plane is considerable and it was made necessary only because this cost was less than what would have been lost in production time by backpacking. A Cessna 80 can carry easily an 800 lb and 85, 1000 lbs. It is a good way to get such weights into remote areas.

I tied up all cartons of food and canned foods in old fishing webbing so that when the cartons ripped open at dropping speeds of some 100 mph, the goods could not scatter and would be easy to recover.

I supplied my camps in this way for some two years. I got 100 percent recovery in rice, flour, etc. about 85% in canned goods (many cans would be dented but not ruptured), and about 80% in gasoline dropped into river and recovered immediately on impact (sometimes a seam would give way but quick recovery would save the contents by for instance turning the broken side up).

On my many personal prospecting trips I traveled very light. My staple food was jerky which I'd grill over the fire, farine which is dried cassava basically and which is very nourishing, sugar, and a few dried fruits. For shelter, I carried a 4x4 plastic tarp with grommets to which I tied nylon lines. I would sling my hammock between two properly spaced tree come evening, lash a pole between the trees over the hammock and tie the nylon lines tent wise to nearby bushes. It is very quickly done. My hammock is always sooty because I build my fire close to it under the tarp so that that it is easy to throw more wood on during the night but you also have the luxury of using the hammock for a kitchen chair while doing the cooking chores. Of little things is comfort made.

Some others tried my air drop idea, with less success; their commonest mistakes were in using too heavy a package or dropping in an older type jungle growth. Dropping gas in a river requires good cooperation between pilot and drop master and I don't recommend this method if you cannot afford to lose all, unless of course the river is so wide you just can't miss it.

If the river is wide enough so that the plane can come down to water level, then 50 gallon drums can be dropped directly into the water with little danger of loss provided you take the precaution of removing about ten gallons from the drum to allow for air expansion on impact. If you leave the drum full, the seams will burst.

Should any of your readers be interested in stocking a very remote place with a couple years of foodstuffs, they might find the above techniques interesting. There are laws against flying planes that are without their doors, so be sure the pilot is willing. Check same on air dropping of supplies. Where I was, we knew we could ignore laws. -DAN

P.S. I forgot to mention that staples like rice, flour, sugar, etc. are always dropped in metal drums. I have dropped up to 200 lb units successfully, but I prefer 50 lb units.

TO VONU LIFE: I read VL to pick up material at the intersections where my plans and experiences overlap with someone on a similar trip. I'm not in favor of isolation from other vonuans. But, wouldn't a large group attract attention and also be easier to detect by smoke, by infrared (IR) scanners, etc.? Also, doesn't gathering wild food require that one have a territory just as a wild animal does? I believe a couple would need around 2 to 5 square miles for good living, depending on how rich the vegetation was and how thick the game and fish.

Methane? Sounds great but given a choice I'll feed hay and grain to horses, mules, or burros and get direct transportation rather than go the long way around. Anyhow, I've raised chickens and hogs and know that I don't necessarily want to be tied down that way. You take a horse or dog with you on a trip but somebody always has to feed the chickens and slop the hogs.

Concerning living year-around in these mountains (northern Rockies) - it would be more like a survival exercise. They might challenge me someday, and if they do I'll try them on for

size...in winter. So far, it's been more fun going there in summer and fall. To live year-around in some of these places I'm experimenting with would take good planning, equipment, and motivation. To generalize, anyone who did not see the hardship and rough conditions of primitive life as fun, as adventure, and as a challenge probably would endanger himself severely and his companion(s) or mate in trying to live such a life, a man having low motivation would be slow to learn new ways, he'd make more mistakes, have more accidents, etc. For me, I look for challenges, and by meeting them, adventure and good life sometimes follow. It makes little difference about place and time – there are many places and many degrees of involvement for a vonuan. I draw my own pattern and when rug-cutting time comes I'll do the cutting.

Interesting challenges are all around. I work at learning to break penny balloons at 30 yds with my 50 lb. hunting bows in my backyard, I walk out my front door and into the mountains., a short pistol shot away, and see how far I can climb up those rocky canyons in a day, or a half-day. Sometimes I try the wild deer with bow and arrow – pitting wits and instincts and they always win. But, today it's a challenge and there is enough adventure there to please me, for the present anyhow. Today's adventures have a way of becoming tomorrow's routines. Nomads are born that way. You get the urge to move to wilder regions, you progress from the boring civilized world back toward a simpler and more earthy existence – that's real progress.

–Adam, Rocky Mts.

COMMENT: Your first paragraph seems directed at people who visualize a vonu 'community' as just a permanent Sierra-Club-type encampment. I agree with your implied criticism.

My vision (and a little experience); Families live separately at concealed based camps several miles apart; locations are usually kept secret not only from outsiders but from each other. This way there need be little concern about who might be a bludg informer, or simply careless. (I wouldn't want to know where someone else's camp is, even if he is willing to tell me; if he happens to get ripped off or harassed I don't want to be suspect.) And, with a few miles separation, contact with another tribesman is usually a treat, rarely an irritant.

Each two families who associate much, have a joint squat-spot – away from both their base camps, where they meet. A family also has another squat-spot for meeting any outside friends. There are few if any meetings of the 'whole tribe' since the 'tribe' per se does very little and since any communication to all members is more easily made in writing. The only thing common to the tribe is a message/parcel drop, both for communication within the tribe and for mail and orders from outside. Each week, someone goes outside (not always the same person) and handles mail and makes purchases for all.

What constitutes a 'family' is of course defined by each family. Families range from single individuals to 'extended families' of four or six adults. Many families are of the 'traditional' kind – one man, one woman, plus any small children – which is not without its advantages. (Something should not be rejected merely because it is traditional.)

Most larger children have their own separate and secret camps, where they can be vonu from their own parents as well as from everyone else.

There are many more trade possibilities at a distance of a few miles than at a separation of hundreds or thousands. Of course one should come squat in Siskiyou or other wilderness region only if he wants to be vonu and thinks that is the place to do it. Anyone who comes primarily for social pastimes is quickly disappointed.

Other comments: I wouldn't want a horse or dog; in this region, anyway, I think they'd be more trouble than they are worth. A dairy goat? Just possibly. But vonu living with an animal entails a whole new set of challenges, which I don't want to tackle until have better solved problems of living vonu with myself and one or two other people. –RAYO

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#### PROPOSAL FOR A CLANDESTINE COMMUNICATION NET

As more individuals go beyond mere TALK of liberty to ACTS of self-liberation – as more men find ways to live as FREE men, a market grows for secure communication – communication invulnerable to coercive interference. Desirable attributes are:

- Untraceability: A message, if intercepted, cannot be traced to source or destination.
- Simplicity: Existing facilities are utilized; no special equipment is required.
- Anonymity: Identity is revealed only to a few chosen friends; safety does not depend on the reliability and integrity of large numbers.
- Redundancy: Alternate communication paths exist; no single individual or small group is indispensable.
- Decentralization: No control center exists to attract spies or power seekers.

A communication arrangement which I will call "Privat" possesses these attributes.

A Privat net begins and grows informally. Two presently-acquainted individuals form a Privat communication link simply by exchanging Privat names – aliases chosen specifically for Privat use. Either individual can expand the net by forming Privat links with others.

All persons who are part of a net are called "correspondents;" those with whom one maintains direct links are called "direct correspondents," those with whom one communicates through intermediaries are "indirect correspondents." Each person periodically gives to direct correspondents the Privat names (and ONLY the Privat names) of all correspondents (indirect as well as direct) of whom he knows. Routing information is thus gathered and updated. While the Privat names of everyone in the net are readily available, a person's real identity is known only to the few direct correspondents he selects.

Privat communications are of two basic types: messages and broadcasts. A MESSAGE is directed to a specific individual. A BROADCAST is distributed to all correspondents.

A message is addressed TO the Privat name of the intended recipient and passed to a direct correspondent who is closer (in terms of Privat links) to the addressee. The message is relayed from correspondent to correspondent until reaches its destination.

A broadcast is addressed FROM the Privat name of the originator and is relayed by each intermediary to all direct correspondents who are further (in Privat links) from the originator.

Suppose Joe Smith (Privat name) has something for sale. He circulates a broadcast addressed "From Joe Smith." (Or he advertises in a Privat-circulating periodical, if any exist.) George Johnson (Privat name) wants to buy. He sends an offer addressed: "To Joe Smith." Joe caches the merchandise and sends pick-up instructions to George through Privat. (The merchandise is probably not sent through Privat for reasons given below.)

As a Privat network expands, parallel paths form, allowing important messages to be sent by more than one route for reliability, and preserving net continuity even though individual correspondents cease functioning.

Service fees can be charge through account entries. When an intermediary relays a broadcast (addressed FROM), he debits the account of the originator. When he relays a message (addressed TO), he debits the account of the recipient. If the message was unsolicited, the recipient in turn debits the account of the sender. Accounts are cleared periodically. Each participant sets his own routes; parallel paths provide price competition.

Communications are limited to superficially-innocuous subjects and may be inspected by intermediaries, unless otherwise specified by the intermediaries. This is for the protection of intermediaries in event of accidental interception. Incriminating messages can be encoded or fragmented – divided into individually-non-suspect portions and sent at different times or by different routes. (Of course some chains of correspondents may find it profitable to offer as a special service the relaying of SEALED messages and parcels.)

While a State agent or author criminal could join Privat, what would it avail him? He can report any communications which pass through him, but these are probably in code. And he cannot identify the communicants. He could arrest his direct correspondents (who made the mistake of trusting him), but messages flow by alternate routes. He might try to lure others into revealing themselves, but only the careless are endangered.

Suggestions to those seriously interested in Privat:

Don't want for Privat to contact you. And don't wait until you have a critical need for clandestine communication – growth takes time. Form links NOW with individuals you trust. As your net grows, it will mesh with others.

Choose a nondescript male alias as your Privat name and use it only for Privat. Give no other identification in Privat communications. Maintain separate stationary items for Privat use. Print with a lettering template. Wear gloves.

Don't belabor the subject with those who lack interest; mass participation is not needed for Privat's success. If only a small fraction of potential users actually participate, an invulnerable communication net will eventually link self-liberated peoples the world over. –NAME WITHHELD

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from 29August1971 FAMILY WEEKLY

BY: Gordon & Janet Groene

## **How to Retire Before 40 – By a Couple Who Did Exactly That**

*“We have retired with today’s priceless luxuries of clean air and water, and of quiet. And the wonderful right to move on to new adventures or warmer weather. And independence – the true independence of doing for yourself. That is the kind of retirement you or any family can enjoy together right now – if you are willing to do it.”*

A lot of people muse about early retirement: sunny latitudes, independence, time to think and do and drift...Wouldn't it be great? Of course it would. And as a couple we had done more than our share of dreaming and scheming about such an event. But there is one thing that sets us apart from most other people. Impulsively, audaciously, we made our dream come true. Four years ago, we sold our home and cars, gave up Gordon's fine job as a corporation pilot, said goodbye to treasured coworkers and neighbors and ran away to sea!

“Why would a 38-year-old man renounce his position, his Porsche, and a prestige piloting job that took years of training? Our friends asked, “Why would any woman at 31 choose to give up her laundry machines, her antiques, her bathtub?” While it may have been hard for people to understand, we had our reasons.

The first was what we called “creeping pollution” and the fact that taxes kept taking a bigger bite out of take-home pay. The second was that we were separated often by business – and we like being together. And the third was that we had known of so many couples who had waited too long for their somedays, and suddenly it was too late. We vowed that this would never happen to us!

By retirement, we don't mean lolling under a palm tree. We divide our time between two homes. Winters, we live aboard a 29- foot Danish-built sailing sloop in stoop-shouldered quarters that would send most American couples scuttling back to the corporate rat race after one day! Except when we are in port, we seldom have refrigeration, hot showers, or fresh lettuce. The galley is the size of a telephone booth, and we do all our own maintenance.

Summers, our home is a 21-foot diesel motorhome where we have more moving around room than on the boat, but far less storage area. Again, we are independent of big city pipes and wires and services, so we must attend to all our own needs.

This doesn't mean we don't have luxuries. We do! We have today's priceless luxuries of clean water and air, and of quiet. And the wonderful right to move on to new adventures or warmer weather. And independence – the true independence of doing for yourself, either in rapture or agony, luxury or yoke. That is the kind of retirement you or any family can enjoy together right now – *if you're willing to do it.*

It all began when Gordon started adding up the total worth of the Groene estate. “I bet we could drop out for at least five years if we sold the house and the rest of this stuff,” he said one day when the temperature in Danville, Illinois was nudging zero from the wrong side. We don't have children, but there are many people who have made the same decision, kids and all: the decision to sell out, adopt a new standard of living, and wander the world until the money runs out. One family we know made the break with seven young children. They have stayed “dropped out” for 10 years, earning as they go. Many others take a leave of absence from work, arrange courses for the kids by mail, and stay away a year or more.

Ideally, of course, you should wait until you have made a killing in the stock market or real estate, or have inherited a pile from an obscure relative. But we had to do it the hard way. Here's a guide to others who'd like to follow in our footsteps:

### **START PLANNING TODAY**

By happy coincidence, the things we enjoyed doing in our leisure time were often things that gained or saved us money. We used to spend our evenings in the basement making old woods come alive again or repairing antique pieces that charmed us. Our possessions were chosen because we liked them, restored because we wanted them in our home – and sold at delicious profit when the time came to part with them!

Your whole value picture may change when you begin planning for a young retirement. We bought an older home at a bargain and spent weekends making improvements. Because it was a roomy house in a good school district and popular price range, it sold readily. All of our major purchases were made with resale in the backs of our minds. Although we knew we would have to take a loss on many furnishings and appliances, we stuck to name brands and good woods that would find buyers speedily. As the time came closer for us to leave, every cent was spent with a new life in mind. Business suits were not replaced; tropical clothing began to replace winter wear in our wardrobes.

Could you save the money spent tonight on a movie and use it instead on a book that will be enjoyed many times in retirement? When replacing your TV, would it be wiser to buy a small portable that can travel, instead of a ponderous color set? Can the children be steered into hobbies they can pursue in your new life – like music lessons on instruments you won't have to leave behind? Are you pouring money today into fancies when you could be funding solid dreams? Are you spending these precious years in keeping up with the *wrong* Joneses?

Your savings plan may need the advice of an expert, but your spending is in *your* control. Beginning now, keep that early retirement goal in front of you and try not to get bogged down under tons of material goods that will later have to be stored, sold, insured, moved, given away, or shouldered by you.

### **CULTIVATE THE TOOLS OF INDEPENDENCE**

Every service or skill you cannot perform yourself must either be done without or paid for. Simple things like barbering and baking bread are a beginning. If your early retirement will be spent on land – say in the mountains or a seashore cottage – start reading about gardening, home maintenance, wiring and plumbing and all the things you want to provide for your family. Before we hoisted sail, we already had learned the basics of sewing, engine repair, knot-tying, and navigation.

If you cannot live without electricity, you may have to buy (and learn to maintain) a generator. There is no television in many island paradises. Can you as a family learn to make a hilarious evening from a guitar and popcorn? Enjoy rainy afternoons with books and parlor games? All this is part of real away-from-it-all independence.

### **EARN AS YOU GO**

We didn't have enough money to live on forever, but that didn't stop us. Janet was already a freelance writer, Gordon began studying photography. We now work, when we want to, as a writer-photographer team.

Everywhere there are ways you can earn money. Many of our friends work in boat yards or charter their boats. Other work ashore as electricians, civil engineers, teachers, technicians. The difference is that none of us strives for material goals. We live and dress very simply, give priority to important things like dental work and go without such former necessities as cars, insurance, fad styles, and lavish entertainment. When our larders are stocked, we sail away until we must work again.

### **ARE YOU MENTALLY PREPARED FOR A LIFE OF LEISURE?**

Those who live by jangling schedules and job deadlines often ask about our typical day in the Bahamas aboard our boat. Ideally, we will be anchored off an island, perhaps an uninhabited



one. We get up with the sun and Janet cooks a hearty breakfast on our Primus stove. Then she gets out the typewriter while Gordon chooses tools for the day's chores: endless painting and varnishing, engine repairs, maintaining the water pump or head, or any of the other thousand things that need attention in a killing sun-salt atmosphere.

After lunch, we like to take off in the dinghy for exploring ashore, shelling, beachcombing, visiting or picture-taking. Or we may dive over the side, snorkel, or find a reef where we can spear fish. Sometimes we find conch, whelk, or crawfish to eat, or we fish for grouper or grunt. Other times, we eat meals that center around Janet's home-canned meats. At dinner, we talk about the new and different sea creatures we have seen, and we get our books to read on the day's "finds." After dark, we may go to bed early to read or sit in the cockpit looking at the stars while Janet plays her autoharp and sings. There are the good days.

Of course, there are the ghastly days, too – the days when storm slam us around, engines falter, anchors drag. But always there are the new sunrises and the wonderful pursuit of riches that lie just over the horizon. We still have our goals, our pleasures, good memories, and exciting plans for the future. It's just that, somehow, most of them have nothing to do with money.

Often we sit down to a simple meal of home-baked bread with stuffed cabbage or homemade corned beef hash. We'll think about all those steaks we used to have, eaten on the run and frequently thousands of miles apart. Then we'll look at each other, grin, and say, "Hey! We're the richest kids on the block."

There are a great many paradises in this world of ours – but all of them demand planning, preparation, and hard work. They also demand shedding so many material goods that you can squeeze through the needle's eye into an early, earthy heaven. Before we're through, we're going to visit as many of those paradises as we can. Want to come along?

*Gorden Groene was a professional pilot until he "retired" at the age of 38. Since then, his articles and pictures have appeared in numerous magazines. Janet began writing for a weekly newspaper while in junior high; at age 17, she had her own column in the Cleveland Plain Dealer. She has written for a number of magazines, and her book, "Cooking on the Go," was published recently by Grosset and Dunlap.*

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Ever heard of any guides to wild edibles from Mexico south?

In hunting a woman who would travel with me, from towns to survival in the hills, from Canada to South America, usually in a truck, packed in with my stuff (mostly books).

If you want to send back my other letters, I'll make a try at typing them.

What is needed for a hidden vonuan? Someplace you can stay and produce food...it should be off-road or at least well-screened from sight...storage could be a tunnel, of stone, concrete, 2x4 with corrugated plastic over...entrance should be small, hidden, perhaps among rocks with rock slab over or under branches of bush...to dig a hole tie the branches aside until done...or dig bushes and replant over hole...don't pick useful or pretty bush, get something useless, preferably thorny, consider poison oak/ivy, you won't be going in daily.

Shelter could be a wide, low stone-built opened shelter, not contrasty, planted with bushes, vines...put in rocks or dip or bushy place...not contrasty, use weathered rock...no metal, it shows on detectors...for roof; old wood shiplapped, shingles, asbestos shingle slate, bark, plastic corrugated sheets or scrap wood or poles covered with tar paper or plastic sheet...if plush [?] lay poles on top so wind won't tear...I prefer something that won't burn and very thick construction so you won't be burnt or tore out when you aren't there. Also thorn bush or poison ivy can be planted around, or cactus in desert.

Build a fireplace of stone with walls and shape to reflect the heat into shelter and shield light...long side wings high so passers can't see first because shielded by walls and shelter...keep fire low for less smoke laid up against stones so it will keep all night...a canvas or black plastic sheet will cut light too...a black plastic sheet laid over shelter in day will concentrate heat in cold weather.

A spring can be dug out and roofed and hidden like a buried tank...cress can be planted in runoff.

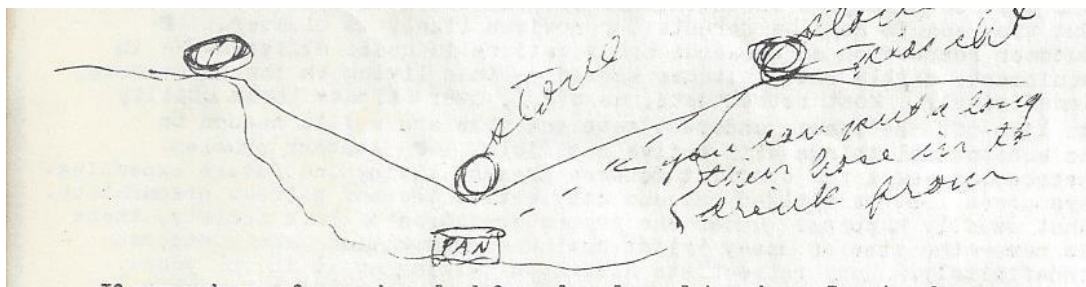
A regular orchard and garden are obvious and a clearground garden is ecologically bad, encouraging erosion so plant food perennials (trees, shrubs, plants) in erratic patterns so not so obvious...perfoods are available to replace most of garden plants anyway, and are more

nutritious, more resistant to weather, bugs, etc. and are always there...thistle, burdock, milkweed, cattail, Jerusalem artichoke, sorrel, mince lettuce, plantain, dandelion, fareweed, berry, allspice, salal, cactus, willow, sassafras, fruit, nut...hundreds exist.

You can store your stuff in plastic bags in digs, or barrels...anyone have a source for 50 gal open end (sealable) barrels?

Don't be obvious or flashy...even your truck or clothes should not be rick looking...dress like a hunter...paint your track grey...you do need one...you always get more stuff, even if only books like me, and the woods may catch fire or bludgies may hunt you. You can have wood panels for over your windows when traveling with business signs and even diff on each side.

For water...a spring can be dug out, rockwalled, roofed, pebbelfloored, covered with soil, etc. A seep can have a hole in the lower end and as above...water will collect...a hole can be dug with a hole above like drawing...dig some feet to one side of a stream and filtered water will collect...dig just about high tide (ocean) and brackish drinkable water will collect if deep enough...desert guzzler is a water tank with an apron of plastic or concrete above to funnel water in...even 1" per year in a 20x20' field will be a lot...I'll have an article in Pioneer on this later...morn dew can be sopped of rocks, logs, etc. but this is last resort stuff...dig deep in dry pools, stream bends, etc...caves usually have some water, even if only drops...tap a tree, often bitter though. Watch animals & birds at morning & evening for direction...watch bee water carriers...



If anyone knows of some cheap land for sale, please let me know. I want a few acres. If anyone wants to join in a bigger buy then split, write me. I want isolated or mountain or waste land cheap for privacy, no utilities. I have under \$2000 total. Will pay for info or offer some other in return. Also interested in setting up some sort of group, each with his own spot with welcome/trade with nomads.

To answer your question...I hunt land because it has a more permanent value than a dollar. In ten years, or maybe two, will a dollar buy a tack?...A tree food supply is not a 3 month thing like a garden. Land must be in your control for years or someone may rip your trees cut. The right arrangement won't raise land value/taxes. What I really want is a couple ^ [tents?] in the cactus desert like NM and a few along the coast (say N. Cal to Br. C).

Most of the thongs I write of I have done or they are combinations of things I have done so should work. Living in the desert for instance...a desert garden and orchard won't look like the apple/tomato type but it is just as good and more dependable. Just one variety of cactus gives sweets, flour, vegetable, fruit & needles, NOT without effort natch, so a selection of varieties is better. Greens can be replaced by an almost endless number of things as can potatoes, etc. "tomatoes" grow on a 12' tree.

I'll be glad to write more on anything in my letters if you want. Yes, many of my ideas didn't work out when I tried them but we try and learn.

I have a 55 International Metro walk-in van with bed, drawers, etc. built in. When I work in town it is mostly a storage van because it is more convenient to have more room, water, etc.

Smials (underground homes) are practical and you can buy them commercially up to \$375,000 but they can be built for a few hundred. I've lived in caves, am a spelunker, have built root cellars, tunnels, u/g storage, and have studies caves built by others, including charly, so it is practical. Different methods won't work under all conditions, natch...one is 4' concrete pipe (available cheap damaged from concrete companies)...dig in and set it...dig in and pry 1<sup>st</sup> in deeper and add 2<sup>nd</sup> and so on leaving only 2' or less of open roof...so roof won't fall til you're ready only

dig in dry season...conditions, see? Larger to 18' available or make bent pipe frame with ply covers to fill with stones and cement...like two U shapes with space between. Authorities say we will live at least part-time in u/g shelters for 5 years or more after last bomb falls to avoid leukemia. I have charts etc. if I see you someday to show much work done but unknowns to public. Make right angle bend inside (10') for fallout. I have arrangement for fallout, gas, abc type stuff too.

All backish of Pioneer are gone. Thanks for backish of VL. I came here from Lake Erie in an 18' sloop. Now building 25'. Probably told you much of this, but don't remember. I have an article in next Pioneer on advantages and disadvantages of various areas for living...like cabin in north woods needs wood pile big as cabin to warm it also smoke is giveaway.

Wouldn't cost be lowest with mimeo than offset? Time is your choice too, and running mimeo is not so much work. You can send 4<sup>th</sup> class or get mailing permit for about half-price mailing fee.

Yeah, I complain to Angier, he never mentions bad things. He says he never notices them.

Want an easy bread recipe? Soak grain (beans, grass seed even) til soft; drain, add salt, honey (sweeten and soften), yeast (fresh, dry, brewers, sourdough), put all through meat-grinder twice (no mixing, etc.) into corn-oiled pan. Let rise, bake 350° for hour or less. For other effects, add layer of fruit, raisins, nuts, etc. Good trail food is rolled oats, peanut butter, raisins, powdered milk, molasses, salt (make your own, boil down to 10x; use salt that falls out and take spoon on liquid daily for all 44 trace elements. Some are entirely leached from land...will help deficiency diseases...mix with water or juice to drink...dry in 1/2" sheets in sun or bake in loaves or just corn-oil and carry...keeps well. If you make wine, keep cake and break into 1/4" layer and dry to use later for food or fruit butter, etc....also do the same with whole fruit...break up and keep in plastic bugs...remove apple seeds which have cyanide...

Use any of the stuff in Pioneer or these letters as you want. I also have an article on nudity in Green Egg you might find useful.

Probably the best way to get land is several people buy jointly then split. One acre from the grubbers can be \$10,000 but in lots, it may go under \$100/acre. They need never see each other after split so personalities not important.

Page 120 is a quote (forgot to attribute) from woman, 1776 or thereabouts, wife of soldier.

The draft...well I'm not happy with our government, but we could change it if we worked at it, BUT I've seen other countries and know some Russian refugees (even this government don't know are here) and this government is best of lot...yet. A dictatorship seems to be coming fast...and big, fat abc war faster. In Russia, you need a permit to cross town, and to go to another city. Or own fault things are bad here...we let them get power...vigilantes...Taxes...duck 'em if you can any way you can.

As long as the sheep will tolerate shearing, someone will be around to shear them. I avoid taxes whenever I can.

What kind of an article do you want...length, subject, my choice? Perhaps a note in VL would find someone to join in land buy on some predetermined basis?

But your hard red winter wheat (about 5¢/lb) from any LDS (Mormon) church store, dealed in 5 gal cans.

Do you know anyone in Bella Coala who could locate cheap land for me? I would pay for time.

You have wheels so if you want to store in freezer, why not drive north to permafrost land? So, maybe you can get to it only part of the year.

If everything hits the fan, gas won't be available. Consider a horsedrawn wagonhouse like nomad, hun, gypsy, horsepeople, tartars, etc. Had info and black in backish of P.

Couldn't Tom make an oxbow type harness for his goats?

Put a flat tire on your nomagon to give reason for stop, say must take to town.

If I do get a piece of land, vonuans can squat...rent is a perennial foodplant, plant someplace.

Does anyone know of any caves or mines for sale cheap? Good storage...locked or open. If I can find one cheap, I'll buy...if a string of small places were owned, food plants could be planted, no bludg could break down or drive you off even if owner is in another state. Dug-in storage would have more safety...except from thieves...at least from law, also on owned place a shelter &

fireplace could be left of HEAVY stone & concrete construction so it couldn't easily be wrecked or stolen...good for foot travelers, too...like an acre on a mountain trail, don't you know someone who might sell acre...isolated, walk-in only...for a few bucks? Could even start a holding company to keep spots around...why not use legalities to help since they do exist?

If anyone wants to write articles (how-to) on VonuLife I'll run in Pioneer or put out for cost (like paper plus postage).

You know about beelining bees to hives, etc.?

I wrote about fluorine was just the start...well not they want to add thallium (lithium?) for mental calming...1984 & slaves coming....

As American armed forces, cohesion, etc. wanes, I expect to see another attempt at world conquest by Russia, China, Germany, etc....man hasn't changed...the last to enslave remains. Of course, the US may become a dictatorship or welfare state in fact as well as in name.

I come from the mountains where revenueurs and such have always had accidents. Check the statistics for the Appalachians and see, moonshine is still made regularly and no taxes either.

As long as the government has printing machines, money won't run out...of course, it may not be worth much...you saw the old newsreels? A burlap sack of money for a loaf of bread...In Hungary after the war, money devalued about 74 million x in 3 weeks.

A state can always control its citizens, just depends on how ruthless it wants to be. See Russia, Germany, Rome...and its conquests too. Feed the soldiers, pay them well, give them women and power, and they'll shoot...and when enough people are shot, the rest will herd...the facts are there if you'll study them...some can hid, whether physically or by camouflage by looking worthless of compliance but only some...most will be in the herd...even if all could be provided with all the "conveniences" of modern civilization, still some would lust to rule and most would be serfs...slavery exists today, both actual and "financial".

Wanted...a broadaxe...corncob jelly recipe...live Pinon nuts or seedlings.

The Armalite AR7 22 is a good gun...accurate, though fussy about its food.

All type tools like blacksmithing, etc. are good investments, even for trades later. I'd like to buy some myself, including a heavy vice and anvil. They os j be greased, gagged and planted [?].

Soap isn't really needed to stay clean. My article in GE shows how. Soap kills the protectives produced by healthy skin for several hours after a bath.

Beaver meadows would be good places to plant perennial food plants, particularly the "wild" ones that don't look much like J.A. and the bean trees. Storage could be dug in a nearby hill.

I haven't used a tent for years...tarp, hammock, mosquito net, down bar, nylon parachute cord, 3/8 goldline. Of course hammocks are for singles. Tarp is coated nylon and can be hung in many positions from a roof to cave. A fire with back log throws heat into it, and the trap reached round on three sides.

If you decide to live on grain, have at least three types, like wheat, rye, oats, or barley. They, except millet, are incomplete proteins.

I send you some pepper tree seed...it grows here so maybe there.

Soak grain and use as cereal or in stew.

Most Chinese live on millet, not rice.

Add peanut butter and raisin to your list for flavor and nutrient.

Your own plant patches of J.A. around any damp place...increase like mad and doesn't look like anything valuable...better than potatoes though not so good stored. JA, turnips, carrots, etc. can just be left in ground until used.

Make your own oil...get a hydraulic (car jack type) press and squeeze corn, nuts, soy, etc.

Peanuts aren't nuts but are oily and healthy. Carver Institute had hundreds of recipes.

Powdered milk also has radiation end products like iodine, strontium from concentrated grass...anything that sticks to it goes into the cow and milk.

Try black eye beans for a different flavor.

You can dry greens in the shade for stores...wild is healthier than are storebought.

Corn makes a better fuel than coal and may be cheaper sometimes.

Make inert atmosphere of carbide...set glass in grain, etc...add water and carbide (heavier than air)...later seal when pressure not too high.

You can get reject glass 5 gal bottles \$1.50 from bottling works (water, pop, cola).

Wheat alone is not adequate...you can starve, like on rabbit alone, millet MIGHT be.

People alive today well over 100...some 125/130 are on social security...some over 250...most eat sparingly, raw tree foods mostly, live away from people and do some 'work', mostly soil contact things.

I've been commenting as I read...I see some of this is in VL already...sorry about that...

Ever eat sunflower fingerlings? They taste sweet.

Do you know anyone could loan or rent me earlier Preinform to copy or Xerox?

You can grow wheat in a grocery box in plastic sceel under and over. After second putting pull roots and eat.

Starch, wet or dry, is best digested when chewed well...a mouth enzyme (ptyalin?) is mixed with it to cause predigestion.

Of course, ANY cooking or overheating kill enzymes and vitamins and probably some little beauties we don't even know yet, so, obviously, raw is best...also raw meat IF you could get good meat which sure as hell you can't find on the market now...even a friggin bunny in the boonies is filled with diseases now because of man's bad ecology.

I guess this thing is just about long enough...please forward the enclosed letter.

Enjoy,  
Paul Doerr

Comments: Thanks for the many ideas. Because of space limitations I must comment only on the few things I take exception to rather than the many things I agree with.

'Private' property may be useful sometimes for some things (see my article VL1). But it's not a 'permanent value'. Every time property taxes rise the market value of property drops. For instance during rent control in NYC, thousands of buildings were abandoned to the city, because they could not be rented for enough to pay taxes.

The protein in wheat and other grains are not really incomplete, merely unbalanced. Wheat contains all essential amino acids but not in ideal proportions, so if wheat is eaten alone at a meal, 30% to 40% of the protein goes unused. Wheat can be 'balanced' with beans or lentils at the same meal for more efficient utilization of the protein.

"...we could change the government if we worked at it..." Millions of people have been trying this for thousands of years. The results are not impressive. Is the Soviet Union or the People's Republic of China, or the United States for that matter, much of an improvement over the ancient tyrannies around the Mediterranean? Replacing one politician with another, or one form of government with another, has not brought enduring freedom. There is no reason to think it ever will.

That is a popular refrain among Russians and Chinese too. Most people rationalize that whatever seems unavoidable is really for the best. Regarding refugees, there are quite a few of American birth around the world, too. But whether or not one government is harsher than another, is a minor point. All existing governments are criminal syndicates essentially – utterly undeserving of support. Both the USSR and the US are intolerable to one not content with slavery.

This is not to advocate 'anarchy'. Trying to eliminate States is as futile as trying to reform them. States, and their manifestations as war and repression, can be thought of as 'natural' social hazards somewhat analogous to 'natural' physical hazards such as storms and forest fires. In many forests, a program of forest fire prevention results in an increasing accumulation of dry brush – assuring an especially devastating fire sooner or later. Similarly, a temporary absence or 'limitation' (by internal means) of government results in popular neglect of self-protection capabilities against institutionalized coercion, and increasing vulnerability to it – assuring the growth, sooner or later, of an especially nasty State. (See my "Thoughts on Freedom Strategy IV" VL1 for more on this.) We must learn to expect and protect ourselves from social dangers as well as physical ones. –RAYO

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## OVERVIEWS

### THOUGHTS ON FREEDOM STRATEGY – VI: The Case Against Retreatism

‘Retreatism’, as used here, means: living ‘conventionally’ in populated areas so long as political-economic conditions remain relatively unchanged, but preparing a hideout in some wilderness for use in event of disaster.

(1) ‘Retreatism’ is distinguished from, though it intergrades with:

\*‘Vonuism’: development of fulltime living patterns which are relatively invulnerable to coercion. A vonuan considers long-range probabilities of various kinds of disasters, so that his lifestyle need not be drastically altered if/when disaster comes.

\*‘Civil defense’ – disaster preparation within ‘conventional’ living patterns.

\*‘Emigration’ to another country.

\*‘Applied libertarianism’ – using legal liberties (‘loopholes’) within a more or less conventional lifestyle, such as doing business as a church to avoid taxes, or playing CC or physical disability games with SSS.

\*‘Retirement’ – curtailment of activity, often with move to less populated area, but with ‘conventional’ ways of living.

Retreatism is superficially plausible, even attractive for some. They can continue to live in a city or town and enjoy its conveniences and amusements as long as possible, then flee at the last moment to a prepared sanctuary. Retreatism appeals especially to frustrated city people, perhaps conjuring up visions of The Frontier of romantic fiction. I can empathize with retreatists even as I criticize them: I once was once.

Retreatism’s most serious and most fundamental flaw: retreatism presumes a big change in ways of living during, or just prior to, a disaster. I have never changed horses in the middle of a river, but would much rather try than to change lifestyles in the middle of an emergency.

I have twice made big changes in living. These were under ‘normal’ conditions’ then from van to foot nomadism. (The second change is still in progress.) In both cases, I read widely, planned carefully, and had much seemingly-relevant recreational experience: I had traveled and camped out with car; also back-pack camped for as long as two weeks. Yet I had plenty of difficulties: equipment which didn’t work as expected or quickly broke down (although it was previously tested), techniques which aren’t adequate and plain goofs. Fortunately I was able to ‘go back’ for more equipment and supplies, and did – repeatedly. Fortunately I was not in serious violation of any law when I unexpectedly encountered bludg.

A lifestyle change, like any big change, involves a learning period. And that is when mistakes are most likely. So the time to do it is when mistakes are least dangerous and most easily corrected. A retreatist, however, proposes to do most of HIS learning at precisely the worst possible time: when a mistake can mean death, prison, or loss or irreplaceable resources.

This objection holds no matter what general or personal disasters a retreatist expects. A ‘national emergency’ will most likely be accompanied by edicts against many of the things he counts on doing: no quitting of job; travel bans; ‘closure’ of ‘National Forests’. Such laws will be difficult to enforce and will be mainly an inconvenience for already-established vonuans. But they can be serious threats for novices likely to blunder.

Outdoor recreation on weekends and vacations is quite different – in equipment, skills and attitudes needed – than living in the wilderness indefinitely. Most retreatists, as did I, overestimate their ability to live off the land; underestimate the time and skills needed to do substantial things with native materials.

Another problem: Retreatism makes for conflict between present living and future expecting. Resources must be divided between city activities and retreat preparation. What usually happens: under the psycho pressures of that society, there is never the time or money ‘right now’ and preparation gets postponed indefinitely. Many retreatists have been talking about it for years. How many are prepared?

Another criticism: Retreatists usually pick a future scenario to fit their fancies rather than concerning a variety of possible futures. The chosen scenario is usually apocalyptic – the favorite being an economic collapse as complete that central government ceases. While total collapse is possible, historically it is rare. More common are war, gradual partial collapse accompanied or followed by military dictatorship, and/or long-term stagnation and decay.



The retreatist is psychologically vulnerable to gradually-increasing coercion. Will he make the move so long as nothing catastrophic happens? If he does, how will he, his spouse, and his already accultured children react to living 'in the boondocks' for months or years, while the outside world seems to go on as before?

Finally, retreat preparations do not increase survival prospects in event of surprise nuclear attack. Perhaps significantly, nuclear war is not considered a likely scenario by retreatists. How might those who prefer 'conventional' living to vonu prepare for an emergency?

Civil defense requires no abrupt change in lifestyle beyond moving into one's bomb shelter and/or eating stored foods for a few months. One remains on familiar territory. But civil defense, like retreatism, involves present-future split. Bomb shelters are expensive and time consuming; food staples must be rotated. How many get around to doing it? And a bomb shelter isn't much protection against greater domestic coercion.

For people remaining in that society, the best strategy for emergencies (other than surprise nuclear attack) may be emigration: have a Swiss bank account and visa, and plan to hop a plane to Zurich or someplace. Change in living patterns is minimal: despite differences in languages and some customs, 'conventional' urban living is largely the game the world over (I've heard; I've not been to the eastern hemisphere).

In Nazi Germany, the Jews who fared best were mostly those who left well ahead of the crunch. Those who waited until the last moment and then tried to hide out, like Anne Franke's family (DIARY OF A YOUNG GIRL), had few survivors.

For people not draft-threatened, I suggest Switzerland rather than Canada or Bahama because its government is less vulnerable to pressures by the U.S.

Anyone considering emigration should get funds out of the country well in advance; government usually block outflow of capital long before they stop most persons – the U.S. already has some restrictions on sending money abroad. Pennyless refugees are rarely welcome. – RAYO

\*(1) This is how "retreatism" has been defined by its advocates...Some apparently-uninformed critics use 'retreatism' as a disparaging label for all ways of acquiring personal freedom. These are the people who despair of solving their OWN problems but are sure they can solve the world's.

## **VONULIFE 5, JANUARY 1972 (formerly PREFORM-INFORM)**

[COMMUNICATION AMONG NOMADS, TROGLODYTES, AND  
OTHER FREEDOM-ACHEIVERS]

VONU LIFE, BOX 458, CAVE JUNCTION, OR  
Published every two months by MIKE FREEMAN

### SITUATIONS & SEARCHES

Dear people: I am a young woman living in the gentle hills of Vermont itching for some wider spaces. Technically I am a college student, but the experimental nature of my college allows me to spend my time wandering and backpacking, occasionally doing farm work. I have worked in schools and am working on teacher certification – though probably wouldn't teach in a traditional, institutional setting. I am going on an ecology tour 3 ½ months with other students, combining action, study climbing snowshoeing, and various other ways of travel and exploration in the southwest U.S., then I travel to Alberta, Canada to do some survival training with a community of free people trying to live older ways...good luck to you in your work and good wintering. –PRISCILLA

N/T People: I read your offer in The Mother Earth News – and I can dig it. Here's my way of side-stepping society.

It's nice to not pay rent anywhere but especially in Santa Cruz (Calif.). Real estate agents, chamber of commerce members, people with money and/or land are all bringing in more people and raising rents. But it is a beautiful place – with unusually mild weather since it's facing south into the Monterey Bay with mountains to the north – blocking out the rein of San Francisco. Enough advertising, if you ever want to know anything about Santa Cruz call up switchboard a community run energy center run by volunteers. They know everything about Santa Cruz.

I would have had to leave Santa Cruz and get a job (how horrible!!!) if it weren't for a 1961 International school bus I walked by on my way home from a free Saturday dinner at the university. As I was looking at it, a guy came out and started showing it to me. A week later, I'd sold my Econoline and was the proud owner of a big red school bus. Right now my lady and I are parked under a walnut tree in a friend's back yard paying \$20.000 a month for utilities and rent rather than \$80.00 and up if we were renting a place. In a few months (and a few hundred dollars) it will be fixed up so that we won't need to spend even the \$20 – just an occasional \$5 for butane. Doing your own cabinet making, wiring, plumbing, and metal-work is cheaper as well as more satisfying and educational. When "Sylvester" is finished we're going to take off and see if we can find a place we like better than Santa Cruz. When we've found what we want, we'll throw away the keys. –RICK

Dear Friends: I have not slept in a house since 1963. Nomadic life seems to be my lot. As soon as I read your paper I will fill you in with some of my secrets on moving and eating. Please send it as soon as is practical – I will wait here. –KAY, Florida

Dear Roberta, Tom & Rayo,

Well, it is over. At least for the present, my grand tour of US and Canada has ended for lack of money mostly, but this is as I had planned it. Having done my thing, I am content to stay put for a while and regroup. But I'll never be the same. Despite my quitting a lucrative job in April, and despite my present debts and difficulty in getting a job now, I would do it again a thousand times. I would be a clod of the highest order if I didn't say a thank you to Preform and Vonulife, because it was you guys who gave me a needed lift at a time when I needed it. When you go

15,000 miles in 6 months, you often run into limbos of planning; into doubts; into disorganization of a most puzzling kind; and knowing that you had been working out the same kinks made all the difference.

My VW bug (sedan) which I told you about turned out to have more than enough room, and after the first week of shakedown, it was a pure delight. My travels were from coast-to-coast and Texas to Nova Scotia, but it was not all the “sights”, which made it worthwhile. It was having all that time!

Living in the car gave me the freedom to afford to come and go, and the time to stay in a place if it had good vibrations. The time to sift out all the feelings from the past, and to savor the good ones, but also to recognize the bad ones for what they were and drop them forever. The time to watch sunrise over “The Sleeping Indian” for a week running; the time to paddle my leaky rubber raft to a distant island, only to be chased all the way back by two very angry loons! This abundance of time made the crucial difference, and made me look upon the traditional two-week vacation as a poor substitute, like a crummy carrot doled out to workers to give the illusion of independence!

My plans are now to somehow get rich enough to do it again whenever I wanted. I'll do anything to get there. I'll sell my right arm. Tell the Devil there's one soul, coming up! –AIKIDO AL

Dear People: My wife, son, and I are in search of a tribe of self-sufficient people in which to make our home.

I have taken agriculture (more specifically, soils, plant structure, agronomy, etc.) and animal husbandry classes in college and we feel confident enough to start out.

We are a happy people and our goal is to live in harmony with the earth mother by not consuming more than we need – with domestic and wild edibles.

We wish no drugs or alcohol and we are both non-smokers.

We are writing in hopes of joining your tribe depending upon beliefs, area (city or country), lifestyles and cost if any...—ROBERT, San Jose

Dear Robert: While we are interested in self-sufficiency and intend to gradually become more self-sufficient, this is not our main emphasis. (See “Vonu Economic Strategies” this issue.) Also we are not into agriculture right now, traditional agriculture being non-vonu and vonu agriculture being beyond our present capabilities.

At present, we are interested in/capable of associating only with vonuans who have some experience; we are not able to offer any substantial assistance to newcomers, though we hope to in the future. –RAYO

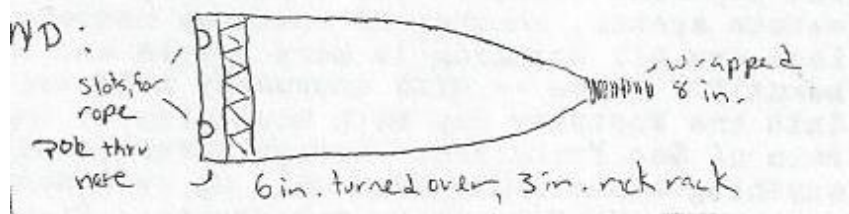
Dearest Vonu Life,

Here's some garbage – hope you appreciate it – if not, throw it out.

Lessee. In VL4, some idiot wrote though (thee?) about MPF or something. You told him to blow for the wrong reason – it's not really that expensive. What it is though, is tasteless garbage: man-produced vitamins, etc. are worthless, because not assimilated into body well, if at all. Also, it's possible to get too much protein: likewise, fat, etc. stuff like that needs preservative glop to keep it there. These cause cancer, and at best do nothing good for ya. Instead of COMPOSITION OF FOODS, get CONSUMER BEWARE, from Rodale Press. Flottsy, but good.

For the disaster: IN TIME OF EMERGENCY, #14-14, Mar. '68, Office of Civil Defense. Mostly bullshit, but if you are worried/planning/etc., this is it!

A hammock? Nylon, 1 yd wide, your height + 3 ft in length. Hem it in an inch. Take 8 in of end, compress, wrap tightly with nylon string other end: fold in 6 in., sew 3 in. rick rack stitch. Cut two slots 6 in from side, stick a hunk a wood through and:



Most of the stuff you guys is writin' is pretty good – 'cept ya can't use much of it in a cold climate. Like a plastic tent – lotsa room, and it keeps the rain out, but heat escapes rapidement and it gets TOO DAMN COLD! Yech, to be blunt, most isolated spots are where people don't normally wanna be people. Don't wanna be cold, so...

Also, a criticism – Rayo, + Orion, and a few other people writin' in seem to be on a consistency thing. It's weird – people get all uptight if others aren't consistent in their statements, etc. I mean why let it hassle? People aren't meant to be perfect. Don't be so picky.

Permapak – low moisture foods for storage/emergency/daily use. Almost any dried food may be prepacked in cans, etc. Do a 1 person yearly food supply thing for about \$200. I'd say keep away from the meat substitute stuff, though.

Am fairly heavily into nomadics, cabins, and related structures, homesteading, ecology, etc. If anybody has questions related to same, it's possible I could answer if ya do. Please send a donation (a buck, maybe) for mailing, envelopes, filing, etc.

Uh – one more thing if you're worried about what your soaps, etc. are doing to your body/the world/whatever, may I suggest shit by shak\*\*\* [illegible]: basic, nothin' it won't clean: clothes, dishes, people, hair, non-sudsing, it puts out fires, settles cement, all sorts of righteous stuff.

I guess enough bull.

LOVE/PEACE/VONU/WHATEVER

Phil Smith, White Deer Rocks Road, Woodbury Connecticut

Had to fill a capped bottle with water to magnify the last thingee we wrote so will go up a type size.

I took a run this fall into Idaho-bike'hitched' free to Boise and there set off on a 500 cc Honda through some rough back country. I could never have gotten a bigger bike into back of station wagon of trip taking friend and the point I'm going to push is that little bikes are cheap, economical, and will go anywhere the big bikes will go if geared down a bit. I have lugged this little bike all over on the back of my van and at this point I don't think anyone would gain much lugging around more than 75cc's...should add that we have a big gas gobbling racing bike whose only advantage to me is that it gets me on the freeways legally and could probably kill me quicker if my time came. In the heat of summer there have been a few small bike fatalities from lugging them continually on steep grades, but I have walked (while running in gear) mine over some well night vertical country and carried it over boulders and up creek embankments and such where bigger bikes would only have lain on their sides and received bad language. Filling my sacks with duffel and slinging them to ride at the cycles sides usually take care of my packing needs without the usually inadequate bike gear.

A fair-trimmed Air Force parka usually rounds things out for me in cold country and although I am sure we must present a rather odd looking picture going down the road I feel the last laugh is on the guy who spends a fortune getting there a little quicker. You may recall the number of younger world explorers who chose the little Italian motor scooters to do 'there thing' on...with good reason as I found a few years ago when I picked up a bargain priced 'Vespa' and took it through the desert back country of Mexico with no trouble and loads of good experiences...come to think of it I can't recall having paid much more than a hundred dollars for any of the reliable machines I've had. Suppose that there will always be cheap transportation as long as the horsepower phobia drives the frustrated nimrods of the road to get to work faster. We always carry gas, oil, a few basic tools, tire pump, patches, and a spare throttle cable...lately we have had to check out the county laws sense it is getting to the point that many areas restrict

the use of cycles on private land and such. Get on a big bike and you will be hounded all across the state of Arizona or handed tickets all the way down the Eastern seaboard. Just another reason for looking more harmless and inconspicuous...makes for better relations.

In the past few years there have been a number of adaptors to convert a 2 volt alternator to 110 volts. The trouble has been that the few manufacturers had a good thing going and were getting around \$30 for \$2 worth of materials. In this last Popular Mechanics mag. There are two mail order people in the 1<sup>st</sup> part of the classified section that now sell plans. One guy has the adaptor plans for \$2 and the Texas outfit is \$5 with the whole shooting match for \$10...switches and all. What this means, if you haven't caught on, is that you can convert your batteries over to 110 for running your gismos for several days or several weeks and then you can flick the switch on your super alternator hook up and charge the batteries up in a mere ten minutes or so for another fresh start. You can run most any motor with brushes in it and if you rev up your engine a little you can put a fantastic 3000 watts of D.C. juice. This is enough to use a power saw with or even weld with...all from your little old car alternator. I saw a \$5 lawn mower engine that would run a \$10 'swap meet' alternator and put out enough juice to foil the electric company for good. Hope to get a set up this winter for bus conversion so maybe we can stick the diagram in a coming issue of V.L. Would like to hear of any one getting and using these conversions. This is a major breakthrough for persons who haven't been able to afford the \$100 gas generators or the price of going through a lot of hassle to recharge their batteries.

To continue the tooth filling data: Mexico is the answer for many as previously stated with the prices often running \$25 or less for crowns, caps, etc. The really cheap dentists really do exist and we knew of some in L.A. & S.F. on W. coast a couple of years ago...in fact if you're ever through the woolly town of Council Idaho there is a woman dentist there who last I heard was using a price schedule straight out of the 40's and was good to boot.

The dental schools such as the one at Loma Linda CA. Will nick you about the same rates as in Mexico and will do better work...but it is often hard to get accepted and it takes many, many visits to ever get your work all done. In a few states it is possible to walk into a dental lab, make your own wax impressions and have the work made up on the spot (the lab man can't touch you) although I haven't found any such critters yet in CA maybe a V.L. reader can find one and we can do some sort of mail order thing...wax impressions aren't that hard to make. As far as doing the drilling yourself, administering anesthesia is a very tricky business and a black market tooth fixer would be sticking his neck way out. Several more basic and simple modes of nerve blockage could be used such as zone therapy in which pressure against nerves is used or acupuncture in which a needle is used to deaden by intercepting the electrical pain signal and so both and so on...again the demand just isn't there. I picked up a whole dental drill outfit for \$8 from a 'swap meet' but haven't been able to do more than clean cavities out that are already enlarged due to the nerve deadening problem. The epoxy glue route will only work if you coat the filled cavity with wax and don't disturb the area for hours...silica will wash the stuff right out if you don't. For general all around use a better glue is the rubbery silicon stuff, and not only works as a temporary filler that you can get out if you are in pain and want to get oil of cloves to the area, but on a cloth patch will stop a leak in your gas or water tank. At the moment I have a good ol solid silver hunk from one of the genuine hard to find now dimes covering a cavity to protect the silica cement below it. The main idea of a cap of course is to keep the cement from wearing...and with a little more thought on the s [?].

In reference to VL #4, Geo. Van Tassle has his widely known flying saucer convention the last weekend of October every year and it is a first rate place to meet some very unusual as well as some very alert and aware people. The huge body rejuvenation machine has yet to be completed and out of all the energy generating machines and such that we have investigated the only thing that fate seemed to allow success for was the roll of chicken wire rolled down under the big high tension lines of the power company. They promptly stopped this and he had to pay his monthly bill again. To add a few suggestions to Tom & Gracie...we have noted many big bus people prefer to register their rigs in Arizona and California isn't bad as yet. Upon completion of your conversion in Calif. it is prudent to explain to the D.M.V. that you got all of your materials for next to nothing used surplus and super cheap. If for instance your rig cost \$500 and all of the material and things you added came to another \$500, you would be paying an initial 5% of

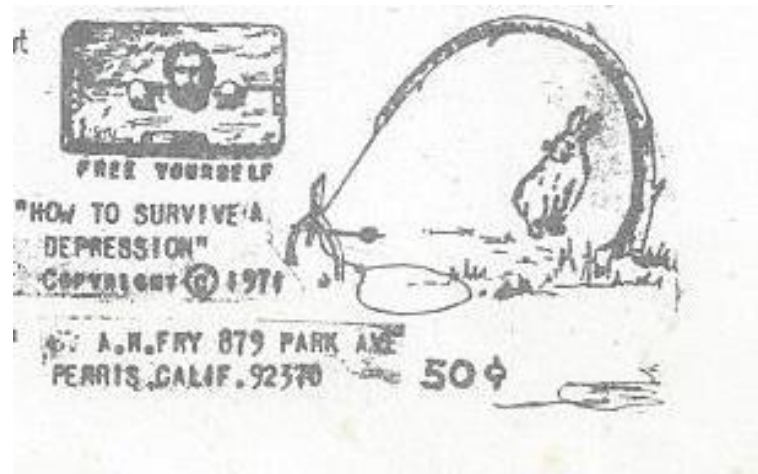
\$1000 for the first registration fee. I don't like to be conspicuous as in a big rig but with kids it will help one to retain a measure of sanity. Many of these big rigs aren't really beyond fixing if a person has the tools and a measure of common sense. Many of the big oil engines are less actual horsepower than most cars – they just have more pulling power or torque. The one vital thing that many forget to do on their conversions large or small is to insulate everywhere...get as much insulation layer under your floor as you can and if that is not in the cards put several layers of carpet or something on the floor. I usually staple house insulation to the underside of wood floors and keep it there with light wood sheeting under metal floors...remember that heat rises right out of your rig if the cold air can come up from underneath. In the same line of thought cover up any exposed metal as this bare metal will reflect heat in summer and the cold in winter. If this is all too much to bare then you better get a big propane tank or head south in the winter. Hope to make it simpler in Romans bus book (V.L. I).

V.L. readers who read Paul Doerr's letter last issue should like his various publications. His "Pioneer" is really stuffed with outdoor type facts, etc. He also has a treasure mag. and one leaning toward the metaphysical. I gotta take my hat off to he and his type. Most persons talk a good game but seldom come through. Paul comes through.

Another interesting mag for the guy about ready to get off the treadmill is the "Outlaw Magazine". It sort of points out the fallacy of finding happiness as a 9 to 5'er.

A very inspiring book that was written a few years back is Bob Belmont's "How to Retire without Money" while a little outdated now he inspires you by showing how many have made it in a satisfying niche in all parts of the world.

Should also mention the "bargain paradises of the world" and other things which ol' Norman Ford put out a few years back-mostly straight type stuff. Harian's Pub, Greenlawn, N.Y. Anyways there's more but it's getting late and I'm punching the wrong things here. -AL FRY



### **THE FREE MAN IN THE SLAVE STATE**

You are free to the extent that you are able to control your life; to avoid initiated violence or threat of violence by others. Freedom often depends not on WHERE YOU ARE, but rather WHAT YOU DO. It is not necessary to hid out on a desert island or roam around like a gypsy to be free. You can live in Los Angeles – or Moscow, for that matter – and be quite free. But you must take the responsibility for your own freedom – you alone can make yourself free. If you wait for "Society" or the government or someone else to do it for you, you will wait, and wait, and wait...

I say you can live in Los Angeles and be free. But I make one major qualification: You can live in Los Angeles freely only so long as you don't openly flaunt that freedom. If you insist on exhibiting PUBLICLY "socially unacceptable" expressions of freedom, you will probably end up in a prison or a mental institution, definitely not easy places in which to remain free.



This brings me to the first and most important principle for remaining free in a slave state: BE INCONSPICUOUS – avoid drawing attention to yourself. With over a hundred million laws and regulations on the books and more being added daily, almost ANY activity can be interpreted as criminal. So, legality, as such, becomes much less important than outward conventionality and conformity. Police and other government agents have discretionary power to arrest anyone they deem “suspicious,” so avoid arousing suspicion.

As Doc Stanley said in an INNOVATOR article: “Let your appearance, equipment, and actions at all times justify your presence on some legitimate (or conventional) basis. If a police officer has no reason to suspect you, if his alerting mechanism has not been triggered, he can seldom justify, to himself, stopping and questioning you.” In case you are questioned, Doc Stanley advises, “Always be able to give an explanation of why you are there, where you are from, and where you are going.”

I recommend you avoid behavior that might arouse suspicion even though it be perfectly legal. For example, there is no law yet, that I know of, against taking long walks through the streets of the People’s Democracy in the small hours of the morning. But if you do, expect to land in jail faster than the guy who knocks over banks in the daytime for a living. And while the “guardian of the public peace” MAY – and I emphasize MAY -- decide there is no rap they can hang on you, you are apt to spend several days or even months behind bars before they reluctantly come to this conclusion. So perceive and change any aspects of your public behavior that might seem “peculiar.”

Unless you are able to live far enough back in the woods to stay away from people completely, live in a large city where you have the protection of anonymity. Avoid the small town where one of the favorite pastimes is gossip – prying into other people’s business.

Regardless of your income, appear to be lower-middle class; the very poor and the very rich are the most preyed upon by criminals in and out of government. Rent an apartment or house that appears “respectable,” but not as swank as the average cop can afford. Recently, Los Angeles police stopped a new Thunderbird containing several young Blacks; killed one for apparently no reason, and arrested the others. Their only “crime”: Driving an automobile the police judged to be “more expensive than men of that age or race should own.” If you must live it up, do it far away from where you live and work. Take your vacations in La Paz, or better yet, Switzerland.

Dress conventionally. Be clean and neat, but not ostentatious. If you are a man: avoid beard, long hair, motorcycle garb, or anything denoting non-conformity. If you are a woman: avoid mini-skirts, tight slacks, or other “sexy” attire.

Have conventional answers to common questions: where you are from, where you work, what family you have, etc. It is better to tell plausible lies, than to be tongue-tied or self-righteously silent and arouse suspicion. It is not immoral to lie if you are not perpetrating fraud. It is certainly MORAL to lie to somebody asking questions about things that are none of his business; it is the QUESTIONER who is immoral by all rational standards.

Around home especially, be outwardly quiet and unobtrusive. Don’t keep noisy dogs. Don’t throw wild parties. Don’t build boilers in your kitchen. Don’t play music late at night. Your neighbors are the most dangerous people you know, with the possible exception of your relatives; they will turn rat-fink at the drop of a hat. And complaining to police is a favorite pastime in towns large and small. So avoid any behavior that might antagonize them.

Be superficially cordial to your neighbors, but have as little to do with them as possible; the less they know about you, the better. Don’t voice “controversial” opinions near home. If you wish to proselytize some neighbors, get a friend who lives on the other side of town to work on your neighbors while you go proselytize HIS. And change your neighbors at least once a year – by moving.

If you have children of compulsory school age, and there are no private schools of acceptable quality and price, keep them under cover during school hours. Tell the neighbors, if asked, that your kids are feeble-minded and you are tutoring them at home. Another possible cover is to always be a transient visitor from Virginia, South Carolina, or Mississippi which have repealed compulsory attendance laws. With children, you should move more often, perhaps every two or three months during the school year, before gossip can spread very far.

Avoid traveling by bus, especially cross-country. "Only niggers, spics, college beatniks, and other commie types ride buses anymore." Because the bureaucrats have made this appraisal of bus clientele, terminals are mainly hang-outs of government creeps, the REAL social undesirables.

If, despite these precautions, you are harassed by criminals, public or private, KEEP YOUR TEMPER. Act humble and polite even though it hurts. Don't tell them off or slug them, no matter how much you would like to. Recognize that you are in a situation where they can bring superior forces to bear. A cardinal rule of guerrilla warfare is: Don't let the enemy determine your tactics. So, if you wish to retaliate, do it at a time, place, and with weapons of your choosing.

My second general principle for remaining free in a slave state: INSULATE MAJOR AREAS OF YOUR LIFE. Keep home, work, person, and avocations self-contained so that conflicts with authority in one area will not endanger or inconvenience you in other areas.

Keep the address of your living quarters secret. When away from home, avoid having anything on your person or in your vehicle which gives your actual address. Establish a "legal" home address away from actual living quarters; this might be just a closet in a friend's house containing some old clothes and books, which he can point to if questioned. Use this for driver's license and other ID you carry on you. Give this to your employer if he insists on such information. Give the location of your actual living quarters only to close friends who are not only trustworthy, but who have a real need to know. If you have a home phone, get it under a nom de plume. Rent under a nom de plume, or at least a variation of your name. Receive all mail at a box in a 24-hour post office. You will sleep better if you are not half expecting an authoritarian knock on your door at two in the morning.

Do any activities which might draw unfavorable attention – writing, for example – under a nom de plume. And use a separate address for the nom de plume.

If you have never been fingerprinted, avoid it. Since a set of fingerprints on record with the FBI is the only way you can be definitely identified, avoiding fingerprinting is worth quite a bit of effort. Stay out of the armed forces. Don't apply for a security clearance. Don't seek employment with any company that routinely fingerprints – some do. Don't take part in street demonstrations, etc., where there might be mass arrests and bookings – there are more effective ways to fight back. The thumb print which California asks for but does not require for a driver's license does not go to the FBI, and can only be used to verify a suspected identity. A full set of prints – all fingers of both hands, is required in most cases to identify, if identity is not suspected. Nevertheless, decline to give them a thumb print too. If they ask why, tell them that you must refuse on the basis of personal religious convictions.

This brings me to my third general principle: SET UP AN ALIAS IDENTITY FOR EMERGENCY USE. This should include as a minimum: birth or baptismal certificate, driver's license, and passport. Even if you do not intend to KNOWINGLY break the law, alias identification is among the best "freedom insurance" you can have. As I said before, there are so many laws and regulations that one cannot possibly even KNOW all of them, let alone consistently obey them. And many laws can be interpreted very broadly; you can always be apprehended on one excuse or another, or quite likely, just by accident. And should you face prosecution, it's nice to have the OPTION to "cut and run," whether you then choose to do so or not.

Don't wait until you are in trouble to get an alias ID; then you will be prone to mishaps that will get you in more trouble. Do it now, while you have full resources, are able to move about openly, and can take the time to be careful. Also, getting ID is easy now, but may become more difficult.

Each individual and family will have their own requirements and problems, so by all means, think through your own procedure rather than simply follow the directions of someone else; it is generally safer NOT to follow the exact procedures used by others.

So far, I have been assuming that the individual concerned is not PRESENTLY at danger. But at least two kinds of people already ARE in danger: men of draft age and children of compulsory school age. What they do about it is up to them. I would, of course, never encourage breaking the law, even to save one's own skin, but...

Since the compulsory school age in California is eight, the child will be immune until he is mature enough to conduct himself safely if questioned by authorities. (He can say his parents

are just visiting from out-of-state or whatever.) After that, the child and his parents must choose his course carefully.

Lest anyone should misinterpret any of the foregoing as a prescription for a successful career in crime, I would point that committing REAL crime is FAR more dangerous than engaging in a peaceful activity that some immoral government chooses to CALL a crime, because there is a VICTIM and this victim has STRONG incentive to kill or otherwise frustrate the criminal. In contrast, the person who LIVES FREE creates no victim; the government creep whose job it might be to stop him has weak incentive at most. This is, of course, only one reason why real crime is very much against one's long-term interest. If, despite this warning, someone wants to become a criminal, he can hardly do better than to join an already flourishing gang of killers, kidnappers, and thieves – by far the most successful criminal organization in these parts – I refer to the U.S. government and its state and local affiliates.

This brings me to my fourth general principle: RESPECT THE ANONYMITY OF OTHERS. For the libertarian living in the slave state, this is a form of “good manners” necessary to the continuance of freedom. All rules of etiquette, if traced back far enough, have utilitarian origins, and most of them originated in the tyranny and chaos of the feudal dark ages. For example, the custom of shaking hands was originally a way of preventing surprise attack when two persons met by showing that neither held a dagger in his sword hand. Living in the tyranny and chaos of neo-feudal America, it is proper that libertarians develop new rules of etiquette which relate to present conditions. These include the following:

SAFEGUARD ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS GIVEN to you by other libertarians, except in those cases where the person makes it clear to you that his address is public knowledge anyway. Disguise or encode addresses or phone numbers in some way so they are only meaningful to you. The reason: During any kind of round-up, it is customary police practice to use any address books found as sources for more suspects. Many narcotic rings, for instance, have been busted in the following manner. One member is apprehended, more or less accidentally – perhaps he is stopped for a traffic violation. His car is searched; the police find drugs and an address book. They immediately apprehend all the persons who appear in the book, and search their premises for drugs and address books. This may continue through three or four levels of contacts and involve hundreds of persons. Many of the people so apprehended will be entirely innocent; nevertheless, their premises will be ransacked and they may be held behind bars for several days while being checked out. Since a government creep will usually be looking for an address book and will keep searching until he finds something, it may be wise to HAVE an address book for his benefit. Pick names at random from the phone book if you wish, or limit names to non-libertarian acquaintances.

Safeguarding of addresses is for your protection as well as the protection of others; if the police find illegal goods on the premises of several people whose names you have, this will cast further suspicion on you. Also, of course, if your friends get busted because of your carelessness, you will no longer be their friend. The person who does not especially want his address kept confidential – perhaps he maintains an open address for business reasons – can signify this by giving out business cards.

Second rule of libertarian etiquette: DO NOT ENGAGE IN OPENLY ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES ON THE PROPERTY OF OTHERS, without explicit permission. This applies to such things as smoking marijuana, disrobing, and showing off your collection of gold bars.

Third rule of libertarian etiquette: DON'T ASK QUESTIONS WHICH INTRUDE ON THE PRIVACY OF OTHERS, unless you have a strong and mutually understood need to know. As one libertarian has put it: “Don't ask questions which require a proper-noun answer.” It is all right to ask, “What is your educational background?” but not, “What college did you attend?” It is all right to ask, “What kind of work do you do?” but not, “What company do you work for?” One may not wish to divulge specific biographical information for any number of reasons. When confronted with such a question, he must either lie or be silent and draw attention to himself. As this custom, already practiced by many, becomes more widespread, government snooping will become more difficult; the creep cannot gather personal information about others without attracting information to himself.

A last rule of etiquette: AVOID GENERATING PUBLIC RECORDS OF FINANCIAL DEALINGS. Avoid paying by check. If you are sending too large a sum by mail to trust cash, get a money order. Also, don't ask for receipt unless the transaction is large; then make the receipt intelligible only to the parties involved, plus perhaps one witness.

By following these simple guidelines, libertarians can exchange ideas, experiences, goods, and services without destroying the veil of anonymity they have worked so carefully to weave.

ALLEN HUMBLE

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(Reprinted from PIONEER #8, Paul Doerr)

CITY VS COUNTRY DURING REVOLUTION by Walt Hayward

Many of our city people seem under the illusion that they will be able to run to the country or mountains as soon as the revolution starts getting hot around them (the shooting starts). These city folks seem to believe they will have a better chance of survival there. But would they?

How many of our city people have ever tried to live alone in the wilds? How many would know how to survive when the food gets low? The waterholes are dry, when the snow is high and cold and you find yourself without blankets or fire? Take a realistic look at yourself, could you survive under these circumstances? Unless you have trained, and trained hard for these rigors, you would not stand a chance.

Now, let's give a little thought to the city in which you live. Though you may not realize it, the chances are that you already know most of the rules of survival there. Have you given any serious thought to city survival or defense? For the people use to city life, the advantages are many.

First, any city is like a great fort. There are very few places where cover can't be found less than a few feet away. If you can get to firearms you will be able to defend yourself from behind doors, windows, block fences, etc. If you can get into a high building, you will be able to fire down, an advantage seldom found in the country. Second, if you have taken the precaution of organizing and preparing, as I hope you have, you will know every avenue of escape. The enemy is not as likely to know these so every obstruction will be in his way while giving you cover. This will work to slow him down and give you the advantage.

Third, to move through your city, the enemy must move through the streets. Streets are open, thus making him the target. (Remember the riots and how long a few were able to hold off organized troops.) If you have the courage to defend your home and family, this food again gives you the advantage.

Fourth, supplies can usually be found in the so-called supermarkets and warehouses that abound in the cities. True, these supplies will not last long when the going gets rough, so it would be a good idea to start a storage program now. Even if you do not take the precaution of starting a storage program now, supplies can be found. You will have to fight for them though.

Believe it or not, a storage or supply cache is easier to construct and hide in the city than it is in the country. Start a storage program now, not only in your own area, but in the areas of friends (friends you can trust) scattered throughout the city. If you take the time to get a home defense organization going, this will not be hard. With a little imagination you will find plenty of supply places. Panel boards can be removed from walls, closets can be made smaller (in appearance) giving a foot or more for supply space, the list is endless. In any event, you can see where the availability of supplies is to your advantage. It takes a lot of experience and knowledge to find food or supplies in the wilderness, experience and knowledge which most of you do not have.

Fifth, the chances are that you are working in or very near the city you are living in. have you ever stopped to consider just how you will get to the wildlands?

Remember, the enemy does not plan to give you advance warning of when he is going to strike, it will be sudden and unexpected. As soon as the shooting starts, the street will be filled with fear-ridden people trying to escape. These people will be subject to crossfire, killing many and driving the rest even more frantic. Autos will be overturned, bridges blown or clogged, YOU WILL be unable to move far. But, knowing your city and knowing where supplies are cached, it

will be necessary to. You will be able to survive or fight right where you are. Again, your advantage.

Think about the above before you plan on running to the country. If you can see the validity of this article, start preparing now. Get your supplies in now and start organizing your home defense and survival team. Get together with a few trusted friends (5 or 6 suggested) and study and plan. You may never need all of this, but if you ever do it will be too late to start.

–WALT HAYWARD

BROTHERHOOD OF AMERICAN MOUNTAINMEN

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## VONU IN CITIES

Most discussions of vonu living assume unpopulated or far-away places. Concerning urban possibilities, five possible approaches come to mind.

The first and simplest is anonymity: Be visible but not noticeable. Conform outwardly while doing your own thing in secret. Be inconspicuous, as Allen Humble says in his article. But most of Humble's advice concerns what not to do. Where does Humble go to "do his own thing"? Probably not to his apartment. Renting under a *nom de plume* does not prevent inspection by landlord or police, or overhearing by nosy neighbors.

Humble speaks of children but I wonder if he has any. He says to keep children out of sight during school hours. I wouldn't want the job of keeping children quietly cooped up in an apartment during slave-school hours. Incidentally, I've heard that California has lowered slave age to six.

Regarding Humble's recommendation to avoid paying by check: I agree if the transaction is face-to-face, large or repeating. But selling small items by mail (like Vonu Life) for cash only isn't feasible, so you are welcome to pay by check. Urban anonymity offers no protection from such dangers as nuclear war. Despite these criticisms, I agree with most of Humble's recommendations, many of which apply to all vonuans, not just urban anonoymites.

I lived much of the way Humble advocates before taking up van nomadism. For me anonymity alone was unsatisfactory because of city psychological pressures. I was immersed in an alien culture with values hostile to my own. Whether or not I was especially vulnerable, I felt vulnerable.

I know of quite a few vonuists and libertarians who live Humble's way, but I know none who seem to like it for very long. Perhaps there are ways to cope with the psychological pressures. If you think you have found a way, tell us. But, personally, I prefer to live "far enough back in the woods..."

A way to reduce psychological pressures is to gather with fellows into a "ghetto" – a second approach to city vonu. One loses anonymity with respect to the larger culture as one develops subculture speech, customs, mannerisms and dress. But one becomes a relatively indistinguishable member of the subculture, requiring that any organized aggressor attack everyone or no one. "All (Chinese, Niggers, Hippies...) look alike." This doesn't always stop aggressors – witness Jews in Nazi Germany, Japanese in U.S.

The recommendations made by Walt Hayward presume ghettos of like-minded people. His objections against moving into the wildlands are directed to retreatists who hope to do it "at the last moment," not at vonuans who expect to live there most of the time.

Ghettos are also possible in rural areas. The Takilma area southeast of Cave Junction, Oregon, is almost a "freek" ghetto. While freeks may not be in the majority yet, there are enough to render the area unattractive for anti-freeks, causing most land up for sale to be bought by freeks, etc. – analogous to what happens in new Black ghettos in cities. How much protection this provides remains to be seen. There have been quite a few arrests for growing/using pot, etc. A bigger crunch will come when substantial numbers of freek children become old enough for slave school. (Will the "Supreme Court" require long-hairs and short-hairs to be intermixed by bussing? Or will it compel kids to cut their hair middle length, with the length set by the majority vote every four years?)

A third approach involves a blend of concealment and deception: construct hidden, sound-proofed apartments and workshops beneath or within an "owned" building ostensibly used for

other purposes. Since such chambers could be blast, fire and fallout resistant, this approach offers some protection against nuclear attack as well as day-to-day predation. The family of Anne Frank (*Diary of a Young Girl*) tried (unsuccessfully) to hide this way during Nazi occupation of Holland. The hidden-chamber approach seems to have much potential; also many problems. I have not attempted it nor even thought much about it. I welcome the insights of anyone who has.

A fourth approach: Build a den or camouflaged camp on unowned land such as a "public park." This approach has much in common with wilderness vonu. Major advantage: easier access to city. Disadvantages: more difficult to conceal; general hazards of city including smog and nuclear threat. A man built a shack and lived undetected for 17 years in a Portland city park (reported in *Preform-Inform*). "Park squatting" might be done easiest by vonuans who first develop concealment skills in unpopulated remote areas, then opt for better city access.

The fifth approach: van nomadism with city squat-spots. Some differences from wilderness squatting: "Private" land, such as backyards of friends, is probably safer than streets for long stays. The vehicle need not be as self-contained since utilities are close at hand. Off-the-road performance isn't important. Appearance, conventionality, license plates, etc., are important.

A smial is an underground house. The word is taken from J.R. Tolkien's books, *THE HOBBIT* and the 3 vol. set *THE LORD OF THE RINGS*. It was a cave home used by hobbits, who were little people who ate a lot, raised gardens, and were usually very jolly. The smial was usually dug into a bank. The living room would have windows and face the garden but the rest of the rooms (bedrooms, kitchens, storerooms, etc. opened off either side of a long hall which might have a back door at the end.

An underground home is warmer in winter and cooler in summer because the temperature under a few feet of soil is almost unchanging winter and summer. It can also be damp. Since the surface of the land is left clean for growing things it is more ecologically sound than scattering man and his junk over the surface. Greenery will clean and cool the air and deaden sound pollution, and conceal.

A number of researchers say we will be living in underground shelters, at least to eat, sleep, and relax, though we will go out to work, for more than 5 years after the last bomb has fallen because of residual radiation. The small amount at that time would probably not sicken us immediately but continued low exposure would cause leukemia and other cancers (as does overexposure to x-rays and sun now) and through gene-damage cause physical and mental damage to our children. In addition it would materially shorten our lives. It has been proven that radiation, even the small amount we get today does shorten our lives now. This is done, it is surmised, by knocking part (the reconstruction memory) off the cell's DNA chain. This results in replacement of failing cells with less than "original quality" replacement parts.

In any case, one can live quite comfortably in the hottest desert land in a smial. The desert cools rapidly when the sun's direct rays are gone and will not heat up until the middle of the next morning. In the heat of the day the modern hobbit would stay in his smial. The smial, because of its construction and location one is comparatively safe against fire, flood, windstorm, fallout (it should have 10 feet of soil between it and the surface), vandalism, and thieves. If found by thieves, and this is not too easy since nothing shows as in an aboveground home, it may be robbed but it cannot be easily burnt nor torn up. It is also a less obvious tax object.

The smial may be built of many materials. Commercially built, and you wouldn't believe how popular this type of home is becoming, it could cost \$375,000 or more. It can have an underground swimming pool and greenhouse. But a smial can be built for a few hundred, or much less if you are a good scrounger. Labor is the big thing and none of it is too technical.

The preferred material is reinforced concrete. Commercial concrete sewer pipe can be bought (damaged, it is very cheap) in diameters of 1' to 18' or more. It is generally as long as it is wide. A 4' diameter x 4' length piece can be used for tunnels or storerooms or closets. A 10' can be used as a room with a wood floor part way up and the under space used as storage. Half an 18' can be a room 9' high at the center and 18' x 18'.

If you preferred to make your own, forms could be constructed of bent pipes lined with ¼" plywood. Set a larger form over a smaller and fill the space with stones, wire cloth, and iron bars



and wet it all down and pour in cement. When it sets, remove the forms. Any design could be used; one level, split level, multi-level. The limits of the imagination are the only limits.

Concrete pipe can be used for tunneling by digging in 2' and placing a 4' diameter pipe in the hole. Continue digging and using a bar to level the pipe further into the hole as you dig so no more than 2' of tunnel is unguarded. The hole should be just slightly bigger than the o.d. of the pipe. When the first pipe is all the way into the hole set a second, etc. and keep them not more than a foot or two apart, so a cave-in wouldn't cover you. This must be done in fairly solid soil or it will fall prematurely and you'll have a problem moving your pipes. Probably the dry season is best. The earth should be packed into the spaces around the pipes as you finish-fill. The pipes could also be tarred on the outside.

Construction could also be standard mine timbering and shoring, or of 2x4 or 4x4 or even 1x, with plywood or corrugated plastic sheet fastened to the outside and plastic (6 mil) sheet could be draped over the outside of all. Or a hole could be dug, the smial built, and dirt dumped back over. A covering of plastic sheet over all would eliminate leaks and help keep all dry.

The floor may be planked, or concrete, or clean gravel. Shelves, etc. can be built against that besides or attached with dowels in drilled holes, power-inserted mounts or modern glues...Everything possible should be stainless, rust & rot proof, etc. as they should be in any case for durability and long-lasting.

A heavily filtered pipe can lead to the inmost room or rooms, the intake in the front room and powered by a low current DC fan operated by an auto battery. This can be constantly recharged by a solar cell arrangement or an auto generator powered by a small propeller mounted on a pole. It must be waterproofed and governed. Most any appliance can be worked the same way. A "line in the sky" is a dead giveaway. You can use butane lamps with a trailer tank for several months supply or use kerosene lamps. The Aladdin lamp is much better than the old-fashioned type and Tilly in England makes a very good pressure kero lamp, much better than the American models like codeman. A swimming tank 5' wide, 50' long and 5' deep in the center can be made of concrete if you must have one (or even of draped plastic sheet). Use your imagination and your muscle in place of the cash you don't have. Whatever type of shoring you use, never dig under an unsupported roof. It could collapse and bury you. Use temporary, oversize sawhorses and sheets of heavy plywood or 2" boards over you if nothing else, then take them apart and use in building later. Plant things above the cave to stabilize the soil. The roots will help tie it together. Narrow tunnels are safer than wide. Radiation moves only in a straight line so a right angle turn and 10' of soil will stop it. A good book on mining and shoring is von Bernewitz. A heavy pipe (preferably bent in a half circle) frame can also be used with 3/8 plywood (1, 2, or 3 layers) or 1" board bolted to pipe and covered with plastic sheet can be used. Also cut trees should be free, or scrap wood or old railroad ties sell cheap, but remember, 10' of dirt is heavy.

Storage can be in smaller sewer tile. Put saran wrap around flared end and fill 2" of cement, with a dowel or nylon rope handle, to form a lid. Turn pipe over and fill another end 2" cement for bottom. Bury, fill with food in plastic bags (maybe dry ice or wet carbide for inert atmosphere), put on lid (maybe thing rubber as sealer), lay plastic sheet over and find...remember where you put it...or mold handholds into lid cement. A small hand type pipe bender can be rented. A couple pipes together could store long-handle too. Teepee style, triangular shoring could even be used to give a upside-down V tunnel.

Lexan, aGE plastic glass is 250x tougher than glass and will stop a 45 bullet so it could be fine for smial windows. (from Paul Doerr, PIONEER)

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## OVERVIEWS

To Vonu Life:

I have enclosed material which I believe will be of interest to you and to many of your readers. The booklet (titled The Quiet Reality: Onrushing Nuclear War) contains my analysis of the dynamics of the American welfare state. If you would like to review it you have my permission to quote brief passages for that purpose.

My conclusion, and a careful review of the information available to the public, is that political considerations have become predominant in the military decision-making process. Persons in positions of political power in the United States owe their success to the policy of buying votes with other people's money – i.e., to “welfare.” Through long years of practice, they have come to habitually avoid lines of thought which lead to the conclusion that welfare spending should be reduced. Now their resistance to such arguments is automatic. They are psychologically incapable of sustaining their objectivity long enough to reach the conclusion, for example, that U.S. spending on strategic weapons systems ought to be increased. Unless they are actually forcing themselves to focus on arguments that lead in that direction, they will be automatically carping, splitting hairs, and picking fault. Arguments that military spending ought to be reduced, on the other hand, are accepted totally uncritically. The reason: they want to spend the money which U.S. survival would require to buy votes.

Such a publication is relevant to Vonu Life because it leads to the conclusion, which is stated explicitly in section 7 of the booklet, that less than 500,000 people will be able to survive in this country in the conditions that will result after this country has sustained a nuclear attack. This is the approximate number of Indians that this country was able to support at a comparable level of existence prior to the coming of the white man. When this country's technological base has been destroyed – as will be the case with the type of attack which we face – the survivors will be those who are able to survive at such a level long enough to get through the initial 6 months to 1 year of chaos, disease, and widespread starvation. At the end of that period, if a community of persons has survived which is dedicated to the philosophy of individual freedom (which you refer to as “live and let live”), then we can begin the long road back. Let me stress, however, that a community whose members share these values is absolutely essential to the achievement of this end. However good you may be at living in the woods with one or two people under present conditions, you would not have a chance under the conditions which will hold during the immediate postwar period. You will then have thousands of competitors for territory (and territory, under such conditions, is life itself). They will be faced with starvation. It will be you or them. Without organization, you will have to be totally ruthless and extremely lucky to survive. And that assumes that you got through the short term dangers of fallout and biological contaminants. To do so you would have to be far from major target areas, probably have a fallout shelter complete with air filtration equipment, radiation counters, etc. In addition, you will have to deal with thousands of starving dogs. There are approximately 50 million dogs in this country. Ten to 15 million are large animals. When man stops supplying food, they will aggregate into packs and pull down whatever prey they can catch. Human beings will be, needless to say, the easiest to bring down.

Our only hope, as I see it, is to aggregate together in one or more communities in extremely remote areas of this (or, perhaps, some other) country, stockpile food and other necessary items (keeping in mind the urgent need to be capable of self-defense), and be able to sit out the extreme dangers of the immediate postwar period. When things have died down (literally!), we can pack up and migrate to an area better suited to permanent habitation. For reasons which I make clear in the booklet, you won't have to worry about the “bludg” at this point (either the American or the Soviet variety). Some fighting may be necessary, but in all likelihood we will face only isolated gangs of marauders. They will not be representatives of a giant social organism which spans the entire continent, as is the case today. Hence they can be dealt with on their own terms.

Since the community concept is absolutely essential to survival under such conditions, ownership of land is also absolutely essential. Two or three people can wander off into the woods and live for long periods without detection. But if a couple of thousand persons (and this is what we need) gravitates to a particular area, however remote, they are going to attract attention. This is true whether they are on government land or on someone else's privacy property. Such persons must own the land they are squatting on if they are to be left alone.

The community which I have in mind is as follows. I envision purchasing several thousand acres of land in a remote area of the U.S. If this project attracts enough support among persons wishing to leave the U.S., we can set up additional communities elsewhere.) Applicants will be closely screened. Only laissez-faire libertarians who believe in the principle of collective self-defense will be welcome. To my mind, the turn-the-other-cheek variety of libertarian might as

well be on the government's payroll. He preaches the doctrine of submission and thereby undercuts every positive value which he holds. I do not want such people. Nor do I want conservatives of the bible-pounding variety. Such persons labor under such high dosages of group values that I would feel that I could trust them only when I had a gun on them. Under the conditions which we face it will not be expedient to have the enemy in our midst. At any rate, parcels of land will be leased in perpetuity to acceptable applicants upon the payment of a single lump sum amount, which will amount to a purchase price. The only periodic payment which the land will require will be each individual leasee's share of any taxes which may be levied against the land in the prewar environment. In addition, the leasee will be eligible to subscribe unoccupied, such as when he is temporary working in the bludg community. This service would consist of daily checks by armed riders to ensure that the subscriber's food stock or other valuables were not being carted off by thieves or damaged by roaming animals. The fee for this service would be kept as low as possible. Hopefully members of the community would be willing to accept such jobs. (Note: Some of the details of the legal aspects of this plan need to be worked out. I am sure that the regulations which pertain to such arrangements vary from state to state. The purpose of the lease concept is to avoid being harassed by multitudes of regulations which crop up in some states when parcels of land are "sold." This is not merely to save me trouble: as an "owner," you would in some instances find that you couldn't live even approximately according to your tastes on your land. If, of course, it turns out to be advantageous to "sell" parcels, this will be done. Any suggestions in this area, or any other, will be greatly appreciated. Criticism, quite frankly, will be appreciated much more than statements of agreement. I am not the least bit thin-skinned. I prefer to catch my mistakes before I have based actions on them.) It is my intention that each member have a relatively large parcel of his own – several acres, hopefully. As I have said, the primary consideration in selecting such land will not be the desirability of such areas for permanent living. Such habitation will be possible, but on a "roughing it" basis. It will, of course, be as good as can be, considering the primary goals of remoteness from major targets, and fallout areas. A primary consideration will be cheapness of price. Many of the persons whom it would be most desirable to have in such a community would have trouble scraping together more than a few hundred dollars. Many would have to obtain temporary work in the silly society to manage even that. I am shooting for a sale or "in perpetuity" lease price of less than \$200 per acre. In fact, I am presently engaged in negotiations for a large parcel which I believe will meet such conditions. It is in a "high desert" area. Subsurface water is available in the 10-50 gallons per minute range. (Those who cannot afford to sink their own wells can pool their resources in joint ventures. A 200 foot wall complete with a windmill would set you back about \$2000.) Rainfall averages about 16 inches per year.

Living in such an area is rough. However, I am convinced that it can be accomplished in reasonable comfort at small cost by persons who employ ingenuity. Aluminum rods, for example, might be driven into the ground to provide a frame over which to stretch a polyethylene plastic covering. The result would be a desert hothouse. Within such a structure, evaporation should be very low. It thus should be possible to irrigate and raise good crops even with a meager water flow of ten gallons per minute. Naturally, the number of such hothouses could be multiplied up the limits of the available topsoil on your parcel. Another desirable attribute of this location is the availability of game. Considerable trekking would be required of a hunter, as this is a desert area. But deer, mountain lion, javelin, black bear, rabbits, and pronghorn antelope are found in the area.

But that's enough. I could talk on and on about this project. If any of your readers are interested in further information, they can write to Mitchell Jones. (Those who would like a copy of *The Quiet Reality: Crushing Nuclear War* may obtain a copy at a special discount price of \$1.45 if they mention that they saw this letter in VonuLife. The regular price is \$1.95.)

With best wishes and regards.

Sincerely,  
Mitchell Jones

THE QUIET REALITY: CRUSHING NUCLEAR WAR is approximately 10,000 words. A few quotes follow:

"The result, in the near future, will be nuclear war. A year or two at the most. That's all we have.

"The most likely sequence of events during and after a Soviet first strike would seem to be as follows:

(1) SS-9 missiles will destroy most – probably around 1000 – Minutemen on the ground. Thus there will be clusters of ground-level 5-megaton thermonuclear explosives in the immediate vicinities of our Minutemen bases. Enormous quantities of earth and rock – millions of tons – will be scooped up, made radioactive, and injected into the atmosphere. From there it will be carried by the prevailing winds for an indefinite distance, until it settles to the earth as fallout, with the heavier particles settling out first. Areas downwind of the target areas will be rendered uninhabitable for varying lengths of time, depending upon the chemical compositions of the soils and rocks which are lifted up.

(2) Submarine-launched ballistic missiles will carry thermonuclear warheads to all areas housing either Polaris submarine bases or SAC bases. This should add from 50 to 100 thermonuclear explosions of approximately 1 megaton in site to the already awesome total.

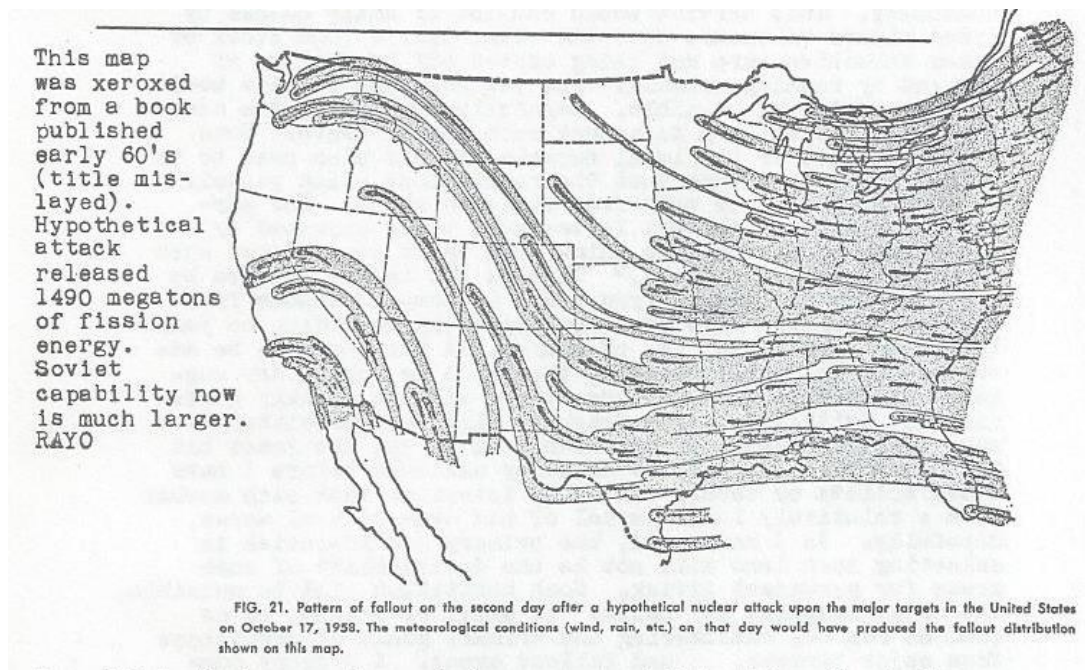
(3) The Soviet Union's remaining 1000-plus conventional ICBM's will destroy every major source of electric power, every major refinery, and every major rail or highway junction in the U.S.

(4) The remainder of the attack force – 1000 or so sea-launched ballistic missiles – will incinerate all major U.S. military bases and major cities which have escaped other weapons...

"Now, the reader will note that no mention is made of the Red Army, Soviet occupation, or any form of the Soviet involvement in the U.S. after a nuclear strike. There are three reasons for this:

(1) The Red Army is not equipped to occupy the United States. The necessary troop transport and logistical support simply is not available.

(2) The Red Army will have its hands full closer to home. There would be no point in occupying a devastated and distant United States when modern, industrial nations such as Japan, Israel, and South Africa have not been dealt with. Any one of these nations could achieve an atomic capability in short order if not dealt with quickly..."



Dear Mitchell Jones:

I am glad you are not thin-skinned! I disagree on various points, including your 'national defense' recommendations, but will limit myself to items directly relevant to your project.

REGARDING THE FUTURE: I would like to believe your assurance that we won't have to worry about bludg. But I hesitate to base my plans on a single scenario. Other scenarios which can be predicated on your information:

(1) The Soviet bludg launch missiles against Minutemen sites, Polaris subs and SAC bases, but avoid population centers. They then deliver an ultimatum via 'hot line' to American bludg: "If you abstain from retaliation and accept a few 'conditions', we will spare your cities." (If the American bludg launch, the Soviets will detect this on radar and have 15 minutes to launch additional ICBM's before American missiles land.) The American bludg accept. Gradually the U.S. become a Soviet satellite – gradually so that American bludg are never faced with a sudden loss of power.

(2) An all-out attack is made but weapons and crews are unreliable under pressure of war and a large percentage fail to launch, miss widely, or fail to explode. (Strategic weapons have not been tested in reliability – 'good news' travels up the chain-of-command in a bureaucracy much more easily than does 'bad news'.) There is heavy destruction but not 'social disintegration'. Although half the people are killed, 'the nation' survives – under a military dictatorship. Livestock and poultry are slaughtered, and feeds are diverted to human consumption, averting large-scale famine.

The Soviet bludg do not attack, for reasons of their own. (The USSR apparently had a comparable weapons superiority in the early 60's.)

I'm not arguing for one scenario over another. Actually I find your forecast disconcertingly plausible. But I recommend considering a number of different scenarios and evaluations possible lifestyles with respect to all of them (weighted by probability).

REGARDING OUR SURVIVAL: Surprise nuclear attack is one of the possibilities we considered when choosing Siskiyou region. Heavy fallout is unlikely. And our immediate area is not only remote from population centers but attracts relatively few tourists. (When people 'head for the hills', they usually head for hills they are already acquainted with.)

We are already living, near full-time, in the area and (largely) in the way we would live after a nuclear attack. We 'know the territory' much better than will almost all refugees – a big advantage. And refugees will tend to rely on 'conventional' camping techniques they have used on vacations or read about: put up a tent in a clearing or build a log cabin; keep a fire going; chop wood which makes a lot of noise, etc. For us, in contrast, concealment is an integral part of our lifestyle. We will usually know where they are; they won't know where we are.

Following an attack we will hole up and eat stored foods, not forage or hunt. This way we not only avoid ingestion of fallout but minimize contact with outsiders.

REGARDING YOUR PROJECT: While one or two experienced people with food supplies (in 'our woods') have good SHORT-term survival chances. LONG-term prospects are not so good. We, too, would like to associate with more people. But only with people who are serious about freedom/survival – who place a high value on vonu and will put forth sustained effort to achieve/maintain it. And such people cannot be identified by what they say, only by what they do. It's not a question of sincerity. A person simply cannot know how he will react to a new way of living – how he will behave, and change.

Previously compatible people may react to a change of lifestyle in different ways, and become incompatible. This has been the experience of many Intentional Communities – even of groups who have lived together for years. Marriages often break up. I don't think that interviews or personality tests will predict such problems.

I think the way to develop durable vonu groups is: (1) opt out alone; (2) maintain relative mobility; (3) gradually come together with others and discover ways to associate to mutual advantage.

Even one or two experienced people have far better survival prospects living in a wilderness than they do sitting in an apartment in New York or Austin, Texas 'waiting to get organized. (This is not intended as a personal chop – I have no idea what your present lifestyle is.)

Since you plan on migration to a more desirable area after 'die down', why try to get everyone together before then? As you point out, a thousand people is too many to hide (with present techniques). Yet it's too few for open defense against some city-kingdom. And, with large food stocks, you will be an attractive target. Mighten it be wiser to hide out during 'die down' – by ones and twos, or dozens, as the case may be – and come together afterwards?

Finally, even if a large community were desirable, one or two years is not enough time to develop it.

Rather than trying to organize a large community, might you not accomplish more by providing survival information and training to individuals and small groups (after you have arranged for your own survival)? For examples: What areas are least likely to receive heavy fallout, assuming a probably range of attack strategies and weather conditions? How much fallout should be expected? What are sources for simple low-cost air-filtration equipment, radiation detectors, etc. (Olson Electronics, Akron, Ohio, also stores here and there, had surplus 'Civil Defense' detectors for \$10 plus shipping; requires 22 ½ volt battery costing about \$3.) When is the most likely period of attack? Late spring or early Summer when daylight hours are long at Leningrad-Moscow latitudes? Are there any up-to-date survival manuals on nuclear war? (What literature we have is ten years old or more.) Are there any worthwhile civil defense periodicals? I'll be happy to publish this kind of information in VONU LIFE. Peace through vonu, –RAYO

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To "Rayo":

I'll try to keep these remarks as brief as possible, as per your request. But don't feel obligated to print them if they are too long to suit you. Having the last word is the editor's prerogative.

First, let me take your alternative scenarios in order:

(1) This seems to merge the attributes of what are really two quite distinct lines of development. That is: (1a) The Soviets wipe out our military while carefully voiding bringing about social disintegration in the U.S. My answer: They would not do this because they will not be able to spare the 5 million troops that will then be required to occupy the U.S. (1b) The Soviets lob over a few missiles in hopes of panicking U.S. politicians into a surrender. My answer: They would not risk the possibility that Nixon (or his successor) would launch a massive defensive counterstroke, which would overwhelm their defenses.

(2) You theorize that the Soviet leaders probably have an inflated view of the capabilities of their own weapons systems, and that they may discover that their attack fails even to bring about social disintegration in the U.S. Your logic is excellent – brilliant, even. But in this case the facts are that the Soviet leaders have an exact idea of the capabilities of their weapons, due to extensive and ongoing testing. Their ICBMS's have been silo tested against fail-range targets hundreds of times.

(3) The Soviets do not attack, due to some unspecified inconsistency in their characters. Your evidence: That the Soviet Union had military superiority in the early 60's but did not use it. My answer: You are probably referring to the "missile gap" era in the late 50s (the post-sputnik years). This was a missile gap, not a military gap. The U.S., due to LeMay's B-52's, enjoyed overwhelming strategic military superiority during this period. This edge was retained until late in the '60s.

Which leaves only the issue of how to prepare for the postwar world. We appear to be not too far apart in our assessment of the long-range survival prospects of isolated individuals or couples. You may accept the desirability of setting up some sort of group. You say: Why not agree upon a meeting place and aggregate together after the "die down" (your usage, my phrase) is over? My answer: Individuals and small groups can travel long distances in relative safety before the fact. After the fact, large groups and almost military organization will be required. Bushwhackers and robbers will be a dime a dozen.

MITCHELL JONES

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Dear VL:



I find that I am basically in sympathy with the views expressed in this publication. It's easy to see the many advantages of invisibility. However, I don't believe that this is equivalent to invulnerability. "Out of sight, out of mind" may be true, but the fact is that the Monster may still crush us inadvertently anyhow as it shifts. One can retreat from "civilization" physically or psychologically, drop out of sight or whatever, but as long as one's life is dominated by flight and hiding, how can one be truly autonomous?

Most of the contributors seem to be elements of the "back to the Land" movement, with which I heartily agree. In fact, I'm planning to move out someplace in the California wilderness as soon as I can. However, mass diffusion into remote areas, with only infrequent incursions into the Monster's cities, is no permanent solution, it seems to me. Even if this exodus escapes the Monster's attention, it will still find us eventually, even if only inadvertently, as it seeks Lebensraum for its exploding population. Besides, pretty soon all these would-be vonuans will be bumping shoulders with each other, too. It may be that less than 6% or even 2%, of the land in this country is occupied, whatever that means, as you said in VL2. However, if you've read Eco-Catastrophe, and I'm sure you have, you know that it won't take too much longer for the Monster to gobble up the remaining 98% or whatever, at constant population density. Consequently, though we may briefly enjoy the bliss of vonu, it can't last as long as we merely retreat and curtail our wants. Eventually, we will literally have to stand our ground, and undoubtedly some sort of unified, mass movement will have to develop. Once again, we're talking about liberation.

Meanwhile, we ought to fight a holding action by supporting ZPG, even though it might go against your principles to support such a liberal organization. In fact, it almost seems to me to be a logical corollary of your starting position. At least we ought to contribute to the dissemination of birth-control propaganda among the sheep masses. It's all right for vonuans to "be fruitful and multiply," as long as the overall increase remains small. In fact, it might be possible for us to win out in the end, not only by conversion and immediate inspiration, but also by differential fecundity, as the Muslims once hoped to do.

I agree that it is practical freedom, vonu, or whatever you wish to call it, that is important. Furthermore, I'm aware that there is still room for considerably more of it than most sheep can imagine, if one simply plays it cool. The pig is not yet ubiquitous. However, I cannot share the sanguine prediction of Natalee Hall, a review of whose book, The Year 2000, was reprinted in VL3. This prediction is too favorable to your position. However, I must concede the accuracy of your economic prognosis. But, as state control breaks down, the state will become increasingly violent and repressive – as we are currently witnessing.

What can we do about this coming maelstrom? I don't know. However, I suggest that it is important to think about it, while there is still time to act. But I believe that you've been largely ignoring this issue. We can't retreat indefinitely.

By the way, you might be interested to know that a psychologist would undoubtedly diagnose vonuism such as a schizophrenic syndrome – infinite renunciation, yearning for a simpler life, the urge to simplify all relationship of life; all these are classical symptoms of simple schizophrenia. Not that I've give two cents for that diagnosis, or any other, for that matter; but I thought might be interested to know.

Oh, well, peace and love,  
DAVE in southern California

(Silence does not necessarily imply agreement. Answer next issue. –RAYO)

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Hi,

What more "formal" education is needed than a good base in the three R's (readin, ritin, rithmatic)? If you have a good base in these you can teach yourself anything. VL is the best zine I've seen and it improves with each issue. Is it the only one on vonu subjects? No other zines, articles, etc.? I'll trade Pioneer for any other zine on vonu or similar subjects, or maybe even money. A book THE GYPSIES is a book on the gypsies and way of vonuing.

Some say children form their personalities, etc. during their first year or two. In which case, the earlier to escape, the better.

I see another problem becoming greater daily...the social security number...already on all government forms, job records...the main file number in big brother's IBM super cop file in the white father's fortress. I've seen proposals to tattoo it on so big brother will be better able to identify his property. Also fingerprints are almost universal...Perhaps a group would be interested in Costa Rica, as in VL3?

You can get a PO Box in another town with fake ID...they don't really check usually...and pay yearly by PO Money Order and so never see them...only pickup mail after they close the desks. Also a bank account...only couple bucks needed...for cover...use PO Box for address.

Did I mention plastering your truck with travel stickers?

An artificial language could be made with the ancient runes as used by Tolkien in his Hobbit and Lord of the Rings stories or even with the cursive form he used also. This would have the advantage of appearing to be a kids or science fiction club thing...much could be done with a LOTR or hobbit club (a shire) cover that would attract attention if not done with such a cover. This is very popular now.

If you can build up a false identity, with PO Box, bank account, etc., you can register your truck, etc. at that name and address, so no possibility of a midnight knock, court ordered confiscation, heavy tax (since nothing else owned), insurance bills or even court suit if you did have trouble. You could always abandon the identity and track if necessary so get a cheap old model and do minimum needed fixing. Maybe a vonuan mechanic would do work on barter or? Basis? Truck motors are usually more dependable than auto anyway. Use as address a burn or unbuilt house. Where could blank social security cards be obtained?

If you have your car repaired, watch out for Union 76 stations. I paid over \$100 for our repairs including brake work. It failed on the freeway ten minutes after leaving the station (Fairfield) and I didn't get money back. The owner told me to get when I went back. The Union Oil company said they were not responsible for anything in the stations.

I've always said paperback books were overpriced so, in the paper today is Yippie Abbie Hoffman's trial...they sell at \$1.95...they cost Hoffman \$.17 including mailing. Some of the anti-establishment types don't seem to be anti when money is concerned. Just like the politician hearts bleeding for their poor, downtrodden brothers.

Did I mention...I'll pay anyone to find me a real hidden piece of land cheap...enough level for a garden...place to get a truck into it...or a cave or old mine...the right kind of visitors will be welcome...

I see even the government now admits at least a hundred (100) pounds of DDT (alone, plus how much other) in each acre of topsoil in commercial orchards, farms, pastures, etc. England rejects us wheat because it is over the test limit of strontium 90, but US government says that test is for other things and should not be used on wheat, like the health department says any amount of fluorine is unhealthy and over 1% is deadly (but not immediately), yet the government puts 1% in water as a health aid. Fluorine also said to damage brain...

Consider growing quinoa...weedlike tree...looks like nothing much...ten feet high...said to be good for only jelly...bush really...tastes like pineapple...try it for your hidden garden...also Chinese (New Zealand) Gooseberry a lazy type tree.

Government has free books on grafting...plant seedlings of fruits, nuts, shrubs & perennial plants in your camper...seeds can be started in damp paper or eggshells of direct & Then plan either plant in hidden squat spots as seedlings or graft then plant...look among tree type for least obvious types and plant those in woods (also healthiest, most let alone) for a steady supply of food in years to come.

Reed Taylor, Doomsday Book and Pendleton, 1998 Population Doomsday for some very interesting writing and some frightening facts.

Enjoy,  
Paul Doerr

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A smudge which may appear down the middle of Paul's letter is the editor's fault.

I know of no other predominantly vonuist periodicals (whether or not under that label). Some which contain articles on vonu and self-liberation, along with other stuff, are MOTHER EARTH NEWS, LIBERTARIAN CONNECTION, OTHER SCENES, ACCESS CATALOG, and your PIONEER. (See 'ads' in this or past issues of VL for addresses and prices.) Regarding SS cards see "Services for Nomads", elsewhere this issue. –RAYO

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Dear Doctor: We no longer carry Sno-Treads (plastic snowshoes) in our catalog because they break quite easily. Although they are guaranteed, this is of little consolation when one is miles from the nearest road.

Therefore we cannot in good faith sell them until they have been improved. –BOB BRUCE, Holubar.

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### **Opting Out – Vonu Economic Strategies**

We encounter vonuists who are succeeding, also some who aren't. A few of the latter may be drifters or dilettantes. But most are sincere, capable strivers who fail, not for lack of ability or hard work, but through errors of strategy.

Some of these errors delayed Rayo's own vonu. The following suggestions apply mainly to wilderness ways of vonu under present conditions. Of course they are generalities – there are exceptions. You probably already "know" most of these – i.e., consciously agree with them. But they may be useful as a check of your subconscious values which show up in performance. Values often lag conscious conclusions.

**Be as vonu as you can.** Vonu is not an all-or-nothing thing. There is no way to be **completely** invulnerable to coercion. But this doesn't justify giving up and "adjusting" to depredation, any more than lack of complete invulnerability to disease justifies neglecting health. Select approaches which yield maximum vonu per time and resources expended.

**Vonu your home first.** "Domestic" activities – sleeping, eating, cleaning, grooming, mending, reading, writing, listening to music, lovemaking, meditating, exercising, conversing, child care, etc. – comprise most of one's life. A vonu home seems essential for psychological wellbeing. And domestic activities are relatively easy to vonu; they do not require elaborate equipment or deep involvement with outsiders.

In contrast, earning money takes up only a relatively small part of one's life. At \$2 per hour clear, 300 hours of city labor – one month with overtime – will pay for eight months of vonu living. And earning money usually requires export – difficult to accomplish without interference. So vonu should begin at home.

Most non-vonu homes and even entire cities are only "bedroom" communities; residents do not earn their money there. Most new towns begin this way. While it is nice for a vonu home to be financially productive, this isn't essential.

**Have savings before moving.** During your first year or two in a wilderness or other vonu environment, expect to be occupied developing shelter and learning vonu-living skills. You will have little time for money earning even if opportunities are at hand. Suggested minimum savings for prospective tent dwellers: \$2000 for one person, \$1200 each additional person in family. These amounts include: initial equipment costs of \$800 for one person, \$400 for each additional person; per year expenses for two years of \$600 for one person, \$400 for each additional person.

\$600 or \$400 per year assumes: mostly staple foods; no rent except for maybe a storage garage; little driving; relatively few luxuries, food fetishes or status games. Some vonuans live on much less, but don't count on doing so during your first two years. Our total expenses (of two people, for two years ending autumn 1971) averaged \$622 per year per person, including substantial equipment costs and business expenses, which, unfortunately, we didn't record separately. We lived about 7 months in tents, the rest of the time in the van. Van was bought before record period.

**Earn money by exporting labor at first.** Don't expect to earn money immediately gathering herbs or dredging gold if you have time left from home development. What opportunities are there may be for wilderness income require considerable skills to pay off. Scrounging for jobs in a small town is a bad scene. Get jobs in cities (if that is what you have done); preferably temporary

employment which fits your living patterns. If you have a freemate or children, let them remain at your vonu home while you “commute” weekly or seasonally. Why subject them to bludg, smog and chance of nuclear incineration?

**Don’t change vocations** until you achieve a vonu home. If you can clear \$2 or more per hour in your present (non-vonu) job, you will probably achieve vonu quickest by staying with it until you have enough capital to cut loose for two years. Don’t spend time getting into a slightly better non-vonu occupation still dependent on that society if you expect to live most of your life out of that society. A do-at-home vocation such as freelance writing or mail-order selling is best developed after you have a vonu home.

**Be wary of get-rich-easy schemes.** “If he’s so smart, why ain’t he already rich? If he is rich, why does he want my pocket change?” Not all such schemes are conscious swindles; many a promoter sincerely believes he has found a unique way to financial independence. But, unless he is already affluent, you don’t know that it worked. Even if it worked for him it may not for you – opportunities change. But even if you could make it work, it probably requires heavy psycho-investment/involvement with the coerced economy; more than would a work-a-day job.

**Live frugally** while in the coerced economy. It saddens us to meet would-be vonuans who, after working ten years at a well-paying job, don’t have savings enough to opt out for even six months. Tactics for saving: Make a “crash” program of it – save a high proportion of income for a short time. Take savings off the top – a certain percentage of income – and live on what is left. Concentrate on big or continuing expenses – usually shelter, transportation and food, but also be careful that “small luxuries” don’t get big. Double up with others to save rent. Drive little. See “Foods for Storage – Some Preliminary Suggestions” for food economy tips.

Make part of your monetary savings untouchable until required capital is accumulated. Don’t rationalize that such-and-such item is really preparation for vonu (unless you already have much experience in your intended life-style and know exactly what equipment and supplies you will need). Start outfitting at a local dump (discarded blankets, clothes, utensils), then try Salvation Army Stores, etc. You can gradually replace with better equipment after you are vonu, as you learn what you really need.

**Keep money in simple, safe forms.** If your savings are small and short-term (under \$2000, under two years) the best form for North Americans (all factors considered including ease of conversion) is probably U.S. or Canadian \$20 bills well-hidden in several places. Currency will suffer inflation losses but, for small amounts, any other form is apt to be more trouble than it is worth.

For a larger amount or a longer time, investigate gold and silver (bars, or coins priced at close to metal value only), Swiss banks, etc. Avoid savings bonds or savings accounts in U.S. institutions. Don’t speculate in stocks, real-estate, commodities, rare coins, etc. (unless you are already a full-time professional at one of these).

**Seek vonu, not self-sufficiency** per se. A few vonuans cannot live in complete, permanent isolation without many years, perhaps generations of learning. And “primitivism,” even if achieved, would result in increasing vulnerability as aggressor’s technology and methods change.

A vonu association of a few dozen to a few hundred will likely be only a little more self-sufficient than one family. A remote (non-vonu) town of this size probably has a welder, dairy, nurse – maybe even a small machine shop. But most goods and many services are more economical to import than to produce there. Even in a country of 100,000 people, such as Bahama, most items are imported. The major advantage of a vonu association compared to a lone family: easier/better import-export.

Some people talk of developing a “parallel economy” producing all essential supplies and spare parts, before concerning themselves much with physical invulnerability. But this supposes involvement of millions of people. And what would a non-vonu alternate economy be, anyway? An enterprise vulnerable to the State must operate under State rules. This, not the rhetoric of its founders, will determine the way it operates, assuming it is a “success.” Function determines form. A real alternate economy requires vonu (though not necessarily wilderness forms exclusively).

A vonuan can minimize dependence upon the coerced economy by stockpiling essentials. But he cannot achieve complete invulnerability. Again, vonu is not an all-or-nothing thing.

**Select companions who are doing.** If you link up with others, be it a single freemate or a number of associates, look for people who are already living in large part as they want to live. Of course a life-style isn't static – a couple may go further into vonu than would a single person. But this should be evolutionary growth from present living patterns, not a quantum jump. (Quantum jumps are often desirable but are best attempted alone.)

Many a man will say, and sincerely believe, that he wants to vonu just as soon as he finds “the right woman” or “the right group” to do it with, but he doesn't want to do it alone. However, how do you (and he) know that he can do it, until he does it for a substantial time? If he can't stand living alone – if he soon gets bored with himself – chances are he will soon get bored with you, too. So suggest that he do it alone for a year or so before trying to link up.

Long unspectacular living in relative isolation is more significant than an occasional Great Adventure such as sailing a yacht around Cape Horn or scaling 25,000-foot Mt. Fuchiguchi. Some (not all) Great Adventurers are unable to stimulate themselves and structure their own time – get bored easily. Also be skeptical of the guy who says he “has done it all,” but is living conventionally. Why did he quit?

An important exception: There are presently more male than female vonuans (though the ratio is not as large as talk would indicate; relatively fewer girls are bullshitters). So if you are a woman, you can be a buyer in a buyer's market. You can quickly achieve vonu, even though you lack the capital and experience, by finding a man with these. In this case, it's especially important that your prospective freemate offer proven capability, not just dreams and schemes.

Don't feel that you should provide half the capital or income; you offer your own values and talents (and not just erotic ones). By analogy, silver has no more uses than aluminum, but it has different ones and it is scarcer, so it doesn't exchange for aluminum one-for-one. Why should you? Most women adapt easier to vonu living than do most men, perhaps because they are more self-sufficient psychologically; their self-esteem depends more on personal and home activities, less upon a “career” involved with that society.

**Stay relatively mobile** so you can respond to emerging opportunities or link up with others. Own only what you can move easily or abandon without regret. Avoid large, elaborate dens, at least for the first few years. We can move our base camp and all equipment (except long-term supply caches) in six weeks, which includes three weeks for exploration and preparation of a new site plus three weeks for transport of up to 1000 pounds – by backpack to roadhead, by truck to new roadhead, by backpack to new site.

**\*Second thoughts:** Reading this, I'm not entirely satisfied with my treatment of export, especially the second, fourth and fifth topics. Regardless of proportion of time spent, some will value vonu in export more than vonu at home. So let's concentrate on what we value most – succeed at our own thing – and trade; then we'll always have more vonu everywhere.

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### WILD WAYS

Just stumbled onto something (I think). Put a couple seedheads (umbels, turned brown) into a cup with a small pinch of cayenne pepper (capsicum) and a teaspoon of sugar; pour it full of boiling water. It sure lit the firs in the old boiler in a hurry.. Cleared nasal passages of “et cetera, et cetera” and a couple more “et cetera”. Here could be an instantaneous recovery from fatigue or melancholia. The seeds were of yampah or year-peh, Garumgairdneri – (ipo) – Carum oreganum.

DESCRIPTION: white, roots fusiform, clustered; fleshy, edible; stems erect; simple or branching above; slender, leave few; small; pinnate to bi-pinnate, leaflets linear or lancelet, umbels hemispheric; 8 to 14 rayed involucre and involucels of linear bracts, petals, and stamens five each. Stylopodium conical. Fruit of habitat prairies and swales from low elevation to three or four thousand feet in the mountains. Blooming period May to Sept. (WILD FLOWERS OF PACIFIC COAST, Hashim)

(JOURNALS OF LEWIS AND CLARK)...flavor or root unlike anise seed...palatable fresh roasted, raw, or dried (dried I question unless cooked a long time)...generally between the size of a quill and a man's finger...As anise is more or less a nervine and apio (Spanish, for celery) also a nervine the seeds of yampah are also.

Have been eating lots of mushrooms lately but am an amateur in this field. It would be a good idea to take something along for an emetic when sampling some however I haven't heeded this advice so far.

Recently was in Central Oregon and sampled inner bark of lodgepole pine; found it to be faintly sweet; knob cone probably is also...(Oct. 14, 71).

Don't know if this was mentioned in the last rag chew. But I have discovered a quick way to debitter acorns. Cracked about a cupful, boiled for 15 minutes, added a teaspoonful of soda and let set a few minutes. Poured off water and rinsed again. While slightly astringent, they weren't bitter. Probably less soda and a long boiling time would have brought better results. (Nov. 21) – RAY, Eugene

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We gathered a fair sample of acorns (mostly tanbark oak, not a Quercus) but haven't done much with them yet – haven't had (made?) time. Dr. Gatherer has kept us well supplied with mushrooms – she's an expert at identifying them – not recommended for non-experts. She was also getting quite a few crawfish until the heavy rains/snows came and the creeks became turbid. On four different occasions I had easy shot at deer but didn't have firearm along – left behind to lighten load when packing in supplies. Maybe manana...—RAYO

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#### SERVICES FOR NOMADS

MAIL RECEIVING/FORWARDING: We will do it but we are slow; sometimes very slow (month or more). Not recommended.

We know of three services operated by vonuists. You can contact them through us (they may not want to be advertised openly). One is near Siskiyou, another in SE North America, the other in England,

Still another, NEW EARTH DISPATCHER, which advertises widely, instructs applicants: "...mail us your name and address, social security number, birthdate, former schools, residences, job, etc., anything that will help us identify you, since many people using the dispatcher could have the same name..." I don't suppose they are bludg, but with files full of that kind of information, they are a likely target for bludg. In case this doesn't bother you, their address is: Hiram, Ohio; \$3 per year plus 50¢ per letter from non-members; personal mail only, no magazines or packages.

It's wisest to assume that a non-vonuan will divulge information if questioned by bludg, regardless of how sympathetic and staunch he seems to be. (Third degree wouldn't be necessary, only threat of incarceration for 'contempt of court – especially if he has house, 'position', etc.) To arrange a relatively-vonu forwarding service requires at least two people: The first person receives your mail and puts it in a drop, at a location accessible at all times. The second person, someone very trustworthy AND NOT KNOWN TO THE FIRST, picks up from the drop and re-mails to you. If the first person is also sympathetic, additional safety can be realized by having two drops, the first of which receives only junk mail which is not picked up – this one is for the bludg in event of questioning.

ID: Since some nomads are especially likely to lose their records or have them stolen, the following is worth knowing.

E.C.S., Box 12101, Las Vegas, Nevada, sells various identification cards and blank forms – sends catalog on request. How acceptable these are we don't know. Examples below are printed on parchment paper:

**[IMAGE IS ON  
NEXT PAGE]**





Application blanks for social insecurity card are obtainable at post offices. Application may be made by mail. There is a several week delay before mailing of card, if person is over 19 and applying for the first time (while they check their records to make sure that a number hasn't already been assigned). ECS (above) sells red-white-blue card which has on it picture of eagle, "social security" number and name.

Booklets of rent receipts are obtainable at stationary stores.

For obtaining a library card, a letter, mailed to you at your home address (from anyone), is often required as proof of residence. (Any error in name and address is more easily corrected if the address was originally written in pencil.)

Items which are not, themselves, considered proof of identity, can serve as supporting evidence.

**MOTOR VEHICLES:** People who travel constantly should consider establishing their legal home in a state chosen for convenience, economy, etc.

Oregon is fairly cheap for registration of most vehicles – \$10 per year plus \$2 for initial title. Some counties impose additional registration fee; Multnomah Co., containing Portland, doesn't at present. Registration can be made by mail and plates will be mailed to address other than home address on request (even out of state, at least this was true several years ago). Driver's license, \$5, for two years, requires written, vision, and driving tests – no picture or thumb print. 'Temporary' good for one month is issued at time of test; 'permanent' is mailed to home address. An applicant must provide "written evidence of age and identification" which may consist of "an original or certified copy of a birth certificate; baptismal certificate; official papers issued by a court of record, such as adoption papers; Armed Forces identification card; alien registration card; a life insurance policy; certified copy of an application for a professional or occupational license; certified copy of a school attendance record; Selective Service registration card; or an out-of-state driver's license." "...You must surrender all operators' licenses issued you by other states" which "are returned to the issuing states". Minimum age is 16; parental complications if under 18. Oregon does not require liability insurance for registration, but in the event of a serious accident, the driver must obtain a release from any damaged parties or make a deposit with the state, etc.; otherwise licenses of both driver and owner are suspended.

Someone we know of will provide, for \$20, information and detailed procedures for a state (eastern) in which a vehicle may be registered and driver's license secured without supplying previous title or ID. However registration is expensive for truck, and several months is required to obtain driver's license.

**SERVICES WE ARE SEEKING:** Drops in Los Angeles and Bay areas, such as book/magazine stores, for delivery of VONU LIFE in bulk. We will pay in extra copies, which can be sold.

'Underground' express service along West Coast – perhaps a large van which runs every couple of weeks – message/parcel pickup+delivery; city shopping service; perhaps also a truck

store dealing in staples. Potential customers include the many non-vonu 'freeks' as well as vonuans in areas along highways 5, 101, 199. We would like to move our mailing address to and have our shopping done in a large city, to reduce association with small-town non-vonuans.

Small magazine exchange service, which would receive bundle of copies from each member periodical (sent via United Parcel or as 'books'), and periodically sends each one what it exchanges with. Best location for service is probably Calif. because of United Parcel and of many zines originating there. Advantage for members (small periodicals without second-class mailing permits); save postage and handling. Service could also sell 'library' subscriptions, offering savings over costs of subscribing to each publication separately. -RAYO

## VONULIFE 6, MARCH 1972 (formerly PREFORM-INFORM)

[COMMUNICATION AMONG NOMADS, TROGLODYTES, AND  
OTHER FREEDOM-ACHEIVERS]

VONU LIFE, BOX 458, CAVE JUNCTION, OR

Published every two months by MIKE FREEMAN

### SITUATIONS & SEARCHES

Tom – My situation, nomadic though it be, has stabilized enough so that explaining it will not hinder its further development.

Like the Blue Mountains above the Walla Walla Valley in southeastern Washington State. I have land far up in the hills where I put up my 30' diameter 3-frequency, ½, geodesic dome whenever I plan to stay longer than would be comfortable in the van.

This dome, and other smaller (16', 20', 24' diameter) domes which I have built, are all portable – minimal environmental control devices with camouflage coverings. The smaller ones are “squatted” at spots between Eugene, Oregon and Vancouver, B.C. on private land belonging to like-minded individuals or deep in National Forests. As of this letter, the 16' is outside Bellingham, Wash., the 20' is in the woods...southeast of Seattle on land belonging to a dropout Boeing electronics engineer turned technology freak, and the 24' is on another friend's land southeast of Portland, Oregon.

All these living spaces are made up of structural members and triangle wood pieces small enough in size and number to transport inside and on top of my VW Bus. They were “creatively scavenged” from construction site refuse and dumps; were thus inexpensive and ecologically sane.

I am now beginning to make my living as a teacher-resource person on geodesics, zonohedra, inflatables and shelter in general for the Pacific Northwest. I teach at high schools, free schools (for nothing), state colleges and, when I have time and the situation and people are together, I explain all I know about structures and how different structures can accommodate the varying lifestyle requirements of the people I am talking with.

Besides the above, the future will see me getting more deeply into the sharing of information; moving information around in such a way as to speed up the counter-culture's ability to nurture itself independently of the institutions presently imposing common cultural customs upon us. Among the specific things I intend to involve myself in are (1) alternative media – ½” Sony VTR portapak; (2) alternative economy – credit unions for freeks and others disgusted with “Bank of America” investment policies.

All this began when I was fired from the railroad job I had after service in Vietnam. After reading and thinking about what the necessities of existence were while receiving unemployment checks, I found myself most drawn to shelter/structure and the idea of minimal consumption to use earth's resources as minutely as possible myself while helping other's to find their own personal path out of the consumption-waste-pollution moress.

Si, I would be willing to advice anyone on transportable shelter that need not necessarily be domes and would appreciate correspondence with other structure and information/communication nomads.

Help your brother get it together. –INFOFREEK, c/o Rat

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Rayo – I am an artist doing artwork in the parallel economy – NOTHING in the outside. I am trying to save enough \$\$ for a van as self-sufficient as possible which will enable us to be all the more invulnerable... –KAREN

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Wishing to make contact with you people. I think we think like you in regards owning land and living on it (with it). We're in a tipi on lumber co. land soon. H & M, British Columbia

Dear Folks,

There are bears, gulls, (more fish than enough) exciting kinds of wood, cougars and dodos living around here. I have one friend who lives out of his top hat and another who is literate...Thank you very sanctuary. Much love, B, British Columbia

To Vonu Life, I took Sharon Wachl's advice and am now ensconced on 3 acres which will hopefully furnish me with subsistence. The land cost \$760 and came with a crude sugar cane processing plant - but the structure will be usable as a living quarters once I get the cane (which covers the property) cut and processed - to dulce (raw sugar, NOT RUM. Then I plan to plant fruit and nut trees and garden. G, Costa Rica

Dear Yrogs;

I have given up on survival books that assume you have a knife or shoelaces or anything that can be traced back to industrial civilization. Robinson Crusoe had his own ship to plunder. Is anything for the person who finds himself stark naked in the wilderness? How to

2 VL6 1

make a fire bow using sharp rocks for tools and making twine from bark fibers. How to make an axe from a hand built forge? How to propagate vegetation that would support human life? I have a suspicion that I will have to compile much of this myself.

Could you get me in touch with publications and resource people?

I'm interested in acquiring the wilderness craft, and then working with or starting a camp where people can learn to go off to the wilderness and live; (not survive until they stumble back on civilization). The idea is that one can start off on any level they want; from swiss army knife to back pack to van; but for emergency or esoteric reasons they can fall back on the basics of hands and head. I have heard high praise of your publication from friends at Heathcote.

S.O.L. Enclosed is \$3 in check form for past, present, and future issues.

Rusty

To Rusty: Your program is ambitious. We are still exploring trade-offs between self-sufficiency, long-

To Rusty: Your program is ambitious.

We are still exploring tradeoffs between self-sufficiency, long-term storage, and import-export; not sure yet what is optimum for us. We, too, want to LIVE indefinitely away from S (servile, silly, suicidal...) Society, not just SURVIVE until we can get back to it or until it 'recovers'.

A few possible sources: BOOKS: ISHI IN TWO WORLDS, story of the 'last wild Indian'. OUTDOOR SURVIVAL SKILLS. More than most survival books on 'primitive crafts' such as shaping rocks into tools. THE LAST OF THE MOUNTAIN MEN. I haven't read it but it sounds relevant from WEC review. THE LAST WHOLE EARTH CATALOG. Highly recommend if you don't already have it. Review of many books and some sources of hardware. OTHER PERIODICALS: PIONEER, \$3 for 12 issues. Paul Doerr.

Dear Rayo:

First of 3 back issues arrived today and, regarding your note, was not more delayed than material requested from immobile organizations (an encouraging omen). Like a couple of other people writing in 5/71, I am feeling good about the publication, which (among other things) can help keep in my head the experience of a trip I and origins (from factory-made to self-built) over the Xmas-New year holiday. Some must have been vonuans, a concept that hadn't occurred to me before, and I guess the only less-than-perfect thing about the trip was that I didn't take the opportunity to ask more about how they were doing it. But for some unknown but beautiful reason I found the two-week nomadic life so liberating to my head in general that I decided "this is the way" for me (no doubt in keeping with V.L.'s philosophy, the liberating effects did not survive a return to this life-forsaken university/factory town, and await their due change to re-emerge – I hope before next cold season). Contrary to what one correspondent of 5/71 said about vonu life restricting relationships, I found more often than not a kind of unspoken bond between brief acquaintances – maybe mutually enjoying the freedom, if only for awhile – I found once before on a shorter trip, and very rarely when "home", no matter where that has been. Longer relationships on this trip (2 to 3 days) expanded into genuine friendships out of any conformity to the time-theories of friendship – though I sadly realize for many people my words, if read, would be only hearsay, and feelings are hard to document with words, especially when you're trying to convince someone they exist! Whether this phenomenon was due to me, them, circumstances, or a combination of all 3, the mere fact that it completely eliminated my previous fear of being/travelling alone was worth its weight in...say, 40 years? When there were no people to dig, there were animals, or the vistas of the (as yet?) unindustrialized, unurbanized world, and I think part of my experience was caused by people, including many "straights", feeling more respect for a woman's independence and being less inclined to question or move in on it when she is travelling free (of an escort/bodyguard if not of a companion, of a scheduled destination, tourist wardrobe, etc.). Many people tied down themselves seemed to dig the idea vicariously, others were perhaps too shocked to be hostile – in any case, they weren't. By contrast, my living here in a house with a bar on the first floor is a big effing deal which I hear about continuously until nauseous.

Contrary to what my original note implied, I did not rush out to buy a camper (impossible now, anyway) am still considering the various (many! it seems) logistic problems of different size, type, etcetera vans. Main problem being how to power an electric typewriter which will no doubt continue to be my source of income for some time yet.

Will subscribe soon as an "others", after perhaps seeing if there is a "drop" bookstore or something near here (could be – there are a lot of what are called "hippie vans" locally as seen moving through traffic but well out of sight otherwise).

Thanks again. –S.C.

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To Vonu Life,

Thanks for copies. I read avidly. I especially like the absence of politics in most of the articles. Answering your question, I live and let live and I have lived out of sight, sound and mind...most of the past 5 years and almost all the time now, but I would rather not write about it here so I am sending \$2. 3<sup>rd</sup> class mail is okay for now. In Spring maybe I can get a relay from your Grant's Pass drop.

Why did you pick Grant's Pass? There are better places in Siskiyou. (Is Grant's Pass in Siskiyou?) I didn't think the extended that far north.) Of course I assuming you live near Grant's Pass. Maybe you don't. I dig your jargon – vonu, bludg. I am adopting it. It is good to make up words which suit instead of forcing ideas into other people's words. Are you into general semantics by chance?

You can make your small type easier to read by changing the way you separate paragraphs. I save a little space between, almost a quarter of a line, like I am doing here. This provides some irregularities for the eye to guide as so it doesn't get lost returning from the end of one line to the beginning of the next.

I learned this style from Rusel Jogus – a fantastic person – a 80 year old “hippie” – haven't cut his hair for 80 years. If you should get an opportunity to meet him I recommend it.

I've done some printing so know a little about readability, etc. I was thinking of starting a little paper something like vonu life, but you are already doing it which is fine – millions of other things worth doing.

Maybe I'm just chicken but I do not believe is deliberately breaking the law or, particularly, writing about it. There are plenty of legal ways to be vonu and have fun.

Re: suggestion of Rayo to not license a motor vehicle: why own an RV unless a (she or he) travels on the highway a lot? If *e* moves infrequently, cheaper to put up a cabin – something quick and crude enough to walk away from without regret.

Re: mescaline experimentation of Orion: aren't there enough legal ways to get high? Morning glory seeds? Of course I think the drug laws are ridiculous. But I'd rather not resist the bludg on that level.

I became vonu not so much to avoid petty pigshit as to live another 50 or 60 years. How many un-vonuans will live the next 50 years? Think about all the ways the bludg can royally mess up this planet. And there is no guarantee that things will stay as cool as they are now until 1984 to 1999. Like Natalee said, if you live in a city there are missiles aimed at you.

To Orion, when you get your group together, or group of groups, I advise not writing about it in your paper. So long as the bludg think you are just a few recluses they won't go too much trouble to bother you. But let them think you are an “organization” or “community” – and look out.

I do not tell outsiders, not even other vonuans, who or how many people I am around. I never use the word “we”. I do not say where I am (closer than 200 miles) which might give a clue to who my friends are. I don't write or talk about people I know (except for what they publish openly like you do – Rusel Jogue does too). Mail I have forwarded both ways.

To Rayo, I think you are mistaken to avoid all contact with rednecks. True, most of them will never become vonu – true of most city slickers too. But you don't have to let their problems become your problems. If you are careful in your local dealings there is not much hazard.

Some things you might do: use a different name in person-to-person dealings than you write under so no connection can be made that way. If somebody asks where live or what you do for a living, say something ordinary sounding. You might say you have a job which requires you to ravel often between cities *x* and *y*, which explains your presence anywhere between. Or you are studying the ecology of the area for your doctorate.

Whatever your story is, have it all thought out in advance so there are no awkward pauses, and be consistent.

Better yet, if there are any elderly folk in your group, get one of them to do all your local dealing. *E* is probably sharper at it because *e* has more experience. And *e* won't arouse rednecks like a freak might. Also *e* won't be suspected of draft dodging. *E* doesn't need any story to explain *e*'s presence because retired people are everywhere.

Okay to publish any of this except my address of course. Good vonuing. –IAN

To Ian: Thanks for the sub and letter. A vonuan need not describe his lifestyle (but if he doesn't we reserve the right to ask, each time we send him issues, if he still vonu). So your \$2 buys two years of first-class delivery.

“Siskiyou Region” is our own arbitrary label for S.W. Oregon and N. Calif. (See my article on Siskiyou this issue).



What do other readers think about type-size, paragraph separation, etc.? I'll reply to your other comments next issue. -RAYO

The mine near Idaho Springs is about like it was. It is a great excuse for spending much time in the mountains, which I have done. Even tho there is a lot of open space in these mountains, there is also an impressive number of people busily engaged in reducing the unoccupied spaces. The winter in the upper mountains is so bad that very few spend the winter up there. The summer influx is really something. Compared with my first extended exposure (1957) the summer season is really busy. Yet it is a rare evening that anyone is camped within 1/4 mile of me. Even on the weekends. One time last summer someone camped 200 yards away. That was the closest ~~at~~ all summer. A camper a mile away (a more usual distance) may be 2000' vertical away too, so that he/she is effectively "gone". I am slowly exploring the country around Idaho Springs. I suppose in 2 more summers I should have everything within 10 miles. It does not look like good survival country for long term. Anything flat and big has an old mine, mill, or house on it. Attesting to absent owners. Some of them approve of "caretakers" tho.

Let me know what happened? Regards, J. Colo.

The showings but looked pretty good (several issues back) but must have been ~~designed~~ designed for terrific snows by the amount of brace. Have read that in Tunisia where it is semi arid, a hole is dug twenty five feet in diameter and twenty five ft deep with an alley leading down into it, a hole dug at the side of the alleyway for donkey (s) and chambers dug around the plaza for rooms.

It is very unlikely that there is time left, or the desire for such an elaborate setup....

Things ~~that~~ kind of whysaw here, am never quite ~~sure~~ sure, but am proceeding as if never a case. Experience can be derived from nearly any experience....

The foam domicile sounds neat. Wondered how the plastic sheets held up — has been some high winds here and snow, so cold last week or so I holed up except for Chores.

Have you tried litmus paper to test the P.H. of possible edibles it can't be stressed too much that an alkaline, acid balance is necessary to health, especially under trying conditions.

not much to write about except, the imite-lopesdia suggests that fall out is getting dangerous with emphasis on Oregon (not in literal sense) <sup>for</sup> that the squeeze is being applied world-wide with all possible speed.

as the study of metaphysics has revealed universal law in all its phasing in which I can find no contradictions I will (ahem) henceforth, <sup>adopt</sup> ~~assume~~ the name. <sup>utilize</sup>  
Comandor

Noah!

Hi...Thanks for the check. Thought about it for awhile since wasn't written for cash or VL and copies had gone out to others.

Anyone know where I could get a set of medical instruments cheap? Was medic for years and may get a torn fingernail or something.

Would anyone pay \$250 for a permanent lease to a camping or squat site? The only additional cost would be any cost caused by you, taxes if they were raised, etc. I'm trying to get a string of sites from North Canada to South Mexico, but since I'm as broke as most, I can't pay for all myself. I'm hunting secluded sites, on road or easement, preferably adjoin road as a legal address and even throw up a little soddy. You would be expected to care for the land and your lease could be cancelled with no money returned if you deliberately damaged it. Anyone with a couple safe squat spots could follow the sun free forever, earning a few bucks, if needed, at harvest work which is very loosely redtaped.

Did Robert VL-6 ever design his environmental hut/farm?

Any canoeists/vonuans? You can paddle from Atlantic to Pacific with just portages, or down Atlantic or Pacific coasts via inland waterways, Canada in summer...Or Alaska...And Florida or Central America in Winter, living off country if you avoid cities. The US/Canada border canoe country is beautiful and bugs usually aren't too bad if you stay out of thick brush...camp on long points or sand bars...eat fish and plants. I prefer kayaks which can be, in the more stable models, just a covered canoe. A canoe can be covered by a waterproof canvas tight-laced over top to hooks along sides and just holes for the paddlers. If only one, why not use a double paddle and work from the center position? Keep foam, balloons or inner tubes inflated for flotation and your stuff sorted in three packs TIED to thwarts. Carry life preservers and wear in water...1 pack, food...1 pack, tent, etc...1 pack, the gear you use on short stops, including food for the day so you won't need to open other two. At morning packing, pack 3<sup>rd</sup> for day. Carry short shovel, ax and/or saw bundled and tied to boat where you won't contact in fall, etc. and sheath if possible. Carry pole in strong case...hear the voice of experience...and some repair material. Ads in outdoor zines like fur-fish-game carry ads for kits to build your own canoe for about \$20.00. You can just lay out a 16/18 foot shape on floor, 20" wide in center and make your own plan...bottom in 2 halves, 1

piece each side...use ¼" plywood and 1x1 beveled pieces to glue to...sides of bottom 3" higher than keel, ends ditto than center or get commercial plan, or from boy scouts. You can buy contour maps from us geological service and air photomaps from counties of almost anywhere now.

Someone suggested hiring another to move your stuff. Why not rent-a-car?

It's legal to use another name if no intent to defraud, but who knows bludg interpretation of defraud.

Pets. Many people would like to travel but they have animals from canaries to elephants that must eat and drink every day and can't go along for some reason, so they're pinned down. Even if they travel, special care is necessary and they are obvious. Also, they might be wandering when you want to move out fast, so think first.

Cooking smells travel far, as does coffee or tobacco smoke. In battle scouting you are alerted far sooner by smells than by sound or sight. Don't smoke. Watch the B.O. Eat it raw.

Anyone know the address of D.D. granting brotherhood of St. Anthony of Padua or some similar name?

Olsen, Outdoor Survival Skills is the best I've ever seen on how to go out naked and equip yourself from weeds, stones, etc.

I think it's better to make more trips than to keep animals. A man can hide easier and he makes less trail. Also animals mean smell, noise, stirring around to find, lots of food, grazing, etc. In moccasins, you can leave hardly a trail.

I'd like to meet Tom Marshall and see how he digs/builds. What warning equipment does he use?

Solarcell power receptors are quite easily hidden...no noise nor movement....all they need is light...a couple batteries to store power...fluor lights use much less power than incandescent...but radio, etc. are dependent on society for parts...also a radio CAN be traces...it gives off a carrier wave that can be detected with the right detector...I mean a regular radio, transistor or table or whatever.

A good sheet mirror of plastic is available...try Edmunds Sci.

From P-I 9-5...sitting vs. squatting...you're right...squatting is physiologically better sitting can cause piles, etc. More Europe outhouses are just a hole in the floor (and many inside too). Comfortable US builds 1 & 2 holers where the black widow can squat too (and bite).

I've often wished men would carry shoulder pouches. Things fall out of pockets. Also cloaks...a heavy wool cloak will shed rain, keep you warm walking, especially if belted with armholes, and be a good blanket too.

I see many mention microfilm library. Are they really that good? Without power for the reader...as they probably will be...it might be rough reading.

Taylor quotes estimates of optimum world population of 200 million, of the US 20 mil, and shows figures that only about 500 mil could possibly, even with all optimum conditions li, live a US type life in the world. 362 cases of schizophrenia per 1000 in center of big city, grading down to 55.4 on edge, to nothing in back-country. He gives lab cases of deliberate stressing to show lifeforms reduced by ¾ when stress reduction begin. Also shown is pollution (radioactivity, mercury, etc.) distribution which increases downwind, like from 1 in west to 4 on east coast. 40 mil tons of radioactive sand and mine tailings blowing uncovered in the breeze and drifting into rivers. San Miguel River has 30x over max allowable radiation now from pollution.

I have a Bausch Lomb medical microscope for sale or trade for something, or I'll give it to whoever can get me a few acres in NW Cal. SW Ore. or San Luis Obispo County for not over \$200 per. MW or Sears sell 4 rolled plastic and chicken wire stuff that makes fine windows or pit greenhouse covers.

Don't use igneous rock for your house. Tests show it has natural radioactivity and will increase damage rate some, like people who live in granite areas have more damaged kids.

Bone meal and milk is a heavy source of redact (strontium, etc.). Cows eat the grass and concentrate the rad in milk.

I would like to get yogi or zen instruction.

Air spotting techniques include visual and if...heat...cameras, also various other radiation and metal detectors, so are good day and night. Best defense probably is instant freeze, even in

the middle of a step. Watch a deer someday. That's if not time to hide. They battle camouflage or scout and evasion tactics, or ground color-matching clothes. Soft shoes leave less trace. The pioneer fringe on clothes was to dry them faster and break up outline.

Perhaps those with land in mountains would sell small cabin sites...build a small cabin or soddie (article on soddies in next Pioneer) or underground room and use as base home for legal, mail, etc. Live there "legally" and put underground caches around but built home in wildlands behind "home". Small piece for low, low tax, probably only 2-5\$ yearly. If "home" is indestructible or easily rebuild and valuables are hidden, you can wander with no problems. No law against buying in another name so long as no legal intention to defraud provable or have in friend's name.

I believe dirty bombs will be used in any war to further disruption and death/sickness/weakness just in case war is not an "8 hour affair" and invasion is needed and also reduces will to resist. One presently existing device, exploded in orbit, will start forest fires over 5 western states area. Who does your photo-offset printing? -PAUL DOERR

I've always said fluoride just for openers. Now, official. Bills presented to, nationwide, dose public water supplies with drugs to "calm" insane. Who decides category?

How many military targets on N. California/S. Oregon area. Handy info in case. Any atomic power plants, control centers, military bases, etc.?

I agree with M Jones some. In an emergency, looters, insane, hungry, terrified, etc. will fan out and probably find you just by numbers and stupidity. What then...2-3 against many who will want, need and take? Vonu, etc. should be in communities...even though miles between....with some means of instant warning and organized defense. Air filtration in an underground home not difficult...may be as easy as several heavy drapes in tunnel to stop dust particles. This has been proven and radiation will not turn. Move to foreign country? Since the odd/different is attacked first in troubled times and Americans are seen as snob/rich/yankee, who goes down first in foreign land?

Since I must maintain an open address to sell Pioneer, etc. any interested may put land in my name with long-term permanent lease in theirs if they have a bit extra to sell, and they pay all taxes, costs, etc.

That radiation detector with 22 ½ volt battery...what good after battery dead...where to get new...how recharge with standard equipment...6, 9, 12v better...can adapt?

Most likely attack time would seem to me to be Xmas Eve with crowds shopping, traveling, communication lines tied up, skeleton crews on duty...

I said I'd run a zine exchange and forward periodicals, so I've thought up questions...just to pubber/exchangers?...What if some want to subscribe to entire bundle?...cheapest mailway would be special fourth class?...any source for CHEAP, STRONG envelopes?...deposit a couple \$ and I'll send till cost eats it up or regular charge?...the quarterly mailing won't take much time but the paperwork might....write, right? I could also keep your mail and send in same pack, wouldn't be that much more effort...Things I could pick up here (merchandise) and send same time, pay in advance if you want something, but that would cost extra for time. I'm beginning to like truck delivery/store idea...I like to move around...staple food, etc., a trip a month but you would have to be at pickup point on time...couldn't wait and keep schedule, would have to make some profit...passenger service too, depending on room available...wonder where get big van and who keep it running, which could run into money?...could carry price list of stuff vonu make and forward orders, pick up next run...banking/money order service? slow maybe...any other ideas...maybe some profit for me but no loss if I can do all at same time...

To answer your comments, etc...I'll be happy to be a mail drop for vonuans so long as no cash cost to me.

Riet? Why not rite or ryt...chanjover..utrl...yul...uz?

If the Cryptoscript is any kind of substitution system its easy to break just by frequency of letters/ratio.



I'd like to get a spot in Mexico, preferably Baja, but foreigners can't buy within 60 miles of sea. Anyone help with info or lease?

For tooth repair...how about two-part epoxy or dental "Plate Weld" \$2.50 or so. A Dremel high speed hobby drill could be used with burrs to clean decay but anesthetics. An ex-medic should have some knowhow.

Build a soddy. This is just turf cut about 3x6' and stacked. Roof with poles and more turves. Windows & door in front. Plastic sheet to waterproof. Grows grass to hide. Simple first on floor with tin sheet hood & pipe. Ditch outside around for dry. Will write longer on how I built mine later. Colder outside? Just build thicker walls. Rainy? Cover with plastic or "woven" mat of limber sticks or anything to break direct contact of water so no melt.

Messages...African drums and hearer pass it on, or tree mail drops ditto?

Write Univ. of Ariz. for info on wells drilled horizontal into hillsides...cheaper...easier...self-flow with no pump...not so deep needed.

A small piece of land...try buy for \$10 and pay seller finder's fee of \$100s if necessary...for low tax base...modified retreatism...legal address for mail, business but real home back in wilds beyond your border...food trees and possibly underground storage on your own land. Every time tax raised, means dollar devalued so easier to get...worth less...so your land holds real value or gains. If it worth \$10 or \$10,000, except for its value rise because of scarcity, the real value is the same, just are lower value dollars. I'd pay pretty high for land bordering national park wilderness area, for instance.

Yes, wheat to bean...about 6 to 1...gives complete protein.

No, the people who work at changing government usually fill their own pockets so you're right, the form isn't too important. Probably a lot of little, middle age, feudal types best in terms of little power, easy border crossing?

MPF available direct from maker but why not make your own...cheap...easy...fresher...healthier...substitute for hard to get stuff...use for backpack trips or even main camp.

Good books SHIPS MEDICAL CHEST & DOCTOR (MERCHANT MARINE)...HOSPITAL CORPS HANDBOOK...NATIONAL FORMULARY...OUTDOOR SURVIVAL SKILLS, OLSON...PASSPORT TO SURVIVAL (Mormon stores).

Might sell my camper built in walk-in van for \$675 if any interested.

I've never tried to use brewer's yeast tabs for bread yeast. You're probably right, they're dead. The brewer's yeast is alive though. Haster's sells brewer and wine yeasts. If you want cream of tartar isn't that in the wine leas?

I'd like samples of any libertarian zines, or I'll trade Pioneer. Cash, I haven't much of.

I'm not so sharp I could brag but if anyone has any questions I can answer here I'll try.

Sods isn't good for the body, so why not run acorns through meat grinder, squeeze juice out, soak, drain, and cook if wanted? I will operate a magazine exchange if wanted, sending quarterly, for copy of each and costs, and you get stuck with a copy of Pioneer.

Would a freak/vonu truck delivery/store pay for itself? I haven't a big van. Any ideas? If I started it, it would be strictly pay in advance. I could continue this bare or on the land. Both mag exc and trk and possibly deliver zines too. Subs to pro zines could come to me at lot rates pay standard sub price. Any ideas?

I think some sort of geographical location should be given with letters, etc. to help reader orient practices reference to himself.

I found offset printer \$5.50/\$3.25 per 1000, reduction, etc. free.

Could you carry couple gallon liquid, make forms of plastic sheet, and pour quick set foam for walls?

I would prefer your answers or letters to follow them, with or without rebuttal, for more ideas/interchange.

A group of vonu could buy apartment house of all houses in small area, plant bushes/build fence to exclude spy-eye and have enclave, all extra possible entries closed off. Buy or long-term lease old garages for squats, board windows, but watch for "exploring" kids.

I collect knives, ax, hatchets, etc....if not stainless, paint with rubber paint or heavy grease, plant in caches...you can do (slower) anything with a knife...one when you've been cleaned could

save your neck...surplus bayonets, machetes, kitchen knives from secondhand stores, etc. good. Finny-sports sells good knives cheap for unfancy...3 layer mora, stainless with sintered carbide blade, etc. Get cheap single-shot guns and cache. In WWII any single-shot 45 pressed steal cheapies dropped into Europe. One shot will get you a dinner or a machine gun if you can stalk. –PAUL

To Paul: Are you stationary enough to tackle a small mag exchange? Might that not be better suited to a non-vonuan? (Most of periodicals would be non-vonuist). I don't think quarterly would be frequent enough. This would mean a maximum delay for VL of 3 months, compared to a maximum of 4 months we presently experience sending bundles twice a year third-class. VL is presently exchanging with 27 periodicals. –RAYO

## ↔INTER↔

IF THE FBI KNOCKS by John L. Snare (condensed from 24jan72 LIBERTARIAN CONNECTION.

What would you do if the FBI called on you and asked for information about an acquaintance who had been so brave as to resist the State's efforts to rob and enslave him?

If you have not decided in advance...there is considerable danger that, in your uncertainty, you will grudgingly answer questions in an evasive manner. If so, the duel is on, and a cunning FBI man may be able to wring information from you that is damaging to your acquaintance. You will be trying to decide very rapidly whether to say you do not know, or to give a true but hopefully harmless answer, or whether to give false information. The interrogator may have enough information in his file to detect a false answer, or to point out to you that your "don't know" answer has to be wrong. It would probably be impossible to answer many questions while giving correct answers about things they already know and false answers about things they don't know.

If an investigator calls on me and identifies himself, I intend to inform him that I do not wish to talk to him. Gary Greenberg says a person has a legal right to refuse to talk to an investigator. If I am seated, I will then stand up; if I am inside a building I will go to the door and hold it open for him. Quiet, gentle, polite, smooth as silk – but as firm as iron. (Practice that on the next salesman who calls, and see how many seconds it takes him to leave!)

I intend to keep no information in my home or office that would incriminate a friend. Generally I would try to avoid saying anything specific enough to be damaging in case phone conversations were recorded. In the unlikely case of being subpoenaed as a witness, I would have time to seek counsel, and could probably stall, claim uncertainty, and otherwise minimize damaging information about my acquaintances.

If I had a friend who was really "hot", he would probably be wise not to reveal his address to me or any other pas acquaintance; one single slip might be enough to put him behind bars for years. If he wished to communicate with me, he could probably dial direct and deliver a short, pre-planned message with a high degree of safety.

An agent may employ tricks to start you talking, such as: Imply that your friend (or even you) is suspected of involvement in a crime of which you know he is innocent, prompting you to volunteer information which will exonerate him (or you). Pretend to be stupid and inept, tempting you to "duel" with him and confuse him further. (Remember that he may have ten years of experience at such "duels".) Threaten you (or your spouse or children, if you aren't at home) with arrest if you don't cooperate. The safest thing, not only for your friend but for yourself, is to say nothing. An investigator is like a miner – the more he gets out the harder he'll dig. Say nothing and most likely after a while he will give up and go try his luck elsewhere. Any threat is most likely a bluff – there aren't enough jails to hold all the people who don't "cooperate". –RAYO

(Also via LIBERTARIAN CONNECTION) from Dec. 24, 1971 LOS ANGELES FREE PRESS – analysis of the FBI documents liberated in the Medina, Penn. raid, as compiled by the group that liberated them: 40% of documents pertained to surveillance of political groups; 30% of documents dealt with procedural matters; 7% of documents dealt with military AWOL's and deserters; 7% of documents dealt with draft resistance; 15% of documents pertained to "ordinary



crime”; 1% of documents dealt with organized crime. (This is useful information for forearming any neighbors and relatives who have only a TV-image of government investigators.–RAYO)...Because of revelations resulting from the Medina, PA FBI office raid, the FBI decided they had to improve security. To accomplish this, they have had to close about half their offices throughout the country, and concentrate resources on the rest.

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THE PAPER TRIP (available from Eden Press). Here is something special for the SERIOUS libertarian who wishes to have available alternate identities for beating the draft, beating a bust, disappearing, changing citizenship, for that “just in case” situation, etc. This is a 28 page booklet...which is a step-by-step guide to the procurement of LEGAL government identification documents for another (or several) identities. These are not blank phony copies or forgeries which can’t stand investigation. The book provides details – which I’m not free to divulge in this review, of course – for establishing cheaply and without risk, a new identity supported by the proper documents. An associate company, RE Search says that they will provide for \$50: a legal birth certificate which meets your personal specs of age, sex, and race. These are found from records of actual individuals who died at an early age before obtaining other government ID, such as social security, draft card, driver’s license, etc. With the birth certificate, you can then obtain these other desired ID. THE PAPER TRIP tells you how to do the same job yourself.

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I have not read THE PAPER TRIP but I would hesitate to employ this approach for an identity I planned to use over a long period. If there is ever a nationwide correlation of birth, death, and current records (such as driver’s licenses), such identities would be immediately detected. Efforts to correlate might be prompted by wide use of this approach. The actual correlation would be easy to mechanize with computers, but bludg agencies being what they are, would probably take several years to set up.

One alternate approach is to create a whole new identity – someone who was not born in a hospital nor delivered by a doctor and is without birth certificate. There may have been quite a few such births, even 20 or 30 years ago, in rural (but populous!) counties of the U.S. South and Appalachia. This approach is less convenient in the short-run may be safer long-range.

The best approach of all may be one which someone works out for himself, which (hopefully) is not being used by many others. Each step should be thought through carefully in advance and made fail-safe – i.e., even if the step triggers an alarm in some bureaucracy, the applicant is not in jeopardy.

The less need one has for ID the better – even if one is law-abiding as most vonuists are. (There are plenty of “real” identities which would not pass an investigation – due to goofs in the bureaucracies.) This is a strong reason for vonu. –RAYO

ALABAMA PLATES: “...Senator Lewis (Brooklyn) said he obtained Alabama plates and a registration certificate through the mail for \$30 without having to submit proof of ownership...from Probate Judge Leland Enzor of Covington Co. In Alabama, probate judges get \$5.75 plus a percentage of the fee...I have achieved exactly what every auto thief aspires to do...(And a person could) cheated the state out of registration money and sales tax.” (from news clipping, thanks to JIM)

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## **UNDERGROUND MOVING**

by Catherine Lesley

(Copyright 1972 by THE MOTHER EARTH NEWS)

[EDITOR’S NOTE: To view this lengthy article in full, do a quick Internet search. It’s available on TMEN website.]

Student Movers was a child of cooperation born when my man and I returned to New York in September of 1970 with barely enough money to take our tired VW bus across the George Washington Bridge. By spring, our moving company had grown from a struggling one-truck outfit into a full scale, full-time enterprise. That homey little underground operation footed our rent,

kept us well-fed, paid a year's college tuition, and took us out of the city and onto the land the following June with \$8,000 in our pockets.

If you're stuck in the city, underground moving or trucking just might help you earn your way out too. All it takes is secondhand truck or bus, a stable telephone number, strong arms, and a broad back.

Here's how.

### **WHY UNDERGROUND?**

Underground, in the case of moving, means unlicensed and uninsured...strictly speaking, illegal. But there are dozens of underground movers in every big city that operate openly – and even advertise in establishment newspapers – without hassles from the police. It amused us to call ourselves the Bonnie and Clyde of the moving world, but we weren't really trying to circumvent the law. Working underground was simply the best way to provide a cheap and efficient alternative to professional movers.

Our customers didn't mind that we weren't insured...our low rates made up for that. We made it clear that we couldn't be responsible for breakage and we refused to handle very delicate or very expensive times. But if we did damage something – as happened a couple of times during the year – we paid out of our pockets rather than making the customer file a claim and wait months or years for reimbursement.

We did have a slight run-in with the New York City Department of Consumer Affairs in late spring over licensing. "You're operating illegally," their inspector told us sternly. "You'd better go out of business right away."

"Yes sir," we said, "right away, sir."

The inspector called back a few weeks later. "Have you gone out of business yet?"

"Yup." And that was the last we heard from him. The forces of law and order, it seems, have more pernicious enemies to wipe out than small-time underground movers.

Incidentally, you might avoid the licensing problem altogether if you call yourself "Joe's Truckers" rather than "Joe's Movers." In some areas truckers don't have to be licensed. You can check with the Small Business Bureau in your city about that.

Underground movers, working on a human rather than a corporate scale, can avoid the huge overhead in office, vans, advertising, etc. that Allied and Mayflower pay. We worked out of our home, wrote our own ads, and used our VW bus – our "family car" – as a van. That made it possible for us to specialize in light moving at low rates. We didn't compete directly with the big guys...we only handled the small loads that they found unprofitable.

The big companies in New York City charge \$40 to \$50 an hour for three men and a van, but pay those men only \$3-4 an hour. Is it any wonder that movers have a reputation for being gruff, careless, inefficient, and even dishonest? They know they're exploited.

With our low overhead, we charge about one-third as much as the biggies while paying our helpers \$4 an hour...more than union wages and exactly what we charged customers for the men's labor...

Another advantage of operating underground is that you don't have to pay income tax on your earnings if you don't want to. Just insist on cash payments from all your customers and keep your records to yourself. What Internal Revenue doesn't know won't hurt them...or you. (Unless you get caught! This time-honored cash payment method of getting around income tax is, of course, frowned upon by the IRS so, of course, I can't recommend it...but, of course, it is done all the time.)

We also tacked cardboard signs up on the windows of our bus (which was patently illegal because we were advertising a commercial service and didn't have commercial license plates) and we'd hold our breath when cops stared at the signs. No hassles. One of the policemen even jotted down the number and called us up to do a job.

Eventually, we had our advertising Xeroxed (at about \$3 for 100 sheets, three ads to a sheet) and spent a day pasting the pages all over town: at transient hotels, YMCA's, churches, apartment complexes, other colleges and on outside walls and lampposts. Some got ripped down, but at that price it was no problem to replenish them.

To establish our rates, Chris and I checked the local newspaper (in New York, The Village Voice) used by other underground movers, then decided on a competitive price: \$8.50 per hour for one man and a truck, \$11.50 for two men. (Later on we upped our rates to \$9 and \$12 respectively, simply because that made it easier to figure fractions of an hour). That price included gas but not tolls. We set a one hour minimum for each booking, charging to the nearest quarter of an hour thereafter.

The customer was “on the clock” from the time we left home until we got back (we’d make a reasonable estimate for getting home), obviously with no coffee breaks or dallying on the way. That’s called travel time, and all professionals charge for it...

If you want to operate on a larger scale, you might buy a used mail truck or United Parcel van (see “Keep on Trucking” in MOTHER NO. 8). Or you could, as one of our friends did, put plywood sides and top on a pickup or flatbed truck. With such vehicles, however, you might be forced to get commercial plates in some states...and that means higher registration fees, insurance, tolls, and restricted access to some highways.

Other equipment which it’s good to own are a dolly for carrying things on flat surfaces and a hand-truck with creepers for going up and down stairs. These will save your back but aren’t really necessary at first unless you’re moving refrigerators, washing machines, or pianos. You might pick up an old dolly from another mover for a few dollars...and you can rent a hand-truck from U-Haul for three bucks a day or borrow one from a kindly superintendent for use within his building. You should always carry a couple of old blankets to protect furniture from scratches and it’s a good idea to collect a bunch of cardboard cartons or wooden crates to carry small stuff like dishes...

## HYGEIA’S HYGIENCIC REVIEW

### Towards a Hygienic Language

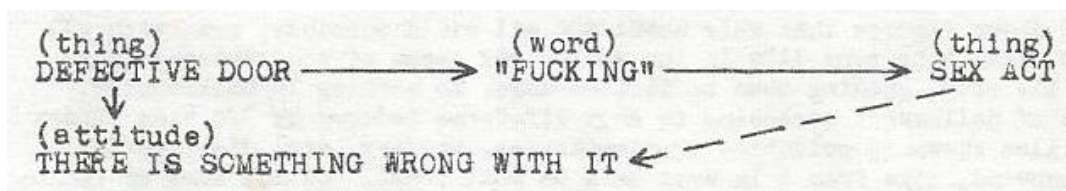
Is your choice of words consistent with your world view? If it isn’t you may be subconsciously weakening your own values. I hope the following will help you to see yourself more clear.

1. When you’re attempting to put someone down, do you employ any of the following terms: bastard/prick/cunt?
2. Do you ask God to damn things (i.e. say “God damn it!”), call on God (by exclaiming “Oh my God”), or tell people to go to hell?
3. When something malfunctions, do you call it ‘fucking’?

No. 1 Referring to a despicable person as a bastard/prick/cunt renders those words synonymous with despicable. Is someone despicable because his parents didn’t have a marriage license? Are the genitals despicable? Repugnance with the body and its functions is an expression of the Puritan ethic, an ethic which someone has said has as its greatest fear the possibility that someone, somewhere, may be happy.

No. 2 If one doesn’t believe in God or hell, why ask God to damn, call upon him, or tell someone to go hell?

No. 3 If, e.g., the door sticks and doesn’t operate properly, I’d hesitate to call it fucking since to do so equates malfunctioning with sex.



Because it seems easier to substitute new invective than to just eliminate the old, I try to coin/adopt my own. “Bludg/bludg-loving” seem to work somewhat. Orion has mentioned shouting “mistake!” when one is made; and there is always “oops” or “whoops”. Swear words which convey my values yet provide an emotional release are not easy to devise. Perhaps you have some you will share.

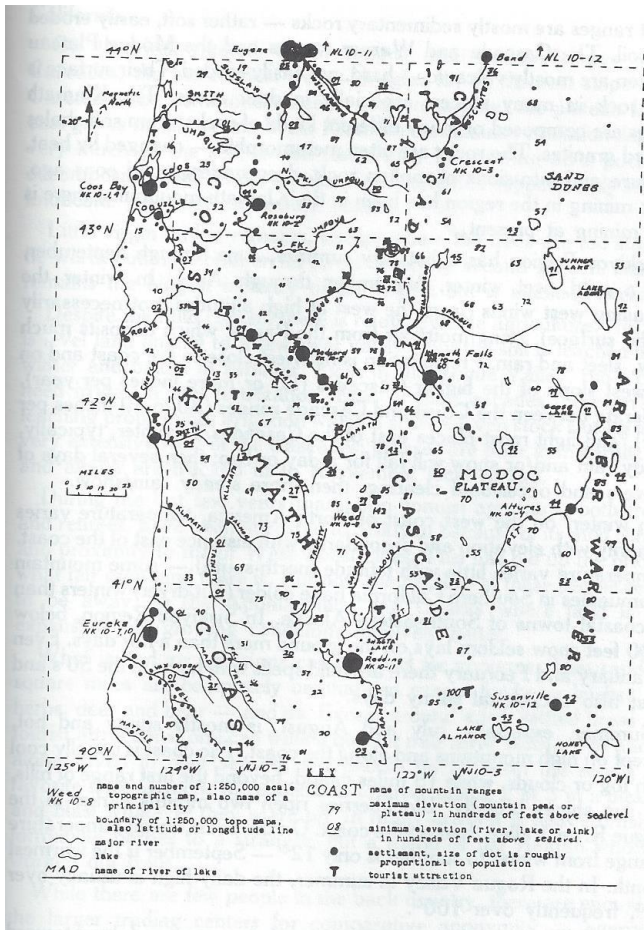
If opportunity permits, doing something physical may be an even better release than swear words. For example, one may throw rocks when outdoors where they won’t do any damage.

Swearing is a difficult habit to change but I think it’s worth working on. Swear words of that society are some of its outposts and, as Sally Kempton said, “It’s hard to fight an enemy who has outposts in your head.”

CHECK YOUR VALUES. CHECK YOUR WORDS. WHAT ARE YOU TELLING YOURSELF?

## A Survey of Siskiyou Region

We don’t wish to recognize states by saying “Southwestern-Oregon-and-Northern-California” so we say “Sisk-iyou Region.” Siskiyou includes a wide variety of terrain, soil, climate and vegetation.



The Coast ranges are mostly sedimentary rocks – rather soft, easily eroded into soil. The Cascade and Warner ranges and the Modoc Plateau between are mostly volcanic – hard, not easily eroded. Their surface is bare rock in many places, especially in drier areas. The Klamath ranges are composed of many different kinds of rocks, from soft shales to hard granites. The rocks are often metamorphic – changed by heat, pressure and intrusions of molten rock, deep underground eons ago. Most mining in the region has been in the Klamath Mountains; there is little mining at present.

Siskiyou Region has a hot, dry summer, June through September, and a mild, wet winter, November through April. In winter the prevailing west winds (from the west at high altitudes, not necessarily on the surface), bring moist air from the Pacific which deposits much snow, sleet and rain. Precipitation is heaviest close to the coast and on the west slope of the higher Cascades (80 or more inches per year), moderate between the Coast and the Cascade ranges (30 to 40 inches per year), and light most places east of the Cascades.

In winter, typically, steady rain and/or snow will fall for a day or two; then several days of showers and occasional clearing; then more steady rain/snow.

In winter, on the west coast of North America, temperature varies primarily with elevation and secondarily with distance east of the coast. Temperature varies little with latitude (north-

south) – some mountain communities in Southern California have colder (but dryer) winters than do coastal towns of Southeastern Alaska. In Siskiyou Region, below 2000 feet snow seldom lays on the ground more than a few days. Even January and February there are mild spells with highs in the 50's and 60's; also occasional sunny days.

Summer, especially July and August, is mostly sunny and hot, except on high mountains and along the coast. The coast is usually cool with fog or clouds, while 15 miles inland, beyond the first range of hills, the sun shines brightly. Blackberries ripen in two months earlier in the Rogue River Valley than on the coast. On the coast, mean temperature change from winter to summer is only 12° - September is the warmest month. In the Rogue Valley in summer, the daily high is usually over 90°, frequently over 100°.

On the Pacific Coast summer is somewhat warmer and dryer toward the south: July and August in central British Columbia are about like June and September in Siskiyou, and May and October in Southern California.

On the well-watered Coast ranges and western slopes of the Cascades, the commonest tree is douglas fir; on the east slope of the Cascades, the commonest tree is ponderosa pine; the plateau further east grows mostly brush. In the Klamath mountains vegetation depends very much on the soil; a lush forest may be growing on a pocket of decomposing shale while, a mile away, peridotite supports only stunted knobcone pine and manzanita bushes.

Little virgin timber remains, except where the trees are too small to be worth cutting; commercial forest is mostly second growth. Lumber remains the biggest industry of the region but is stable-to-declining.

Despite the mild climate there is relatively little agriculture. Not only is level land limited to a few river valleys, but the soil is leached in the winter and baked in summer. Even in the Rogue Valley, most crops need irrigation and fertilization. East of the Cascades there isn't the leaching problem but irrigation water is scarce. Even stock raising is not very extensive west of the Cascades; grasses are poor in minerals, hay and alfalfa are tucked in to supplement local forage.

During the last few years many non-vonuist agrarians, both freeks and retirees, have been attracted to Siskiyou because of its mild climate and proximity to major West Coast cities. This has bid up the price of what fair crop land there is. But now the net flow of these people seems to be away, to the Appalachians and Ozarks where land is less expensive and growing conditions relatively better.

What is bad for agrarians can be good for vonuans. Thousands of square miles are completely uninhabited except for berry bushes and herbs, deer and bear – and us. Except around a few settled areas and tourist attractions, one can walk a quarter mile away from a trail and be alone. Even in deer season, few people go far from the roads; the favorite hunting tactic of rednecks is to drive along, 2 or 3 in a pickup, and blast whatever they scare up. In many areas it is heavy brush; a formidable barrier to a stranger, but a friend of the vonuan who has worked out trails.

While there are few people in the back country, there are enough in the larger trading centers for comparative anonymity – everyone doesn't know everyone else. And these trading centers are close enough at hand so that transportation isn't a big problem. Furthermore, San Francisco, Los Angeles or Portland is only a day's drive away. For these reasons, vonu is easier for small groups to achieve in Siskiyou than in a more remote region, such as Yukon. And Siskiyou is the safest region in the U.S. in event of nuclear war; it is upwind and away from major targets.

So far we have explored very little of Siskiyou. Based on what we know now, the best sub-region for year-round vonuans is Klamath mountains with their great variety of terrain and vegetation including large areas of "wasteland," growing trees too small for timber, and brush. While Klamath mountains includes rugged 8000-foot peaks, there are also hundreds of valleys below snowline – desirable for someone who may be hunted as well as hunter. Water is no problem except on ridges – even small sub-tributary creeks flow the year round.

For summer van-nomads, Klamath mountains aren't too good; most terrain is too rugged or brushy to get a four-wheeled vehicle off of maintained trails. Lumbering (of douglas fir) is mostly by clear-cutting; unused trails soon grow over. The pine forests of the southern Cascades are better; at least this is true of areas we have seen between Medford and Klamath Falls; extensive areas are relatively level except for a few volcanic peaks; the forest is parklike with little brush.

There are more tourists, however, and foraging seems not to be as good as in Coast and Klamath mountains. An Oregon city is better than a California city for local purchases and receiving mail; there is no sales tax in Oregon.

#### Maps Suggested

**Forest Service Maps.** These indicate land status ("public" or "private") and show most roads and jeep trails. Their road information is more up to date than are topographic maps. Scale of most of them is ½ inch equals one mile. There is no charge for these maps but, so far as we know, each must be individually ordered from (or picked up at) the headquarters of each National Forest.

In the list below, the numbers following each address indicate approximate range of latitude and longitude covered by the map. (To cover Klamath mountains, get Siskiyou, Six Rivers, Klamath and Rogue River maps.) Siskiyou National Forest, Box 440, Grants Pass, OR 97526, 41.8-43°N, 123.3-124.5°W, Rogue River National Forest, Box 520, Medford, OR 97501, 41.8-43°N, 122-123.2°W. Klamath National Forest, Yreka, CA (?), 41-42°N, 122.8-123.8°W. Shasta Trinity National Forest, Redding, CA 40-41.7°N, 120.8-123.5°W. (Ask for maps of Trinity and Shasta National Forests.) Modoc National Forests, Alturas, CA (?), 41-42°N, 120-122°W. Lassen National Forest, Susanville, CA (?), 40-41°N, 120.5-122°W. Suislaw National Forest, Box 1148, Corvallis, OR 97330, 43.3-45°N, 123-124.5°W. Willamette National Forest, Box 1272, Eugene, OR 97401, 43.3-43.7°N, 121.8-122.5°W. Umpqua National Forest, Roseburg, OR, 42.8-44°N, 122-123°W. Deschutes National Forest, Bend, OR (?), 43-45°N, 121-122°W. Fremont National Forest, Lakeview, OR (?), 42-43°N, 120-122°W. (?) following the address indicates that I'm not sure where the headquarters is located; however a letter will probably arrive if addressed: "Headquarters, X National Forest....".

**Topographic Maps,** scale 1:250,000 [0] (1/4 inch equals one mile) of areas of interest. For example, order "Medford NK 10-5". The area covered by each map of this series is shown on our map in dashed lines. Ask for maps which show forested areas in green. Price 60¢ each. U.S. Geologic Survey, Denver, Co 80225 or Washington, DC 20242. Also ask for "Indexes for California and Oregon of 15-minute topographic maps," no charge. The 15-minutes series is smaller scale: 1:62,500, 1 inch to one mile. Geologic Map of Oregon; Geologic Map of California; were 35¢ each, U.S. Geologic Survey. If you are especially interested in rocks and minerals, also write to State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, Portland, OR, for an index to geologic maps they issue.

We haven't found a good map of vegetation types.

"Climates of the States," temperature and precipitation data and maps for Oregon and California, 25¢ each, U.S. Government Printing Office, Division of Public Documents, Washington, DC 20402.

#### Sources in Siskiyou Region

**Food Staples:** Most grains and pulses are expensive in the small cities of the region, when available at all; anyone coming by motor vehicle is advised to bring his supply. Sources are roughly ordered by price: Albers and other feed and grain stores are in most towns of the region, including quite small communities. Not every store has all of the following: *Wheat*, about \$4 per 100 pounds. This is soft, white wheat, grown in east Washington or northeast Oregon. It is as nutritious as hard red wheat except for 25% lower protein content. It may not store for as many years. Contains much chaff which can be removed by washing (chaff floats, kernels sink). Boil like rice until soft. Texture is different from rice but boiled wheat is tasty once one gets accustomed to it. (I'm eating it for breakfast as I write this.) Mix wheat about 5 to 1 with beans or peas for better protein balance. *Molasses*, black-strap, 5¢ per pound in customer's container. (Discarded bleach jug is okay.) *Bone Meal*, feed grade, finely ground, as calcium supplement. 7¢ per pound. *Walnuts*, in shells, 35¢ per pound.

Cliff's Farmers Market, 6<sup>th</sup> St. south of river. Grant's Pass: Beans, red white and pinto, 15¢ per pound (February 1972).

Warehouse Foodstores, 2100 W. 11<sup>th</sup>, Eugene. Fair prices on red beans and white rice in quantity.



Food co-op, was near 20<sup>th</sup> and Emerald in Eugene. Most staples, some good prices (summer 1971).

Jorgensen's Dairy, 1300 Court St., Medford. Powdered milk, \$33 per 100 pounds.

Walter G. Vail, northeast of Central Point (in phone book, phone first). Honey in 60 pound cans, competitive prices, (high in 1971 due to poor season).

Rogue Gold cheese factory, Central Point; also store on 5<sup>th</sup> St., Grant's Pass. Often has store returns, ends and seconds, 70¢ per pound.

Lee's Olive House, Highway 199 (on west side), Cave Junction. Most grains and seeds including some exotic ones. Moderately-high prices (brown rice, \$1 for 5 pounds).

Field of Merit health food store, Rogue River Highway just south of river, Grant's Pass, (bear left, next to branch post office). Nice atmosphere and many staples but mostly "organic" at high prices (17¢ per pound for wheat). Okay for food-stamp freeks but not for people making do with dollars.

Health food store, highway 99, Central Point. Same comment.

Getting food stamps is a horrendous hassle in Josephine County (Grant's Pass), perhaps anywhere. Requires ID, "residential address," monthly interview at food-stamp center. Not recommended. (Fall, 1971.)

**'Sporting Goods'** including pack frames, tents, camp stoves, sleeping bags, special clothing. Prices of new merchandise are competitive with most big-city prices; absence of sales tax in Oregon helps.

Hill's Surplus, 6<sup>th</sup> St. south of river, Grant's Pass. Has polyethylene film, 6 mil was 2¢ per square foot cut, 1.5¢ per square foot whole roll (October 1971), also polyurethane foam, various thicknesses.

Bazar, Biddle Road, Medford.

Pay-less, East F. St., Grant's Pass; also in Medford.

**Used clothing**, cooking utensils; Salvation Army in Medford, Grant's Pass and many other cities. Good prices but wool clothing, etc. sells quickly. (Goodwill stores charge very high prices; don't donate to them.)

**Gasoline** is usually 4¢/gallon less around Central Point-Medford than elsewhere in region; usually 29.9¢/gallon, as low as 24.9¢ during 'wars.'

**Propane** refills: \$1.50 for 5 gallon tank at the Gulf or Shell stations on Redwood Highway (199) southwest of Grants Pass. (Most places are \$1.75).

### Summering in Siskiyou

Suggested minimum equipment (per adult): Polyethylene film, at least 20 by 30 feet, for rain fly. 100 feet polypropylene rope, at least 1200 pound test, and 100 feet of cord, at least 200 pound test, for rigging fly and miscellaneous. 2 by 3 feet by 2 inches polyurethane foam for sleeping pad. Ground cloth, which may be more polyethylene film. Mosquito bar. Cheap sleeping bag or several heavy blankets. Pack frame, plus some sort of heavy bag which can be lashed to it (need not be a regular pack frame bag). (Hills' Surplus, address above, sells an airforce surplus welded aluminum frame for about \$9 which we have found fairly satisfactory; molded plywood frames do not stand up well in this climate.) Small cooking stove. A propane stove is better than kerosene (less smell, cheaper) if you have a 5 gallon propane tank for refilling the cartridge. We use "grasshopper" stove sold by Pay-less; refillable cylinder and adapter brings cost to about \$15. Vonu cooking with wood requires waiting until night (because of smoke visibility, an overhead shield which can be black polyethylene (to block the light), and some sort of wood stove (an open fire will melt the polyethylene). Unless you are already experienced at this, I recommend a propane stove as back-up and while learning. Dishes can be made by cutting down empty bleach jugs, discarded at laundromats.

Not counting initial equipment costs, maintenance and travel, one can live for as little as \$10 per month in summer, by squatting and by eating mostly wheat supplemented with foraging. In a few days scouting you can find a better squat-spot than any we could publish here (since to do so would reduce its privacy). Find a wooded area, preferably on "public land," and look around. We don't recommend trying to meet us, or other vonuans, the first few weeks you are in the region. Meeting would be difficult, for you and for us. And you will probably learn more doing

things on your own at first than talking with us. A meeting will be more worthwhile later when we have some experience in common. But do write us and we will reciprocate (sometimes slowly). If we find ourselves exchanging many letters, and things too, maybe we can set up a joint drop to save postage.

For summer fellowship you might try wandering some of the more accessible mountain valleys. You will come upon assorted squatters and campers, from young freeks to old prospectors (at least that was the situation last summer) – interesting people, mostly, though naturally you usually won't see the more vonu ones. Don't hang around the towns – the bludg are hostile to strangers, especially freeks. (One friend got hassled 3 times in 3 days in Grant's Pass.) Nighttime is especially bad.

Of course keep your camp tidy and be very careful with fires, and even if the forest fuzz discover you, they probably won't bother you (at least this was true last summer). If you are still around Siskiyou come winter or return next summer, and if vonu is your Big Thing, let's see if we might vonu better together.

**[IMAGE IS ON  
NEXT PAGE]**



By MASON DIXON

## how to get land

"secluded 160 acres partially cleared, no water problem, attractive setting. Beautiful Hippy homestead. Full price \$17,500 cash."

-- Real estate brochure from Salmon Arm

The province of British Columbia, along with New Mexico, New England, and Ontario, is one of the focal points for the "Back-to-the-land" movement in North America. At least once a week I receive a letter inquiring about land prices, availability, climate, etc., with postmarks from all over the continent.

This column is designed to serve as a sketchy guide to land access in B.C. The emphasis here is on free or very cheap land, although buying land will be discussed as well.

### THE HOMESTEAD - CROWN LAND

Most Americans, it seems, are laboring under the misconception that B.C. is still under some kind of Homestead Act. Sadly, it ain't so. Publicly owned lands are called Crown lands, and about the only way to legally obtain them is the lease-to-purchase method. There are no tax sales of land, and the Homestead Act was abolished on May 1, 1970.

There are two forms of leasable land that can be purchased -- the "non-waterfront residential lease," and the agricultural lease. Only Canadian citizens can lease Crown land. The lease runs for three years, and is renewable for seven, after which an option to buy can be obtained.

An agriculture lease entails clearing land, which is an expensive undertaking. Any way you cut it, acquiring crown land through legal channels is a long, complicated and rather costly procedure. Research by the B.C. Land Information Office has also revealed that agricultural leases are rarely, if ever, approved.

Figure on a period of two years for your final approval. Remember that in the meantime you can't live on your intended site without jeopardizing the outcome of your application.



There are Land Commissioner's Offices in Victoria, Vancouver, New Westminster, Nanaimo, Port Alberni, Penticton, Nelson, Cranbrook, Fernie, Kaslo, Vernon, Golden, Revelstoke, Kamloops, Clinton, Williams Lake, Quesnel, Prince George, Burns Lake, Smithers, Prince Rupert, Pouce Coupe, Ft. St. John, Fort Nelson and Atlin.

All applications go through half a dozen departments in Victoria before approval, and at least one Land Commissioner has resigned in recent weeks because his office was understaffed and thousands of applications had piled up as a result.

### FREE MINER'S LICENSES

Anyone over the age of 18 can get a free miner's license after paying a \$5.00 fee. Oddly, you don't even have to be a Canadian citizen. The license is a passport onto Crown Land and serves as a legitimate reason for your presence on public lands in the province.

A miner's ticket also allows you to stake 51.6 acres for mining purposes, but it is not to be lived on. This regulation has been tightened in recent months, apparently because violation was considered widespread.

Licenses can be obtained in Room 320, 880 W. Pender in the Gold Commissioner's Office. Phone 688-2206.

### BUYING LAND

As the opening quote indicates, selling real estate to back-to-the-land types is big business in B.C. As a general rule, you can figure on paying \$1000 an acre for small (less than 25 acres) tracts within a 100-mile radius of Vancouver, in the Slokan Valley, on the Gulf Islands, or in the Queen Charlottes.

Naturally, the prices in these areas drop if you buy larger parcels, but it's safe to predict that the going rate will then be in the tens of thousands. There are exceptions, of course, but they are likely to be rare, and one has to search carefully to locate a good bargain.

More fruitful areas for consideration are the Prince George area (the best deals here may be in winter when "recreational" sites are buried under six feet of snow, although you run the risk of finding yourself with a swamp come spring), the Bulkley Valley (between Prince George and Prince Rupert on Highway 16), and the Yellowhead Highway in the McBride area.

With the possible exception of the Bulkley Valley where winters are reputedly mild, these areas are sure to have sub-zero winters and short growing seasons. Nor are these regions likely spots for the weekend homesteader. The nearest cities (Edmonton or Vancouver) are hundreds of miles away.

Land prices being what they are, you might consider co-operative buying with a large number of people purchasing a quarter section (160 acres). Buying in quantity is sure to reduce the price, and maybe with enough people to pool resources, you'll be able to pull off a fair deal.

When you consider that B.C. contains 366 thousand square miles, and that 90 per cent of the province's population of 2 million lives within a hundred miles of the U.S. border, you get some idea of the potential for squatting.

Several skills are necessary: one is keeping your mouth shut. Another is careful relations to prevent alienating the locals (some of whom will probably know what you're doing). Squatting requires a different frame of mind, make no mistake.

The feeling that owning land somehow insulates and protects you from the problems of society, which is illusion in the first place, is absent when squatting. You can't plan twenty years ahead, or even two. You have to be prepared to roll with the punches and get hassled from time to time.

The more competent you become in the bush, the better your chances of remaining undiscovered. If you feel your skill is high enough that you can pack in, your chances of privacy are much increased. The biggest threat may be woods closures in summer when even the logging companies stay home for fear of fire.

It may be wise during July and August to use a Coleman or primus stove for cooking to minimize the chances of fire.

Outside the woods, another prime area for squatting is the coastline between high and low tide which is legally considered public land. One suggestion here is that a group combine resources to buy a pile-driver, which can provide foundations for building. Far out, maybe, but there are thousands of miles of coastline in B.C. and on the islands.

### CARETAKING

Another way of getting back to the land cheaply is by arranging with an absentee land owner to caretake his land, maintain the buildings, protect against vandalism, etc.

Visit an area you think you'd like to live in. Check all the deserted farms, summer cottages, etc. Find out who owns them and give the owner a call.

Another approach is to advertise yourself in the local dailies. One young couple tried this tack last fall and wound up with four offers of winter homes.

### FINALLY...

Remember that money is not necessarily a limitation on getting back to the land. There are many ways to obtain the use of land without hassling for outright legal ownership. Personally, it seems to me that the syndrome of "owning land" is somewhat akin to the mentality that destroyed this continent in the first place.

Like Thordeau, you might first ask yourself if you really want to wind up pushing 160 acres down the road of life. Like him, too, you might say to yourself: the next time you see a beautiful mountain scene: "I am master of all I survey. My right there is none to dispute."

Thanks to Claudia and Colin of B.C. Land Information for most of the research.

Thanks to the person who sent this in. If you will tell where it's from, we'll give credit.

SOYBEANS: Thanks to Johnny Reb for the tip that many soybeans fail to sprout because they are hybrids and therefore sterile, not because of deterioration.

Whether or not one wishes to eat sprouts, it's nice to be able to sprout as a test of condition.

We previously mentioned, soybeans which come (according to man who sold them) from Arrowhead Mills have sprouted well and taste delicious that way after a short steaming. Unsprouted, these don't taste much different than soybeans we bought over two years ago which never have sprouted well. -RAYO

THE MAN WHO CAN FIND A WAY TO BE FREE WILL LEARN WHAT FREEDOM MEANS. -RAYO

### THE SODDY

Why not build a soddy? More people in more lands of this world have lived in soddies or something similar than in any other type of structure. Even the igloo is a sort of soddy and the dugout is at least part soddy. It may be built of free, local materials, it is windproof, quiet, insulated, ecologically correct, grows its own paint job, and is suitable, with modifications, almost anywhere in the world, though it can get buggy. Once the grass on the outside grows long and droopy it can be almost unfindable, even by its owner.

For a location, choose a dry spot, preferably on a slope. Dig 2" deep trench for drainage a couple feet from the outer walls and fill it with stones. The floor area should be dug flat and may be built up a foot or so above the surrounding ground level. It is dryer to have separate walls and not use the earth so dig your space to outside dimensions plus a foot or two for air space.

The floor may be hard-packed earth, sand, gravel, plywood on 2x4s with builders plastic sheet (like from Sears or Wards), henceforth called BPS, beneath, or puncheons which are rounds several inches long, sawed from various sized logs and sticks and fit together into a level floor. Any cracks remaining are filled with sand. The top inch or two of the sand may be mixed with cement and dampened for a more permanent finish. If you use sand, you can sprinkle with cement and mix the top inch with a rake, then all dampened and tamped smooth. You could even put BPS beneath this as a vapor barrier. Concrete is harder on the feet, some say.

Lay out your soddy, perhaps 12x18 which is big enough for two and easily heated. Pioneer and trapper cabins vary from 5x7 to 18x24 or so. The outside dimensions, with 3' sods, would be about 18x24'.

Find good turf, preferably long-established heavy meadow turf which will be thick and heavy-rooted and not as hard to cut as rooty woods turf. Cut out 3x6' pieces, using a wood frame as a guide, with straight-down cuts of a sharp shovel, preferable a square blade type Roll from one end, cutting under as you roll and tie with rags which won't cut like rope. These are heavy so perhaps rolling to the site would be easiest.

Arrange in any shape you want, rectangular is most efficient, and pile one atop another until you have the wanted height. Keep your ceiling as low as possible for more efficient heat use. The outside of the wall can be left as is, unless your area has driving rain. If so, weave a close mat (over one, under the next) or limber sticks and nail to the sods. A wall cover of straight, branchless poles can be set against the wall, held in place by a few horizontal poles nailed to the wall by driving forked branches into the sods, the branch stubs up and pointing in so the horizontal poles rest on the nails and are held by the stubs. The grass will grow long and hanging in either case and is very attractive waving in the breeze. If the soddy is properly located in a grassy, uneven or rocky spot, you will be able to look right at it and not see it.

You can also nail boards as the ancients did, using trenails. Drill a hole in a board and drive a dowel or rounded stick the proper size into the hole. The head can be left oversize or a wedge shape sliver can be driven in to wedge and hold all.

I suggest BPS on the inside walls to reduce moisture and exclude bugs but one is absolutely necessary under the roof. The woman living in a soddy had one big gripe but it was a beauty. In rain, the roof leaked mud. The inside walls can be finished like the outer.

Set a log or pour a cement log in the top of the fur walls, top edges flush to bear the weight of the roof and spread the burden. You could also put supports in the walls at each corner.

The roof can be very heavy, set plan accordingly. It can be gable or shed. If gable, continue the side walls curves up to the finish lines. Shed is lower, takes less turf, easier to work on and



not so obvious. The roof should overhang to shield the walls and may be broken or jagged to break outline. Straight lines are not often seen in nature.

Cut logs to lay across the top as base for the roof. Plywood can be laid over these or woven pole mats can be made or long poles may be laid parallel over the logs. BPS must be used, either between, under or over these layers. Keep it loose so it won't tear but not so loose that it will hang in balloons of mud and water. Another could be hung, tent style, over supports fastened beneath the logs.

Turves should be laid over the poles to a height of 1 to 3 feet, depending on the climate. The thicker the walls and roof, the less the temperature outside will affect the inside.

Another BPS could be used a turf or three beneath the top if you want, to keep those beneath it drier and so lighter and more insulating. You could build the turves higher on one end, in addition to the slope of the roof, and set the top turves on this steeper slant for better drainage. More top turves will be added over the years as those on top disintegrate. Walls can be several feet thick or you can pile earth up against them, in effect building a cave, but protect the drainage ditches. Do not try to seal an earth cut in sloping ground. The water will gather behind the barrier and increase pressure and slipperiness until the earth breaks through and slides.

Doors and windows should all be in one wall for convenience and strength. Frame them with split logs, placing the bottom first, then the top, holding in place with sticks, then the sides, cut to length and driven into place. These can be built as the wall is built to avoid tunneling and they can be pinned from the top with trenails. The bottom could be trenailed too by sitting the side logs down on the trenails. Use 2" trenails dipped in tar or preservative.

6, 8, or 12 light chicken house windows are best, harder to break, easier to replace, and pack. Remember, windows will reflect the sun and may show location far off. They can be set deep in walls or a tree can be used to constantly shade them.

The fireplace may be dug out in the center of the floor and lined with non-water absorbent stone so it won't explode. Let a bed of ash build up to bed the fire and enable to you bank it at night. The old timers just cut a hole in the roof and let the smoke find its own way out, if it did, but you needn't. Cut and rivet, from galvanized sheet metal, a flat cone 6' dia (6" stove pipe) and hang it over the fire. A damper can be made of a circular piece of galv, a long nail to pivot on, and a piece of wire for a control. Keep the pipe inside the roof so you lose as little heat as possible. The pipe out of the roof may need wire anchors but keep it as low as possible. Make a screen and cap over the pipe to exclude rain and bugs and prevent sparks.

The first goal is concealment. The building/digging activities should not be obvious to ground or air observation. Measure out your dimensions first and mark with sticks. Dig out the ditch first and fill with stones, saving sod, and disposing of the earth, then covering with cut branches, non-compacting heavy stem weeds, etc. Avoid any outline that would be seen from the air. All counties air photomap now and the longer a project sits obvious, the more likely to be seen. Outlines, ditches, etc. are very obvious from the air. Read any modern text on air archaeology and the finding of ancient house sites and diggings from the air by shadows, depressions, flora changes, color, etc. These are new techniques and must be considered. Perhaps the best would be to build under tree cover. Next, dig out wall sites and the space between them and earth cuts, saving the sod and disposing of the earth. If the soil is used to extend the flat in front of the soddy, tramp solid/flat and cover with debris, and weeds and plant grass/weed seeds to cover quick and prevent erosion and mud marks. Build your walls...you should have your sods all ready. Cover with cut branches, etc. to break outline and shadow lines. Put on roof and at least one layer of sods, keeping the branches, etc. Finish roof and walls outside soon as possible, planting thorn (and perhaps poison oak) bushes, small trees, etc. between walls and over ditch in jagged pattern. Shadow outline is broken in brush and some may grow taller than the roof and droop over it. Keep the cut brush until the sods grow and blend, and even then the dead brush could be thrown on the roof to lay and look tangled. This work breaks into rather distinct segments. Try to complete in minimum times to reduce time obvious. Last, the floor can be dug out, the sods thrown on the roof, the earth disposed of and you can move in, if you aren't already in. -PAUL DOERR

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To Paul: I'm responding to your invitation to comment in the same issue. I've learned to distrust any but firsthand information. Accordingly I ask: Have you built one or more soddys? Where – what region – what sort of terrain? What was the one(s) YOU built like – how big? How did you make the windows, doors, stove, etc.? How long did you live in it? During what seasons? Was it hidden? What problems did you encounter? How many working days were required to build it? What were the most time-consuming jobs? –RAYO

**[IMAGE IS ON  
NEXT PAGE]**





Sod dugout on South Loup River, Custer County, Nebraska, 1890. Load of sod on wagon to repair roof.

## THE FRONTIER DUGOUT

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THE MOTHER EARTH NEWS VICTOR A. CROLEY

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When grandpa came home from the War Between the States, he was 24 and in a hurry to settle down to some worthwhile living. Business was in a severe depression following the war boom but the federal government had passed the Homestead Act offering free land—with additional concessions to veterans—for those who could “prove up” by living on the land and farming it for a prescribed number of years. Grandpa, with wife and two small babies, was among the first to take advantage of that offer.

The family soon found themselves on the Nebraska frontier with all their household goods packed in a canvas-covered wagon. They had no home and the spindly wild plum thickets and sparse cottonwoods along the few streams were not trees enough for the log cabins they had known back in Ohio and Indiana.

Shelter was the first essential and grandpa and the hundreds of other homesteaders who pioneered with him were resourceful men. They had brought a few farming tools along and first in importance was the heavy iron breaking plow. Drawn by a team of horses or oxen, this instrument could turn up an eighteen inch ribbon of the thick virgin prairie sod. The strip could then be cut into two foot sections, four to six inches deep, to make an almost perfect building block.

The first—and most desirable—homes were simply small rooms dug into the lee side of a low rolling hill. The walls were built up with sod blocks to a height of seven or eight feet. Holes were left for doors and windows which were usually store-bought and hauled from the nearest town or railroad point. Cottonwood poles laid side by side, then spread with a thick layer of coarse prairie grass to provide insulation and prevent dirt from sifting through, formed the roof. Over this was carefully fitted a double layer of the sod building blocks. The first good rain started this sod to growing and soon the dugout roof was covered with waving grass. The grass almost concealed the roof but did not affect its insulating or protective properties.

The floor of the dugout home was of rough wooden planks if the family could afford to buy them. Otherwise, it was treated as the neighbor-

ing Indian squaws treated their tipi floors: Sprinkled with water daily and swept with crude grass brooms until the surface was as hard and smooth as finished concrete.

Walls of the sod houses were lined with newspapers pasted or pinned up with small, sharpened sticks to keep the dirt from brushing off. Some of the more ambitious families located outcroppings of limestone rock which they burned and mixed with screened sand to make a plaster coating for the walls.

The dugouts were amazingly comfortable homes; cool in summer, snug and easily heated in winter. The thick sod walls and roof made excellent insulation in a day when few knew or appreciated the value of insulation. When properly located on the south side of a low hill, with adequate drainage to provide run-off for rain and melting snow, the dugout was probably as comfortable a home as any our pioneering forefathers ever knew.

Unfortunately, the pioneer dugout had a very short life. It couldn't stand prosperity. The fertile Nebraska prairie sod—turned over in the fall and broken down to mellow richness by winter snows, freezing and thawing—produced bumper crops of corn and small grains. With money in the bank, the status symbol was a clapboard house and grandma couldn't be satisfied until she had gotten her family out of “that hole in the ground” and into her uninsulated clapboard structure: A house that was stifling hot in the summer and poorly heated in the winter by buffalo chips in the kitchen range or costly store-bought coal that had to be hauled from town, carefully hoarded and sparingly doled out.

Prosperity put an end to the dugout in little more than a decade of pioneering, but a few pictures still exist to show how these homes looked and memories and journals of the old-timers record the dugout's comforts and advantages . . . advantages that are still available to today's pioneers, homesteaders and freedom folk who want to get away from big city congestion and find a quiet, simple life close to the land.

MOTHER EARTH NEWS, Box 38, Madison, Ohio 44057; \$1.35/issue, 36/6 issues.

### CONDENSATION IN DUGOUTS AND DENS

In Siskiyou, walls and ceilings with high thermal capacity (thick and heavy) are usually wet in summer. (This conclusion is based on my experience with one small den plus theoretical analysis.) Warm outside air comes in and deposits moisture on everything much cooler than itself.

Earth temperature a few feet underground in Siskiyou remains close to 55° (at moderate altitudes) summer and winter. A thick earthen wall will probably also be close to this temperature. Air if saturated with moisture will hold about 23 grams per meter<sup>3</sup> at 80°F but only about 11 grams/m<sup>3</sup> at 55°F. If the day is warm and sunny, 80° with relative humidity of 60%, outside air will be carrying over 14 grams/m<sup>3</sup>. When cooled to 55° by contact with the walls of the dugout, it become super-saturated and deposits vapor in excess of 11 grams/m<sup>3</sup> as dew. Any moisture from breathing or cooking will add to the problem.

Condensation will be a problem in Summer only if humidity is over 30% or so (depending on temperatures), which may not be the case in desert regions.

In Winter condensation is rarely a problem. Even though the outside air has 100% humidity (raining), it will be warmed by contact with the den walls which reduces relative humidity. Possible solutions: •Have a continual heat source. (In a frontier dugout, a stove was probably burning most of the time. But this means more work and less vonu.) •Seal the shelter and spread desiccant to absorb what moisture leaks in (okay for some kinds of caches but not for living quarters). •Let the walls and ceiling be wet but design so that water doesn't drip onto furnishings. •Have a light insulative layer inside of the earthen walls; insulation should be sufficient so that the inner surface is always close to air temperature. (More on this in a future issue.) –RAYO

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## **OPTING OUT by Rayo**

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### UNDERGROUND BANKING

Where can one keep his hard-earned money while preparing to leave the Silly Society and take to the woods or the oceans?

An American bank isn't a safe place. If a savings account isn't lost in a financial crisis or garnished by the IRS, its value is eroded through inflation – often faster than interest is earned. Similar objections hold for savings-and-loan, government bonds, and life insurance.

Swiss banks should be considered as a place for part of one's savings by anyone with several grand or more. But they are a little risky for anyone who must "bank by mail". You know who runs the mails.

So more and more people are switching their accounts to that oldest and most reliable safe depository – the earth. Here are some suggestions for doing it, based on my personal experience.

FORM: The best form of savings is supplies and equipment one can personally use: food staples, soap, tools, paper, matches, rope, thread, ammunition, nails, or whatever. Every person would have at least a year's store of food. But larger quantities are bulky, difficult to preserve, and inflexible in event of lifestyle change.

The next form of savings to have is currency sufficient for a year or two of ordinary expenses – \$20 bills or smaller. The stuff will lose value as the government "prints" more and more of it (called "inflation") but it's likely to be the easiest form to spend for some time.

For savings over and above supplies plus spending money, consider silver coins. Not only are they relatively inflation proof because of their silver value, but they're a convenient size for trade, unlike silver bars.

Silver coins as SAVINGS should not be confused with SPECULATION in silver futures. Commodity speculation is essentially gambling on short-term price fluctuations. If the speculator guesses wrong he may lose everything he has bet. Commodity speculation, like "investing" in stocks, real estate, rare stamps, horse races, or poker games, I rationally left for highly experienced full-time professionals. The dollar price of silver coins can go down as well as up in the short term. So I would buy them, not in hopes of making a quick profit, but as a long-term (multi-year) store of value.

I would buy only “common date” coins – those worth not much more than their silver content. U.S., Canadian and Mexican coins are the most familiar to people, and therefore are easiest to trade. Avoid “rare coins” unless you are already a highly experienced numismatist.

I do not expect great increases in the value of silver coins; to the contrary, I think their value may decline relative to the value of perishable commodities as food; abruptly if there is any general disaster; slowly in event of long-term declines in productivity. But they are the best form of saving I can think of.

Computer parts, which someone has suggested, are not promising, I think, except conceivably for short-term speculation by someone VERY knowledgeable in that industry. Computer technology is changing very rapidly; computers and the parts for them become obsolete in just a few years. And, in event of a general disaster, any industrial supplies in short demand are likely to be the object of bludg regulation. They are incomprehensible mysteries to others. Unlike silver coins which are recognized by non-users as well as by makers of jewelry and dentists.

SOURCES: U.S. silver quarters and dimes (identifiable by 1954 or earlier date) went out of circulation several years ago but can be bought in quantity from some coin dealers and individuals. (Don't save 1965 or later coins; these are made of copper and nickel, and worth much less than face.) COIN WORLD, a weekly newspaper sold at most coin shops, has a large classified section and is a fair lead to who is buying and selling although their prices will be about a month behind. Also check classified ads in large-city Sunday papers. Coins commonly sell in bags of \$500 or \$1000 FACE value. If I live in a sales tax state, I buy either from a private party or from an out-of-state dealer. Air freight will be less than sales tax. When phoning a dealer, ask for both his buy and sell quantity-prices; volume dealers try to make about 5% commission.

Price of common-date coins should be close to the value of their silver content. To calculate silver value, multiple their FACE value (i.e., 25¢ for a quarter) times 0.722, then times the spot price of silver (listed on WALL STREET JOURNAL commodity page). For example, if the price of silver is \$1.50 per troy ounce, 2000 U.S. silver quarters (\$500 face) will contain silver worth  $\$500 \times 0.722 \times 1.60 = \$580$ .

If the price of the coins is more than 5% or 10% more than silver value, I would postpone purchase, buy silver bars (if I can buy for close to silver value) or consider a silver account with a Swiss bank. (Two large banks are Swiss Bank Corporation and Swiss Credit Bank; address Zurich, Switzerland.)

If the price of silver should get high with respect to other commodities (more than 1/20<sup>th</sup> the price of gold, for example), I would look for another form of savings.

PACKAGING: The outside container must be sturdy to withstand soil pressures. Tightly packing any empty space with crumpled newspapers or dry straw will help. A 5-gallon can with crimp-on lid is usually adequate for stores not requiring an air-tight seal; expect some moisture to get in. New cans are sold at some hardware stores; used, dirty ones can sometimes be picked up gratis at factories which receive paint and chemicals in them. Rarely will it rust through in less than 5 years; it can be preserved longer by thoroughly coating with asphalt undercoating or roofing compound.

Also double or triple wrap so that your stores will remain intact even if the outside container gives way. One way is to wrap each subpackage in several successive layers of 4 or 6-mil polyethylene film, solid at building supply stores. Of course, silver coins will do no more than tarnish even if ground water reaches them; this will depreciate them only if they should develop numismatic value. Make density of the outside container roughly the same as the soil to avoid any risk of the can settling or working to the surface; 80-100 pounds for a five-gallon can.

LOCATION: Most people hide valuable in or around their homes. So a home is the first place a thief, governmental or private, will search. Nor are safety deposit boxes (in North America) safe. Choose an area remote from population; perhaps a “National Forest” or other unowned land.

Allow several days for exploration to find a suitable spot. If possible pick land with heavy brush, which is unattractive for hikers and hunters and which will not be logged or farmed. Avoid sites which are: subject to heavy erosion such as gullies or steep slopes; close to power lines or roads which may be widened or moved; visible beyond a few hundred yards; near any tourist attraction or habitation; close to any exceptional landmark, such as the base of the only tree

within miles. ESPECIALLY avoid any ruins, ghost-town sites, old mines, or placer workings since such places attract treasure hunters.

**BURYING:** Digging will be easiest and chance of intrusion least during the wet season (preferably after deer hunting season but before snow remains on the ground). But most any season is a fairly safe at a secluded site. Fewer people are around on weekdays.

Bring: your package, a short-handled pick (or hammer plus large chisel), an empty coffee can (for bailing dirt, a shovel won't reach deep), a pail for carrying away surplus dirt, tarpaulin or other large piece of heavy plastic or cloth, a measuring tape (or strong string with a mark every foot), compass, paper, and pencil.

Hide the package in some bushes away from the site, also away from vehicle, while digging the hole and taking measurements. To minimize surface disturbance pile dirt on tarp. Put plants and surface debris in one pile, top soil in another, and subsoil in still a third. Try to preserve plants.

It's unlikely that anyone will pass over a spot with a metal detector. But if this is a fear, bury so that top of can is at least three-feet deep; a detector cannot sense that deep in most rocky or sandy soil. One-foot depth will usually protect from erosion and small animals.

Take measurements before burying, for greatest accuracy and to minimize time valuables are vulnerable. Pack soil well when refilling. Carry surplus dirt away from the site; if possible dump in a gully or slide and cover with surface debris. Finally, spend at least an hour rearranging and adding leaves, twigs, pebbles, etc., until the site blends with the neighborhood. If you have a Polaroid camera you might take a before picture and restore to original appearance. Return in a month or two to check appearance and your directions.

**RECORDS:** Measure distances from at least five (for redundancy) relatively permanent objects such as rock outcrops or large bushes. Use a tape measure but also pace each distance as a rough check. Note distances and directions for getting to the general area; for this, pacing is sufficiently accurate. Encode records and/or keep the location of the general area separate from measurements to the specific spot. Label them deceptively. Make duplicate copies and keep in different places.

If you give copies to an agent or heir, carefully seal these some way so that if your cache should be disturbed your agent can prove his innocence. For example, wrap record in aluminum foil for opacity, put in envelope, tape seams of envelope on inside, and write on envelope so that you can identify it.

**GENERAL:** If caching seems formidable or risky, do one or two practice caches first to develop skills and confidence. Or first cache something of low value. Get help with your practice burials, if you want. But do high value caches alone. Don't even involve your freemate; freemates sometimes break up. Beware of helping others; if something goes wrong do you want to be even subconsciously suspected?

The greatest risk is usually, not that someone else will find it, but that you or your agent will not be able to. But with even moderate care, the good earth is your safest safe depository.

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## MAKING DO

POPCORN IS DANDY. IT'S MUCH BETTER THAN CANDY. AND THERE'S NO NEED TO FRY IF YOU GIVE SHAKING A TRY.

We eat a lot of popcorn. We pop it without oil or anything in an old aluminum pan (with lid!). We just cover the bottom of the pan with kernels and apply low low heat. After a couple minutes, we turn the heat up a little and shake the pan now and then until things start popping. Then we turn heat up once more and shake pan almost constantly. The pan gets discolored: we don't try to keep it shiny. Kernels don't burn unless we get the heat too high, in which case we scour the pan and start over again.

We've popped on a wood fire too but it's trickier – now and then we burn a panful.

If you like oil on your popcorn, we recommend you put it on after popping since high heat deteriorates oils, creating carcinogenic substances. –GRAIN GAINER

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I use it when pouring off wash/rinse water from grains and pulses. Mine has a 7-inch diameter and is made of coat-hanger wire with fiberglass screen (building supply) sewn on with an overcoat stitch of decron thread. –DR. GATHERER

Rayo:

February 2, 1972

Here is a report on our trip, including supply sources. You are welcome to publish any part of this is VONU LIFE.

BROWN RICE: Farmers Rice Co-op Mill and Rice Growers Association of Cal., both on/near S. River Rd., West Sacramento, both charge \$10 per hundred pounds. A petty bureaucrat at Co-op was a pain; at first he refused to sell to us because we didn't have a re-sale license, then relented when we produced a letter from Co-op giving quote. After that we decided to also buy a hundred pounds from Association to see if they would be friendlier. They were, but rice doesn't seem to be as good quality: many cracked and bruised grains, chalky appearance; tastes okay but we wonder about keeping qualities. We have previously bought from Farmers Rice Co-op in Dos Palos, also from Koda Brothers there, with no problems.

PINK BEANS: E.M. Olson Warehouse, next door to Rice Association, had some. No, he doesn't ordinarily sell by the bag, the man told Roberta. However he did, for cash: \$11/#100 – best price we have encountered for any food legume. They taste somewhat milder than red beans.

RAISINS: Bonner Packing Co., Fresno (about 7 miles SE of Fresno). 30# box “pel seedless” (unbleached); zanti currants (made from a small grape, not a Ribes despite the name).

WALNUTS: We made a wrong turn in Fresno – serendipity – saw sign for walnuts – Urdesiches, just west of Fresno. In shells.

HARD RED WHEAT: O.H. Kruse Grain & Milling, So. El Monte, Calif. Also had corn and milo at about the same price.

KELP: Kruse (above), “Ocean-Pak Kelp, Pacific coast kelp meal. *Macrocystis pyrifera*, machine dehydrated – protein in 6% min, fat 0.4% min, fiber 8% max, potassium 10% min, calcium 1.5% min, phosphorus 0.25% min, iodine 0.1% min, NaCl 7.5% max.)”

LIMESTONE FLOUR: Kruse (above). It is sold as feed supplement for wide variety of animals so probably okay for humans too.

NOTE: The above sources are NOT mail-order. Prices will vary depending on supply and demand. In my opinion going direct to packing companies (such as Bonners and rice mills) is worth the trouble only on purchases of \$50 or more.

HONEY: Poor season, worldwide shortage, we've heard. Prices very high; some wholesalers are rationing their regular customers. We didn't buy any; bought more raisins instead.

LENTILS: We didn't find a good source. Either that or basic price is high this year. If you go south and find any for under \$15/100#, buy us a hundred.

DRUMS: A. Rooke Cooperage, Los Angeles. 10 gal, 15 gal., and 19 gal. steel wide-mouth drums, covers clamped on by circumferential bands tightened by bolts. Military surplus, used but relatively clean, contained equipment. Asking price for one drum was \$3.50. Bought 50 15-gal. drums as is for \$100. Most came with gaskets, not all in good condition.

GASKETS: Myer Drum Co., LA, offered to sell 5-gal. can gaskets for \$10. Seems high. Couldn't find source for 15-gal.

POLYETHYLENE BAGS: Bradley's Plastic Bag Co., Downey, Calif. (Examples) 20"x30" 4-mil (5 gal. drum liner); 26" 45" 4-mil (15 gal. drum). These bags are much heavier gauge than plastic garbage bags sold in grocery stores, most of which are 1 mil. Prices are fob; they will ship, however. Catalog gratis.

POLYETHYLENE FILM: Plastic Sales In., San Francisco, Calif. \$20 for one 100-foot roll, 20 foot wide, 6 mil. fob.

ROPE: Frantz Enterprises, Inglewood, Cal. sells mill ends of polypropylene and polyethylene rope and cord for \$1/pound; \$80/100 pounds. Wide variety of colors and gauges. Also good price on WD40 anti-rust oil: \$4.67/gallon.

RUBBER CEMENT: Tandy Leather Co., Berkeley. \$2.25/gallon. There are Tandy stores in many cities.

DENTISTS: We went to Ensenada because we had leads there, also because we thought squatting would be easier and pleasanter than around Tijuana. Dr. Miguel Galvan, associate of

Dr. Wilhelm Backhoff U., installed a crown for \$20 U.S.; job was completed less than 24 hours after we first walked into his office; examination gratis. (In contrast, 3 years ago in LA I paid \$80 for a gold crown; had to wait one week for first appointment, another week to make the crown.) Galvan speaks very little English; Roberta speaks fair Spanish, fortunately. Galvan & Backhoff had modern equipment, including high-speed air-driven drill. He seemed to do a good job; of course only time will tell. Other dentists suggested to us: Drs. Biatris Carillo, Calle Ruiz; quoted \$25 for gold crown, examination of \$2, fairly fluent in English. Dr. Gallegas (2 blocks E. of downtown), \$30 for gold crown, speaks English well (suggested by Al Fry). One other dentist quoted \$30 for gold crown. Both Galvan and Carillo quoted \$6 for filling small cavity with silver-mercury – less expensive than U.S. but not by much. Apparently the big price break in Mexico is on lab work, not what the dentists net. Neither Galvan nor Carillo seemed eager to sell unneeded dental work. (I have a small chip out of one tooth. Galvan diagnosed no caries, no filling needed. In contrast, a dentist in Grant's Pass tried to sell a gold crown (\$100, his price) for that tooth.) After our dental work was complete we learned of a dental clinic through local newspaper ad (attached) which advertises 125 pesos for gold crown. When we visited them, however, they quoted \$14 U.S. and 3 days wait for gold crown, \$3.20 for small filling (because we were rich gringos?). No indication that clinic was bludg run, but it might be. Dentists did not seem busy in Ensenada, despite U.S. dock strike which brings extra ships to Port of Ensenada. Al Fry said winter is off season.

HAND GRINDER: "Estrella" Molino; made by Talleres Industriales, Monterrey, N.L., Mexico; sold in Ensenada for \$5.04 U.S. by Mercado El Centro.

Similar to Corona in construction and performance but less than half the price; grinds wheat to coarse flour in two passes.

We encountered no problems street-squatting with camper in LA, Ensenada and Berkeley the few nights we were there. We stayed out of the few suburbs which post bans against all overnight parking on streets. No problem at border except for long wait reentering U.S. The marijuana-sniffing dogs (bludg-hounds?) were on the job.

Suggestion for avoiding Calif. (any state?) sales tax on quantity purchases: Find a friend with a re-sale permit who will let you use his number. Give friends name and number to seller in lieu of paying tax. Keep list of what you buy. Send order, predated, postmarked out of state, to you friend's business, asking him to sell and ship you these items. Your friend files the latter for cover in case the bludg should check (unlikely on small purchases). NOTE: This practice may be illegal in some states.

A special salutation to one hard-working proprietress in LA – an old lady who could barely speak English – who, when I offered to fill out a re-sale card, said: "If you don't need receipt I don't need re-sale number."

For dealing with shy wholesalers in Calif., Al Fry suggests reciting an E number ("E" followed by 6 digits). There is no law in Calif. nor in most states limiting whom wholesalers can sell to, but some wholesalers pretend that there is, to placate irrational retailers who think they are losing sales this way...

Thanks to all our friends and acquaintances along the way who provided helpful information and gracious hospitality. –TOM & ROBERTA

P.S. Yes, we will write a report on our smial construction for VONU LIFE. Sorry for delay.

**No tenga miedo que le  
Rompan los dientes**

Ya llegó a Ensenada; como a todas las ciudades de  
la República

**La Clinica Dental de  
Ensenada**

Ave. Juárez 1520

Con experimentado cuerpo de Odontólogos y con un  
Instrumental Nuevecito, y Abaratando Precios.

DESE UN QUEMON:

|                        |          |
|------------------------|----------|
| Extracciones sin Dolor | \$ 20.00 |
| Puentes Removibles     | " 100.00 |
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| Coronas de Oro         | " 125.00 |
| Radiografías           | " 15.00  |

Y todo Garantizado por Escrito, por las Dudas.  
Anteriormente solo los ricos veían al dentista;  
ahora los Pobres andan llamados porque quieren,  
porque hasta Crédito sin Dudas.

LO INVITAMOS a ver nuestra Clinica.



COMMENTS ON OVERVIEWS, VONU LIFE 5 – by Rayo & Dr. Gatherer

To DAVE: There are degrees of vonu – invulnerability to coercion. I prefer a 90% probability to a 10% probability of remaining alive and well the next 20 years.

If a majority of people ever become vonu, it will be by developing many DIFFERENT vonu ways, not by adopting any single lifestyle. Vonuans will not bump shoulders very much because they will be “invisible” to other kinds of vonuans as well as to bludg.

The earth’s big problem right now is not too many people, but too many people trying to live the same way. That’s bad ecology. The earth supports a tremendous quantity of life, without serious problems (except for mankind), because that life is extremely diverse – grows in different habitats, eats different foods, behaves in different ways. At one time there may have been only a single lifeform – the first lifeform on earth. But life inevitably diversifies because there are survival advantages to diversity. (A lone Madrone growing among Douglas fir, is immune to insects and diseases which prey on Madrone. And it utilizes somewhat different soil nutrients than Douglas fir, etc.) Humans will diversify for similar reasons – culturally at least, perhaps biologically as well. (Some humans may be able to digest cellulose, as can cattle and one kind of monkey. Others may be able to live underwater.) To the degree that humans diversify, the earth will support more of them with fewer problems.

That’s looking long range. In the shorter range, a recent survey concluded that only half of all children born in the United States are wanted by their parents; worldwide, the proportion is probably lower. If this is true, the birth rate will be cut in half as cheaper and easier-to-use contraceptives are developed. Population will soon be declining, not increasing.

The only thing I know about Zero Population Growth is their ad, offering to sell an abortion to any woman who wants one, which is commendable. Unfortunately, many of the “concerned people” are eco-fascists – seeking coercive political solutions to population and ecology problems. That’s like taking whiskey to cure a hangover. Government has been and continues to be a big cause of population problems: laws against contraceptives, laws against abortion, laws against “sodomy”, taxes on childless people, military conscription, FDA interference with development of birth control drugs, etc.

A “unified, mass movement” is unlikely to develop but would be harmful if it did. A mass movement cannot individualize benefits and responsibilities, and so is fueled by irrationality and irresponsibility of its followers. Every mass movement of history I know of has had laudable, often libertarian goals. But every mass movement has brought only coercion and destruction. The political problems of today – the cold war, anti-sex and drug laws, communism, inflation, unemployment, compulsory schooling and child labor laws, are products of the “noble crusades” of yesteryear.

More about diversity: Just as a mechanized, one-crop farmer requires uniformity of plants, so a totalitarian government needs uniformity of people – it can control only to the extent that people act and react in similar ways. Coercive government, like single crop farming, is inherently bad ecology. Bludg go to almost any length to achieve uniformity – witness the bussing of slave school children – favored by practically no one except bludg. But the advantages of diversity become greater and greater. Soon, all the King’s horses and all the King’s men...

Vonuism, and the whole alternate lifestyles quest, is only the beginning. –RAYO

To DAVE: By the way, you might be interested to know that I have professionally diagnosed you as suffering from feelings of ineffectualness, helplessness, and depression. Such feelings are the inevitable outcome of trying to change other people in order to solve the world’s problems. – DR. GATHERER

N.B.: Some less astute doctor might even diagnose YOU as a schizophrenic. This is because the term “schizophrenia” is employed by the psychiatric profession whenever it is at a loss to come up with any other diagnosis. I.e. the psychiatrist says “schizophrenia” instead of saying “I do not know.”

To “Mitchell Jones”: (Reply to your rebuttal in VL5.)

ALTERNATE SCENARIOS. Examining scenario is: 5 million troops wouldn't be required, only 5 thousand technicians to observe dismantling of military industries. The U.S. bludg will do the rest, providing the Soviets use finesse. Avoid anything crude like "unconditional surrender". Let the U.S. bludg keep their flag, their national anthem, and most of their jobs. Name the headmen of FBI and CIA, etc. Increase U.S. "trade" with U.S.S.R., and set the terms.

U.S. economy is a bigger, juicier plus than Japan or Israel. Why shouldn't the Soviets take over a going concern when they can do so easily?

Soviet bludg were crude in Eastern Europe after WWII. But situation was much different; they didn't have an advantage in strategic weaponry.

Of course, it's not wise to count on semi-rationality of bludg. So your scenario should be prepared for, also.

Examining scenario 3: Hindsight is usually keener than foresight. In the late 50's the gap was thought to be an overall military gap. At that time an acquaintance – a weapon-systems planner in aerospace, very knowledgeable in the field – hypothesized the following: The Soviets would launch a surprise attack near the time of summer solstice. Their missiles would hit SAC bases, destroying most bombers on the ground, also early U.S. missiles, which had a countdown of an hour or more (when they worked at all). The few U.S. bombers on airborne or flight line alert would arrive over U.S.S.R. during long summer daylight hours; Soviets had large numbers of high performance daylight interceptor aircraft; most major targets are thousands of miles within Soviet airspace.

He put the probability of an attack at 50% EACH SUMMER. Certainly one can poke holes in his scenario NOW. He couldn't THEN, nor could I.

POSTWAR WORLD. Assume your scenario: After 'die-down' only 500,000 people are left in America. Even if they are all in western third (east completely annihilated by fallout) that's about one family per 10 square miles. I don't believe bushwhacking will be very rewarding at that population density. Survivors will have turned to other means of support.

If I am mistaken and looting is still common, die-down will continue to a still lower population level.

Small groups can then travel – with caution.

But whether or not a large community is desirable, one or two years is not enough time to come together, sort out (weed out drifters, gamesters, etc.) and get prepared. So let's do the best we can with what we have.

A NEW THOUGHT: If your military analysis is correct (and I've no reason to doubt it) I wonder if there is even one or two years. U.S. bludg can obsolete the SS-9 just be changing Minutemen launch strategy. Soviet strategies realize this and so they urge: "do it now". Dangerously unstable!

Best Regards,  
RAYO

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## OVERVIEWS

Dear Editors:

Recent issues mention "Communications", "Parallel Economy", Rayo has mentioned the idea of a truck making weekly trips up and down the west Coast and of course there is the ongoing dialogue about vans, trucks, various types of automotive nomadism...all kinds of transportation schemes.

I think I detect a common vein running through all this. Perhaps it can give us a tip to Vonuans and other contemplating alternative styles of living.

To me, Trailer, Van, Truck-living is an extension of the 50-year American hang-up with the automobile. It still means dependency on a technology beyond the control of the user and upon the very system he seeks to escape. It hardly seems a move toward invulnerability to put your body and your house on the highway. That's the same small space occupied largely by those guys with the red lights on their cars and often by the migratory bureaucrats they protect and

then there's the fact this is the best population reducing machine (overlooking pills and small devices) we have developed yet. Communication in a post-Armageddon world rules out public mails, Ma Bell, and is not so efficient or economical right now. Some take Parallel Economy to mean some underground production and distribution of the industrial junk we now have, but by a complex outside the existing system. This is like saying, "We will change everything and when we get it all changed, it will be just the same as before". We need to confront the fact that Vonuans and other irregulars are not now self-sufficient, can never be in all things, and will continue to need many things not the product of their natural environments, nor within the scope of their own talents and resources to provide. Further, that many of these things, especially those needed to enrich our lives, are not in fact the products of the existing production-consumption-industrial system. Or, at least do not have to be such. It would appear there is both a need and an opportunity for a special kind of commerce among those of us outside the system...much of it in goods not really the product of the system.

Autonomous Libertarians and Vonuans need more and better communication or we sink into alienation, isolation, and ignorance. Carrier pigeons and smoke signals don't seem like a good answer. How about a higher order of technology using very low power, non-licensed 2-way radios. FM side bands could be used for a networking and linking together a Co-Op Communications system. This presumes cooperators spaced out along a route not too far apart and the use of equipment not much beyond that employed to open garage doors or in radio controlled model airplanes. Living close to the route of the old Army heliograph system (a line of mirrors flashing dots and dashes of reflected sun light) I was sparked to do a little research on that. Messages were relayed in the mid-1800's from remote Cavalry patrols to Headquarters in Santa Fe, N.M and San Diego in about the time it presently takes to send a Western Union message.

In transportation, considerations we are not only hung up on the auto...but get caught up in its systems, routes, and the flows of commerce it has created. Often these are totally unrelated to the world of non-system commerce Vonuans might need and use. For us, distance, time, and cost factors are on a different scale. Example: If it is vital for you to personally travel a long distance quickly, get the jet and go, but seasonal migrations, leisure movement may not need to be hurried. If a flow of supplies you need and want are moving to you and arriving on time, you are not at all concerned about when they departed, nor how long they spent on the way.

The cheapest, simplest, most primitive way of moving things is to put them in a vessel and float them on water. A glance at the map will show you that enormous areas of this country are on water or very close to it. The East and Gulf coasts and mid-West with their coastal and river water systems are an obvious water commerce situation. Even the West coast picture is good if you consider the "Pacific Canal" and the vast areas accessible to streams classed legally as "navigable waters"...over 1500 miles of shoreline in the San Francisco Bay-Sacramento-San Joaquin River complex. Puget Sound is a whole water world. You can boat inland to a surprising number of places and of course, Lewiston, Idaho is accessible. Draw lines paralleling all these waterways and 50 or 60 miles inland from their shorelines and you will find you have encompassed not only vast areas, centers of population, but most of the Vonuan hide-out sanctuaries in this country! The intervening few miles between you and boating water is probably less than a day's walk, bike ride, horseback trip. All other factors being favorable, it might warrant finding squat spots on or nearer these waters.

Conclusion: Maybe we need a Communications-Transportation Co-op...a sort of forum and agency for establishing non-system, invulnerable contacts and commerce between ourselves designed to more efficiently and certainly more economically supply our special needs in these areas.

Example: Via the communications network we exchange ideas and information and let one another know what we have and what we need. You might pick herbs and berries in Oregon and make jam. I might trade you a ton of dried apricots scrounged here. We pass things along an Underground Railroad facilitated by the Co-op. When quantities are involved we might bring in a third parties in the form of boat-based Vonuans who can move things along for us.

If all this strikes a chord with you or your readers, I'll send along specifics on how to operate a non-Government regulated shipping enterprise, how to build boats for living and hauling, pack-horse transportation schemes and routes, etc.

Suggestion: It would be most helpful in assessing the needs of a parallel economy and alternative communication-transportation systems if a survey could be made of what actually are the needs of Vonuans and how they supply them now.

### **A Search – Of Dr. G. and Rayo**

We find wilderness vonu addicting; often delightfully so, sometimes painfully so. Several years ago, when we became van-nomads, that lifestyle seemed to offer the optimum combination of isolation and access. We were not content to spend a week or two in that society if we could spend several weeks out of it. As time passed so did some of our hang-ups and we wanted to be further out and out more of the time. Now, much of the time, we no longer live in our van- we can't get it far enough out. But we still use our van for supply/communication trips into that society. And, more and more, those trips are bummers. No, it's not that society is getting worse – we are not beat up, thrown into jail, nor run out of town wherever we show up. It's just that our tolerance for shit becomes progressively lower – keeping up ID (licenses expire, and need a “residential address”); keeping things on and in our van “legal”; worrying about our personal appearance being too freaky, etc.

I really like E's comment about putting one's body and house on the highway...”The small space occupied largely by those guys with the red lights on their cars...” Of course bludg-land isn't just the pavement, it's all the space visible from and easily accessible from highways, streets and roads – i.e., almost all the houses, shops and farms of that society. (A big advantage of van-nomadism over “conventional” ways is not that the pavements are safer than the rest of bludg-land, but that a nomad spends less time on the pavements and in the rest of bludg-land.)

Several years ago, when I was just a sheep-person with illusions of enlightenment, maintaining serf-tags (ID, etc.) seemed trivial. (When one is waist-deep in sewage, what's another turd more or less?) Now these are the most unvonu parts of our lives and are correspondingly unpleasant.

We have some experience with bicycles and don't think they're an answer. A bike means *more* time in bludg-land per trip – *more* red-lighters and other dangerous drivers whizzing by. As for bikes not needing licenses, that is just a liberty (legal interstice), not a vonu (relative physical invulnerability), and probably a short-lived one. Already tax-hungry bludg in California are proposing state licensing of bikes, just like automobiles. (The fees will supposedly go for maintenance of bikeways – big deal!)

Nor are we interested in total isolation (yet, at least). We believe primitivism would mean less vonu in the long run. (Primitive societies run afoul of bludg-land sooner or later – consistent avoidance of something requires some knowledge of it.) And there are too many capabilities/things we wish to develop which require equipment, materials and knowledge out of the other society – technology our society doesn't have yet. But personal travel isn't necessary for import-export. All that is needed (for now) is a way to get parcels and messages in and out – interfaces with the freighting and communication services of that society.

Avoidance of personal travel into bludg-land is not without costs. We must buy a particular part, new, through Sears catalog instead of picking it up, used, at a swap-meet. Nor can we engage in business which requires face-to-face encounters. But these costs are small compared to the savings, at least for us.

This brings me to the “retired farmer with pickup truck” who Adam proposed hiring. It is one thing to get some stuff hauled around once a year. It is something else to get mail/parcels picked up and delivered every couple of weeks, which is what we would like. The latter service requires somebody who is not only reliable, but closed-mouth and in sympathy since he is apt to be hassled sooner or later. There are such people (we know several) but they are few and far between.

Dr. G. and I would probably be happy to pay \$4 per trip (\$100 per year) for such a service. For \$4, someone in that society cannot afford to go much out of his way to pickup/deliver at our drop. Even though the retired farmer is sympathetic, he is very much in that society, incurs the

“high overhead” (psychic even more than financial) there, and will expect to be paid at that society’s going rate. Assuming he goes to town every other week anyway, for \$4 it might be worth his while to drive 5 miles out of his way to our drop. This severely limits our base location – a desirable wilderness area is not apt to be within a few miles of the relatively few applied-libertarians we could trust to provide such a service. Even if we find such a combination of person and place, suppose he gets sick or moves away: we must move too or pay much higher fees to somebody living further away.

But, if, say, ten vonuan families or groups lived within a 20-mile diameter area, and each would pay \$4 for interface service, that’s \$40. \$40 will hire an applied lib, one day every two weeks – pay for his time and 100-miles or more of driving expenses. We and our drops need not be near his home. Such a service is not to replace long-term storage of supplies we know we will use, such as hundreds of pounds of food staples, but for procurement of the unpredictable items and information – a special part for a new device we are developing, a drug to treat a rare disease, a book.

So, Dr. G. and I are seeking other vonuans who (1) have enough mobility to locate in the same area and (2) have interfacing needs similar to our own – i.e., desire fairly frequent parcel carrying to/from the other society, but do not wish to visit that society more often than once a year (if that often).

Our association needn’t be a close-togetherness thing. One needn’t approve the way the other combs his face. We can have as much or as little internal trade and personal contact as we want.

Dr. G. and I are fairly mobile. At present we can move our base with less than one month’s labor. And we are not hung-up on any particular wilderness spot. Nor is “moving” Vonu Life to a new post office box especially difficult. For climate and nuclear-fallout reasons, we probably aren’t interested in any area outside the Pacific Northwest (northern California through southwest Alaska) unless it is outside of North America. And we want to be at least 100 miles away from and upwind of the metro areas of Vancouver, Seattle, Portland and San Francisco.

Perhaps we can first come together in Siskiyou region, then when there are more (20? 30? Families), move to the north coast of British Columbia and find an applied-libertarian with a boat instead of a pickup truck. (There are probably more miles of waterways along B.C. coast than there are miles of roads and streets in California plus Oregon.) Climate and terrain there aren’t too different from here – somewhat wetter, only a little colder. More people would be necessary there than here fortnightly interfacing to be economical, since the interfacers would probably travel hundreds of miles.

We are seeking only those with enough vonu-living experience, especially living in relative isolation, to know their own minds. And with savings, or a source of income not requiring physical presence in that society much of the time. If this idea appeals to you, but you are inexperienced, I suggest first trying vonu-living, by yourself, in an area convenient to you.

We already know at least two applied-libertarians in Siskiyou Region who would probably be interested in providing pickup/delivery; the problem is coming up with enough of a market to make it worth their while.

If you think your head is anywhere close to yours, do write. Let us know your experience, present situation and objectives; also thoughts you have about interfacing with that society. This is a long-term project of ours – it probably won’t happen in a month or two. So if you first read this many moons from now, chances are we will still be interested if not already coming together.

# VONULIFE 7, MAY 1972 (formerly PREFORM-INFORM)

[COMMUNICATION AMONG NOMADS, TROGLODYTES, AND  
OTHER FREEDOM-ACHEIVERS]

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Published every two months by MIKE FREEMAN | Compiled by Lan

## VONU LIFE CHANGES EDITORS

Lan, a vonuan of considerable experience, is not editor of VONU LIFE. Dr. Gatherer and I are quitting so that we can devote more time to shelter and food.

Last Winter we failed to accomplish many of the things we intended because we didn't have a shelter that was both warm and roomy. (Our lay foam-hut is warm but not roomy; our poly tent is roomy but not warm.) We want better shelter before another Winter comes.

Also we intend to forage more to see if we can economically reduce our dependence on food imports.

We intend to write for VONU LIFE occasionally. Please address any personal mail for us to Vonu Life (G) or Vonu Life (R).

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## BY AND ABOUT LAN

I volunteered to compile (not edit) vonulife because I like to share ideas. Vonu living is a great adventure and I enjoy writing and reading about it. I want to share, if only vicariously, in the trials and triumphs of other vonuans and enable others to share mine.

I can converse face to face with a few others. They are intelligent but I have heard their repertoire of thoughts and they have heard mine. Each adds to e's repertoire but does so slowly. So I like to communicate with outsiders, too.

Also, compiling vonulife is a pleasant way to earn the price of rice and spice. Vonulife would be an unprofit organization if done out there. But, like Rayo wrote to me, a vonuan has low overhead.

Many people read and write for vonulife because they want to link up with other people. This is a good use of vonulife but it is not one of mine. I am not open to visitors. Nor do I want new members. I will explain why in my article on community.

Reading back issues, I observe that most subscribers do not write for publication. Are you shy? Do you fear that what you write isn't literature? For me, the biggest value of vonulife is a way to converse with many other vonuans. I try to write what I might say to you if we could get together. Sometime I may disagree, repeat, contradict, confuse, bore. But also I can say things I would leave out of a polished article, if I got time to write one. Some of you, like me, cannot accommodate visitors in the flesh but want to converse. This is a way.

I would like to see more detailed how-to-do-it articles in vonulife polished or otherwise. But also I like accounts of how vonuans are actually living – maybe a diary of an ordinary day or week – telling what was done and how – telling of the little adventures and joys and comforts and hardships and inconveniences. What seems commonplace or trivial to you or I, may be revealing and attractive to a reader still trapped in the corporate state who is struggling to get out.

I am continuing Rayo's payment policy. I will extend subscriptions for writing I think is especially helpful; for a good how-to-do article. If you want cash I pay ¼¢ per word, but at that point I become editor, not just compiler.

Some of you may not want your handwriting or typewriting published. I can retype – 25¢ a typed page if you will put up with a few mistakes and blurry letters. (I type fast but not well. And my typewriter ordinarily makes indistinct letters, like my letter in vonulife 6.) Or send some dried apricots or heros or whatever you make or harvest. Leave off your name and address if you want or make up one.



If you don't want even me to know who you are, cut off the issue numbers, which are on the top right of the first page of each issue, and send them along. Then I will know that no one is publishing more than e's share. You may use vonulife's old address as return address on your envelope.

Please say whether or not your letter is for publication. When I get a letter which doesn't say, I retype and publish any parts I think are exceptionally interesting, but leave off names addresses.

I don't go to Cave Junction so I must wait for others to relay mail to me. I usually get mail once every two months. I'm trying to get mail more often and faster but until I do please be patient if I'm slow answering letters.

Some people like a story that's written in the first person. This is fine for them. But others are shy. Like me. So don't hesitate to write about an unnamed friend. Or fictionalize your story.

I am continuing Rayo's policy of not criticizing an article in the same issue, unless the author gives permission. I will wait until the next issue. But I won't be able to send e my comments before publication. So e will not be able to reply until the issue following my comments.

I am embarrassed. Last issue I lectured Rayo on how to make vonulife more legible. And my own letter came out a blue. It may have been the ribbon. This I am typing without ribbon directly on a sheet of carbon. This makes crisp letters, like an IBM. But it riddles the carbon so I can do only one page per sheet of carbon. And I can't see what I'm typing. And mistakes are harder to correct. And sometimes holes get punched in the paper. Nevertheless it may be a useful trick for a freelance typist who gets an order for fancy work but has only a manual typewriter. I will also try a nylon ribbon on this typewriter and see what that does.

Jim Stumm wrote in vonulife 3 about methane generation. Is anyone making it out of vegetable matter such as dead leaves? I would like to switch from butane but I don't raise animals.

Is anyone into vonu bee keeping? E.g., hide hives in remote places and go around once or twice a year to collect the honey? Or do bees need more care than that? Bee books give that impression.

Several people have mentioned the need for vonuer communication. What is being done? Anything I could get in on? Mail is a problem for backwoodasers. The vonuer they are the bigger the problem.

Ciphers? Cryptostrips may be unbreakable but they are as slow as little orphan Annie's secret code badge. What is a pass-around?

I wonder if English spelling is worth trying to change. English is messy in many ways. How about Esperanto? I think that already has a phonetic alphabet, and it is supposed to be easy to learn. Or do too many people know it? Rusel Jaque, freebie philosopher, has made up his own language.

A cipher or artificial language still depends on the mail until you and I get another way. In vonulife 6, e proposed a low power radio network. How far will a single two-way radio reach? How much does it cost? Will it operate off a truck battery?

Until a radio net is operating, or maybe as part of it, how about a private net? It was described in vonulife 4, Rayo and I now have a drop where we leave things for each other. I think that is the easiest way for vonuans to link. If I link with 4 people and each of them links with an average of four people (one of which is me) that is 12 people I can reach in two steps. 36 in 3 steps, 108 in 4 steps, 972 in 6 steps. If each relay takes a week, I could send to almost 1000 people in six weeks or less. That would be fast enough for vonulife. The article about private was originally printed in '67. Maybe there are already nets.

Rayo told me he tried to interest a couple bookstores in dealing vonulife, but no interest so far. Problem may be that only a few people want vonulife so a bookstore doesn't want it taking up rack space. I suppose I could fancy it up, put a cover on it, go to bigger type, more illustrations, and spread it over more pages. But then I'd have to sell 10,000 copies to make it pay. Soon I'd need an office in town. Then I'd be a non-vonuans busy telling people how to not be like me! But if you know a bookstore that is interested, tell me.

In vonulife 1 Rayo said that most children are natural vonuans. They explore woods, build hideouts, climb trees, dig caves. New people do these things even though the old people around

tell them these things are a silly waste of time, and that they ought to be doing something important like memorizing the names of the presidents for school. And new people do these things even though they don't see old people doing them and don't know how these things might be useful when they get old. I wonder what new people might do if they knew that there are old people (over 13) who approve of these things and do these things, and who probably live happier than do the old people who depreciate these things, anyone for a vonu para-revolution?

As an experiment, I offer to give a vonulife subscription to anyone less than 62 inches tall who writes and tells me about vonu this e is doing. To qualify, e doesn't need be vonu most of the time. I'm qualifying this offer by height rather than age because I feel that asking age is an invasion of privacy. So if you know a new pre-vonuian, please pass the word.

To the critic who says vonulife sounds like a little boy's dream of adventure, I say, better late than never.

In vonulife 4, w.j. recommended "the first and last freedom" by Jiddu Krishnamurt. Where can I get it? I am starting a list of vonuist books and authors. Besides Thoreau I've read Lao Tse, Also Lin Yutang – I don't know if e was just a preacher or a doer too. When you recommend a book please include source and price if you know.

"The Greening of America" has expanded my mind as much as any book I have read. "Greening" isn't pure vonuism. And I don't know how accurate Reich's diagnosis of society is (nor do I especially care). But I value what e says about people and mental processes – loss of sensitivity and recovery of sensitivity – especially "the lost self" and "consciousness III" chapters.

Ray said in vonulife 1 vonuism may not be new, just heretofore neglected. I'm interested in any vonu groups of the past. There were, maybe still are vonu Indians: Seminole, Yana, Shuswap, which the wildcat from Montana mentioned in vonulife 4. But they are remnants of older cultures. How about people who weren't born into a vonu tribe but became vonu? There may not be much information. The more vonu a people are, the less outsiders will know about them.

I wonder about the value of things like "the paper trip" which was reviewed in vonulife 6. It's not that someone shouldn't protect himself, but I wonder if that kind of information is useful after it's been circulated widely. Bludg can read too. Maybe that sort of information should go person-to-person. Also, printing it could draw the attention of hostiles. To me, vonulife is more valuable for talking about the many vonu ways which are legal. This is just my personal attitude. I will print anything any subscriber asks me to, unless I think it's just begging trouble.

In my drop, I found many magazines which vonulife exchanges with. Thanks to whoever left them. Most are new to me. Three which I haven't seen mentioned in vonulife already are "Black Bardt", "Win", and "Akwasasne Notes". "Black Bardt" no. 5 is "cheap and easy transportation". Plans for a pickup shelter, converting old cars to trailers, changing bicycles in various ways, rafts, burros, orienteering. "Black Bardt" has stopped publishing but is still selling back issues. Number 5 is 45 pages and not too much white space for \$1.

March '72 "Win" contains "the complete collection of political documents ripped-off from the F.B.I. Office in Media, PA., March 8, 1971". I recommend this to people who fear the feds. It seems that the feds are a lot like other bureaucrats of the corporate state. For one thing they spend a lot of time reading each other's memos. The issue is 75¢.

"Akwasasne Notes" is mostly about and by American Indians. It is a big paper. Much of it is crying to the bludg, but also interesting history. Also horror tales, like how an Indian in B.C. was stomped to death by R.C.M.P and how Amazon natives are given sugar mixed with arsenic by Brazilian bludg to exterminate them.

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#### SITUATIONS & SEARCHES

TO VONULIFE: Hi! Info-freek here is quite willing to write people who have questions on power, shelter, etc. but is not willing to do this at a deficit!

So please put in next issue that all letters expecting reply should enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Also print that I am holding letters so far received until the writers meet the above stipulation. Let us nurture ourselves.

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TO VONULIFE: In Vonu Life #1 made some remarks on education. J is a year and a half now. Has not been made vulnerable to TV, radio, newspapers, movies, et al. Am convinced that most coercion done through the media, which is controlled by Big Brother. What does he do? He plays all day every day. We play with him as much as we can in between gathering and chopping wood, cooking, washing clothes, and craft work. We did have a radio for a long time but finally got rid of it – used money to acquire a spinning wheel, Wool is our livelihood. Used to buy colored yarn wholesale! How we buy wool (haven't got a sheep yet – hope to soon), spin it, dye it (with local plants and ones we can grow) and crochet it into useful and beautiful things. M: made 3 gorgeous rugs this winter along with sweaters, hats, purses, slippers, shawls, vests. Want to get into weaving, too. Maybe make ourselves a loom. We're just beginning, though. The possibilities are endless.

Anyway, I've strayed. We are determined to keep J out of schools for the reasons you so clearly understand. Problem? Only thing is BC pigs say your kids got to go to school and they come looking for ya if you don't make em. Only solutions we can see (as you mentioned) are alternative school or hide. Would like to hear much more from people facing this problem. We still have 3 years or so before a confrontation. Could you forward a letter or two or maybe have some more info in VL? (yes, see top left first page, Lan) Our kids are our real hope. They're gonna go higher and farther than us (if we let em').

More about us. Have a college degree – which as you know is completely irrelevant. But may give you an idea of what we have had and are still having to overcome. We use no motor machines (of our own). So the pigs have no car license, no electric or phone bills to work with. Our only fuel is wood (I use a rowboat to haul it as we live right on the ocean) and kerosene (for lamps in the winter) and that's it. Everything else can be accomplished with an ax, pick and shovel, pitch, fork, hammer, machete, and lesser tools (smaller tools) and most of all work – but after awhile the work becomes a skill and a joy – “when the whole man is involved – there is no work” – the Indian never used to work – hunting, fishing, and everything else was his life. He didn't work, just lived, I can't describe in ordinary language the feeling that comes when we discard the notion like – “Sure, would be easier to have a chain saw, truck, or washing machine, or whatever” – and realize that we don't need any of them. Freedom – also makes us want total freedom even more.

Many impurities in our lifestyle would probably not class us as true vonuans. We are aware of them, however, and can only eliminate them one at a time. Like we buy wool, but will eventually get a sheep or two. We use kerosene – hope to raise a hive or 3 of bees soon (beeswax for candles) – we only use about \$2 worth of kerosene a month now. We use other's vehicles occasionally – to get rides or to haul food – but the idea of having a horse is more and more coming to the front.

We spent this winter (a fairly rugged one in BC – so they tell us – about 4 feet of snow on the ground for two full months) in a cabin with a wood stove. Very comfortable. Owners knew we were here – let us live here for free. We're moving to the tipi around May 1. Which will liberate our home. Nobody but nobody knows where it is (will be). Got the spot picked out. Meadow, stream, wilderness woods. I'll probably pack all our shit there little by little. No roads or nothing.

Your comments about minimizing contact with non-vonuans (VL#3) I can only emphatically second. The locals here watch TV just to be watching it, send their kids to a school on the island which must be experienced to be believed and are very far from being self-sufficient on top of which most are just plain alcoholics. They're friendly, sure, but how vulnerable can you get. And of course, they mind everybody else's business but their own.

As for the tipi, get ahold of Laubin's tipi book. They'll tell you all. We'll tell you all as we experience it. I'm convinced anyway that you can live comfortably in one, any time, any place. All you got to do is get yourself together and DO IT.

Another helpful book might be LAST OF THE MOUNTAIN MEN about Sylvan Hart – it's in WEC.

We're looking forward to May. That's all we're living for now. There will be problems, sure. But I think the biggest are now behind. Finally we can take off our clothes and with care and imagination nobody will tell us to put 'em back on. Won't be able to find us.

Another short thing about wool and bees. Fantastic trade items. Couldn't you dig to trade something for a wool coat dyed with sunflower petals and a few lbs. of honey from wild plants?

That's where we're at now – pushing carefully farther. Major problems: No other vonuans nearby. Make it lonelier and harder as you know. Some freeks, sure. But they all bought or want to buy land. Ugh. Can anyone "own" a piece of their mother or "own" anything for that matter? We're not communal people, basically, but our possessions we use, not own. It's a whole other topic, though – not relevant here.

One island we know of is big and the northern part very wild; very, very beautiful, and very uninhabited. Many abandoned orchards (apples, plums, pears, cherries – free for the taking and lots of em). Lots of other islands, too, even more intriguing. No roads, power lines, cars, or people. All you need is a small boat in good condition – probably not even a motor.

If you have any letters from vonuans near us or anywhere in Canada, especially – could you forward ours to them and vice versa? Just a scattered rap – but there's no one else near we can share it with. You people – really lift our spirits. Please keep in touch.

For vonu,  
H&M

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To H&M: Sure, send envelopes and I'll forward – but slowly, vonulife readers, recent past and present: 15 in B.C., 23 in Washington, 7 in Alaska. –LAN

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To VonuLife: Hello. We'll be moving on in another month or so. (Seven of us) in a school bus we're converting to self-sufficient living. We've grown through free schools into a total environment in which we can do our doings, money makings, schools, learnings, lovings, playings, growings without having to go into compartmentalized roles.

The only fixed places are a Gestalt community in Utah, a Navaho reservation in N. Mex., Scottsdale Ariz., Esalen, Point Arena Calif. and maybe a lake in B.C.

We're looking for a place to set for a while to get more into farming for survival and our other doings – heavily into Gestalt, massage, free schooling and beyond, VW repair, baking, organic-vegetarian food, circus-carnival-theatre-impromptu joyous fun. We're looking for places to visit to make new contacts, learn new skills, new relationships, additions to our family, expand our horizons. Also place to set.

Also we're trying to get together some medical skills for barter in addition to the above. Can you help? –B, N.Y.

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To Vonulife: Dear Rayo, Please forgive me for not answering any sooner, but we've been moving around lately quite a bit and I haven't picked up my mail until just recently. Thanks for the subscription.

In answer to your questions about the Shuswaps I've been building they have never had any serious attacks by bears, but they have been built in bear country and I've had both blacks and grizzlies around with no problems. But then I don't eat meat, or keep anything too appetizing for them to smell in the open. I've had some success making friends with a two year old black who would come around every few days to visit and never cause any hassle, other than once getting into some salt I forgot to bring inside after cooking dinner outdoors one summer evening then taking a walk.

In relation to condensation, I've had some problems when I've left for awhile, a week or more, but by keeping a fire going for cooking, and heating in Winter, it's kept it pretty dry. This is semi-arid country though, and I imagine around the coast there would be more of a problem.

There's a fair amount of abandoned houses around these parts and the vibes are pretty good. Sue and I are hanging around, just caretaking a friend's place and doing some leather and beadwork for awhile I guess. Maybe till Summer. If anyone is coming up from So. Calif. and-or other places and wants to bring me some abalone shells, which can be had free for talking to the right ab-divers, or doing it yourself, or anything else like that to trade or sell cheap that's organic and nice to work with I could dig hearing from them. –JEFFREY

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To Vonulife: We've been living aboard our 65' Tug for almost two years not, and she's gradually becoming the home/boat we want. Along with seven or eight other liveaboards, we're

moored at the municipal marina, but during the summer months we cast off and cruised around the waters (in and) of Washington and British Columbia. This coming summer we plan to go up to the Queen Charlotte Islands (B.C.) to see a couple of Haida Indian villages that have as yet escaped the developers' notices.

A lot of people live aboard for a few months or years while they're in school or until they can afford something more "permanent", but we consider the boat our permanent home. Our ultimate dream is our own little bit of land with float attached in a protected bay. That way, we can live on the boat and be mobile, but also have a garden, some running room for kids and dogs, more privacy, and freedom from civil servants (e.g., harbor masters), landlords, and uptight neighbors.

Given the horrendous prices of waterfront land from Washington to the Alaska panhandle this may have to be a group program – say three or four compatible families each with a small amount of cash and a dream like ours. I'd love to hear from anybody who might be interested, either for the immediate future or a few years from now.

We'd also like to hear any ideas people might have on solutions to the sewage disposal problem on boats. We feel guilty every time we flush the head, but know of no practicable systems which would work both at dock and away. Incidentally, if somebody has developed a sewage disposal system that really works and isn't too expensive, he should really consider marketing it; both liveaboards and pleasure boaters are desperate for a solution. I know we'd buy such a system right now if it were available. – (Mrs.) Nancy Logan

To the people of the Vonu Life: We are two people living in a converted school bus in Santa Rosa, Calif. We're attending Sonoma State College and squatting in a field across from the college with about 40 other vans, buses, tents, and domes. This life is quite enjoyable and we hate to think of going back to paying rent. Perhaps your newsletter could give us clues in living this way – for example, how to pay for food and gas.

In regard to your other letter about paying someone to truck your things for you from the San Francisco Bay area, could you send us some more information on this? It sounds very interesting, but we would need to know what you need, how many times a year, and what you could afford to pay. –W

To W: Regarding trucking: We don't buy enough stuff (1000# per year?) to make it worth anyone's while to truck just to us. One would have to develop a route serving many people in this area or along the route – long-term thing.

It costs us 2¢ to 3¢ a pound to make a special trip to Bay Area for 2000#, plus our time. Best sources for staples around here are 3¢ to 10¢ per pound more expensive than best sources around S.F. –RAYO (edited by Lan)

To Vonulife: I have a 60 Chevy Step Van I have converted to a motor home. I am a Blacksmith and Farrier by trade. This Summer I hope to travel around the country and do a lot of camping and a fair amount of backpacking. Peace & Love. –RON, Colorado

To Vonulife: I WAS BORN IN OREGON...BUT HAVE LIVED IN CALIFORNIA MOST OF MY LIFE. I'D LIKE TO FIND A PEN-PAL (FEMALE VARIETY) TO RAP WITH. I'M: 33, TALL, SINGLE, AND LOVE OUTDOOR LIVING (HIKING & CAMPING). –HOLLIS PROPER

**[IMAGE IS ON  
NEXT PAGE]**

# Notice for SAIORS of FORTUNE:

A well-known operation (libertarian references will be supplied on request) offers an outstanding opportunity for one or two adventurers with \$5,000 to \$15,000 to invest (and a taste for long hours and hard work) to make \$100,000 or more per year (to start) in an exciting new (and legal) venture. This situation will involve command of a thirty- to forty-foot Diesel motorboat; prior experience in this area will be helpful but is not necessary. Individuals should be non-U. S. citizens or be willing to acquire this status. A finder's fee of one hundred dollars is available to whomever first brings the name of any person ultimately engaged by us to our attention. Write via air mail (no telephone calls, visits or telegrams, please) to Jolly Roger, 736 Cloverdale Road, Montgomery, Alabama 36106, U. S. A

Well, I received issues 4, 5, 6 in response to my answering a piece in Mother Earth News. Your contributions were repeatedly of interest and occasionally disagreeable. I believe we may have a few things to share and thereby offer a short sketch of HERE with my questions about THERE.

Here, I am not vonu, but do not partake of the culture beyond that which pleases me or is minimally necessary to live. That which pleases me is communication with others, resulting in stimulation of thought. I study philosophy at Sonoma State College.

Residence for two here is a bus in a community squatting in a field across from the college, right in the middle of public sight (hence not vonu). And as you may expect, hassled. In this case with the academic community there is support and the hassles are legal threats which are successfully delayed each time (for 4 years) and no confrontation as yet. However the end is anticipated this coming

June to a fine self-sufficient community. There are about 40 vehicles and tents here, with population of 60 or so on three acres or less. Growing too fast.

The land owner has refused to post the land (in sympathy with squatters) while at the same time specifically not giving his permissions, to avoid legal liability.

For support I deliver newspapers in a very spread out rural route, 80 miles per night (actually 3 to 6 AM. Very unhassled job, shared with woman here alternate nights. Maintain my own car in addition, but still not much of a drain, except that one of us must be here regularly.

Now to be consistent, while I resist violence of war, or of tyranny over myself from bureaucracy, I cannot at the same time reserve the right for myself to injure others with firearms, bayonets, etc. Do you value consistency and concur or do you only value your own survival?

And what value is survival? If that is the end, then we all surely fail eventually. No, it is how I do until death, not how long, that I value. May I refer to issue 5, Dave in Southern California for a summary of similar thinking. I am open to discussion.

Openness is a way of relieving the load of seclusion. Zen, I believe describes the fearlessness possible to one otherwise "vulnerable". But so it is with Quakers and other free types. So aim here indeed, not believing in ability to make changes, but in importance of living my statement, not hiding it.

Now comes the dilemma. I dig communication. And living. And nature. Since these are somewhat incompatible, I have not yet found a location of wilderness where I could simultaneously get my teeth into some delicious interaction, but with it comes pollution, laws, zoning, use permits, building permits...I haven't paid taxes some say I owe them, because it would only help them to buy weapons. But I must remain VISIBLE and refuse face to face.



So why write to the invisible? Because your own communication is excellent. Perhaps we share the need to interact?

Guess I'm a retreatist, if I were to be jailed in advance, I would possibly become invisible with some vigor.

Now I used to be an electronics technician, before quitting for retirement and philosophy. (the back side was also interesting, but won't print. –LAN)

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to vonu life: We reside for the time being in an airplane hangar which is very modern. Half of it is where I park my vehicles. The other half of the hangar is a laboratory and a couple of rooms that we have used like an apartment. It is kind of weird since there are no windows in it. You don't know whether the sun is shining or what the weather is. Push a button and up goes a door, drive out, and close. The kids use the place like a playground inside and don't fool around outside much. Of course they are not in school and I have not been approached yet. I haven't worked out a schedule yet but would like to be here say a month and gone a month to make it as if I am a transient. Perhaps I can get things worked out in time...GUY, Southwest (retyped by Rayo)

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to vonulife: You can put us on your map of places to stop and stay for awhile if you want. We live 6 miles north of LeMars, and can be contacted to locate us exactly through the radio station (KCEN) where I work.

Do you know a girl named Kelly from Portland? I want to find here. Blessings, –PAUL DAVIS

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to vonulife: Troglodytes: I have returned from the woods for a stay in the city of Madison. I'll be moving a month back to the woods. Where you live, it is freedom to walk and howl at the moon.

Wild rice is easy to harvest in a cardboard box. Just pull the rice over the side and hit it with your hand or some similar shaped flat thing – instrument. Peace and love to all. –Don, Wisconsin.

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to vonulife: Howdy. Presently we (a group of 6 builders/designers) are working on a prototype of a ferro-cement building. Recently we completed building a free school for some people in Woodstock, New York. Would like to hear more of what you all are up to over there in Oregon. I was just through Grant's Pass about a month ago, but didn't have time to truck around much. What I saw, though, was pretty far out. M., R.I.

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to vonulife: Dear People. I'm presently here in Chicago teaching a course in Swedish Massage. I should be done in 3-4 months, after which I'm not sure where I'm headed yet. I'm 19, female, and apparently alone.

I seek others, have been without residence for 3 years.

Recently I thought I had what I was looking for in the form of another person, but he wasn't it. So I'm trucking on again, and again, and again. Love, Roberta (Chicago)

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to vonulife: I am interested in survival type technology. I'm presently planning to live in Nova Scotia on a 24' sloop and stay on deserted islands and headlands along the coast. I hope to explore the possibility of combining the backpacking techniques with cruising. –T, Maryland

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to vonulife: I'm planning a traveling summer – starting in New York State – to Florida – to Calif. – to Washington – to Iowa, etc. I'll be motorcycling (and bicycling in Calif.) and camping. I have completed a master's degree in biology and am 23, looking for someone to travel with or visit. If you can make notice of this – or however your organization operates – I'd appreciate it. – Doug Carlson, Fernow Cornell U., Ithaca, NY

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to vonulife: I am not a vonuan myself and probably never will be one, but it's good to know you're out there, proving it can be done. My thing is staying in the city – “fraternizing with the enemy” – and “slipping through the cracks”. Which is a good trick in my highly visible job.

to vonulife: Dear Nomads n' Troglodytes newsletter folks. I'm in the Air Force right now doing my honorable duty. When I get out, I want to take me, my wife, and bairn to (...?) with a tipi and our two horses and squat for a couple months to get back in touch without the speed trip of the nine-to-five moron maze haze.

So I'm looking around early (I get out June '73) to see if there's anyone I can turn to when I'm freed. Whatever is open now may not be then, but let's see if you'll have what I'll want. Shanti.  
-DOUG, SACRAMENTO

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to vonulife: Dear Rayo. I read your letter in G.R. --- I want to be free, the way you describe. --- But. --- First I want to try to be free without running away. --- Can I get unstuck without leaving behind what I like? Not worrying about feeding my six children (2-9 yrs). A place to stay where we can feel safe? --- Can't I be vigilant and make careful concessions to gain liberty? --- No!, I don't know how to make careful concessions. --- What of the concessions for the nomad? --- Yes, I must learn to balance, I must be vigilant, I must be honest. --- But Must does not work either. --- All is left is to be. Yes, the only alternative, there is no choice. --- Yes. I want. Yes! -  
WALTER

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We plan on leaving our house this summer and want to travel everywhere, maybe forever. We have a large step-van and need more ideas on fixing it up to make life with small children in a close area bearable.

We have dreams of someday finding an area that we would like to live for a long time, but we want to share life with others also. Hope to meet others on our journey. -CAROL, Santa Barbara

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I am an employee of, if you will pardon the expression, the State of California. 54 years old, very square and hopelessly behind times. However, I thoroughly admire you and other vonuans as the ultima do-it-yourself-ers. While I'm sure I have not given the matter as much thought as you have, I feel that by avoiding the ownership of even a remote, secluded bit of land you lose more than you gain and unnecessarily sentence yourself to much hard labor and inconvenience. You seem to grossly overestimate the government's energy and ability. Remember the government is just a collection of clerks and other working types - a cross-section of the general population. There are freaks in any group - but, in general, if you give the bureaucrats no trouble - they'll give you no trouble. Have you given any thought to trying for the best of both worlds by adopting the techniques suggested in Poe's "The Purloined Letter"? -R.H., Sacramento

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THE TRAVELER'S LOG is seeking authors, distributors, and paid correspondents. "Journal" issues (3 or more yearly) serve as information exchanges for readers on the move, with in-depth articles on people, cultures, and how-to problems of low-cost, high-return travel and life in other lands. "Almanac" issues (1 each year) serve as access catalogs for products, services, and information sources of use to the earth traveler. (from advance announcement) Free sample copy is offered.

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From \_\_\_\_\_ my travels lead me to \_\_\_\_\_ seeking what is termed the black carrot. It grows at certain altitudes on the northern slopes of the mountains in this area. The oil is extracted from these and it is anti-viral and the ideal thing for flu virus and all claims indicate that it works. After digging 5-600 lbs of these at better than 45 degree slopes and out between rock, I then extracted the oil. The digging took place before cold weather during the later part of Oct. and finally got the oil out by the first week of Dec. Believe it or not he has been getting a buck a drop for the stuff and I guess I got about 2 ½ to 3 gals. They will be put up in capsules in the near future. So that is about what I have done in the category called work and that is really little. Right after the first of Dec. we took off for Texas to spend Christmas with \_\_\_\_\_ and stayed there almost 3 weeks and then next La Puerto Penasaco, Sonora Mexico for a week or so. We were considering possibilities here and time will tell. You may be more familiar with this area, though. If you have any ideas, let me know. From there we came back. Perhaps you are aware of other vonuans who are also interested in collecting herbs. Rayo, send me their names and I will

contact them. I am in the process of building up an initial inventory and with some of the herbs a few hundred pounds is only a start. Maybe this way we can help other nomads to gain some funds and they can stay nomads. Just take for instance sassafras, I would suspect the Mississippi River area to find it and dry it. For what it would cost me to travel and spend a couple of weeks doing it may not pay me. But if a free market nomad can do it then perhaps that would be the way. Anyway, it is an idea and I am sure that this would be the better way to get stocked up in a hurry. (Like 5 to 9 mos.) I don't mean to sound commercial but if you think you can get a response through VonuLife if permissible. Write up what you feel would be a fair challenge to those who may be interest and have them contact me through VonuLife, and yourself initially. I guess it could be also done through an ad. Let me know what you think or do as you would be the most serviceable. –F.E., Western North America (edited by Rayo)

To F.E.: It is nice to hear from you, and to hear that you are finding export products which are compatible with your ways of living.

In this area we can easily gather Bay leaves any time. If you want some, make offer. Yarrow, Amlanchier (serviceberry) leaves and berries, herba Buena, and rose hips also grow here. But they are more work to harvest so we don't want to gather them (except for our own use) until we have shelter and food supply better developed. –RAYO and Dr. G.

Mountains speak to each other  
across valleys  
Valleys speak of themselves within  
Ancient battlements at the valley  
entrance / Civilization  
long overgrown with vine.  
Twisted trees on the brow of ridge  
scrape at the sky angry with clouds.  
The wind in many directions at once  
the valley  
becomes fog rolling.  
The mountains fly away.

the amount of it by decreasing the

3rd April 1972

Mount

Valleys

A.

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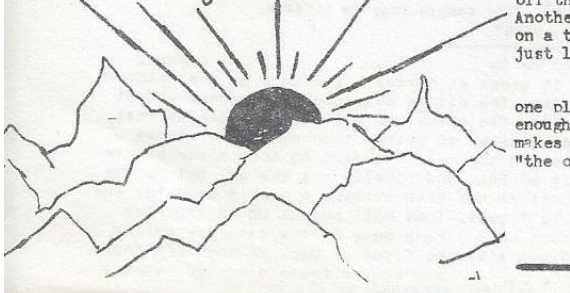
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Hello, my name is Lynn and I have just been introduced to you through the Mother Earth News. For the past year I have been sharing a "luxury" apartment in Storrs, Connecticut but I am now living in a tent - on some friends land with a friend. I will only remain in Connecticut til June when I be moving on to South Dakota to take part in a speleological survey. Its rumored that there will be areas available for free camping and also food provided free for volunteers. A summer in the Black Hills sounds nice. I don't really have any plans but I would like to winter in a relatively warm and sunny place - perhaps Southwestern New Mexico or Arizona. My daydreams have constructed shelters of 50 mil plastic and wood - perhaps even adobe - but I want to be very free. Could you tell me if people have been successful as temporary squatters? I'm against my personal ownership of motor vehicles so my transportation is by hitching - mostly walking. I don't want to be hassled - I want to live alone, peacefully, in the sun. I want my main expense to be the film I'll use -

I've got a lot of daydreams and fantasies but I will at last be free. I need advice from other free people. Could you help me. Since I still have a mailing address I'll send \$3 for my news letters. Just send one - I won't have an address after June.



Dear Rayo:

Received #6 yesterday with your note asking me if I'm Vonuan. You bet I am!

I am beginning to pack my things and leave Oregon. I've now spent a whole year here and find the 6 month winter too long - and this has been a mild one. First, I'm going to visit friends in New Mexico that have found an isolated spot for their trailer, but I have no plans to settle anywhere. Central America has possibilities, but details gathered from Costa Rica one must now have \$300 a month unearned income to reside there permanently, and I don't have that much. I'm also getting reports from Europe where 2 friends are travelling for the next 15 months, camping with a small English truck.

Two things I'm determined to avoid: working at a job in the Rat Race and anything more than the minimum of equipment. My Datsun truck will take care of the latter.

Florida, where I spent many years, still has many isolated spots. I know of several persons that lead a hermetic life around the Everglades and the interior Kissimmee swamps - one lived 2 1/2 years entirely off the country without contacting any settlements. Another I have corresponded with lives as a squatter on a tiny key with his dog and has a plywood shelter just large enough for a cot and his handful of possessions.

After years of wandering, never staying in one place very long, and only working until I have enough to move on, I've become a loner and this perhaps makes it easier to avoid more than casual contact with "the outside world". And too I avoid freakish dress.

I shall keep my Oregon address for awhile.

-Rod

Vonu is yours for the making.



Hi again,

I find your ideas appeal to me more and more as I find out how tough government is making it to live free, especially to get land for a hideout. Things are really bad.

Have you seen that horrible document, the report of the President's Public Land Law Review Commission, entitled, One Third of the Nation's Land? It was published in June 1971, and almost all of its recommendations are awful! Almost all of them would facilitate large-scale rip-offs of land by big businesses and generally disfavor the people (such as fees and permits to enter any of the so-called "public lands," etc.).

Probably the most important item of immediate concern to you are proposals to increase the efficiency of detection and ejection of "trespassers" on the "public" land. This category probably includes most vonuans and would-be's. Undoubtedly the government is on to you as a more or less organized attempt to assist would-be "trespassers" and is now carrying on some sort of surveillance over you. (I don't think they'd use a mail cover just yet, though, because I think they regard you as a nuisance rather than as a seditious conspiracy, for the moment, and besides, that sort of information wouldn't be too useful anyway.)

However, it's an open question what sort of scrutiny they may employ in the future. Lest we get carried away with paranoia and lose our ability to deal with this threat rationally, I think we ought to consider this question carefully at once. Most important, we ought to estimate objectively the probabilities of discovery in remote areas, to enable us to plan rationally for all contingencies. In this connection, the statistical summary printed by Tom, editor of Preinform, was a nice beginning. But a future analysis should be more detailed, breaking down involuntary contacts with "outsiders" into more categories, like: # of x any outsider seen, # of x you believe you were seen, # of x addressed by any outsider, # of x accosted by one, # of x accosted by any "authority figure" (e.g. caretaker, pig, forest ranger, etc.), # of x ordered to "git", # of x assaulted by outsider, etc., etc. Of course, these probabilities will vary from place to place, but in any sufficiently remote location (miles from nearest road) they should not vary more than an order of magnitude.

Also: # of sighted aircraft, etc. This should not be too difficult; data could be recorded in code at leisure. This information would be valuable to potential vonuans. Also we need rational predictions concerning the possibilities of the Man's technology for snooping and harassment.

We can probably continue to hide for the time being, but we can't retreat indefinitely, and I'm afraid that eventually we may have to stand our ground and fight back. This possibility hasn't received too much consideration from you.

Anyhow, I do admire you for your freedom from illusions, bias, and prejudice about political realities. Particularly, I agree with your reply to Paul Doerr in VL4 regarding national chauvinism. However, I think that you show a little bit of your own, particularly in your dialogue/scenario of nuclear warfare with Mitchell Jones in VL5. Do you think, as it seems, that it is really more likely that the USSR or China will attack the US without provocation, than the other way around? Think about Vietnam.) No, all governments are nearly identical. You can't place any more faith

## Reds Smash Capitalist Ring

MOSCOW (FCNS) — Action by Soviet authorities has destroyed a private enterprise operation in the Soviet Republic of Georgia that was worth more than a million dollars.

As reported by Trud, Soviet trade union newspaper, "The ball of crimes has led the investigation far beyond the borders of the republic (Georgia) and resulted in dozens of volumes of the case which showed that damage of about 1.7 million rubles (nearly \$2 million) was caused to the state within a short period of time."

The entrepreneurs gained use of machines and equipment of a legitimate government textile factory in the Georgian capital of Tbilisi. The factory was only in production for the state half the time.

The businessmen used surplus from the state factory, increasing

the amount of it by decreasing the quality and quantity of material used in state-produced goods.

The illicit capitalists had a factory of their own "so well hidden among the mountains that it was found by investigating agents with great difficulty."

"The building was hardly seen behind a ravine and the workers came from Tbilisi by taxi cabs."

The factory manufactured clothing which was sold throughout much of the Soviet Union by a network of black market salesmen. Shares were distributed to the chief conspirators. One, said Trud, had two country homes and gave thousand dollar dinners, while another was found to have more than a hundred thousand dollars worth of rubles hidden in tin cans at his home.

(reprinted from april 21 "the new banner", box 1972, columbia, s.c. 29202. a sample is 35¢)

in so-called “national defense” than in any other function of government. In fact, I think that one could easily turn around the arguments of the game theorists against them, on the basis of different and more reasonable premises, to show that contemporary “national defense” actually diminishes the objective security of the nation’s population. That is, it increases the probability of human annihilation.

Well, anyhow, keep up the good work. You supply a lot of useful information. –DAVE

P.S. Have you hear that the government plans to end the practice of individual prospecting on “public lands” by January 1, 1983? What do you think about that?

Problem is, the government acts like its land is made of pure gold, which is fine, because land is precious. That is, until the big businessmen ask for a handout. That’s what’s behind all this outrageous exploitation and rip-offs lately. Seems like the governments in business to protect the “public” lands from the people.

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VL #6 contained an appeal for alternate swear words which must be answered immediately. Why sweat at all? I mean, most people swear when they’re basically unhappy with their jobs, spouses, kids, parents, society, and their lives in general. Naturally they feel frustrated and swearing gives them a chance to blow off steam. But if you’ve got your head together (like most readers of VL I hope) swearing makes about as much sense as abstinence. From my own personal experience I find as the day of my liberation approaches, I swear less and less and smile more and more. –R.M., Ontario

To VonuLife:

Rayo’s view of “group” living wherein no one knows the exact location of another’s den-camp (Issue #4) appeals to me because I, for one, do not want a steady stream of “visitors” although I am not completely anti-group. I just want a large measure of solitude and peace and quiet. Those values are good reasons for living in the more remote locations. This kind of “group” living seems to have many of the advantages and not too many of the disadvantages usually connected with regular group living.

One source states that horses were first regularly shod around 600 A.D. Someone using horses in the mountains could possibly bypass shoeing. If you don’t shoe, then you must keep the hooves trimmed and correctly shaped – tools need are a pair of nippers, hoof knife, rasp and hoof pick to clean out the frog, etc. Of course, burros are never shod. My view is that having horses shod every 6 weeks or so would be too inconvenient. The Indians didn’t shoe horses in the earlier days, and I’m sure that by treating a horse right and not running him over bad, rocky ground, one could easily forget about the shoes. The same goes for humans – the German brothers who homesteaded in the Galapagos Islands to avoid serving in Hitler’s army and found that their shoes were cut to ribbons in a matter of weeks on the sharp coral and stuff. Without shoes, their feet became tough as tanned leather and they did not wear shoes after that.

When legal ownership is not used as a territory marker, then hiding the “den” serves to protect one’s territory. In many ways we are frequently reminded that men need territory markers just as do birds, and the other animals. In his book, *“Never Cry Wolf”*, Farley Mowat describes how he finally had to establish his own urination posts around his camp; after that, the wolves (in northern Canada) stopped wandering through camp uninvited and unannounced. They respected his “posts” just as they did those of other wolves.

General health may be vastly improved by living in semi-isolation in the backwoods and by having few contacts with world travelers. I believe that much of the virus, flu, colds, and much other sickness comes from contact with people who have traveled widely and picked up “wild” strains of virus and bacteria to which one is not immune. I have lived through one relatively cold and damp winter during which none of the small group had any flu, virus, or other illness. This one winter of no contact with travelers has been the only winter during which I had complete freedom from virus or flu type sickness.

Man’s natural evolution occurred while he was living within a rather small area and probably had little or no contact with strangers from far-away places. Based on this assumption, then man is not naturally equipped to suppress new strains of virus or bacteria – but, he can become



immune to a given set of virus or bacteria. Today, even those living in small towns (10,000 pop.) are constantly exposed to new strains of virus and bacteria from all over the world. Man's love of travel keeps him sick, so to speak.

Furthermore, I'm convinced that constant bouts with virus and flu of all kinds tends to prematurely age modern man and to keep his health at low ebb. Finally, it is possible that vonuans living in remote areas may find their health much improved just because they are not in contact with a steady influx of virus and bacteria to which they are not immune.

During the past several years I've read everything I could find on cold-weather clothing and equipment. The paperback by V. Stefansson (available from Adobe Hacienda) has much good material. It was written around the turn of the century but is still applicable. V.S. states that a man can easily live in the regions inhabited by Eskimos if he will take time to learn the same techniques used by the Eskimo. V.S. says that you can keep a check on whether or not your face is freezing by "continually wrinkling it and making faces." If a spot become "stiff" then you take your warm hand out of the mitten and press it on the frozen spot for a moment until the stiffness is gone. In the very coldest weather, a man should have a loose-fitting coat and large sleeves so that he can pull his arms out of the sleeves and press them against his naked breast, inside the coat. Then, when any part of the face becomes stiff he pushes his hand up under the neck of the coat (parka\_ and for a moment presses warm hand on the stiff spot. V.S. says, "In this way one can walk all day facing a steady breeze at -35° or -40 which is the worst kind of weather one ever gets in the Arctic, for when the temperature falls to -50° or below -50° there is always a dead calm." The title of the above book by V.S. is, "My Life With The Eskimo". He states that if you want to know what is going on, or want to get the true story, then you must ask the women of the tribe. He continues, "...to keep the face from freezing; it must always be clean shaven...if you wear a bared the moisture from your breath congeals on it and makes a face mask that is separated by an air space of a quarter of an inch or so from the skin of your face. If your face begins to freeze you cannot get your warm palm against it." He also adds that a face mask is of not sue in really cold weather, because eventually the face mask will become a mask of ice. Also, he says that the hood (parka hood) should not come close around the face. "The typical Eskimo hood merely covers the ears and leaves the whole forward half of the head unprotected." He further states that the white man's manufactured hood comes further forward so as to fit snug around the face and leaves but a small part exposed – the result is that a circle of hoarfrost forms on the face along the edge of the trimming of the hood, and soon the skin under the frost freezes. His advice to wear the Eskimo type of hood and then, every few minutes with your mitten brush the snow, or frost, from your hood trimming and keep your face free of ice, using your warm hand on stiff spots when needed to thaw them.

After all his adventures on thin ice, with wolves and polar and grizzly bears and blizzards, the closest shave with death came as a result of using a white man's invention – the primus stove inside a tightly sealed snow house – men just toppled over but V.S. realized in time that they were poisoned by coal gas and drug them outside. His advice on being caught in a winter storm was, "...the best thing you can do when caught in a winter storm is put up a snow house. If this was impossible, then, "The thing to do is sit on a bit of sod or stone that can be brushed dry of snow with your back to the wind; rest your head on your knees and go to sleep if you can. Sleeping will help you pass the time away and there is no danger in it, for as soon as you get cold, the chill will wake you up – always provided your clothes are dry and that you are not exhausted before you sit down."

The Alternate Society (depicting life in Canada, but no longer published) related how one Indian woman lived just in temporary shelters even in extreme weather. She made her home under a fir tree wherever she killed a moose. You clear out the lower branches and build a fire in front and reflected heat keeps you snug and comfortable. Folks writing in the above journal told how common wool clothing was superior to most of the artificial fiber-filled clothing. Also, one account of a survival group related how the one man dressed in conventional woolen clothing stayed more comfortable and safe than others who wore such outfits as snowmobile coveralls, down-filled clothing and other new-fangled gear. Wool keeps you warm even after it becomes soaked with sweat or from falling through the ice.

For really cold weather I favor medium weight wool long johns, light wool shirt (or two, if needed), soft but bulky wool trousers (held up by suspenders and also a belt), over the wool shirt(s) a down vest, wool sweater, or similar garment depending on availability and then a buckskin or double thickness parka (of cotton polin or 60/40 cloth). The extra shirt, sweater, etc., can be removed while moving and put back on when stopping to rest or eat. Getting overheated and sweating your clothing is just as much a problem as getting too cold. Try to regulate clothing and movement so you do not sweat to the extent that your inner clothing becomes damp.

For boots, I am using both the Herter rubber insulated packs and the L.L. Bean leather – bottomed, rubber-topped insulated boots. They are booth good, but I believe a rubber boot with a felt liner is even better. You can have two or three felt liners and rotate them so you are always wearing a dry pair. Also, I don't believe that felt can be overshadowed by any other currently available type of insulation, As much as I hate to even mention snowmobiles, one Canadian hunting "expert" swears by the boot of flexible nylon and rubber bottoms with felt inserts used by snowmobilers.

I'm getting some home-tanned native deer hides together for building a buckskin parka with detachable hood. I'll put the seams to the outside as Buckskin Bill advises in Last of the Mountainmen – that title is slightly presumptuous in that I'm quite certain that we are going into a time when there will be more mountain men than ever before. Anyhow, B.B. gave me the idea for making my buckskin shirt into a parka. Buckskin will outlast wool or cotton about 5 to 51 or 10 to 1 depending on whom you listen to. I'll sew my buckskin clothing by hand, using a 3-cornered buckskin needle and heavy black M1 taxidermist thread obtained from Herters.

Now, about stopping, or at least slowing down bears, and various ill-tempered brutes including human ones, at a base camp. Barbwire currently sells for \$15.50 for about 420 yards...this comes in a roll on a wire spool and should be more than enough to fortify any base camp. My idea is to construct a perimeter barricade at some distance out away from the shelter, den, or tent. The wire will, when possible, be wound once around trees and thereby using them as posts, Necessary posts will be set in rocks and tamped earth in deep holes Bruin can go under such a fence but it's going to slow him down a lot. You'll have time to decide on how to handle him. Also, those wires are going to twang like guitar strings if bruin starts tampering with them in the middle of the night. Regardless of all the wild-eyes stories about always having to have a .300 magnum, or better, for bear, a grizzly has no real defense against a correctly placed (between the shoulders, neck) .30-30 hunting bullet. However, shoot only if you have to – a wounded grizzly, or even a wounded black, can apparently wrap you up pretty quickly. According to a man who has killed several grizzlies in B.C. when they were either attacking, or working up to an attack, a .30-30 lightweight lever-action is a good rifle to carry on a sling all the time when you are traveling or working in country heavily populated with grizzlies, Also, bears are scared of fire – if in known grizzly country and sleeping in a tent or other unprotected place, keep a fire going all night. I believe that the lean-to tent with a fire in front is popular with many outdoorsmen not so much because of the warmth of the first but because it is a very good deterrent for bear. If vertical strands of barbwire are woven between the horizontal strands, every four feet or so, then the fence will be more secure and harder to break through. A narrow gap can be left between two trees and a barbwire "gap" type of gate used there.

An account in Fur, Fish, and Game magazine tells how a man being pestered by black bears finally put skunk scent on himself and all around his camp. The bears no longer smelled the curious man-scent and they stopped fooling around his camp. These bears were in an area seldom visited by man. According to recent research, the most dangerous grizzly or black is one that has become accustomed to feeding openly and without fear in the presence of man.

Heavy duty, 2-ply military duck tents of 12.65 weight are available from two outfitters that I know of (I won't give the names as yet, since I've never dealt with either company). I have lived one winter in such a wall tent with an oil drum heater, and no lining or tent fly. We stayed warm and dry, but this was not in a severely cold climate. For a really cold region, the wall tent can be pitched over a wooden floor having 4" walls and a superstructure of 2' x 4's. Tarps with foam rubber pads sewn on can be used next to the frame (under the tent) as insulation. Then, a tent fly can be pitched over the top of the tent. The stove pipe can be right-angled out the rear of the

tent. Small windows of heavy clear plastic can be sewn or cemented into each side of the tent. Such shelter would probably be comfortable in anything short of an arctic blizzard. Nomadics (the tipi people in Oregon) have brought out a new tipi material for the severe cold-weather living - it is 14 oz. cold duck canvas, especially prepared for rigorous climate.

One last word on "group" living for vonuans. My research indicates that closely-knit groups work only in certain restricted situations (i.e. strong leader and followers; religious group; family group; or temporary group). The "group" route probably becomes useful for adult strangers coming together in one area to the extent that the "group" ceases to be a group in the usual sense. As Rayo has suggested, a common meeting ground used only as necessary, and no close ties except between certain members, but a sharing of a few large needs such as trips to town - all this appears to bypass the well-known evils of the usual intentional group. -Adam

Dear VonuLife: The device mentioned by (somebody) Fry in your Jan. 72 issue changes low voltage to high voltage, but not AC to DC. Lots of things (power tools) will run on DC as well as AC. But some things won't (like phonographs). In the May 1971 issue of Popular Mechanics, on page 169-170, instructions & parts list are given to build a small inverter, which makes 117 volt AC out of 12 volt DC only 100 watts. But that should be plenty. Cost a little more of course (well, actually, a lot more - over \$20. -K.

### RICE GROWERS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

P. O. BOX 958 • SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95804 • PHONE (916) 371-6941

Dear Dr. Gatherer:

March 28, 1972

We have received your letter of February 29, and have set forth the answers to your questions on the format you supplied. We hope your questions have been satisfied, and please let us know if we can be of further assistance....

ROBERT R. MICKUS  
Director of Research

A RGA J.S.#1 Brown rice

B Previously used brown rice  
including Farmers Rice Coop and  
Koda Brothers

What explains the difference in appearance (of the uncooked rice)?  
Why does A's surface seem scratched and covered with a fine powder?  
while B's surface is shiny?

The difference in appearance of the two samples are based on the technique employed in the removal of the hull from the brown rice.

Does this have anything to do with the kind of rollers used?  
What kind do you use? steel? or rubber?

In the case of "A", a stone sheller is employed which scuffs up the surface and leaves a fine powder. In the case of "B", a rubber-type sheller is used which leaves an undisturbed bran layer on the surface of the rice.

In washing, the water of B becomes clear with fewer rinsings than for A. What explains this? What comes off the rice that makes the water cloudy? (Is the rice coated with anything?)

As indicated above, "A" is shelled on an abrasive stone, scuffing up the surface, yielding a fine powder appearance - the reason for the cloudy water when washing. The brown rice is not coated with any agents whatsoever.

How many times should I rinse the rice? Until the water is clear?  
(I usually rinse it just 2 times even though the second rinse water is still cloudy.)

For optimum cooking qualities, it is suggested that the rice be rinsed until the water runs clear. However, if maximum retention of nutritive properties is desired, it is best to minimize the washing so that the soluble factors will be retained.

Why does A cook faster than B and take less water? (If I use more than one cup of water to one cup of rice A gets gummy: why is this?)

"A" cooks faster for the reason that the bran layers have been ruptured, permitting faster penetration of the cooking water. For the same reason it is best to reduce the cooking time in the case of "A" so that gumminess is minimized.

Dear VL: Thanks for the info on cheaper Mexican dentists, I'd forgotten. Dental schools sometimes take people for students to work on; in-the-chair time is usually long, though.

P is good for paragraphs, I think, re: your question in #6.

Before I read any more anti-animal stuff, whether based on practical, ecological, or whatever else grounds, I must flip the coin. One of my pre-vonu acquisitions to date is a 6-month old shepherd/collie (mixed, that is). My feeling is that the warnings of mothers to their daughters about going off to live in the forest alone are not without some substance. I never had a dog when I lived in the cities, but if I had, I probably would have been spared a couple of unpleasant experiences. I've noted a couple of references in past issues to the likelihood of "looters" in a time of social upheaval – my explanation would be or is that there are quite a few "straight" citizens who somehow feel that even mankind's gentler, more sensible law (non-violence) don't count outside civilized domains. Most of a dog's deterrent potential is psychological – few people care to find out if a dog will attack an enemy of its owner. I find that quite a few people are afraid of dogs regardless of how friendly the animal might be – can't say that I find this a reason not to have one. Just having a sentient being along on dark nights, I think, will be nice. Some dogs have both keen sense of smell and also sight, which, if the dog is trained beyond the house-breaking stuff, could offset/reverse the danger of the dog's attracting attention by barking – dogs can be trained not to bark, if you're reasonable about it. My dog like to follow footprints with her nose – possibly an advantage should I get lost out of sight of my camp site. Of course it's true that if somebody really wants to eliminate you and your dog, they can probably do it – I think that's usually true and I wouldn't substitute a dog for caution. However, a dog, even if feared, is a socially-accepted occurrence, whereas a gun in sight of an enemy could provoke an attack. In the event of the dog's being off somewhere when you have to split – you can split and return later; or not return, if it's a matter of life and death. To me, the cost of x pounds of dog food per year is/will be more than returned, for the reasons I've stated. Guys sometimes forget that what applies to them doesn't always apply to women as well (like lifting those 100-pound grain sacks...), and I don't think it's good sense always to count on strangers' good will, especially if you're wandering around or living where others wander around unexpectedly. Wow. This is a long defense of dogs.

Finale: Vets, dog handlers, and such that I've asked, say that the belief that dogs can inherit "vicious streaks" and suddenly attack for no reason is a myth – that a dog who does this is invariably been mistreated by someone, whether that someone is copping to it or not. I wouldn't, for instance, investigate an ad for a full-grown dog reputed to be a "good watchdog", because that could mean a lot of things. Meanwhile...anyone want a slightly used canary or elephant?

While I am carping about P's letter, I'll say that they type of drug used on the "insane" (a different type than that used on hysterical executives) is, to my knowledge, the same old thorazine and its relatives, used almost universally in nut hospitals. This stuff couldn't affect a public water supply unless it was put in in tremendous quantity, in which case it would put everybody in a daze. The dose used for a normally-upset patient runs well over 100mg a day...like 400, 1000...and the only good thing that can be said about it is that eventually the swallower develops a tolerance, so that one can go from 800 mg to 0 mg in one day and feel no better and no worse. I know that shrinks/bludg consultants are as know-nothing as ever, but certainly they know the immediate effects? And would hardly advocate its being put in the water? (Factual-type statements made above on the experience of your correspondent.) Dr. G is perfectly right about the definition of schizo-etcetera ("I don't know"), only it's sometimes unfortunately defined as "incurable disease" (or, "ghastly horrid incurable disease"). However, recent unofficial studies show that diagnostees cure themselves all the time – therefore, this disease cannot actually exist.

For future vonuans who don't want to leave their record albums behind, I think the AM-FM radio/tape recorders are pretty good to have if you will live in a van, tent, or outside (where a stereo won't be likely to give its full effect anyway – though such recorders do come in stereo models). You can tape records onto the cassette tapes with the hoop-ups found on many stereo sets, if you get a "patch cord" to fit the recorder. Also from radio with no external hook-up; silently, too, if you don't want to broadcast the program you're taping. Also come with microphones, earphones, and all that. You can also continue to buy records, tape from a friend's stereo, and then re-sell the records. In this area (Conn.) FM reception is good on several stations

up to 55 miles – don't know if that's generally true. Check out mfg.'s reputation – Wollensak, for instance, is well designed to give good results in optimum operating condition, but often is put together badly at the factory. Try to find dealer who offers exchange or refund for defective machines. Should run along with, say, typewriter, off the dc-ac inverter you mentioned a while ago.

Thanks again for the Mexican dentists. –SUE

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Dear R&N: I read of a suggestion somewhere (I think WEC) for using a plumber's plunger as no-cost washing machine, and gave it an A. In a couple of weeks I've not only saved lots of quarters and dimes, but lots of time, and have more clean clothes, etc. around than usual. The few minutes spent pumping the plunger up and down on the clothes (in tub for large stuff or bucket for small) I think is much better than hassling with 9 lbs. of laundry, out of order machines, surly attendants, and what to do with the 2 half-hours while the laundry washes and dries. The action is the same as that of an automatic washing machine, or better, depending how much energy you use. If I were nomadic already, I would heat enough water on the stove to fill half a bucket, before I would start scouting for a stream, rock, and stick, a custom which doesn't sound especially picturesque somehow.

The Deseret Supply Co., whose grain grinder was recommended a few issues back, sent a whole batch of Xeroxed descriptions of their numerous models, and a letter. According to them, their (cheapest) \$11.95 model will not grind anything but grain, and requires two grindings for flour. They did mention a grinder which will grind beans, etc., and flour with one grinding, but it costs around \$29. I passed and ordered one, hopefully from Nelson & Sons in Salt Lake City for \$12.95 (plus post.). It's still en route, but they did send a receipted bill and notice it had been sent the day they got the check. They claim emphatically it will do all those things with beans, etc.

After working on typing jobs at home for 8 months, I think anybody who types in an office should consider a switch, especially if they live in or near a college town. The bulletin boards are free for advertising and get good results. People with long dissertations are usually just happy to get a definite commitment and leave you alone while you work. The format for footnotes can slow you down for awhile if you're not used to it, and the rates (usually stops around 50¢ a page) are not that great. But 100 or 200 pages means \$50-100, and most dissertation-writers compose on their own typewriters – handwritten stuff would best be charged by the hour, with the offer of an estimate and explanation as to why. I didn't have too good results with continuing arrangements with businessmen. One was very tax-and-receipt conscious, but mostly I found the same relationship began to emerge as when I was an "employee" of somebody's corporation. Advice about personal life, complaints if any time off was taken (Sundays, summer weekends), and much running back and forth for a couple of dollars became more the rule the longer I worked for them (two different businessmen). I think independent contracting on a continuing basis may be good for someone with a recognized technical skill, which, unfortunately, typing is not (even though it is, esp. if you can spell). Relations broke down (or blew up) in the same time my previous employee scenes usually have, and I find the short-term work for students, professors, much better with less ego being forced to the line. I plan to try typing in college towns when on the road, when I find myself near one. Can't say how it will work, but it seems at least a possibility, with a formal or informal answering service set-up to replace the apartment-telephone. I'm still considering a dc-ac inverter for an electric typewriter – sometimes these are in demand when there are a lot of typists available in an area, though people are not willing to pay more for the special ribbons (expensive) and inevitable repairs (more expensive).

The "Liberty with Love" article in VL 2 is about the best I've read on the subject, generally or for vonuans particularly. Which had, no doubt, something to do with my perturbed state upon reading the advice to women pre-vonuans in #6 (finding a sort of ready-made vonuism by finding a guy with the lifestyle, equipment, etc.) It may be that some people could work this out, but for myself I can't see how it would be any different than choosing a mate for his/her assets in any society, including that much-to-be-avoided one whose male-female relationships get bad-rapped so often. If I thought for, say 30 minutes, I think I could think of about 64 reasons to 1 why this method wouldn't work out well – some of which have to do with me personally (though not



necessarily me), maybe other more general reasons. But I hesitate to begin such an epic. In any case, there seem to be a lot of people who don't function that effectively in relationships to begin with, not necessarily candidates for psychoanalysis and I think they (me) would tend to get bogged down – I don't think I'd be learning much seriously about wilderness techniques, etc., if there was someone around to worry about power sources and other mysteries, for instance. Complete isolation for two people is a lot different than complete isolation for one person. Rock concerts and towns are apt to seem less dreadful, I would imagine – as I sit here imagining an indefinite period living in a forest. As you say, the reality is the test.

I thought your "Search" ideas on last page of #6 were very interesting. I like the idea of boat supply and travel – tied in a lot with E.'s ideas on same page. 25 winters in NYC have warped my feelings about cold climates, though I've considered the fact that they can be good since many people feel the same way. Would like to try stashing supplies by canoe on some rarely/never used land; thinking more of "public" land in such a place as Canada as opposed to "public" land here..."here" mostly seeming a vast Coney Island from the point of view of an Easterner.

I think if I take the guarantee of un-edited printing up to and including "almost anything" seriously much longer, I will cease writing at all. Please feel free to discard, substitute, whatever. I'm content as is that I'm getting my subscriptions worth.

A sunny spring to you in Siskiyou. –SUZ.

It takes you all a *month* to move?

Now about the soybeans; the danger with hybrids is not only that they won't sprout, but that if you plant them you get only about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the same kind and  $\frac{3}{4}$  of something else, or even the whole crop of an F2 hybrid which isn't the same as the F1 hybrid you planted. This applies to any kind of seed; if you buy hybrid seed, you have to go back and buy seed from the hybridizer every year. You can't replant part of your crop, because it won't breed true.

–JOHNNY REB



When our poor human frames come up against some of the more damaging laws of nature it is usually only the good ol' grey matter upstairs that will bring us through it all. So even though the mending of damaged or sick bodies is a bit weighty for these sparse page, methinks that it might be nice to hit a few high spots for those who haven't the subject much thought before.

The medicine scene changes periodically but at the moment I've got several natural and "new discovery" type potions in my duffle.

Sooner or later we all get clouted with a good infection and a little penicillin is by far the easiest way to save the day. Penicillin is now nearly all synthetic (no one was ever allergic to the natural stuff) but no matter...the standard pill is usually 250 thousand units and several a day will knock out the new foreign bacteria while the body's natural forces fight original attackers. If you're not allergic to the stuff, use it until your fever is down, cut your dose in half, and go for a couple of days for good measure. If you're getting no results within a week give it up. In the big city jungle it is best to get your body to a state clinic or such if you have V.D....the gono bugs like the staph. are becoming resistant to P. and you'll need a whopping (expensive)  $2\frac{1}{2}$  million units to overcome it all. A couple of months ago I was thankful for my stockpile when I tried to plow up a street with my knee and motorcycle...sure nuff, several days later infection showed up.

Outside of ending up in a county hospital it is a little hard to get P. unless you find a sympathetic doctor...I try to stock up in Mexico or my local stockman's or vet's supply. The animal type stuff in liquid form is a little more crude...but is not dangerous at all the oral animal stuff usually has another wonder drug with it and this won't be any problem unless it is Sulpha.



For the sake of your kidneys don't ever use Sulpha...takes much savvy. Pressing out the liquid in a good and moldy loaf of bread would theoretically get you a crude form of P. but we have never been the desperate yet.

Milder and more natural germ fighters were used from the dawn of history. The pyramid builders used tons of garlic and onions to keep the workers healthy and if I use the stuff regularly I find the virus bugs avoid me even more than my mate. Onion poultices really worked.

My mate opened a radiator cap last summer and wound up with 3<sup>rd</sup> degree burns over a lot of her bod. Two fat little Aloe Vera leaves were all we lay our hands on and this precious juice brought relief and quick scarless recovery to her front half. Without enough juice for her back she still bears the splotchy discoloration and such. If you can't round up a little Aloe Vera among your friends succulents try to get some ice water on your burns quick, keeping the burn area very cold until the pain goes away is by far better than any form of slaves and greases. Two other things that will work well also are charcoal packs and tincture of Lobelia. Lobelia has been put down and neglected by the learned profession ever since pills became profitable but if you get hold of a good herb book ("Back to Eden" has dope on it) it might pay you to make up an alcohol tincture. I have packed a little vial of it around for years and if the chips are really down I can depend on it to rid my bod of mucus & phlegm in everything from pneumonia to sinus trouble. It's potent and a life saver. With the advent of aureomycin and its kin spotted fever is no longer a dreaded thing in tick country but the peaky thing are still a pain. For years I was told that coal oil, gas, and most anything with alcohol in it were sure fire ways to back them out of your hide...unfortunately all I usually got out my efforts was a tick head in me to dig out, now I have found that a very minute quantity to the posterior region does the trick and ditto for the old burning match method...put the flame out and use the hot end. If your dog has them just yank them out very quickly before they have time to become alarmed and set the two little barbs in their heads to prevent extraction.

I once woke up in Mexico City paralyzed from my waist down...A new acquaintance hot footed it down to the local market and brought back some odd little flower buds, I was shaken up enough to drink most anything so we drank the stuff and gout up and too my friend to the local pulquay saloon to celebrate my acquaintance with him and the wonder herb Chamomile. Now if we get a stomach or nerve problem we rummage around thank G.T.F.Chammomile Tea.

Dogs and kids (mine at least) seem to get worse sooner or later. The kids will often grind their teeth at night or have abdomen pains and often a can of pumpkin pie mix or a mess of ground up cloves for a few days will do the trick. If not head to your local pet store and get some natural herb veraifuge pills. Go easy with a light dosage and no s.

A few years back turpentine was good enough to take care of external worm problems and Indian Hemp (cousin to pot) was used for goes to drive out worms and such.

Can remember a time off central...America when a friend was in acute agony for days until we got him some pot so he could put his Dysentery to sleep. The doctors had given him up long before. Though I don't stock or use this particular herb methinks – ANYONE WITH VONU THINKING WOULD BE WISE TO TAKE A STITCH IN TIME WITH HERBS.

For those with an interest in converting their I2 V. auto alternators IIO V.D.C. as per last issue, here is the conversion unit plan. We haven't had time to get into the thing very deeply but did pick up two alternators and a lawn owner engine for a total outlay of \$6 at a "swap meet". Hooking them up by way of a short "V" belt produced a lot of juice but only when hooked up to a battery to get the alternator circuits working. Will have find a way to alter the things internally to do away with this problem. I also suspect that running these setups under full load for several hours may burn them out but it is a simple thing to ease off the load when you feel the thing getting very hot. Normal output at low engine speeds I suspect is somewhat under IIO V. so I would also see that anything your running from it isn't getting hot from lugging down. For example some motors won't run on less than 90 V. but would just sit and overheat. A similar deluxe "Poorman's Powermaker" would be a diesel truck alternator. I passed one of these up last week for \$25 and considering that the little \$100 – commercial generators won't even put out half the wattage as one of these cheap little units it would seem this would be a worthy V.L. type project to get all figured out. Any electric savvy type readers?

We have a cheap little converter to get enough juice from battery to shave and such but running a grain grinder, blender, and waffle iron is something else again...cheap technology is nice and some years of privation is usually enough to enhance the appreciation (to a point at least). While on the subject let me say the cheap rotary blade grinders that most health food stores handle are pretty efficient little units and in a pinch even some blenders can be converted to the same purpose by simply grinding of the sharp blade edge so that the kernel of grain is mashed instead of sliced. Millet, rice, corn, wheat, and such can be blended into waffles that could tempt the gods and serve to replace the troublesome breadmaking routine. For a tasty spread you can use sesame seeds. Roast them brown in a pan and then grind them along with an equal amount of raw seeds adding a little solar distilled salt and oil to put commercial peanut butter to shame. Since the tasty corn family will tend to stick badly, it is almost a must to invest in a Teflon coated W.I. Plate. You will eventually get your investment back from savings in oil and ill humor. I usually put a little flax seed in my waffles and spreads...it helps push a sluggish diet of meat and such through your system as well as furnish you with high amounts of V.'E' (Prof. Avilles of Guailajara has been curing cancer, etc. for years using the V.'R:' rich sesame seed oil).

Baking powder is not necessary if a combination of grains are used and keep in mind that sourdough was widely used by old timers "in the know" simply because baking powder would make them sick if used any length of time...unfortunately most B. powders contain a form of aluminum which along with lead, copper, and such is an accumulative poison.

Last fall we ground up many pounds of rose hips in our blender (add water) and strained the pulp through a big sock shaped, screen door wire colander. Spread out in pans in an oven and on boards with screens over them in the sun this mixture turned into a very nice tasting crispy source of "V.C". This preservation method should keep the fruit berries or whatever in good shape over a long period of time, and a little bottle of similarly processed stuff in pill form at the health food stores costs a fortune. To further discourage bugs it is often a good idea to add a bit of chili powder to the mixture. Anyway I remember doing without the blender and using a commercial colander and pestle as a kid helping my mother and will vouch for the blenders usefulness. Another kitchen item that is left out of most out back outfits is the wonderful pressure cooker. For years I figured I must just be a rotten cook when it came to the various forms of wild chicken which always remained hard as shoe leather. Now we follow along with Col. Sanders' secret of frying after the P.C.R. routine and it really works...ever boiled beans until you were starving? High country cooking is foolish without a little pressure cooker. Get a stainless steel one if you can and an extra rubber pressure ring is a good idea...shouldn't run you over five or six bills at a swap meet. -AL FRY

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AN INSTANT VONUAN – OR, WELL, ALMOST  
by Lan

I enjoy building my own vonuum. I use natural materials as much as I can. But I didn't learn how to in a week. And I needed somewhere to live while I was learning.

Someone else may not want to build vonuums. *E* wants to do other things. But *e* needs somewhere to live, too.

Gumona was a truck nomad. *E* had a big camper, one of those which overhand the pickup bed in the rear and has such amenities as pressure water system, butane stove, heater, and refrigerator.

Gumona enjoyed the amenities but not the uninvited visitors who occasionally showed up at *e*'s squat-spots. Seems that any place *e* could get *e*'s truck into, others could get into too. And every time *e* drove in and out, *e*'s trail got more worn and conspicuous.

Gumona was tired of roaming and wanted to settle for a while where *e* would have privacy. But *e* still wanted to be able to move. *E* was willing to lease land but *e* knew that even on private property any visible trail would attract prowlers.

So Gumona searched and searched and *e* found a secluded spot on a big piece of cutover timber land *e* could lease cheap. The spot was about a mile off a back road without any trail to

it. The land had heavy brush and young second growth trees. The one driveway went in only a quarter mile. There were many old logging trails but they were washed out or grown over.

Gumona wasn't much of a jeep-jockey so *e* got a friend to help. They made a trail of sorts. As much as possible the zigzagged around trees and tied back bushes instead of cutting. Where they had to cut they sawed at ground level and put the cutoff pieces beneath other bushes. They moved big rocks and logs out of the way but didn't disturb the ground. This took most of a week.

The friend didn't think Gumona's old pickup would do the job so they rented the roughest 4-wheel-drive pickup they could find. They took a winch on the front just in case.

They loaded Gumona's camper on and hauled it in. Took them all of a day to get it from the driveway, over the crude trail, to Gumona's spot. They unloaded the camper and made a second trip with the 4-wheel-drive to bring in a ton of supplies. They returned the 4-wheel-drive.

Then they restored the trail to original condition as much as they could. They wiped out tracks, untied bushes, moved back logs and rocks. They even added extra rocks and logs and brush where their trail left the original driveway.

Setting on the ground, Gumona's camper was lower and less visible than when it was on the truck. To make it even less visible they dug a 3-foot deep hole and lowered the camper in. Only the windows and top were above ground. Gumona put in plastic drain pipe so the hole wouldn't become a pond. *E* tied some of the bushes to grow over *e*'s camper and added brush all around. The brush is so thick *e* can hear anyone coming through it. But it's very unlikely anyone will.

Gumona has his pickup parked well away from the spot but within hiking distance. *E*'s foot path meanders about and has a lot of branches which go off, like animal trails. *E* wears foam mukluks when *e* hikes so *e* won't mar the ground, both for ecology and vonu.

Maybe Gumona lives there happily ever after. But should *e* want to move, all *e* has to do is move a few rocks and logs once more, rent a 4-wheel-drive and away *e* goes. Meantime *e* has leisure to build even more vonu home if *e* wants.

Now, in the time it took Gumona to move in *e*'s camper, *e* might have built a log cabin. But *e* hadn't ever built a log cabin and didn't want to rush on *e*'s first. Besides, a log cabin is only a shell. *E* would still need insulation, windows, shades, lights, stove, sink, shelves, chairs, bed, etc. Some of them *e* could make out of rocks and logs but most *e* would have to tote on *e*'s back. Whereas *e*'s camper already had all these things.

So, I don't think of a camper as just the bedroom of a truck. I think of it as a cheap mass produced lightweight life-support package which can be put where someone wants it.

(Thanks to Rayo and Dr. Gatherer for proofing and suggestions.)

### **The High Adventure of Eric Ryback: Canada to Mexico on Foot**

by Eric Ryback

On foot along the Pacific Crest: 2300 miles from the Canadian-American border at Manning Park on June 10, 1970, to the Mexican-American border at the Cleveland National Forest on October 16. Eric Ryback, 18 years old at the time, did it with an 8-pound pack, five food drops (food mailed to places along the way), advice from the Forest Service and the Park Service, help and companionship from fellow hikers and long distance support by mail and infrequently phone, from his family back home in Michigan. But mostly he did it alone and it took courage, strength, knowledge of the outdoors, and firm persistence.

The very first day was chilling – he slid down an ice field and caught himself just in time before crashing into rocks at the bottom.

On his trip, he was to encounter a bear, at a moment when he was pinned in a sleeping bag and couldn't run (he rolled cautiously and very slowly away). Through northern Yosemite, he and two friends stepped cautiously through miles of rattlesnake-loaded territory. He battled scores of mosquitoes; felt once that his whole body was one big lump of mosquito bites. In Oregon, he came across and put out a small forest fire, by himself. He sought out other hikers at camping spots, because he became so lonely and homesick.

But he did the long walk, writes very well about it, and remembers some of it with exhilaration and delight, even the hardest crossings of mountain passes. His photographs, with which his book is illustrated, are excellent. Some are of himself, taken with a timing device.

Part of the way through northern California, he made observations for the Forest Service on the terrain. That section was trackless. Ryback is skilled at dead-reckoning with map and compass. Throughout, the rangers welcomed him with admiration and respect for his fortitude and trail-finding ability, a respect which he fully deserved. This is a record of a remarkable adventure. (Chronicle Books 24995347) (Pub Pr. \$6.95)

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### THE BEEHIVE HOUSE

Build a hanging beehive house. This is used by some tribes in hidden forests and jungles. It is not for cold climates.

Cut a log 10' long or more. Smooth it, leaving clusters of branches at top and bottom. This will be the center hub of your house.

Bind the centers of long poles to the log a couple of feet above the lower end in spoke fashion. Bind long limber poles to the outer ends of these spokes, equidistant from the log. This will give you a large log vertical with a large wheel, the diameter of your floor hanging horizontally at the bottom.

Weave long limber poles into these spokes (over one, under the next), round and round, until you have a wickerwork floor as solid as you want it.

Bind the centers of long, limber poles to the center log some distance down from the top and their ends to the circumference of the wheel at opposite sides until you have a large birdcage.

Weave poles horizontally around the cage, through the cage bars and tying in the bottom until you have a complete, sturdy wickerwork cage/basket.

Thatch with long grasses or big leaves, starting at the bottom, fastening the thatch into the wickerwork.

This entire thing is fastened to a suitable limb 10 to 30 feet above the ground by a HEAVY rope from a limb to the log, using the branch bases at the top to better secure it. Two ropes, leading to positions separated by several feet will prevent twirling and give added safety if one rope should break. INSPECT THESE ROPES OFTEN.

A round hole is left in the bottom near the log. This is the entrance. A rope tied to the center pole inside the house is the ladder. BIG knots are tied in it at regular intervals. It is climbed by holding with the hands and placing the feet on the knots, with the rope between the big and second toss. The rope can be drawn up for privacy. —PAUL DOERR

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I'll trade my campervan for land or if some group has bought some "worthless" land in a piece of good, I'll buy or trade for it if cheap enough or I'll take some free in exchange for demonstration in it that it can be lived on. ALL land, too steep, too dry, swamp, or whatever will grow food and provide a homesite for the right kind of home if you are willing to accept the home that will fit on it and the kind of food it will produce. I've studied this for a long time and it is true...—PAUL DOERR

Unless I read strong objections I will do future issues like this one – mail without envelope. This way I can include an extra page without going over an ounce. —LAN

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I wonder if readers wouldn't be willing to buy a reduced reprint of all P-I, VL and any other writings on this lifestyle? There is so little available that, if all were collected from whatever source and offered as a lot, it might have a good sale. If I can help...

An interesting commune idea to try, and some have written they are hunting some such thing would be the line family in Heinlein's MOON IS A HARSH MISTRESS. His STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND is a deeper version of the same thing. A family...all ages from birth to old age...all married as a group...new blood brought in, young marry out probably...all individuals free to stay permanently or leave to travel for years, but when they return the family is still there to receive them again as though they never left...always enough for home protection, to carry on family life, care for sick, pregnant, children, etc...children welcome anywhere and can choose own associates, such as in Polynesia...education within family...evidently "family" is a legal nonprofit entity capable of owning property, business, etc. and continues forever, though members change (born, die, marry in)...board of family, including children, sits on any question

affecting family and decides after all heard...some problems would need work but seems a good idea and maybe even practical if the right people can be found.

Have Bausch & Lomb medical microscope, Geiger counter, kayak, etc. for trade...want land, pot belly wood stove, old panel truck, Ashley, etc.

You can build a wood stove from a section of steel cylinder or flat steel welded together in long narrow rectangle...set upright with door and top lid and feed 2' wood in from top...6' pipe with camper...cook on top...set on steel legs...could set folding oven on top.

Medics say some fluorescent light damages eyes...wavelengths warning eyes absent so eyes don't narrow pupils and other waves enter and damage insides...this found in some offices.

Build a small cheap shack from any material and dig smial from inside...when all finished including camouflage, remove shack.

Forwarding mail...put address in pencil then c/o removes with eraser and adds real address so no intermediate left for bludg to dig on.

Several publishers in one location with low-volume production could join to buy P.O. permit and all send under for ¼ postage cost...can these be sent from different P.O. so long as 200 sent at one time (or less)?

If present deal goes through, I will have 20 acres near Mt. Shasta to sell for \$200/acre if any want.

The couple dug into the Arroyo...those things can be 30' in water in minutes...how do they avoid the chance?

I know of 2 real soaps...ivory and fels...also washing soda or borax will replaces scrub-detergents.

Garlic ground and water-mixed is a bug chaser. Massive doses of brewer's yeast ever 4 hours mosquito and leach-proofs the body. Vic C ditto starting before exercise prevents sore muscles by preventing capillary rupture...these in recent med lab releases I have read pressure cooking reduces more food values than regular cooking.

Can BLM land be homesteaded? Any land will grow something that can be walled farm crops.

Wouldn't a very low output water generator be enough to do battery to keep radio, etc. or even tiny wind prop?

Orbital thermal H bombs will start fires over vast areas.

Meat and metal, etc. spotting info can be found in various issues of Electronic Design & E News, E Products, etc.

Since airborne heat/metal detectors are so good and better on drawing boards for guerilla war capable of finding a hammer on a mountainside, consider replacements for metal. I have heard of wood/plastic usable for knife or ax. Any know source of supply? Plastic surplus canteen osmotes into water slowly. What of metal eyelets, fillings, shoe nails...too small? Indians had moccasins with extra heavy soles sewed on bottoms. Indian tanned & smoked leather far better than our commercial.

I have seen leather "safari" bags, cylindrical, which could be used as backpacks in woods and suitcases in straights.

I'd like info on the warning devices used by some trogs around their cave entrances. Could epoxy glue on the lid with a dusting of dirt, pebbles, and leaves be used to hide, or a big slab of flat stone? Could a smoke pipe be disguised as a dead sapling to put smoke 10-15 ft in the air? Could a motorcycle be fitted with a sidecar-bind to carry gear overland to a trog hole? There are footpower sewing machines, kero/butane refrigerators, stoves with ovens, battery lights and fans, gas motor washers, etc. for fancier smials.

Machines exist to take voice patterns, even disguised or over phones to be used like fingerprint or eye prints.

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Hi...Right. Unless something happens I'll have this address for at least another year. I'll be glad to collect the zines and re-bundle them out to each address. I can send them out quarterly or bimonthly, whichever most want. If any use my address as a mail drop I can send that in the same bundle. Each could send me a jetpak or something or I could just wrap them in newspaper. They could send money (the postage on the package) or a deposit and I'll debit it. Anything goes so long as it doesn't cost me any money.

Anyone feel like roaming? I take off for trips to various places and could use some company...female, that is. Maybe a few weeks in Baja.

Bills have been introduced direction the introduction of drugs like thallium into the water as depressants to calm the crazies. I said fluorine was a foot in the door and only second away for the big companies to make money selling their waste poisons.

Anyone interested in gold prospecting, perhaps in the desert?

I don't know what I sent you before so if anything on these sheets is duplicating, just snip it out.

Make a mold to be assembled in sections in your tunnel if you build a smial. Put in some wire to tie it together, fill with clean stones and pebbles and pour a wet mix of concrete in form the top. With enough stones you won't need such cement. When set, remove the form, dig another section maybe 3-4 feet and repeat. Make your exit tunnels only about 3 feet high to lessen digging and make harder to find. A big stone laid up against entrance will hide it.

In hunting through my piles of stuff to find the address of the \$3-4/1000 with reduction free photo-reproducer. It is considerably cheaper than quoted price though I don't know quality.

Buckskin Bill (The Last of the Mountainmen mentioned in #6) lives on the Salmon and makes all...ALL...his stuff himself, including guns, tools, house, garden, house, and you name it. In his last letter, he writes he is doing fine and digging a rifle pit high on a Cliffside.

If this zine exchange goes through, anyone could send me a typed stencil and I could run it off and add to bundles or put in Pioneer or something, then any editor who wants could copy into their zine.

A simple system of phonetic writing was in Readers Digest some year ago...drop dual sound letters like c and gives new sound...drop double letters and silent ones.

To hide your pack, throw a brown nylon line over a tree limb, pull back high into tree and tie off line someplace concealed.

Ishi pocketbook is \$1.95 but check used book stores. It is used in several college courses so plenty copies are around.

I want a sextant, chronometer, RDF, heavy Danforth, and will trade stuff or even money if cheap.

That map showing all land east of L. Huron/Ark will be fallout killed interesting and wouldn't air pollution patterns be same so all east of deadline should move?

Your type size is okay and could be a bit smaller to get more on page...could always use magnifying glass.

Paper says present local fallout from China bomb tests is many powers above normal now around bay.

Was offered 40 acres near Gazelle...good road...year round spring...fabulous view from top of Mounts Lassen, Shasta, Goosenest, Gregory, etc. Haven't enough cash & won't borrow so first \$2500 gets 20 acres if still unsold.

John...no address so can't reply...Zippers break and add weight...Taylor wrote Doomsday Book...yep, attack on New Year's/Xmas week on year of political officeholders change would catch even more wheels absent and do more damage to eventual defense...maybe it wouldn't get organized until much too late.

Hygeia...why not use a real insult word? Call them politicians...bureaucrats...lawyers...car salesman...doctor...etc. Why throw your rocks outdoor where they won't do any damage? Pick a good target...ENJOY. -PAUL DOERR

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Hi...You can buy honey locust, white oak, Chinese chestnut, etc. seedlings \$12/18 per 100 from Musser Nurseries, Penna. Probably any agriculture ext office could name others. Plant for food/seed production in future. Locust, etc. will grow in semi-desert.

Anyone have reasonable price source of surplus, like field jacket (cheapest here \$15) and wool clothes other than 2<sup>nd</sup> hand stores which seem cleaned out here?

Start seeds in pasteboard box, lined with plastic sheet, covered same...remove cover when seeds up or they damp off. Use ½ sharp sand, ½ ground bard, moss, etc...just a thought I'll try...why not use the shredded moss/bark/etc. as tinder for flint/steel firestarting.



You don't need a pile driver to sink pilings...erect a tripod to hang pile...attach 1 or 2 pipes ½ or ¼" at bottom, connect to water pump...rotate or wiggle log to move jet and lower slowly while jetting dirt away...it works in underwater building so why not on land.

I built my soddy in PA mountains near Emporium for long, cold, wet winter...others for summer with canvas roofs can't build with frozen or wet ground unless glutton for punishment...oil cloth and linoleum only available then for waterproof or tarred canvas...none good...cracked in cold...biggest I.D. 10x12, smallest trapper size 5x8...chickenhouse 6 lite window...they hide well if you hide them, mine was on edge of meadow with sod from beside (tree meadow so under trees was well hid except for earthscar...I have made no effort to hide it and we didn't have reason nor over flight search then...stove 10 gal drum with flattened top...chimney flat piece sections (bend around, hook, slide into next section)...door wicker with moss center...hardest job cutting that damn sod (still remember it) very rooty in tree meadow...main problem the remark about leaky roof no joke and over everything...plastic sheet SEEMS best but I haven't built one for years suggest remember to leave loose and plenty play so it doesn't tear...10x12 is big enough 2 if they are friends and lovers and take much less heat...plastic inside walls might get consideration...maybe circular shape good...my floor walked on meadow.

Would like 50# kelp if anyone passing near; couple bucks for transportation? In VL6 ditto arrowhead soybeans.

Digestion is made by flora, so if you can put monkey flora in your intestines (pills?) you too can digest cellulose, so say researchers...they have also managed to keep rodents alive underwater for a long time...changing back to air is the thing that gets them.

*E* has an interesting letter...of course much of the near water space has been taken by the system types and would be policed or rendered deadly in crisis...communications and transportation could not cross these areas because of static, rad, riot, war movements, etc. possibly hungries or looters...should these areas be considered lost?, now and after big conflict...I'd like to see more from *E*...since basic things of metal (ax, knife, grinder, etc.) should last life of vonu, and guns, even flintlock, will be useless without system-made loads, perhaps bow/arrow is the things...had how to make bow in P and will have same on arrows soon...not difficult...or spear or deadfall...sharpened stake with heavy rock hung over trail and trapped by target id deadly trap...capability for absolutely independent survival is necessary even if not lived, just if/when needed, so what is needed considering vonu may life 59 years with no system to draw from...ax, hatchet, knives, hoe hand, (see the hoe head with ring to slide onto shaft handle in some stores, heavy, would outlast dozen handles), shovel head like it needed, needles, pins, suture needles, craft tools, etc...vonuans will not(?) be so aggressive so need only defense...read Heinlein, Tunnel in the Sky, for unique knife-only defense idea on survival/provocation...camouflage is not only greasepaint, it's a way of acting to avoid trouble like a simple-minded, poor, cowardly so as to seem no threat to anyone...had discussion recently on studies like camouflage, scouting, evasion, escape, hand-to-hand fight, knife fight, quarter staff...much of this available in MILT manuals...even one acre owned or long-term lease would be address and safe squat-tree farm spot...any available on sailable water?

Even easier shelter than soddy, probably warmer, is Olsen insulated wattle work hut...all natural, cheap, could be walked away from, but would burn easy...matches are system thing...how do without...flint/steel? Rub 2 Boy Scout together? Enjoy –PAUL DOERR

P.S. Another easy shelter is long, limber poles stuck in ground in U, all tied at top of U. Weave fine, limbs, etc. through for walls and tuck long grass in, starting at bottom and finish with a tie and spread bundle at top...cook under another shelter...only good in right places and can leak.

Someone living on his own land without much expense and raising his own food would need only a truck and some reasonable clothes to go to town every 2 weeks could make out ok if he had a string of vonuans on a loop route not too far apart. Breakeven point would depend on mileage...like Siskiyou/San Fran uses lots of gas...Portland closer? Or you could pick up at his place at your convenience?...All live in big circle around him, say up to 10 miles...he would need well-selected spot in middle of open land...I'm interested if anything comes of it...—PAUL

According to three friends who, independently, have had personal contact with Heinlein, he has been monogamously married for over 20 years; hasn't tried any of the family ideas he writes about, so I am skeptical of him as an information source. Polynesians, etc., are more proven models.

Wouldn't an airborne detector capable of finding a hammer on a mountainside also "find" about every third boulder in Western North America? Wouldn't a really sensitive heat detector "find" sunny patches of rock on sunny days and pools of water on cold nights, not to mention deer, large decaying logs, etc.? I wonder if many of the claims about such devices, like the articles about IRS computers which appear every Spring, may not be deliberate exaggerations to keep the sheep afraid and thereby submissive.

But your suggestion to minimize use of metal is a good suggestion, just on general principles. Dr. Gatherer and I are doing this, also using shelters which can be heated with body heat only. Also we want to learn more about detector capabilities.

Lan, the new editor, is looking for a cheap, reliable printer on West Coast. -RAYO

Converted my VW bus to propane in New York five months or so ago. Helene's, too. We've driven cross country, combined total of over 15,000 miles so far all around the states. I've now done four gasoline-to-propane conversions, including both air- and water-cooled engines. Conclusion: it works just great. 70% less pollution (not to mention longer engine life and lower operation and maintenance costs).

So we've done up a Manual, written an article (already published in several places), and prepared a kit for cheap so folks can do their own conversions CHEAP. Let the good word and clean air spread.

Perhaps this'll interest you. Would you print a notice of it (or I can send the article or Manual if you like), and pass the word to others?

"HOW TO CONVERT YOUR AUTO TO PROANE/METHANE: A Manual of Step-by-Step Procedures for the Complete Idiot," Illustrated and photos. Tells all you need to know and then some about equipment, where to buy, costs, tools, and supplies, do-it-yourself installation, buying LP and more. For ANY vehicle. From Jerry Friendberg, Arrakis Volkswagen. Jerry will also provide a kit, including all you need to do your own conversion, clean, passing along cost of his dealer's discount to you.

#### COMMENTS ON VONU LIFE #5 AND #6

by Rayo (19ap72)

Circulation figures were accidentally left out of #6. Circulation of issues #1 through #3 as of 5mr72 was 382, not including sample copies. (Most third-class circulation of issues #4 through #6 occurred or will occur after 5mr.) Delivery methods: First-class 81, third-class 296, other 5.

Most third-class circulation has been to new subscribers, including orders of 3 current issues (which is what VONU LIFE has advertised). Renewals are running two first-class bimonthly per one third-class semi-annually.

I am providing this information so that authors will have an idea how soon they are read.

Apologies to a couple of directories whom I told that circulation was "a little over 500". I estimated, and goofed.

TO PAUL DOERR: Cryptostrips is not a simple substitution system. I'll happily bet anyone that he can't break an ordinary English message 800 characters long.

Radiation detector: 2 12v auto batteries wired in series would probably work in place of the 22 ½ volt. A detector which can be powered by 6v or 12v battery would be better. But I haven't found any. Solar cells? As of 3 years ago, \$100 worth, all day in the sun, would generate enough electricity to run a small lamp for 15 minutes. Perhaps prices are lower now.

TO LAN: About local contact: You seem to have this carefully worked out. What I advise against (on second thought) is not local trade per se, but the naïve belief that one can be open with rural people because they are, somehow, mostly vonuist. We know a very few local VONUISTS with whom we have excellent open relations, but they are as untypical in small towns as in cities.

Your suggestion to have an elderly person handle local commerce sounds good. But where does one find an elderly vonuan? We know several middle-age-to-elderly-sympathizers and they are nice, capable people. But their situation or objective is invariably a small but visible organic farm or something like that. And for the elderly, agrarianism can be satisfactory. Their children are grown up. They are exempt from conscription, probably even from forced labor in a “National Emergency”. Their taxable income is usually low. And few of them wish to be “unconventional” in personal behavior. Most important: they already have many decades of experience at conventional living. (But we would like to get together with any exceptions.)

Something might be arranged with a sympathetic non-vonuan, elderly, or otherwise. But first we must group with enough people with enough commerce to make it worth that person's while. (See VL #6, last column.)

About legality: What do you/would you do with school-aged children (for example)? I wouldn't call slave school just “petty pigshit”.

TO PHIL SMITH: I didn't know I was picking on people for being inconsistent. But that's not as nasty as calling somebody an idiot because he has different tastes.

Perma Pac foods are rather expensive, but useful for someone who wants emergency storage and doesn't have time to do it himself.

RAYO , et al, I'm back down in the valley of the shadow of death once again, on a fundraising tour; so far not doing too well, but something will break. My winter was indescribable, though I do have some slides (too gaucha?). I discovered so many ways to use rice, wheat, dry milk, powdered eggs, and pine nuts, you wouldn't believe it. Even had a few cans of fruit and some walnuts that lasted about a month into the snow.

Unfortunately, the snowmobilers were within earshot sometimes, but I soon realized that they only came out on the clear, warm weekends, so I still had most of the time to myself. “The best kind of revenge is not to become like unto them. He is poor, that stands in need of another, and hath not in himself all things needful for this life. \*No man can hinder thee to live as thy nature doth require. \*Contract thy whole life to the measure and proportion of one single action.” (from Marcus Aurelius' Meditations): “Mankind are greater gainers by suffering each other to live as seems good to themselves than by compelling each to live as seems good to the rest. While everyone well knows himself to be fallible, few admit the supposition that any opinion, of which they feel very certain, may be one of the examples of the error to which they acknowledge themselves to be liable. \*The fatal tendency of mankind to leave off thinking about a thing when it is no longer doubtful is the cause of half their errors. \*Customs are made for customary circumstances and customary characters. \*In proportion to the development of his individuality each person becomes more valuable to himself, and is therefore capable of being more valuable to others. Society provides a limited number of moulds in order to save its members the trouble of forming their own characters. \*Nothing was ever yet done which some one was not the first to do. (from John Stuart Mill's On Liberty),.

Wild Edible Plants of the Western United States by Donald Kirk; Weather (A Golden Science Guide) by Burnett, Lehr, and Zim; handbook of Medical Treatment (from Lange Medical Publications.

Well, I'm glad I got that out of my system. I have become mainly a dealer by mail for a lot of things, and small stores for others. “We may never hope to understand fully what we say so long as we think we already do. \*The thoughts that we forbid ourselves to whisper are the measure of our self-abandonment. \*Facts are public and he who buys a secret gives aims to fraud. \*Facts are worth no more to us than our points of view and our philosophies permit us to make of them. \*What we look at is now what we see; we see what we believe we are looking at. \*Filling our own ears with all we have learned to say, we are deaf to what we have yet to hear.” \*(from Johnson's Your Most Enchanted Listener).

Move carefully. Peace, shalom.

–WJP, N. Calif.

A few thoughts, recollections, and observations have come to me since our discussion regarding feral orchards and gardens. Feral is not quite the right term. It is usually applied to animals and with a slightly different meaning. We were discussing the possibility of planting certain food, medicinal, or even ornamental domestic plants or animals in the wilds for harvest by any who found them.

Keen observations and judgement will be required of the planter to select the best site. I am thinking of the Pacific Northwest but the principles will apply anywhere. Elevation will be chosen for the optimum temperature and precipitation – higher for cooler and water climate, except for the still cold nights when the cold air settles to the bottom of valleys. Aspect is of equal importance – western for higher rainfall and northern to protect bloom from the spring frosts by delaying blooming. Moist sites are needed for summer growing conditions, but swampy areas must be avoided for plants needing good soil drainage. Jerusalem Artichokes are of eastern origin, native to the eastern states there they are grown by the Indians. In our Mediterranean type of climate, an area wet enough for growth will usually be too wet for spring and winter storage. You people doing the planting will find and solve many now unforeseen difficulties.

Study abandoned homesites and roadside volunteer trees. Apples and pears may be kept from of Codling moth larvae (apple forms) by choosing sites just warm enough for trees with cold late springs that delay the moths egg laying flights until the larvae will not have sufficient growing weather to mature before fall. We observed in Columbia Co. Oregon (especially around Clatskanie) that many old orchards with no spray or other attention were virtually free of Codling moth larvae, if not completely. The only theory presented was the short growing season. According to Robert A. Wardle, (THE PROBLEMS OF APPLIED ENTOMOLOGY), “Oviposition may be expected on the first night on which the temperature for this period (hour following sunset) is about 62 degrees F., provided this night occurs at least two weeks after petal fall.” Isolation from existing infested orchards would be invisible. Moths would be expected to fly a distance of a few to several miles and towards the warmer temperatures – they are corpuscular [?]. Avoid picnic areas.

The planter must also be ingenious in providing protection. Mulching to protect from drying, stone mulch from mice etc. Planting in windfalls might give some relief from other trees – shading, and also provide material to build an unconscious fence to keep out deer, beer, livestock. Most fruit trees should be on their own roots, not budded or grafted unless low enough to scion root if planted a bit deep. Then, if the top is damaged by freezing, varmints, etc. the variety will not be lost. If the top is damaged as by mice girdling in winter, it should be cut off so it will not die but send up new shoots. I plan to put some of my CURL-LES peach trees and also others on their own roots and would furnish a few Vonuans mentioning VONU LIFE at cost for any serious in establishing such trees.

A few fruit and nut trees and other plants that might have possibilities are: --Apple, pear, filbert, walnut, peach, grape, blackberries (Himalaya & Evergreen), Rhubarb, comfrey, Jerusalem artichokes, garlic, multiplier onion, asparagus, bulbous blue grass, celery, sugar beets.

Sugar can be extracted from beets by home processing. Beets must be fully mature, remove top or crown to reduce “beety” taste, simmer (not a high boil) remove scum frequently. Add a touch of lime water to remove any remaining “beety” taste.

Plants like Lotu conriculatus (L.major in coastal hills) can be planted for seeds to sprout, greens, and to attract deer to areas for emergency meat. With gentle handling and judicious feeding deer, elk, and other animals could be semi-domesticated, beaver, rabbits, squirrels, quail – you name them.

I hope to read of more ideas in VONU LIFE; how about medicinal herbs? And more particularly some retorts of work already done. –CURL-LES PEACH

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### **THE PHANTOMFIELD CHRONICLE**

this one by Lan

This is about vonu community (vonune?). I can think of two ways to form a vonune and of two kinds of vonunes which result.

One is like Rayo described in vonulife 4 and is trying to bring together. First, individuals vonu as individuals for individual reasons. Then some of them come together for barter and fellowship and pooling import-export. But they have separate vonuums, several miles away from each other, which are secret not only from outsiders but from each other. I am calling this kind of vonune a loose open association (abbrev. LOA).

The other begins with people who are already a close together group. Maybe they have been close friends for many years. Maybe they work together and live together in their work like some rock bands and theatrical groups. Maybe they are a big old world style family with brothers, sisters, and inlaws under one roof. Or maybe they are a non-vonu intentional community who have soured on farming or who don't want their new ones taken away to school.

Whatever their original makeup, most members feel strongly that they should vonu. They do it, most likely, not in one grand leap, all planned out, but by trying different things here and there. Some things fail. In one place they are not secretive enough and get roused out. Another place is too remote for them to get in supplies. At another place there is snow on the ground eight months of the year. But they remain determined to vonu, one way or another and to do it together. And they learn from their failures.

Each time, they move or change the way they live they lose people who prefer the old way. Others give up during the winter and live in tipis. So what was a large pre-vonu group becomes a small vonune.

The group adds to their numbers only by birth and adoption of children. They do not admit new adult members. If this isn't their original policy it becomes their policy after a few bad experiences. Maybe one in a hundred prospective new members is compatible. But one in three has hang-ups bad enough to upset them. And one in ten is a bludgey (not a full-time but a freelance informer fishing for any information he thinks is saleable). Those aren't very good odds. So the group can't be open and vonu and close to one another unless they move camp each time a new member goes to town. So they become a close closed community (abbrev. CCC).

An LOA can be fairly open to outsiders. They can take a chance on new members because a new member cannot hurt them, except for individuals who fraternize with *e* (and, if they are careful, not more than one of them). For the same reason an LOA can deal in vonu fashion with individual vonuans outside.

A CC probably deals goods and services (vonu fashion) only with other vonunes, not with individual outsiders, because only with a community can they deal in sufficient volume for it to be worth the bother. The actual dealing is done by one member of each community. However a CCC can exchange ideas and information with anyone by means such as vonulife because this is easy to do. A CCC has even greater need for this than does an LOA.

Through vonulife, I hope to contact vonunes. First for intellectual exchange, second for possible barter. You can tell about yourselves without admitting you exist by writing it as fiction. Of course, there is nothing to stop anyone from imagining a vonune and writing about it. But careful thinking out of an imaginary vonune could be almost as helpful as describing a real one.

Also I hope to encourage non-vonu communities to move, as communities, towards vonu. I believe that a non-vonu intentional community is a nowhere land. If you give in at all, you will keep giving in, bit by bit, until you might as well own a ticky-tacky in vapidville. Also, I'd like to learn about any other kinds of vonunes. The CCC and the LOA leave out a lot of people.

## VONULIFE 8, JULY 1972

### [COMMUNICATION AMONG NOMADS, TROGLODYTES, AND OTHER FREEDOM-ACHEIVERS]

VONU LIFE, BOX 458, CAVE JUNCTION, OR

Published every two months by MIKE FREEMAN | Compiled by Lan

#### EXCERPTS FROM LETTERS

TO VONULIFE: My husband I read with great interest your ad in a recent Rampart College Newsletter. We are among those who are “striving to live out of sight and mind of those unwilling to let live.” We are mainly interested in accomplishing this by boat. We would very much like...to be put in touch with others who share our interest in long-range boating. –MARY, So. Calif.

TO VONULIFE: At present I am living on 24' sailboat in...Nova Scotia. Lovely waters in the summer, in the winter I'm in Key West or in the Caribbean. –T.

TO VONULIFE: Here are some conclusions that may be helpful:

Mexico is a poor place to travel by boat. Because: a) it brings you into contact with too many petty officials with a rubber stamp (worn out) and a hand extended for the “bite”; b) Everyone expects you to be rich, there has been too many rich Gringo yacht owners ahead of you; c) There are too few safe anchorages and too many people friendly to boating people; d) Never found the people friendly to boating people; e) Mexico by car, bus, camper, cycle, even the train seems to be a whole different game.

The “South Seas” to most yachters means French Oceania and Tahiti in particular. The Bomb has brought great changes. Airfields, big ships stopping in the Marquees (?), fantastic inflation with the pacific Franc being devalued. Tahiti is probably one of the most expensive places tourists can easily reach. With all its drawbacks it's still a keen spot to visit. A bit of time spent visiting the island that yachters rarely or never visit are really worthwhile. Most people seem to use the same routes in cruising the world and find no one pays much attention to them. You expect the natives to swim or at least paddle a canoe out to meet you but it doesn't happen. Really out of the way places will make you a novelty, something to break up a very routine existence.

Rivers could be keen spots with a cheaply operated “shanty boat”. Our trip up the Sacramento was really super. We were considerably limited on side trips because of our height, about 65 feet off the water, and draft of about 7 feet.

Very few people will travel in an inexpensive manner, so small boating becomes one of the most expensive ways to travel the poorest class you can find.

Family groups can make successful cruises. Groups of friends almost always break up. The owner of the boat can expect to lose part or all of his crew at the first opportunity after an ocean passage. Replacements probably won't last either.

Living aboard in So. Cal. gets harder every day. Slip rent is very high. Slips are hard to find. Almost no place where it's safe can you anchor much more than overnight for free. Pollution is a real drag. You are very visible but the wheels that be can't decide what steps to take to overcome the pollution (other than don't) you might make.

The so-called Race-Cruiser or Cruise-Racer are mighty poor cruising boats. Only a couple of designs that I know of even approach being a usable cruiser that are being built out of fiberglass. –J.B., So. Calif.



TO VONULIFE: Will be moving out of my house on June 1<sup>st</sup> or so, and will be moving into a school bus with four others. This will be a new way of life for us and would definitely like to communicate with others who are doing it.

TO VONULIFE: I have been looking for “that” van ever since my first brief writing to you. But, alas, due to limited funds and limited supply I have yet to find it. But I’m sure that by keeping my eyes and ears open I’ll find the right vehicle and adapt it to my needs.

In the meantime I’m reading everything I can beg, liberate, borrow, and buy that would give the necessary knowledge to be self-sufficient and happy living away from “civilization”. I regressed a bit to take a job which was high paying in order to speed up the purchasing of my backpacking equipment. This is my last week on the job and I’m looking forward to getting back into my artwork...

I do portraits, figures, and miscellaneous (animals, scenes, etc.). Most of my jobs come from “word of mouth” spread by happy customers. I’m going to try to sell nudes to bars and hopefully have a show someplace soon.

My freemate runs a moving business as described in your brief from Mother Earth News. He also looking forward to doing his house-painting business again. That always waits for good water. We have both found that the biggest expense and headache in any vonu business venture is marketing...—KAREN

TO VONULIFE,

In VL#7, Adam said a few things about barbed wire that I feel I have to respond to. I live on a dairy farm in PA. This is my rut and I hate it and fences too. Fences are symbols (and physical realities) of all the things I consider vonuans to be against. Even being practical, a barbed wire fence would defeat the purpose of “living wherein no one knows the exact location of another’s “den-camp” which Adam says appeals to him. Even I the area is remote, anyone coming across a barbed wire fence in the middle of nowhere would definitely know that someone lived there. Since Adam’s stated purpose is to keep bears away, the fence wouldn’t have to encircle his den-camp and therefore the fence would pin-point the location.

Besides, I don’t think it would be effective. I have seen cows walk through a barbed wire fence as though it wasn’t there. They usually don’t but only because they are content to remain where they are. However, if they take it in their minds to cross over, then no fence will hold them. Their strength is tremendous and a farmer’s only salvation lies in the fact that cows don’t know their own strength. I am sure that bears would also find no difficulty walking right through. The barbs really serve no purpose. Animals don’t seem to be slightly fazed by the few scratches they might get. The barbs are much more dangerous to the man erecting the fence.

The twanging of the wires is no defense. If constructed as Adam suggests the fence will never twang. To stretch a wire taut enough to twang requires a device called (you guessed it) a fence stretcher. It is simply a block and tackle device. Also wrapping the wire around trees will do no more than injure the trees. To stay taut for even a little while, the wire must be stapled. But even when a fence is so constructed, due to the cheapness of mass produced materials the best fence loses its tautness very shortly. When the fence is a year old it very noticeably sags. In 2 or 3 years all the galvanizing has rusted off and the wire then begins to decay into nothingness very rapidly.

Getting back to fences in general what right has Adam to keep bears out or me to keep cows in? They were vonu long before us. They have a right to roam where they will just as much as or even more so than we do. To put fences around them we do to them what we criticize the bludg for doing to us.

Occasionally as I read VL the word “paranoia” comes to mind. A beard or long hair doesn’t make one a hippie any more than living in the wilderness makes one a vonuan. A certain frame of mind is also necessary. To be paranoid is not to be vonu no matter what the outer appearances say.

But I have only criticized. And that is wrong. I really look forward to VL. VL if nothing else will give me the inspiration and courage to stop being a hypocrite and get out of my rut. Thank you vonulife and vonuans. —REV ROY

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Dear Lan: People who work on company books earning less than \$2050 (like \$2049) a year can file a W-4E form and have no tax deducted except Social Security. Doesn't matter if you earn the \$2049 in 2 months or however long. It's good if/when no independent work is available. You're supposed to have had no tax liability the previous year, which some clerks define as "tax owed" and others as "tax paid" (including any withholding). Pick a clerk. \$100 worth of work in NY is now taxed at about 25% all told, which is hardly worth it considering the other indignities involved. Has anyone tried the abandoned building route for domicile purposes? Several blocks in my old neighborhood stood untouched for years. Would be game but doesn't sound like a good solo trip. When you were talking about underground connections for distributing V.L., I thought maybe you were thinking of having it go underground, i.e. distributed discriminately to attract no untoward attention. Have you ever been hassled? I was also wondering. Have a good time anyway.

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#### SELECTING A SITE FOR A VONU HOME

Desirable attributes of a site depend on living patterns, type of shelter, permanency, overall geography, and other factors. Use the following only as a guide for developing your own checklist.

**TERRAIN** – I prefer slopes and tributary valleys. Most human off-road travel is along ridges and the bottoms of main valleys, where the ground is relatively level and there is little brush. (During seasonal floods, many valley streams sweep clear channels wider than their usual courses.) Also: ridges are exposed to wind and lightning: food, cold air, and mosquitoes often lay in valleys.

**SLOPE** – In MUCH OF Siskiyou region, there is little level land except on valley floors and ridges. So I would choose a type of shelter which can be built on at least a 20% slope (one foot rise per five feet horizontal).

On sloping ground, a level surface, such as a bad foundation, requires either digging out or building up. If the slope is steep, disposing of dug-out dirt may be difficult; unless a retaining wall is built, the dirt will slide a long way and be conspicuous. For a big structure on a steep slope, I would plan on multi-split-levels.

On slopes steeper than 30% the only suitable shelter may be a treehouse or a cabin on pilings. This is providing trees and brush are sufficient to screen a raised structure: vegetation is usually less on a steep slope.

Fortunately, in most areas slopes are irregular; moderate inclines and sometimes near-level benches alternate with steep places.

**SOIL** – If my shelter requires much digging, I would avoid extremely rocky ground (especially outcrops of bed rock) unless I were using hard-rock mining techniques to bore a tunnel. If digging isn't necessary I might choose a rocky place so that I can use the rock in construction.

**BRUSH** will discourage intruders or give warning of their approach. People tend to walk where the walking is easy so a few hundred yards of heavy brush on a steep slope may keep them away more effectively than several miles of open level ground.

On the other hand in heavy brush areas, I have to find/make trails and arrange/maintain them so that strangers cannot easily follow them. But once I do, I enjoy a big advantage over any intruder.

I enjoy having a few relatively-open-and-level spots near my home for play or lounging. But most brushy areas have a few openings.

All in all, I prefer brush if my shelter is relatively permanent and access is by foot only; open woods or meadows for temporary camps and van living.

**TREES** provide concealment from the air. And in Summer they offer cooling shade. On the other hand, they block solar heating in Winter, increase hazard in event of forest fire (so does brush), and, if large conifers, may attract logging.

In very few areas of Siskiyou is tree foliage dense enough to completely hide an un-camouflaged structure. But even light foliage obscures; partial shade breaks up outlines.

Evergreen trees and bushes are best. In Siskiyou most are evergreen; broadleaf as well as conifer.

Spotting of small ground objects from the air is not as easy as some think. Many times I have attempted to spot my own shelters from nearby hills. But even with a stable-supported telescope, and knowing what I was looking for and where to look, I was often in doubt. And this was with poorly camouflaged tents.

Now and then the bludg plant a story about some new spy satellite to awe their subjects. But their claims, if truthful, assume ideal conditions such as a man dressed in white on a black-asphalt parking lot.

Lights at night are something else. Even a candle flame is visible for miles on a clear, moonless night. But lights can be blocked with opaque material in the structure itself. Another no no is a smoky fire during daylight.

I check for dead trees and large dead limbs which might blow down in a storm. I pull these down before they cause trouble.

DISTANCE – The less accessible my area is to outsiders, the less accessible their supply and communication channels are to me. The pros and cons tend to balance.

I like to be at least a hundred miles from a large city to minimize fallout danger and to reduce number of recreation seekers; few people will drive more than 200 miles during a weekend. On the other hand, I like to be within a half-day's travel of a town of 5000 population minimum for communication purposes.

I try to locate at least a mile from any residence or popular campground; children and their dogs, who are the most foot-mobile members of that society, seldom go more than a mile cross-country on their own; their parents mostly stay on the roads or, if "roughing it", on official trails. Distance minimizes chances of cooking smells or noises being detected. I like to be at least a quarter mile from any road.

Noise is a big consideration. If one insists on keeping a dog, cutting wood with ax or power saw, or shooting close to home, perhaps no place in Siskiyou is sufficiently remote.

A point against remote location: if a structure, vehicle, or person should be spotted from the air, it will arouse less curiosity if it is where people are known to be.

I prefer to locate my roadhead (where I unload supplies from a vehicle), base camp, water source, stashes and any other facilities all on the same side of a road, so that road crossing is minimal. If this isn't possible, I pick crossings away from creeks so that I will hear approaching vehicles before they can see me.

I look for human debris such as beer cans and shotgun shells to ascertain how much an area is frequented. But there are logged-over areas, with much debris left from time of logging, which may not be frequented again until new growth is ready for thinning, which may be in 30 to 60 years.

ACCESS – I am interested in two kinds: seasonal access to bring in heavy supplies once a year; year-around access for communication.

Since I am not living off the land, I pack in over 500 pounds of supplies per person per year, plus initial equipment. So distance of site from the nearest roadhead is a big cost factor. Assuming 50 pounds average load (some items may be bulky and awkward), one mph average speed over a rough trail, 500 pounds of supplies per year, and 1000 pounds of initial gear with change of base every two years: for every mile of distance I will spend 40 hours per year backpacking. In addition, I may spend 20 hours initially scouting and clearing trail. This assumes no average grade no greater than 20% – i.e., 1000 feet elevation change per mile. I would estimate each additional 100 feet vertically to be equivalent to an extra mile in distance.

Beyond a certain distance, remoteness may actually decrease vonu – the longer the access trail, the greater change of encountering someone or of the trail being identified by a skilled tracker.

The roadhead doesn't have to be on a paved road; a rough trail which a truck can drive with difficulty in summer (or maybe a snowmobile in winter) is sufficient. Or I might rent an all-terrain vehicle once a year. (I haven't yet.) I find a roadhead which is out of sight of the road. Or I unload late at night on a rainy night. Or I unload openly during the day but have a cover story in case anyone is curious.

A roadhead is better located if not at the end of the road, since recreationists tend to drive until they can drive no more and then walk until they get tired.

The year-around communication trail may be only a foot trail. Some considerations: Does it cross a creek which will require special equipment for safe crossing during wet seasons? Is part of it at an elevation where snowshoes will be needed in Winter? – which might be an advantage or disadvantage.

WATER for drinking and cooking. Is a creek or spring close by? Does it flow the year around? If not, will a shallow well reach water? Will the water need purification?

If I can carry 10 gallons (about 80 pounds) of water at one mph (average for round trip) and I use five gallons per day for drinking, food preparation, dish washing, and hand washing; each 100 yards distance from a water source will cost me 20 hours per year.

If I expect to occupy a site for several years, I would consider laying plastic pipe from the closest uphill source. Half-inch polyethylene pipe costs about \$7 per 100 yards, plus time spent purchasing, packing in, laying in shallow ditch, and covering. (The ditch is for concealment; most poly pipe will not burst if the pipe freezes.)

Are there latrine areas which are downhill from or well away from the water source? If a person uses a square foot of area each day and an area is reused every two years, 700 square feet (about 20 by 35 feet) will be needed.

WATER for bathing, laundry, and perhaps hydroelectric power. I will most likely take myself and my clothes to the water for washing, so distance is not so critical. Is there a pool being enough to immerse my body? If not, I can lay hose along a creek until have over six feet of head, start the water siphoning, and have a shower (also handy for filling water cans).

At a permanent home site I would like sufficient water power so that, at a later time, I could install a small impulse turbine capable of driving an auto generator and recharging batteries. This is a subject for a separate article.

QUIET – absence of wind and water noise. Away from open plains, ridges and passes, wind is rarely a problem. But a large creek is noisy. Water sounds not only mask other sounds I want to hear but become irritating after awhile. On the other hand, water noises may mask my sounds from outsiders.

Perhaps I can locate where there is a bench or the shoulder of a hill between the site and the creek. Or maybe there is a small brook or spring which doesn't make much noise. If the brook doesn't flow part of the year, I must walk further then.

If my dwelling is mostly or entirely underground, noise may not be a problem.

RAINFALL – Advantages of a high rainfall area: availability of water; ample brush and trees where soil is fair; eradication of tracks; unattractiveness to most people. Disadvantages: materials rot or rust if not protected; special clothing is needed; wet clothing is difficult to dry; rain noise can mask other noises; soil is leached of minerals. Vehicle trails, such as old logging or mining roads, soon wash out or grow over, which may be an advantage or disadvantage depending on one's way of life.

When I first moved to Siskiyou from S. Calif., I dislike the long rains. But, as I obtain suitable shelter and clothing, I enjoy the increased seclusion.

ELEVATIONS and direction of slope. The lower the elevation and the more southerly the exposure, the warmer the climate and the less time snow remains on the ground. In Siskiyou, below 2500 feet, snow does not remain on the ground for more than a few weeks during most winters. On a south-facing slope, snowline may be 1000 feet higher than on a north-facing slope.

Snow shows tracks, which is helpful when hunted but not when being hunted. Areas with much brush and rocks but many trees will be more accessible in Winter if the rocks and brush are buried under several feet of snow. Areas with small trees close together will be less accessible.

For now, at least, I prefer to locate my base camp where there is relatively little snow. But snow can be an advantage for those who learn to work and live with it.

CULTURE of natives. If I were completely self-sufficient this wouldn't matter much. But if I engage in outside trade and communication, I am less conspicuous and therefore more vonu in a country where I know the language and customs – where I can pass as a native.

GENERAL: I do not expect to find an ideal spot. Attributes often conflict: a spot with good tree cover will not be sunny; a spot close to water may be noisy.

When comparing sites I try to estimate the cost of the various factors in man-hours per year. If one site is more remote, how many additional hours will I spend packing in supplies? If another

site is less secluded, what is the additional probability per year of loss due to discovery, and how much will I probably lose? If I prefer the view or other aesthetic feature of a site, how many hours of work per year would I pay for it?

When converting money costs to man-hours I consider not merely the wage I can earn in a job outside but the indirect costs of such a job. Perhaps in Los Angeles I can earn \$5 per hour clear. But, when I include risk of nuclear attack while I am there, degradation of health by smog, travel expense, city shelter expense, time spent looking for job, and other risks and discomforts, maybe the subjective costs of one hour work in Los Angeles are great as the subjective costs of ten hours of monotonous work in a vonu place. So I will figure my time in vonu as 50¢ per hour.

What is a good shelter partly depends on the terrain. So I do not finalize a design until I select a site. But I think through several kinds of shelter in advance so that I can better identify likely areas and spots.

I try to design a shelter for terrain and vegetation that is typical of a region, rather than find a unique spot suitable for a particular shelter. For example, if trees are generally sparse in an area, I would build a low, heavily-camouflaged structure, rather than erect a dome in one of the few dense groves.

In each area I try to pick at least one specific site. Then, when comparing areas, I can compare site against site as well as comparing areas in general.

When scouting I make one-day trips from a base camp. To go further, I move base camp. Two or three day trips are uneconomical because, with weight of bedding and food, I cannot cover two or three times the area.

A conventional, un-camouflaged shelter is not without its advantages; not only is it easier to build, but, if discovered, it will arouse less curiosity. Especially at a temporary camp, camouflage may not be worthwhile. On the other hand, there are many possible explanations for a concealed structure: fear of private marauders, especially when a woman is there alone; study of particular plants which grow in the area; conservationist desire to alter appearance of an area as little as possible; warmth of an underground structure. –RAYO

## **HYGEIA'S HYGIENIC REVIEW**

### **SIMPLIFY**

by Dr. Hy

I want to have as much time as possible for the things I like to do most. That's why I try to spend as little time as possible doing other things. Here's how I do it:

**DRESSING:** I don't wear clothes! Except as protection against the elements: cold, extreme sun, brambles, bugs, and bludg. I never wear a bra or girdle and usually dispense with all underwear. For economy, most of my clothes come from thrift stores and/or the dump. The less money I spend, the less time I must spend earning it, at work I may not like.

The clothes I do wear, I don't iron. So I wear a few wrinkles. That way, I keep my wrinkles removable.

**GROOMING:** I don't use toothpaste. Water suffices except for an occasional scrub with baking soda/dental pumice. Price (Nutrition and Physical Degeneration) observed perfect teeth and gums in peoples who never brushed, though they did have deposits on their teeth.

I don't use a deodorant. I do wash. I use water and friction lavishly, but soap sparingly since its alkalinity interferes with the skin's protective acidity.

I don't use make-up. In addition to being a big nuisance, lipstick may have carcinogenic coal tars, mineral oil leaches oil soluble vitamins from the body, powder clogs the pores, and perfumes often contain the products of what I consider needlessly slaughtered animals. Furthermore, my lover likes me a la natural. (Maybe that's one of the reasons why I like him!)

I don't cut my hair nor shave my legs or underarms. I do brush my hair one hundred strokes or more each day and give my scalp a finger massage. I find this minimizes the number of shampoos necessary.

PLUMBING: I don't have any. I pee in a coffee can (the plastic lid's nice – doesn't rust) and I shit in the ground. I don't mean a dark, smelly outhouse either. I just shovel a hole each time I need one, under the blue sky. (If you live in the city this method would pose problems; but who says you have to live in the city?)

For water, my system consists of a couple of five gallon pails or a few one gallon bleach jugs plus me. (The *me* part walks the containers to the creek, fills them, and brings them home.)

POSSESSING: I strive to have a minimum of material possessions. If I must spend a good deal of my time transporting, maintaining, keeping track of and fretting over labor saving devices, they become more labor engendering than saving.

I'm still eliminating junk acquired to become a non-consumer. Now, before adding any item to my impedimenta, I ask myself "Do I need it? For basic survival?" Probably not! But if I still feel like I want it, I ask myself, "Will I use it?" "Will it give pleasure for a long time or become a piece of clutter as I grow tired of it?" (E.g., I was recently tempted to buy some disposable plastic gloves to protect my hands while doing certain jobs. But I decided not to buy them because I already have plastic bags which I found could double as gloves, even though they don't fit perfectly. This was, I avoided one more item to buy and keep track of.) NO NEED FOR TWO WHEN ONE WILL DO.

I don't try to possess any land. I prefer to use it instead. This way, Mother Nature serves as my landlord, gardener, game keeper, and swimming pool attendant.

CLEANING AND NEATING: Cleanliness and neatness are becoming less and less ends in themselves for me. Whiter than white and brighter than bright are part of the compulsive, conspicuous consumption society. I prefer "clean enough to be healthy, dirty enough to be happy;" neat enough to be accessible, messy enough to be usable.

EATING: Often I don't. I fast (i.e. just imbibe water, period) for two days each week, and for four or more days now and then. When I do eat, I strive to make it only one, at most two meals a day. (Otherwise, I get fat.)

Less eating means less time devoted to food, in all its many aspects; such as planning, procuring, storing, preparing, and dining, not to mention time spent earning the money to buy it. Not that I begrudge food time, quite to the contrary, but I've found that by eating less I enjoy it more; I personally have to be very careful least food run my life, and that's what I don't want.

COOKING: I spend relatively little time cooking, instead I eat many foods just as they come from nature (minus any dirt). I do this to conserve nutrients, which I feel are necessary for health.

When I do cook, I seldom use oil. I think it's healthier to get my essential fatty acids from whole vegetable foods such as seeds and nuts. This, coupled with eating little meat makes dishwashing a breeze. (For popping corn without oil, see VL6; bread baking without oil, see VL3.)

MEDICATING: The only pills I take are some vitamins. I don't seek any treatments from medics, surgeons, psychiatrists, or any other practitioners. If any practicing is to be done on me, I'd just as soon do it myself.

BELIEVING:

Some people believe in God.

I believe in myself.

Therefore, I must be God!

ARGUING: I try not to argue. Why argue? If it's something very important to me at stake and the other person doesn't see my way I figure we'd best go our separate ways. If it's something less significant, I try to simply state my point of view and let the other person agree or not, as he will.

ENTERTAINING: I don't have a T.V. and seldom go to the movies (like maybe once last year). I do own a radio: in weaker moments, I listen to it. Most of the values conveyed by these media are repugnant to me. They are the values of a sick, sadistic, stifling, straight-jacket society. Of the



good things shown on film, I rather do them than watch someone else. The greatest adventure in life is living and I figure I can't do it through somebody else. (Upon rereading, that sounds rather-overgeneralizing: a movie could be beautiful, inspirational, and educational. And I do watch other people in books, if not in movies.

QUOTING: "The more you quote, the less quotable you are." –THE WISE OLD UNQUOTABLE SAGE.

All the don'ts may sound negative, but because I don't do all the foregoing, I've actually created more time for the positive, the things I most enjoy.

Strange as it may seem, it's been just as difficult deciding what those things are as making time for them. I'm sorry to say that I've spend many years letting others decide what I would do with my time. First it was parents and teachers, then professors. Would you believe I ever considered joining the WACS?! There was also a psychiatrist to top this off. (He thought I should wear make-up. Sure, paint a smile on my face. Worked about as well as the pills he gave me.) But I'm happy to say that is behind me. Now I mänge (or mismanage) my time myself. May you also. And may you peacefully live the life you envision.

SIMPLY, DO YOUR OWN THING.



Last issue, we covered a few medicinal things of interest and I suppose it would be the thing to do if we continued for a few more sheets. Herb books are now easily found and the only downside is that most don't have enough illustrations and for westerners therefore few that cover the more common western plants. Joseph Myers "The Herbalist" is probably one of the most complete of the smaller more inexpensive herbals and if one wants to really get into the subject it is valid to look into the art of gathering and administering by the various phases of the moon and such. You might recall that most of the more famous and successful practitioners did just this and that a good part of our rural fellow humans still plant and reap by the "phases." There is just too much printed evidence to support this little thought of influence to spend time pursuing the

thing further but Llewellyns listed below can fill in any gaps in this area.

Another fascinating offshoot of herbal medicine is the art of flower healing. The English outfit below has about the only works I can find on the subject and the theory goes something like: Conflicting moods produce unhappiness, fear, or whatever which lowers the body's resistance and allows disease to enter the picture. Minute extracts of Star of Bethlehem or Vervain for instance, would ease tension, which would allow a case of ulcers to clear up. You can get basic info in "Twelve Healers" & "Bach R. Repertory" and this system is not too far removed from the minute dosages of Homeopathic medicine...still popular in Mexico, etc.

Anyway, not to stray...salves are easy to make and store longer than the dried herb itself which tends to lose some of its virtue after a few years. The whole southwest is planted in Eucalyptus and the white variety (hard to distinguish from the blue) makes a very fine decongestant. I chop the leaves and pod up and put the whole mess in a can of lard (warm). After a day or so in the sun, I repeat the operation and after a while, you can really get a potent salve. This procedure can be used with any suitable herb and is the way the French have captured the flower fragrance for their perfume for who knows how long. Lard and goose grease are the only things which will absorb the essence virtue of herbs, etc. in the salve form.

I have always wanted to take the time to experiment with plant poison antidote. Poison Ivy for instance can be steeped as a thick ten and applied to neutralize the very irritation the unheated plant produced...there are many similar reports. In a similar vein, I have a friend who used her own urine to treat various skin rashes and while I have though her a bit aromatic at times, she swears it works. In fact it is quite well known in certain circles that one of the quickest

ways to get over any infections, etc. is to imbibe a little of the purulent matter of the problem area. This evidently stimulates the body's own defense system to greater effort and the resulting antibodies are really effective. Ever watch what animals do when they have an infection or are sick? There was a time when I recalled all the bad news that entered a dog's mouth and got a little nervous and a big dog smack, but Sandra long ago informed me that the canine group has saliva that is really first rate as a germ killer. Might be that we take a closer look at the lessons nature has to teach through her more diminutive creatures.

Many forms of supermarket medicine will keep you from the doctor's door and a good example is well watered down Clorox bleach. Any form of fungus is taken care of quickly and if you should have a case of athlete's foot, for instance, all you need to do is soak those little tootsies for awhile every time you get re-infected.

A short while back I was non-plussed when I asked an intern Dr. a question about Epsom salts. The fellow had never heard of the stuff. That was a bit much considering most of the bathroom shelves in the country were well stocked with it only a scant few years ago. Sucks out poisons & infections as a poultice or in hot water. Hydrogen peroxide over any wound will do a better job of germ killing than any other thing that has come along yet, and Potassium Permanganate has saved who knows how many infected extremities of man...as a matter of fact it was used as the most effective douche ever devised for the working girls of the world (see more details in the "How to Survive the Depression").

Things have gotten so dependent on the pharmaceutical trusts that our population seems to be lost now without the more expensive potions and pills. Several generations ago, things were simpler and some of the healers of the time could cure such drastic conditions as tetanus & rabies...things we still consider pretty bad news. Horehound and Mad Wort were used to neutralize the venomous of snakes and rabid animals by a combination of hot vapor baths (150° or more), cold water, stomach purging, etc. Most any toxic condition could be stopped short. More than one snake bite victim has been saved from an untimely demise by becoming panicky and running in a sweat for miles. Getting poisons out of the body through the sweat pores is not the only way by any means though. Oxygen is unsurpassed for cutting and burning out poisons and toxins in the body. A coyote will run for miles after being poisoned and will often survive after the oxygen has done its cleansing work. Pilots and nurses with savvy hit the oxygen bottle the morning after a good bout of drinking for the same reason: it burns out the toxic fusil oils and gets rid of headaches. Nature has provided many simple means of surviving our battle with our minute enemies – it just takes a little observation and a lot of unlearning.

Just as important to anyone in the boonies, long is a rudimentary knowledge of how to deal with broken bones, deep cuts, and the like. Briefly, it is well to be prepared for the unlikely by including some elastic bandage in one's duffle. A little hole the size of a pea can cause you to bleed to death in ten minutes or so if you don't get the thing shut off – if it's in a vital spot. You may well be able to cut off main arterial blood supply between the wound and the heart since the arteries all come to the surface at the point of the body's joint areas. If pressure at the wound point won't do the trick, remember Alum, spider webs, and puff balls. Things that have been used for clotting blood for a long, long time. Anyway, most outdoor survival books have a little section on the subject and you just never know.

Skin irritations and bug bites can usually be soothed with baking soda, urine, or mud, and porcupine quills will even come out if you will soak them in a spoonful of vinegar to which a little pinch of baking soda has been added. In any event, this whole thing could turn into a book and the intention was more in line with stimulating further investigation. We will be more than happy to send our little herb book to V.L. readers for a little coin or two (to cover the postage and such). It lists a number of complaints and the various herbs that have helped these conditions. The Flower Healing info can be had from Bach Healing Center and the Astro-Herb books from Llewellyn Pubs. –AL FRY

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VL:

May 23, 1972

I am writing from a city squat spot; something which VL people seem not to have much experience with. I was working at a job I found several weeks before I found this spot. Then I parked overnight on the street selecting the spots so that nobody had a proprietary interest in

the curb I was by: near apartment houses and institutions and preferable across the street from them next to a vacant lot. I'd only come and go from my van late at night or early in the morning and stay in a given spot only a few days although coming back the next week). I never had any problems. However, taking all the precautions was a pain, I could not do much work at night, and having to move frequently was costly. So I began to look for a place I could rent for semi-permanent parking. First I tried a number of places in a semi-industrial zone. Generally, all of them would have let me park except they were afraid of being hassled by the city which prohibits such things. I concluded that such obvious places were the ones which the city policed!!! Thus, keeping such as myself out of the places where they could bother no one and forcing us to either stay on the street! Or go into residential areas. Which later thing I did. Most of the residential areas were new homes which were not suitable. New houses are just not built in such a way as to accommodate house cars such as mine comfortably or inconspicuously. So I picked out from a map an area which was an older section. It proved to have a number of likely looking properties and I approached the owners offering to rent a place to work. With considerable elation, I received permission to park at one place. It's about as close to perfect as reasonable to hope for. My spot is behind a garage behind the owner's rented house. I get to it by just driving down an alley which dead ends there. I'm essentially visible to no one except one neighbor who turns out to be pretty MYOB (he told his children when they asked him why the man was living in the van "because he wants to" in a tone of voice that made it clear that I was none of their business!) I have electrical power, lights, and can now work at night and am within walking distance of my daytime job.

In devising means for parallel economic activity one has the problem that the parallel actors are usually doing illegal things and they need some way to conduct their affairs which are tied into the coerced economy by purchasing, sales, and communications links with negligible risk. The classical solution to this problem is for them to employ interfacers who make these links for them (for example a mail forwarder is such an interfacers). The interface being a person who, as all he is doing is making the link, is doing nothing illegal. The traces all lead to this "innocent" party, not the parallel actor. It is the function (and business!) of the interface to terminate these traces by refusing to cooperate with the authorities and thus safely insulating his client from the bludgies while allowing his client the benefits of free and safe interaction with the coerced economy. Now the problem arises that of necessity such interfacers must not be engaging in illegal or parallel activities which would lead them to fear conformation with the bludg and activities which would lead them to fear conformation with the bludg and they must not be subject to threats and intimidation by the bludg. That is, they must be non-parallel, non-vonu people. But it seems that with rare exceptions all the people who have the moral courage, the strength of character and the presence of mind needed to be an interface are involved in parallel action! Leaving, as suitable for performing the interfacing function, only people who are not fid for the task. What is the solution to this dilemma? Perhaps it just means that we'll have to pay enormously for interfacing.

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Once you see Jerusalem Artichokes, you'll remember the high weeds you plowed through. It grows like a weed, no bugs, no disease. The tubers so close they bulge the ground up, though it doesn't store well. It needs water and that's about all. Other good plants that give much food and don't look like much are comfrey, burdock, chard, mustard, willow, daylily, rose, thistle...all hardy and let-alone. Hardy potatoes and turnips are good too. Proso is the easiest harvested grain. I prefer nuts for easiest harvest and storability and nutrition.

I am nearing completion of my new boat, a 25', double end, twin keel, turtle deck, diamond rudder, stick tiller, Chinese lug rig, stayless but stowable mast, self-frighting, positive flotation, 3 compartment, arranged for easy living, wood-burning stove, enough space to stow food and water for more than 3 months. With a modified guzzler I could probably stay at sea indefinitely. I have sailed some before and on Lake Erie/San Francisco trip I listed all the things I did and didn't want, particularly to avoid breakdowns, and then had a marine architect design what I wanted. It can be built for just a few \$ in material and isn't too hard 9all plywood and straight wood). I could get the plans copied off for about \$5 if nay interested. It doesn't look like much so the thieves probably won't steal not bludg confiscate in emergency. The proper paint job would

make it look even more like a homebuilt sinker, now to find a short girl, headroom is only about 4' to make her more seaworthy. Berth rent, even in a big city is only \$25 or less/month and elect, water, garbage is free and a payphone is at the end of dock. I burn driftwood though a kerosene/oil burner could be set into fireport with no strain, but kerosene costs \$\$ and driftwood is free. With a sail the wind moves the boat so your power is free too. Kerosene lamps are fine, a real pretty light, golden. For in harbors, use standup oars to maneuver. A couple oar-locks can be fitted on the sides. Live along rivers or in small harbors or stream mouths and eat fish. A line off the stern or from a jug will get at least one fish a day. If you have the right tackle, and preferably twin keels, you can get into VERY shallow water or even drag up on shore in lonely places using a buried anchor like the old Hellenes (Ulysses & Greeks). They were always hauling up on shore to wait out a storm or hunt, etc. This is a life a girl can live too. The work isn't hard if you don't use too big a sail, nor boat. Anyone can live in and handle a 16/25' boat. Or get a kicker and just stay in some river, moving when someone gets nose. Plenty of fish in the water, though now some contaminated, and wild edible plants on the land. Get a couple books and learn to identify. So, you become a vegetarian a lot. You can also plant veg seeds along shores or on little mud islands and fruit tree seeds and have a route to gather. Pick the food plants that don't look like much and plant among weeds and brush. Paint your boat with old off-color paint and tar, then flake bits off or dob it with another color to look old and beat. Use galvanized iron fittings...cheaper, stronger, don't look yachty. Carry plenty dry stores (grain, beans, raisins, dry fruit, powdered milk, p. nuts), you can grow/make your own. Squeeze fruit for wine and dry the squeezed fruits to eat in sun on deck...I've put all this in other letters, so won't repeat here. Carry stored food and water and you'll never starve, though you don't fish/gather for times. If some hassle, be a snail, move with your home on your "back". A small boat can be hidden easy, particularly with mast down and is not easy to locate even in open among other boats or on sea. Carry paint (water soluble for short-time change?) or painted canvas to stretch over deck/sides. See what the Q ships did in war. I've lived alone on mine to now but plenty of space for 2 or full family. Go to library and read books written by families who sail would. I will write more here or personally if anyone wants. Ask specific questions. Or come live with me awhile and we can figure best way for your boat...easier to say if I can see it. Several families/people, each with own boat could live within touch or in group and move with seasons...Sacramento or Frazer River summer...Scannon Lagoon or South America in winter, gather/hunt in groups or have some small industry for cash. Use short range CB communication and RDF on it would keep boats near even in storm/dark, for long overwatch boats. For real sea-nomads, practically any part of world is just easy to reach. The Hong Kong Chinese live on junks all their lives. The Philippine canoe people live on small canoes. Some swamp people live on rafts.

I'd like to buy a cheap shotgun, working or not, barrel may be blown up. Also black powder guns. Publishers spend quite a bit of money sending copies of their pubs to other editors as trades. If enough are interested, send me a bundle of your pub and I'll make bundles of one copy in each bundle and mail them to each trader. Your only cost will be bundle postage to me and bundle postage from me and you get one copy of all published, unless this becomes heavy trip and I'll charge dime or quarter for my work. You can use my address as mail drop and I'll forward mail same time. Others can have mail dropped to me and I'll forward, so long as no cost to me. This could save editors some cash. Also a bundle subscription price might be worked out for libraries, etc. -PAUL

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I raised bees years ago and they don't need much attention if they have enough room. Put lots of supers on and they're good until fall. Then sort the frames to give them 2 full bodies of well-filled combs and collect the rest. I've thought of making a double-size procurement body with handmade 2 body-depth frames as a permanent bear proof body with bolt-on top, then let the bees clean the extracted supers to fill their winter stores. I doubt bees would need any winter care around here.

Would a CB net work if everyone had a special time to tune in and relay? Range isn't much on the little things.

How would a mail drop work if you wrote J, who is 10 days away and some between don't know J? Jon Gree Mt? Or J on East Green Mt, Oreg.?

A small piece of owned ground means you can plant long-term things and no one will cut them to clear ground. A couple acres bought at a low price...even if more under the table...will have a very low tax if you don't build them up. You can build a soddy, smial, or hidden shack, or just use the land to cache and live in wild land beyond. You would have a base for mail, address for payments, cache things but you needn't be there. If you've been reading Pioneer you have seen the excerpt I've carried about the government spy things. Elex and Milt Journals carry articles on the new ones, like super metal detectors, sniffers for smoke, scent, etc.; radar and sonar to see caves and buildings, ears for sound, side-look radar comparison cameras, IR and UV for people, fires, movement, and camouflage, and high resolution cameras that make a newspaper readable from orbit. All these have their blind spots so the obvious evasion measures should be used. All modern miracle machines have bugs, but these articles in the spy-out and shoot-em-up trade zines show the goals and at least some of these gadgets do work and very well. No, these articles, not being intended for the public, aren't intended as scare stories. They are for the trade and usually give schematics and quality data. Sure, it will find rocks but the rocks don't move in comparison to photos taken later. You wouldn't believe the machine and man time put in comparison and study of photos, no matter by what taken. Holographs are also used. Even using a pool or stream to cool heat/exhaust pipes will show differences in heat photos. A fire is usually hotter than a rock, especially at night. All animals radiate heat, but body sizes differ, as does heat output, but it is a problem. Many whales have been bombed in war by mistake, and still are. In spite of appearances of peace, our armed forces ARE fighting and taking losses (in non-war areas). Ships and places, etc. are lost regularly, and men killed. Maybe all these gadgets aren't as good as government wants now, but they are improving and forewarned, etc. for every gadget is a defense if you know it's needed.

I haven't found the address of that low cost printer yet. Will tell you when I do.

I think, if Dave would check the facts, he would prefer to live under this type of government than, say, the USSR. If he can't believe what he reads (can anyone?) he can talk to kids who have met the European king of law.

About shoeing horses...who does that for while ones? They've been around some time now. Of course, they aren't overloaded by some grubber who packs all on they can stagger with.

People who live on small boats or in small communities (read books on sail trips) often mention they are not sick except when among people who have germs to share or just after. Many kinds of disease can't exist without a vector pool...they need a group of some certain size, a reservoir of vectors to hold them proportionate to incubation and/or attack times. If they lose this they die out until someone from a larger group reinfects a small group. Leather clothes outlast cotton and wool but what about washing them. How do you do it?

Get pieces of tempered metal and hang on lines around camp. When line hit, they bang together and make sounds to warn. These are better than cans. A line drawn tight can be set to trigger a fall of things when broken. If in sections, you will know which direction. Another king of nomad home, if you gave a horse, is the wagon. I had this in a back P. a flat wagon with a tent erected on the deck and dropped for moving. Heavy, thick rugs, etc. on the floor. In Asia, where this was used, the tent was thick felt but foam could be sewed to canvas. Sears wagon beds start at under \$100 but won't go high speed on road. Others, higher price from other makers, will. Or make a 2 wheel red river cart. Put a wood floor on the bed and a 2 foot wall to attach canvas and keep things inside and you could go almost anywhere. The pioneers went over the mountains with Conestoga's which are BIG. A group of families, each in his own wagon, could live in the national forests, etc. where they may rarely be seen. Part of Utah is almost never entered, even by hunters or cattlemen and the same for many other places. The Pine Barrens near New York City are uninhabited. Or build a raft of pontoon boat or houseboat and live in the dimals or okefenokie or the everglades or bayous. I had long article on houseboats in P#1. Use 50gal drums under raft for instance. Easy.

A girl should know a few of the best karate/judo strikes and maybe carry a small handgun or knife. A cane is the best weapon if out of close reach. Strike point first, don't swing. Go for the kill, it's safer, easier, and more effective. There is no reason why a girl can't live and travel alone if she is a little careful. Even the toughest man can be dropped so there is no guarantee, nor is there anywhere, but commonsense helps.

Heinlein's value is to put these ideas where people can see them, then those interested can research further. All have been used somewhere in the world, more or less successfully, at least as successful as our system, though usually by "primitive" peoples. In the islands, it seems any kid is welcome anywhere. I have seen fights stopped while some big tough picks up a kid, muzzles it, and puts it out of the way of falling bodies, then back to business, and not as a kid either, nor as friends.

I have found a non-electric radiation detector for about \$10 made in California. Richter Corp.

Country people are often really more uptight than city people and more ready to dig in your business. I wouldn't want them to know I don't share their religion, politics, or brand of beer.

Some of my notes may not be clear to some. They are answers to prices VLs or questions. Hope not too much trouble to anyone.

If you never follow your own trail twice in the woods, no trail will form. Use animal trails and leave at different places or on stones or down wood, etc.

I think the best dog is a small, noisy one who will run and yap rather than one who will growl and attack and get killed. He needs less food, weighs less, and can be carried up climbs in a bag. All you really need is an alarm, then run or shoot. Train the dog to quiet/alert you if you like, by pawing.

It seems many people ignore law when out of sight of law. See how many cabins robbed, etc. If law breaks down and people are frightened, hungry, cold, and already inclined to break law, watch out. I would expect looter/bandit gangs to form rapidly to take whatever is available, including women. A man with a gun and the willingness to use it, or even a club, won't be bothered by a dog. Perhaps one of the small poodles would be best. They are used as stunt dogs so should be smart.

Special kinds of drugs, etc. exist which are more powerful than those you mention and can disable an entire city, spread by air or water. This has all been written up in milt/chem journals. I can give references if you like, but much is technical and little interest. The advocates of the drugs in drinking water are...what else...politicians. Fluoride, which is intended to treat PEOPLE en mass, unwilling or not, and so illegal is now a legal precedent and who knows what next. Only legal treatment was to water and germs.

With a reel taper, you can put several hours of sound on 1 reel (7").

I would like to find a hand grinder that would grind sticky or oily stuff. Some is too tough for my favorite, the meat grinder. A good hand typer is the noiseless short throw type used in doctor office...used about \$50. What good is power grinder, typer, etc. away from power?

I found a tool combo that works well for me...a heavy surplus bolo-machete (11") for cut/chop a short bushman saw and a paring knife. An ax would be better if building a cabin though. Try using the new flat drills with a vise grip to drill the few holes needed to hang things or pin beams in a wood house, rather than carry a heavy brace and bit. It's slow but will do it.

Why fight a fever? This is one of the body's ways to cure. These miracle drugs...every one of them...have bad side effects. If you get sick, just cut your food, rest a lot, and drink plenty good water, and you will get well as fast as or faster than in hospital unusually. A cut or abrasion is best FLUSHED with clean water (boiled?) with perhaps something added, allowed to dry and covered with a loose dry covering or perhaps dusted. The Indians used tree moss, spider web or bird down. Sulfa is much better dusted than taken orally...that is how it was originally intended. Raw honey on a hurt is good and can prevent the hard scab that breaks and opens the wound. Also good on burns that don't break. If you get to cold water fast enough, burns won't burn. Aureomycin, for instance will deafen, a little at a time, and it's irreversible. For ticks, hold a cigarette NEAR them. When they wriggle out, a quick move pops them. If you don't smoke, like me, use whisky or check your body every few hours before they dig in (they're slow) or dust clothes with flowers of sulfur. U can toast your clothes or lay on ant nest to clear lice, ticks, etc.

A folding bike can be stowed in little space or carried in town on a sling. It makes little track in woods. My problem...the tiny ones are usually only 1 speed. The best I've seen, but bigger and harder to carry are only 3 speed. Any 5 or 10 speed that fold into bundles about 2/2 1/2' or less by about 6"? -PAUL DOERR



To Rayo:

This is in reply to your letter of December 19.

First, let me apologize for the six month delay in answering your letter. Two main factors are responsible for the delay: (1) I am spread rather thin, and have very little free time. I am holding down a full time job as a computer programmer/systems analyst. I am writing and publishing a monthly newsletter, The New Individualist. I am writing, publishing, advertising, and selling material such as The Quiet Reality. And I am pushing ahead with the survival community project as rapidly as my limited resources permit. (2) I realized that much of the discussion and debate which would ensue when I answered your letter would require me to duplicate effort which I would be expending anyway, in my articles in The New Individualist. So I decided to hold off on my reply until I had covered my basic assumptions in considerable detail via such articles, and then write up my reply to your letter, sending the pertinent issues along with it as background material.

So much for the six month delay. Now let's get back to those alternative scenarios.

To review: (1) You asked why the Soviets do not launch a limited first strike, wiping out the U.S. military while carefully avoiding bringing about social disintegration. My answer: They will not do this because they will not be able to spare the 5 million troops which will then be required to occupy the U.S.

(2) You asked why the Soviets don't lob over a few missiles as a threat, in hopes of panicking U.S. politicians into a surrender. My answer: They will not be willing to risk the preemptive first strike which such an act might provoke.

In reference to (1), you suggested that the Soviet rulers might intend to set up a puppet regime in the U.S. Thus they would launch a limited first strike against military targets, force a U.S. surrender, and then rule the U.S. from afar, without the necessity of occupation. The purpose of such a plan would be to enable the Soviet rulers to get control of U.S. industry, which you felt they regarded as a "juicy plum." The total attack would destroy U.S. industry; the limited attack would not. Therefore, you suggested that they would opt in favor of the limited attack.

To begin with, it is probably not feasible for the Soviet Union to carry out a limited attack. U.S. military bases tend to be nestled in population centers. Any attempt to blast them with hydrogen bombs would almost certainly break the industrial back of this country. Social disintegration would be the result.

However, the main problem with the limited attack scenario lies much deeper than that. We may assume, for the sake of argument, that such an attack could achieve its aim. It would still be aversive to Mr. Brezhnev, for the following reason: Any attempt by Mr. Brezhnev to control U.S. industry from afar suffers from the drawback that it may not succeed. He may not be able to control it. If he fails, then whoever does control it becomes a threat to Mr. Brezhnev's power. If, for example, the 5,000 Soviet technicians you suggested would be adequate to supervise if the dismantling of the U.S. military industries proves inadequate – if it turns out that they can be endlessly hoodwinked and intimidated, that they literally do not know what they are witnessing the dismantling of, that they have to take it on faith that they are witnessing the dismantling of armaments machinery, that they are no more able to conduct surprise inspections than are generals in the U.S. military – then the "puppet" regime in the U.S. will be free to engage in clandestine arms efforts. If so, then physical occupation becomes necessary. However, the physical occupation of all the industrial areas of the world is beyond the capabilities of the Soviet military. Which means that they must either destroy the industrial base of the United States, or run the risk of not being able to prevent clandestine arms efforts.

When I suggest that the puppet regime in the U.S. may be able to engage in clandestine arms efforts, by the way, I do not intend to imply that such a regime would be loyal to traditional American values. I am quite willing to grant that Mr. Brezhnev can install a tyrant in Washington. My point is that subordination, in totalitarian regimes, is based on fear rather than loyalty. If Mr. Brezhnev's U.S. puppet can figure out a way to free himself of Soviet domination, he will do so. Efforts along this line by Soviet puppets in Eastern Europe are history. There, occupation has repeatedly provided necessary to preserve Soviet control. In other areas, where Soviet

occupation proved impractical (China, for example), former puppet regimes has achieved independence.

There is, in short, a big difference between physical occupation of the United States on the one hand, and a loose sort of surveillance on the other. Occupation, if possible, would lower the risk that U.S. industry would be turned against Mr. Brezhnev. However, occupation is not possible. And surveillance from afar is a highly risky proposition. The existence of this risk is the disadvantage which Mr. Brezhnev will perceive in the limited attack scenario.

Note, however, that I am not saying that the strategy of surveillance from afar cannot work. What I am arguing is that it is a highly risky proposition. I will go so far as to concede that there may be a way to handle it so that it would work. But what we are interested in determining is what Leonid I. Brezhnev is going to do. If you will think about the surveillance strategy for a moment with a mind to anticipating possible objections which might be raised to it, you will see that we could debate the pros and cons for months. At the end of the time, we would doubtless have something approximating certainty regarding whether or not it would work. But in the process we would not have advanced one inch in our understanding of what Leonid I. Brezhnev is going to do. The reason is simple: We would trace out the logic of the surveillance strategy because we are interested in ideas. But Mr. Brezhnev is not interested in ideas. Not for their own sake. He is interested in power. He quickly becomes impatient with abstract theorizing which does not deal with questions of power. It will be obvious to him after two seconds of thought that a limited attack and the preservation of American industry would not serve to maximize his power. Once he has determined this, he will have no further interest in thinking about the alternative. He will not be interested in pursuing a course of reasoning which aims to make the best of an inferior alternative.

Why do I say that a total attack will serve to maximize Mr. Brezhnev's power, while a limited attack would not? Because power, to men such as Mr. Brezhnev, means the ability to impose terror. The more total the terror he can invoke, the more tightly knit the organization under his command. Factors which limit the extent of the terror he can invoke limit his power. They are perceived as threatening and are objects of hatred. His response is to undertake unceasing efforts to subvert and destroy them. The industrial capacity of the United States, the alien values of its people, and the physical obstacles to Soviet occupation, taken together, mean that the very existence of the United States constitutes a limitation on Mr. Brezhnev's power. A puppet regime in the U.S. would, of necessity, be too independent of the United States, therefore, is a necessary means to the maximization of his power.

Nor are there any advantages which a limited attack offers which a total attack does not. Not to Mr. Brezhnev. In theory, control of the industrial might of the U.S. ought to be good for something. But to a man in Mr. Brezhnev's position, the advantages are far from obvious. All of the material comforts of which human technology is capable are already his. They have been his for years. Nor will it do to argue that freedom in the West, has produced persons with capabilities which Mr. Brezhnev ought to want access to. It is true that Western doctors are incomparably superior to Soviet doctors, and that one day Mr. Brezhnev may die because he does not have access to their skills. But such considerations are not factors in his motivations. He lacks the conceptual equipment to appreciate them. They will not persuade him to forego a total attack. Neither he nor his supporters in the Soviet power elite can possibly expect to enhance their own personal standards of living by conquering the world. Insofar as they are concerned, improvements in the productive capacities of the economies over which they have dominion are not a means to their own material gain. If the productivity of the conquered world is less, it means the people have less, not that the power elite has less. The cold fact of the matter is that modern factories have been deemed desirable by Mr. Brezhnev and his predecessors only because they have been regarded as means to the furtherance of quests for personal power. It is the existence of the United States which is and has been the basis for the Soviet Union's quest for technological supremacy. In fact, the true goal has been conquest. Technology has merely been the means. It is only so long as the Soviet rulers do not have supreme power throughout the world that they will remain concerned with technological supremacy. Once the United States has been destroyed, technology will no longer be a means to the furtherance of Mr. Brezhnev's personal power. Its sold desirable aspect, to him, will be gone. All that will remain will be its

undesirable aspect: the fact that, in order to maintain an industrial economy, the Soviet rulers must permit the continued existence of an elite of scientist and technical personnel who think. It is an unpleasant fact which the Soviet leadership has learned to endure, that computer programmers, electronic technicians, and research scientists are much more difficult to rule than are disease-ridden peasants in rice paddies. The former, by their very nature, are positions which must be filled by men who think. The latter are not. The peasant toiling in a rice paddy can repeat the same motions which have been employed by his ancestors for a thousand generations. All he needs to know is how to obey. For the computer programmer, it's quite another story.

My conclusion: To the Soviet rulers, the U.S. economy is not and never has been a "juicy plum." It is and always has been, purely and simply, a threat. Indeed, but for the existence of the U.S., the Soviet rulers would have regarded Soviet technology as a threat. The Soviet attack, therefore will be a total attack. There is no purpose to which the Soviet rulers wish to put the U.S. economy. Thus they will destroy it.

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On the subject of bushwhacking and the dangers of travel in the postwar environment, you said that once the "die-down" is complete – i.e., after the population is once again at equilibrium – bushwhacking will not be very rewarding. (You divided the area of the U.S. west of the Mississippi into 500,000 and arrived at an average population density of one person for every 10 square miles. I will assume this is correct.)

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On this subject, I would like to remind you that we are talking about feudalism. Feudalism is the result of social disintegration. In earlier periods of human history, feudalism has been characterized by extreme danger to travelers. After the fall of the Roman Empire (which was social disintegration in its purest form), the restoration of population equilibrium did not render it safe for individuals or small groups to travel. Gangs or robbers infested the forests throughout the period. The small size of the territories controlled by individual feudal "lords" and the tenuous relations between them precluded the success of any organized attempts to eradicate them. The brigands could always slip across the border into the territory of some though ("lord") who was not participating in the eradication effort. The small size of the fiefs meant that such a border was never very far away. Hence it was virtually impossible to do anything about the threat to travelers.

Like causes lead to like effects. Social disintegration in the United States will follow the Soviet attack, and it will result in feudalism. With the exception of extremely remote areas, every square mile of this territory will be claimed by a local gang. Some will be based in the smaller municipalities. Others will be merely gangs of brigands who live in the woods. In either case, they will constitute a threat to travelers. The only difference between the two will be a matter of numbers and self-image. The municipal dictatorships will be a numerically superior and will regard themselves as legitimately constituted authorities, whereas the small gangs will regard themselves as robbers. It will be they who pose the threat of bushwhacking. Travelers will be their prey. They will lack the strength to go against the feudal towns. The fact that the average population density is one person for each ten square miles does not mean that travel will be an undertaking which mere caution will render practicable. If you travel for nine days without encountering anyone, it will in no way compensate for the effects of the gang of robbers which attacks without warning when you stray into their territory during your tenth day of travel. The fact that you enjoyed more days of tranquility than of trouble will not entitle you to say that, in the net, things are all right.

Nor does your danger end if you avoid being set up and killed by brigands. You will have to cross the territories claimed by feudal municipalities. Any area which is really suited to human habitation will doubtless lie in such a territory. This means you will have to choose between living in abject poverty in a remote area, or being impressed into a forced labor battalion by the functionaries of some addle-brained city state.

Such considerations for me to the conclusion that those who value their freedom must aggregate before the war. Any attempt to travel to a prearranged meeting place after the die-down will be very hazardous. It is a last resort – a desperation measure suitable only for the very few who literally cannot work their way out of their present circumstances before the war. For such persons, of course, it should be tried. But, in all honesty, I wouldn't give a dime for their chances.

Regarding the merits of the Siskiyou region as a survival community location and/or place to hole up until after the die-down, you said it is not a popular vacation area and that not too many outsiders are familiar with it. Thus you anticipated very little problem with refugees, looters, bushwhackers, etc. As you put it, when people "head for the hills, they generally head for hills they are familiar with."

Not quite. It depends on the type of hills. Many people love to vacation in desert areas, yet virtually no one would think of fleeing into the desert in hopes of living off the land subsequent to a nuclear war. For the person who is unprepared, the desert is a forbidding place. A desert community, with food and ammunition stockpiled, with underground living quarters setup, would be left almost entirely alone. Thousands of straying refugees would not swarm into such an area, driven by vague hopes of "living off the land." Of the few who did, most would either go in the wrong direction, or perish in the extreme conditions they encountered. Those who got through and attempted to approach the community would be easily detected. Lookouts in fixed positions, with binoculars, could see without being seen.

Siskiyou, on the other hand, fails on both these grounds. It is surrounded with areas having a high population density. And it is the kind of place toward which thousands of starving refugees will gravitate, driven by vague hopes of living off the land. They will swarm over you like locusts. True, you can argue that you know the area while they do not, but you know dozens of hiding places, etc. But remember, you only get one mistake. It only takes one instance in which a group of skulkers comes upon you by surprise. When that happens, you are done. If, of course, you had a group with you, you wouldn't be so vulnerable. But the fact that you do not \*own\* the land you are squatting on (ignoring, for the moment, the legitimacy of the bludg criteria for deeming ownership legitimate) will mean that no sizable group can be built up there. You will always face the danger that "the authorities" will discover such a group and confiscate your supplies. Such a danger will discourage (and rightly) others from joining a group in such an area. Further, your location is of the sort which lends itself to skulkers. It would be virtually impossible to provide protection to individual dwellings in a forest community unless they were grouped together in a stockade or a rabbit warren type of underground structure. And the danger of discovery and the destruction of such a structure by the bludg would render it folly to attempt it. Hence those who joined you would be forced to either establish separate camps, where they could be surprised by skulkers, or accept the obvious disadvantages of a communal and nomadic lifestyle. Such conditions would render it very difficult for you to build up a group, and impossible for you to go it alone.

To Suz: Resolving the inconsistency between recommendations to vonu oneself first (VL2 7) and become vonu by linking up with someone already vonu (VL5 8):

The first course I suggest to someone who wants to live vonu with a freemate, but is neither vonu nor attracting likely freemates. I suggest it partly because doers are more attractive than malcontents, and are more apt to attract other doers. Even if a person cannot immediately vonu alone, any progress made will increase confidence, competence, and thereby attractiveness to other vonuans. But, perhaps because of more rigorous "conditioning" as children, fewer girls than men vonu on their own. So a girl interested in but not yet vonu, will likely attract vonu males. Should she vonu alone and link up later (if at all)? Or should she link up now and learn from him? This depends on her. If she can vonu alone she probably should. But if she fears that she can't, or believes that it will take her a very long time, then linking up may be better.

If, later, they grow apart, she can split – probably easier than she could from someone in that society.

I can't see making a general rule that one should NEVER associate with someone more experienced in a shared activity.

My major point in the second article was (should have been): IF a girl seeks vonu by linking, she should link only with someone who has ACHIEVED considerable vonu, not with someone just talking or perpetually "preparing."

Your report of experience with businessmen as freelance typist was interesting. I've had somewhat similar experiences even though I had "recognized technical skill". Basic problem maybe: If someone needs somebody frequently, they would like him always at hand. A vonuan must avoid developing this kind of dependency.

To Lan: "The Phantomfield Chronicle": Need there be a dichotomy between Loose Open Association and Close Closed Community? I conceive of an LOA as embracing CCCs as well as small families and individuals.

Why limit vonu trading to other vonunes? When deciding either to trade or not, the relevant factor is, not warm-body count, but how much someone wants of what you are able to provide and what they will trade for it that you want.

I think the only intentional communities likely to move AS COMMUNITIES towards vonu are urban groups, or at least, non-agricultural groups. Agricultural communities get heavily involved, economically and psychologically, in the problem of non-vonu framing and lose sight of freedom.

THE GREENING OF AMERICA: I, too, liked what Reich said about the "lost self". But his politico-economic ideas are rather bad. Repeatedly he berates "society" for neglecting education. But "more money for education" would mean, in the present context, only more extorted funds spent on those concentration camps for children called "public schools". (Perhaps they could lower compulsory schooling age to two! This has been proposed!)

Artificial language: Esperanto is phonetic, I believe. So is Gloneo, Rusel Jaque's. But Esperanto, Gloneo, Ido, interlingus, and other would-be world languages have most of the semantic and cultural hang-ups of natural languages. Example (from Gloneo): viro – MAN; virino – WOMAN (feminine-man). I have also considered aUI, Liblan and Loglan. Loglan has many desirable features but one serious shortcoming (for my intended uses): it won't "pigeon" – non-Loglan words (especially predicates) can't be used within Logal sentences. Consequently, one needs to know a vocabulary of 10,000 or more Loglan words to use Loglan in ordinary conversation.

On a low-priority basis, I'm working on a Vonuist Basic Language (VBL) – a "logical language" along the lines of Loglan but capable of pigeoning and with an initial vocabulary of only a few hundred words. I'll report on it in VL, probably this coming winter.

To Bednash: I believe the five "cardinal" vowel letters should be assigned to sounds in dUne, Obey, fAther, gEt and machine; for compatibility with Spanish, Esperanto, Italian, German (to a degree), Loglan, Roman-Japanese, etc. Treat the in-between vowels of English (bit, bat, but, bought, foot) as variants in pronunciation and represent with closest cardinal letters. This system is less phonetic than yours, but simpler. And no system is PERFECTLY phonetic – able to represent every variation in pronunciation.

Your ad spelled this way: "Dha mejr rizn for dha yus av faniks az a langwej, iz its inherent kwaliti av giving its yuzrs dha ability tu sepl ol wrdz krektli, simpli bikoz dha letz kold for in dha wrd, ar put dher akoridng to dher saund, and sins isch letter and vaul have onli wantoun and wan simbi, in faniks, krekt speling iz imperative and inkrekt speling iz impassibl..." Du laik it?

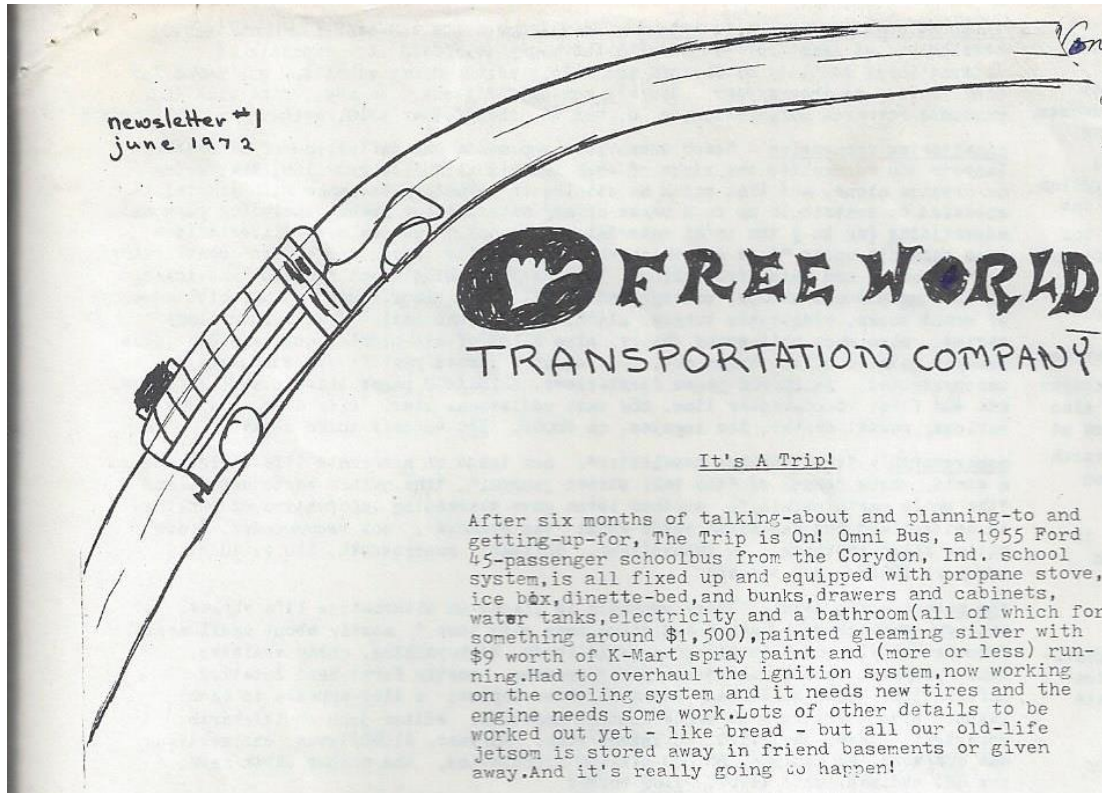
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#### MORE EXCERPTS FROM LETTERS

to vonulife: I am presently living in a small shack that I built out of discarded tomato bins. I live mostly out of my pack so that I can split at a moment's notice. The shack is located in a fairly invisible spot, which I squatted on, with easy access to wilderness type area. –PHIL

to vonulife: We have been nomads full time since August and previously spent weekends in a nudist camp-commune. We have loads of squat spots to share...Our present spot is a small

road well in view of everybody but no one has questioned us. It is a land developer's area where they put houses on 1/8 acre sites so we're "looking at the area." We even have wild berries to eat and are close to New Orleans. - V & L



*the little road says GO, the little house says STAY.*

*and oh, it's bonny here at home, but I must go away.*

-josephine peabody

~

*But I Reckon I Got To Light Out For The Territory Ahead Of The Rest, Because Aunt Sally, She's Going To Adopt Me And Civilize Me And I Can't Stand It. I Been There Before. -HUCK FINN*

~~~

Home Sweet Bus

I've already left the (good old) Louisville Courier-Journal and Sally has just given notice. "Since we are a nation of gypsies," Abbie Hoffman says, "dope on how to move around and dig in anywhere is always needed" and I guess that's what we'll write about for the time being (anybody want to buy a story about making it on the road?) It looks like we'll be ready to leave in early July (Yea, Independence Day?!). Till then we'll house-sit for people on vacation and/or camp out in the city parks (I don't know about other cities, but Louisville has overnight camping in eight parks for up to two weeks at a time for \$1 a night!). In the past month, we've met two other pre-nomads: Richard and Zandy and their kid, who plan to take off soon in a bread truck and John

of The Frog Farm near Sligo, Ky., whose nearly ready '49 Ford Army bus has huge stained glass church windows cut into the sides, old barn board paneling and an ancient pot-bellied stove inside! John will head initially for Montana, Richard and Zandy for South Dakota, We figure to head up to New England first then maybe Canada, then the Northwest, then down the Coast, then the Southwest, then maybe the Sunny South – maybe some other places in between. We'll probably end up back in the Midwest for X-Mas: Time to regroup, then off again (or maybe a whole 'nother trip, by then, who knows?) Wherever – for now, Omni is home.

Will They Make It?

“Don't worry about it,” said Doc, a 60-year old hobo we met last year whose been on the road since he was 9.” The Road will take care of you.” We'll just have to see.

If You Can't Write, Send Money

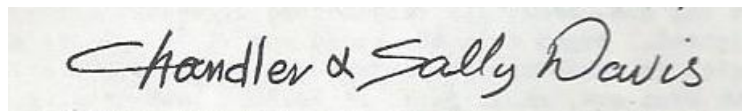
We'll use Sally's parents' place as a permanent mail drop. Write and offer to let us use your shower or something.

Keep On Bussin'

“Once a journey is designed, equipped, and put in process, a new factor enters and takes over. A trip...is an entity, different from all other journeys. It has personality, temperament, individuality, uniqueness. A journey is a person in itself; no two are alike. And all plans, safeguards, policing, and coercion are fruitless. We find after years of struggle that we do not take a trip; a trip takes us...Only when this is recognized can the blown-in-the-glass bum relax and go along with it. Only then do the frustrations fall away. In this, a journey is like marriage. The certain way to be wrong is to think you can control it.” –John Steinbeck

We'll try to keep friends, acquaintances, brothers & sisters, and anyone else who's interested posted via the F.W.T.C. newsletter.

Omni Amor,



“Omnia mutantur nos et mutamur in illis”
(All things are changing, and we are changing with them.)

“BEWARE of those who are homeless by choice! You have no hold on a human being whose affections are without a taproot.” –ROBERT SOUTHERN

Howdy, FWTC. I'm hitching a ride on your white space. Quick City, May 25-28. A temporary community will be built in one day and followed by a three day multimedia seminar on whole systems including: land use and preserving our natural environment, the alternate source of energy, food production, recycled resources, alternative attitudes of thought (nomadics). Groups will provide cheap, efficient shelter using do it yourself skills, inexpensive technology, recycled materials, domes, membrane structures, inflatables, etc. Communications groups will document QC activities with film, audio, and video and demonstrate the role of two way information resources in new communities. There will be a video linkup with Whig Bang Quick City in Woodstock, NY. Any persons interested in participating and feedback to Quick City, Calif. Inst. of the Arts, Valencia. We will send assimilated feedback back. (from “alternate sources of energy” – past, but may be more)

[HANDWRITTEN LETTER, IMAGE #1 OF 2 - PAGE 2 ON
NEXT PAGE]

Vonu Life?

April 28, 1942

Thanks for issues 1, 2, 3 received yesterday.
Lots of good information therein.

I came out here from City of Windsor in 1948.
and I have built from frame and 2" x 4" and
spent winters in cabins 10' x 10', 4' x 14', 8' x 16'
12' x 24' on small woodland acres, and sold
them to others at low cash cost. There is no heat
that warms and comforts as well as home cat
buck sawed stove wood in a snug cabin. My
lighting for quite a few years was with
kerosene lamps and candles. Most of the old cast-
iron wood stoves have been broken for scrap by
the utility people. But a 45 gallon drum can serve
for burning wood by cutting three holes in the
top: (1) #1 for a 6 inch stove pipe #2 for pulling
in wood and taking out ashes, a cover is required,
#3 for a down draft hole about halfway of stove
pipe hole. It needs a cover also to regulate down
draft. I used a flat iron known in trades as a
It works but if used on wood floor put about
six inches of earth in bottom or it will burn a
hole through floor. And use a gentle fire on
small sticks at a time while learning.

As the years have passed and local officials
applied their building and subdividing
restrictions to please the housing industry
and the real-estate sharks, it is difficult to
find Vonu or related spots in Southern Ontario.
Anath North is too cold in my opinion. So that
leaves only Nova Scotia, New Brunswick or
British Columbia in Canada.

Vonut #3 has much information about food and feeding. Someone should try to determine the sort of food used by Hopi Indians when they ^{were} running long distances without fatigue. A hundred miles on some runs. We should all get on that diet and stay with it.

Since corn played prominently in Indian living and is a grain that can be grown in a small or large space it should, perhaps, be considered for Vonu living. It is one of the easiest grains to grow and to store.

As a start, how about a formula as follows: 50% corn, 10% wheat, 10% rolled oats, 20% Flax seed, and 10% Almonds, ground in a Secret Grinder, if you can get one, to the desired texture. Then mixed with water and stir-cooked until thick, and further steamed in a double boiler if desired, served in a bowl with one tablespoon of honey and covered with a large glass of milk made with powdered skim.

Most anyone can save a thousand dollars in these times. Do it and buy five or ten acres of woods at low price. Build a cabin 10' x 20' is a good size. Tear down old buildings for lumber. Work at home. Take any kind of work for short periods for needed income. Read Milton Eisenhower's "How To Live In The Country Without Farming" and "Living The Good Life" by Helen and Scott Nearing.

wishes,

Thomas Stanier, R.R.
West June, Okla. Correll

to vonulife: You've got a grand idea. And you seem to have found the place to do it. I'm from the east and never thought that there was any empty country around, so I just never gave it any thought. My paranoia is worse than yours, so I am here. The paranoia seems justified, too.

Freezing in mid-sept is a good exercise to practice. It kept me from being torn in half back of the jail in Orange Co. Calif.

Aerial photography techniques are so good that extreme caution should be used in any digging. Dirt disposal is a problem of extreme importance. Rivers only point to you like an arrow if dirt is dumped there. Natural caves are better to live in and also to dispose of dirt in. Crevasses, animal holes, etc. should also be good. To broadcast thinly is wrong as hell. This would show very plainly from the air, until weathered.

This is how they got Che Guevara. They were even able to locate his arms caches. Che thought he was infiltrated. Anyway, they found that Japanese soldier in the Philippines, didn't they?

I keep thinking of a boat. But this is really not too good because boats are watched so closely...—B., Sweden

**[SCAN OF UNDERGROUND
DIRECTORY ON NEXT PAGE]**

UNDER EARTH DIRECTORY

here is a review of magazines, newsletters and directories relevant to vonism. thanks to many people for samples and to rayo for some of the reviews and comments. final editing is lan's. i have tried to be critical rather than only praising, even though i may offend some people.

for price comparison i have estimated and underlined words/£. this is number of words published divided by subscription price. i counted illustrations as words which would take up the same space, but not decorations nor repeats of ads.

a few sines listed are not recommended but are described so that they won't be ordered by mistake. i have purposely left out many little sines on homesteading and philosophy. for further listings see "A is A directory", "underground press syndicate" directory, and ads in "the mother earth news". some reviews are based on only one sample, some just on recommendations by others. i have so indicated.

i am adopting rayo's convention for quotes. "... is a direct quote. "... means so-called. many publications begin, few last for long, and few make refunds when they stop. so unless a sine has published for several years or is very cheap i would buy only back issues at first.

in addition to "vonulife" i particularly recommend "the last whole earth catalog", "the mother earth news", and "libertarian connection" to vonians and vonists - for quantity, quality and relevancy of information per cost. lan

access catalog - sort of like "the mother earth news" but smaller. national in scope. articles in #7, last issue received, on water power, sprouts, russian therapeutics, can recycling. editors richard, sharon tilmann. irregular. \$5/12 issues, 65¢/issue. new life environmental design institute, box 648, kalamazoo, mich. 49005. 230 words/£.

A is A newsletter - "a monthly report of the libertarian movement". most 'libertarians' believe in idealized free enterprise - maybe like 19th century america but without the state, or at least without the robber barons who used the state to put down competitors and critics. some libertarians are individualist anarchist, some are political 'conservatives', some are new left. few are interested in real here-and-now free enterprises, like smuggling, dope dealing and underground moving. most are busy scolding the bludge. rayo recommends 'libertarian' literature to correct state-taught economic and historical misinformation. there have been dozens of libertarian sines but most are short lived. so for those interested in this scene, "A is A newsletter" offers a way to keep abreast of it without spending a lot. it seems to be non factional. editors dale haviand, stanley lieberman. copyrighted. began 1970. 12 issues/year. \$5/year, 50¢/issue. no ads. mega, 9730 hyne road, brighton, mich 48116. mega has also published a directory of periodicals - \$2. 100 words/£.

akwesane notes - by and about amerindians but mostly political protest. only a few articles of interest to vonians. uncopied. 6 issues/year. send donation. akwesane notes, mohawk nation, via roosevelt, ny 13583.

"alternate sources of energy" is a newsletter for people concerned with the development of alternate sources of energy - particularly solar, wind and water power - as well as the uses to which energy is put. first issues were mostly bibliography and philosophy. recent issues have had some how-to-do-it, though not much yet that "the mother earth news" hasn't covered. good contact media for pioneers in the field. editor donald marier. uncopied. began july 71. 6 issues/year. \$1/year. donald marier, 300 so taylor ave, oak park, ill. 60302. 330 words/£.

alternatives - newsmagazine on communal living. some general articles on community and education. some detailed reports on specific communal groups - mostly rural, some urban, none vonu (in summer 1972 issue anyway). some articles seem very perceptive. successor to "the modern utopian". published by a commune. uncopied. 1 issue/year. \$1/issue. alternatives foundation, p o drawer A diamond heights station, san francisco, calif 94131. 550 words/£.

the atlantis news suspended publication as of march 1972. rayo warns that, last e knew, the manager of the atlantis 1 motel in saugerties, ny is hostile to vonians - volunteers information to bludge.

atlantis quarterly hasn't published for several years (rayo).

british columbia access catalogue - in the image of "the whole earth catalog" but specializing in sources in bc, especially around vancouver. many lists and recommendations concerning local stores, shops and groups. not copyrighted. 1 issue/year (2 issues received). \$2/issue. british columbia access catalogue, 1729 mcspadden ave, vancouver 12, bc. 254-9776. 500 words/£.

camper coachman - mostly about new, commercially built campers and trucks. tom of preform recommends for technical articles. same publisher also puts out trailer and motorhome sines. sold in most magazine stores. 12 issues/year. \$3.50/year, 50¢/issue. griffin publications, 10148 riverside drive, north hollywood, ca 91602. 800 words/£.

canadian whole earth almanac - each issue is about one general subject. fall 1971. only issue i've seen. is on healing. heavy on book reviews, especially mystical and naturalistic ways. previous issues on crafts, shelters and foods - the latter sold out. copyrighted. 1 issue/year. \$3/issue. no ads. canadian whole earth research foundation, 341 bloor st west, toronto, canada. 430 words/£.

the chinook center - "is a directory and access catalog primarily for the portland metropolitian area; modeled after the whole earth catalog but shaped by an awareness of local and immediate needs of people ... about 150 pages". i haven't seen it. \$1.25/issue. chinook center, 4312 se stark, portland, ore. 235-8954.

foundation journal - one of the would-be successors of "the whole earth catalog". national in scope. i have seen one issue in a bookstore - so so. (rayo) \$7/year. foundation, 85 east germanium ave, st paul, minnesota 55117.

fur, fish and game - may be the best commercial 'outdoor' magazine. but i find the ads more useful than the articles - places to sell herbs, squirrel tails; buy crossbows, traps, air rifles. editor a. r. harding. copyrighted. published over 60 years. 12 issues/year. \$3/year, 35¢/issue. classified ads 25¢/word, \$2.50 minimum. fur-fish-game, 2878 e main st., columbus, ohio 43209. 1500 words/£.

green egg - none received for over a year. no answer to inquiry. (rayo)

the green revolution - this is perhaps the oldest surviving alternate life-styles sine. published by heathcote intentional community which calls itself anarchist. wercptive articles by people living there, also by outsiders. agrarian rather than vonist in emphasis but useful information now and then. mildred loomis founding editor. uncopied. published more than ten years. 12 issues/year. usually but sometimes irregular. \$4/year, 35¢/sample. ads 35¢/30-character line, .05 minimum. the green revolution, route 1 box 129, freeland, md 21053. 340 w/£.

ovator - "the original self-liberator's magazine" (lisa dwn). no longer lished, last issue was autumn 1969, taken over by 'efficiency'. an issue of 'icacy' has not been received since summer 1971. some issues were vonist, rs scolded the state. lisa dwn (see "libertarian connection") is selling t of 28 back issues for \$5.

july 72 vonulife 8 page 8 last page of issue

international harry schultz letter - this seems to be the best financial advice newsletter, at least for people with the money to afford it. emphasis on international mobility of savings and self. editor harry schultz. published for many years. 24 issues/year. \$80/six months, \$7/issue. no ads. financial and economic research corporation, p. o. box 45, rheinfelder 4310, switzerland. 15 words/£.

libertarian connection - "each subscriber who meets our definition of libertarian (anyone who recognizes the right of each individual to his own life, that which he creates alone, and that which he obtains in voluntary exchange with others) is entitled to contribute up to 2 pages of any material per issue, including personal advertising (up to 1/2 the total material per issue)." unlike most 'libertarians' (see comments under "A is A newsletter"), many "libertarian connection" contributors are proposing and doing free things, not just preaching about freedom. articles on reusing postage stamps, underground mutual fund, black sands mining, bibliography of draft books, electronic burglar alarm, underground taxi. also a futurology series. also much philosophy theory. also a lot of nit-picking and 'inside' jokes. manager matinee hall. began oct. 68. about 9 issues/year (every six weeks). uncopied. \$4.50/200 pages first-class. \$3.50/200 pages third-class, \$1/issue. ads 40¢ first 75-character line, 25¢ each additional line. lisa dwn, box 90913, worldway postal center, los angeles, ca 90009. 330 words/£ third class.

moneyworth - "the consumer newsletter". one issue on alternate life-styles was a stale, vague rehash of "the wall street journal". "the mother earth news", and "the whole earth catalog". another issue gave misleading information on banking in switzerland and had harsh words about 'tax evaders'. not recommended. (rayo) editor ralph ginsburg. 26 issues/year. \$5/year. moneyworth, 110 w. 40 st., new york 10018. 250 words/£.

the mother earth news - heavy emphasis is placed on alternative life styles. ecology, working with nature and doing more with less. mostly about small-scale farming but also much on gathering wild foods, back-packing, cheap shelters, non-employment income, alternate power sources. mostly first-hand detailed information. also sells many books on these topics; a list appears in each issue. also starting a separate contact magazine. editor john shuttleworth. copyright. began jan. 1970. 6 issues/year. \$5/year, \$1.35/issue. unclassified ads 50¢/word, \$3 minimum. 80,000 minimum circulation. the mother earth news, box 38, madison, ohio 44057. 1100 words/£.

moving on - edited by migrant farm worker but rather esoteric, little useful information (rayo). \$2.50/year. moving on, p.o. box 624, mendocino, cal 95460.

nasha - north american survival and homesteading association, toronto. nothing received for more than year. no answer to recent inquiry. defunct?

new earth catalog - one of the would-be successors to "the whole earth catalog". the first issue contains some new categories, some updates, but is not nearly as comprehensive and voluminous as "the last whole earth catalog". lots of white space, maybe to make it look big. no index. publisher scott french. copyright. began april 1972. 2 catalogs and 3 supplements/year. \$7/year, first catalog \$3.50. no ads. gsm publishing, 528 o'farrell dept. 119, san francisco, cal 94102. 150 w/£.

"the new schools exchange" is a central resource for the exchange of ideas and information about alternative and experimental schooling the newsletter includes lists of alternative schools and a section for people seeking places and places seeking people. published several years. 24 issues/year. \$10/year, 50¢/sample. new schools exchange, 301 e canon perido st., santa barbara, ca 93101. 250 words/£.

ocean living - last issue received in autumn 1970. (rayo)

other scenes - "the only truly international magazine of the counter-culture will report on the nomadic life of drifters in europe". i haven't seen an issue since the move and change in emphasis but, judging from wilcock's past publications, it is apt to be useful for the internationally mobile. (rayo) editor john wilcock. uncopied. previously published in u.s. for several years. "few issues/\$1. other scenes, p.o. box 45, amsterdam, nieuwendoom, holland.

people's yellow pages - listing of protest groups and some sources in massachusetts. \$1/issue. vocations for social change, 351 broadway, cambridge, mass 02139.

pioneer - mostly about life of early european settlers in america and american indians. excerpts from many old and some new books. many interesting tidbits of information but poorly referenced - difficult to tell source of information. sources and prices of books usually not given. (rayo) editor paul doerr, not copyrighted. irregular. at least 8 issues have been published but most are sold out. \$3/2 issues, 40¢/issue. paul doerr, box 1444, vallejo, ca 94590. 300 words/£.

protos - apparently defunct. not published for more than a year.

puget sound access - "a part of the earth catalog". local sources, suggested by "the mother earth news" i haven't seen it. \$1.50/issue. Box 13301 sedgewood station, seattle, wash 98111.

travelers' directory - i joined two years ago. after six months i received and found letter telling of difficulties and delays, then nothing. it was supposedly for contact between people who travel and people who want to host travelers. maybe someone with more staying power will start another. (rayo)

underground press syndicate - this is the biggest association of 'underground' newspapers. most of these papers seem angry at the establishment only because they are not part of it. but some are better than others. for booklet giving data on members send \$1 to free ranger tribe, box 26 village station, ny 10014.

vibrations - analysis of drugs sold on the street. 6 issues/year. \$1/year. also publishes "consciousness guide to drug abuse" which i have not seen but is widely recommended as describing both the good and bad effects of each drug. \$1. do it now foundation, box 3573, hollywood, ca 90028.

vocations for social change is sort of an employment directory for alternate institutions but, like the name implies, most of the groups listed are too busy protesting to the establishment to extricate themselves or anybody else from it. listings of alternate life-style groups are meagre. perceptive articles on community and education now and then. (rayo) uncopied. 6 issues/year. 50¢/issue. vocations for social change, box 13, canyon, ca 94516. 500 words/£.

vonulife - "communication among nomads, troglodytes and other freedom achievers". ways to live out of sight, sound, mind and reach of those unwilling to let live. some contributors dwell in tents, tipis, buses, vans, shacks, boats, caves, as well as in secret city places. some want to live self-sufficiently, others want to use 'latest technology' and trade with the 'outside world'. many letters and contacts, not copyrighted. began (under name "preform-inform") June 1968. 6 issues/year. \$1/3 issues third-class, \$4/5 issues first-class. vonulife, box 458, cave junction, or 97583. 600 words/£ third class.

the last whole earth catalog - detailed reviews and source listings of many books, magazines, tools, supplies and other catalogs useful for alternate life styles. this is the original one, the big one, seemingly recommended by everybody. editor stewart brand, copyrighted. began fall 68, ended may 71 but prices and addresses are supposedly updated in subsequent printings. over 1,000,000 printed. whole earth catalog, 558 santa cruz ave, menlo park, ca 94025. last catalog \$5. 3000 words/£.

yipl - newsletter on how to rip off the corporate state, especially the telephone monopoly. publisher youth international party line. 12 issues/year. \$2/year, back issues 25¢. yipl, room 504, 152 w 42 st., ny 10036. 190 words/£.

VONULIFE 9, NOVEMBER 1972

[HANDBOOK AND DIRECTORY FOR FREEDOM AND SURVIVAL ACHEIVERS]

VONU vonulifeLIFE, BOX 458, CAVE JUNCTION, OR

Published every two months by MIKE FREEMAN | Compiled by Lan

vonulife ----- vonulink

one becomes two

VonuLife hereafter will be published once a year and will be a handbook and directory of vonu living. Vonulife '73, the next issue, will be distributed during March. Deadline for contributions is February 1. Vonulife '73 will probably be an 8 ½" by 11" magazine printed on newsprint and containing at least 40,000 words. It will have edited articles as well as letters I think are interesting (but no full names and addresses unless requested). Price is \$1, mailed third class; no charge to vonuans.

Why change? By publishing something big once a year I can print more how-to-do and where-to-get articles and organize them better. Also I can sell more and with more sales I can pay something for articles. Also, most readers seem to value vonulife for how-to information and maybe for inspiration, not especially for contacts or dialogue. Less than 5% send letters for publication or forwarding. Also, getting a thousand or more copies printed every two months is difficult for me. I don't have my own press and I have difficulty getting parcels delivered to me.

Vonulink is for contacts, discussions, directory updating, and news. Vonulink will be published six times a year, same as the old vonulife, and mailed first class. Vonulink will usually be hectographed or mimeographed, which I can do myself. I haven't decided when.

Only individuals can subscribe to vonulink, not institutions such as libraries. Each subscriber agrees to limit circulation of his copies to 5 other people. I reserve the right to refuse or cancel (with proportional refund) a subscription for someone I suspect represents an institution.

Circulation of vonulink is limited to 100 copies. This simplifies matters for contributors who want to do their own printing. Also, I can get to know all subscribers. (If circulation approaches 100, I will split vonulink into two or more zines, each limited to 100 circulation. In this event, a current subscriber will receive all vonulink offspring zines until e's subscription expires.) Any back issues will be for sale only to subscribers. All this will maybe make vonulink a little more vonu.

Each vonulink and vonulife combination subscriber may publish in vonulink at least 1200 words a year (about two typewritten pages) if relevant to vonu living in my opinion. Each vonulife-only subscriber may publish at least 300 words a year in vonulink (but that doesn't entitle e to a copy). I retype and print. Or e may do e's own printing and send me 100 copies for inclusion in vonulink; up to two sheets of 8 ½ x 11 ordinary weight paper per year if e is vonulink subscriber. (By using photo reduction, e can print 8 or more typewritten pages on one sheet just like I am doing here. In most cities, there are printers or copy services who will print 100 sheets on both sides for \$3 or \$4.) I have the right to reprint from vonulink is vonulife unless otherwise told (except names and address).

A first class subscriber to the old vonulife, who is paid beyond this issue, will receive both vonulife and vonulink unless e asks for something else (about 70 people). A third class subscriber will receive vonulife only. E can receive vonulink also for an additional \$3 per year. Any vonulink subscriber may cancel at any times with proportional refund.

600-pound supply cache near Bella Coola, British Columbia is still for sale. Contents include wheat, sugar, brown rice, soybeans, 70# honey, many other dry foods, detergent, 22 ammo, etc. Cool storage. Price reduced to \$85. See Vonulife #3 for full information. Write Vonulife (s).

3 July, 1972

We been living without apt. for a month now in our school bus. The major event was Hurricane Agnes which meant flooding all around (but we were close to a hill top) and a solid week of no sun with lots of rain every day. We are currently parked in West Virginia hills "farm sitting." Family on vacation living in farm house at end of solo dirt road wanted someone to watch their house. Thought this would ease us into the trip, however their well went out and can locate no nearby stream or spring so it was no bargain.

BREAK FOR INTERVIEW WITH TWO CHILD NOMADS WHO SHOWED UP. My name is Magera and I am six. I live in a bus and I like it there because we brought a refrigerator. My brother and I picked raspberries today but we already ate them all. We picked blueberries in Canada last summer and I hope we can this year. We once had a big watermelon. That's just fruit, not garbage. We don't eat garbage except for treats once in awhile.

My name is Miles, I am four. Hello everybody. I don't like nothing about living in the bus. What I like about living in the country is people don't steal stuff from you. I don't like the rain here so much. Meg: little toys aren't so much fun as big toys. We hope it is sunny tomorrow. Hi, how are you?

END OF INTERVIEW.

Nothing very significant there except that children do get along without young playmates. We spent the previous year experimenting with foods such as home ground cereal – wheat and soybeans are the basis, lately with buckwheat added – so that the move from the city was not associated with strange foods. Don't think educating children is too big of a hassle. Am researching the matter and will write-up what I discover this fall. You can get a small set of quisnerre (sp?) rods for \$3.00 as a "teacher's kit" and it's the sort of thing you simply them play with while introducing a few ideas – algebra before arithmetic. The Yale games (wff-n-prf, etc.) seem to be quite good for slightly older children. Children do seem to enhance one's cover, as mentioned sometime back in VL or P-I.

The bus is 48 passenger (8 rows of seats) with 18' back of the driver's seat. Divided into three, 6 foot modules, the front has a bunk with storage underneath. The door running the length of the bunk lifts up and is supported by screw-in legs. Without the added cushion, the supported "door" serves as a narrow "table" for sit-down eating. (Sit down on the floor, that is.) Over the bunk is a long cabinet slung from the ceiling. Across from the bunk is an antique ice box, small chest, and refrigerator. Yeah, refrigerator. Decided, upon finding a good deal on a small refrigerator that we might be able to plug in often enough in the near run to make it worthwhile. Propane reefers seem to do little good and ice doesn't seem that common – at least if you're just parked. The real answer would seem to be to break out of need for cooling, obviously. Behind this section, there are cabinets-closets on either side, including small area for chemical toilet – very welcome during lousy weather with city kids and city adults. Back of storage area another bunk with cedar chest opposite (for seating also) and treadle sewing machine across back. Lighting is kerosene and have opted for a Blue Flame, 9,000 BTU heater. May go for a boat-type kerosene stove but for the moment we are using propane. Had a Sony ac/dc cassette thing which is ok through speakers and very good through phones. Have insulated pretty thoroughly up to the window line and will do more up there before winter. Buses are bargain mobile structures if you want something that big (mine is about 24 feet overall). Have also fantasized about something like Lon's scenario regarding the camper, though obviously you can't get a bus where you can get a camper.

Re: soap: Basic h is good stuff and nomads might also pick up some change dealing it – anyone can become a Shaklee distributor. In addition to its versatility (clothes, dishes, bodies), it probably won't poison you if you don't do a perfect rinse job. For the body, I prefer the more expensive (\$12/gallon) Dr. Bronner's peppermint soap. Very stimulating and concentrated. Dr. Bronner also markets a "balanced protein broth" which is vegetarian and tasty. It cannot be

justified in terms of protein/price ration, but it does taste good either as broth, seasoning to be added like salt, or in soups, etc. Lappe's book, DIET FOR A SMALL PLANET is a good source of data for balancing amino acids. Encountered a three level thing called a Bio-Snaky for sprouting. Bottom of each new level is corrugated and has a drain to the lower level. Start a new level each day and it doesn't take much space. Thing is overpriced and idea could probably be used to fabricate your own. Corrugations trap alfalfa seeds. Otherwise works well. Al Fry's HOW TO SURVIVE A DEPRESSION @ 50¢ or two copies plus a small herbal for a buck is a good deal. Hell of a lot of information. Buy two and lay one on a friend who hasn't done their homework. DOES ANYONE KNOW HOW TO MAKE DRINABLE MILK OF OU SPRAY-DYED (NON-INSTANT) POWDERED MILK, WITHOUT A BLENDER? We will carry our original Corona mill for cereal, but use our new stone corona for flour – have also heard that soybeans, etc. will clog the stones with oil (is that true?) Wheater's (Hygea's) suggestions for wheat have been quite useful, including the chapatis and broasted wheat – which the children like a lot.

Right now, I go into the city one day per week to deliver and develop work done during balance of week (about one good day's work). Will be hitting the road when I get back or if I'll work in the city several days during the week, with the other folks in the bus in the country. Fairly long-time back, Tom Marshall rejected eastern hill country because of its fall-out potential. That said (and yes, it's a big "that") this seems like a good area for squatting. Alongside streams, you're apt to encounter fisherman and sometimes frog hunters at night, but otherwise not much – especially on vacated ridge tops. Of course, this is not the sort of vonu you folks discuss.

In addition to the eastern hill country, the Pine Barrens of New Jersey are purported to be a little wild yet. Very close to Philly and not that far from NYC. Anyway, might be good for someone on the way out who still needs contact with one of those places.

Enough for now,
Erich

I'm leaving the city soon to live in a truck and/or on the land for as long as I can. I'm not into owning land or living for a long time on a farm though. I will be picking fruit and maybe doing some farm work to get some money...—MARY, Philadelphia

THE PHANTOMFIELD CHRONICLE

Dear Lan. Thanks for the recent issues. I'm glad to see that Vonulife is getting away from atomistic individualist. Not that I'm against doing your own things. But I think that I can be freer and maybe more individualistic even in a community than living as a hermit.

Part of it is we can't be really independent. At least I don't know of anybody who is. Even the "rugged individualists" seem to be buying way from Sweden, so says TWEC. Either we join together and make our own communities or we get forced into other people's communities.

I'll try to answer your questions about our community. It's neither an LOA nor CCC. Maybe it is a cross between. We aren't completely secret. One man owns the land in his own name and he and his family live in the house when they are here. They are the only people who officially exist. The rest of us are pretty invisible. We would be "guests" if we were ever questioned. So far we haven't been. Here are some of our rules.

Each adult pays their share of the property taxes to the owner and works a certain number of hours a month on the owner's part of the land – re-roofing the house, weeding the garden, looking after the animals.

Each family provides their own shelter which must be out of sight of the road, the neighbors, and each other. The last is for privacy. We don't try to hide from each other.

No live trees cut without the owner's consent. No shooting. No wood fires.

Each family may come and go from the property not more than once a month average, and is supposed to stay out of sight of the road and neighbors the rest of the time. (This rule doesn't apply to the owner has been a sore point.)

Newcomers get invited only with unanimous consent. Except for this, no one may tell outsiders the location of the community or who the people are here, not even relatives or close friends.

We put in individual gardens, but they must all be in the garden area.

The land is bordered on two sides and part of a third by government land, but so far we haven't used it except for roaming. Along part of one side is a county road and that is the only side on which there are neighbors who can see into the property. There is a ridge near that side and all of us except the owner live on the other side of it.

The owner's children aren't old enough for school so that isn't a problem yet, but I can see where it may become one.

The original group came together while we were still living around a big city. We moved here two years ago. Almost half the original people left and there have been that many newcomers. There are now five families including the owner, ten adults and seven children. Right now, there are three campers, one of which is homemade, a panel truck, two tents and three cabins in various stages of completion, besides the owner's house. The first winter, everyone left during the coldest weather. Last winter, three families stayed here.

We tried being a commune at first, but found things went smoother if we didn't try to share everything, though we often share food, looking after the kids, travel, etc.

Newcomers have all been people known personally by one or more of the original people. We asked them, they didn't ask us, but we made sure they were looking for our kind of community, and were the kind of people we want before telling them about the community. This way, we don't get any reporters or bludgies. I think it's a way a community can be close without being closed. At least, it's worked for us.

The biggest problem newcomers have is cabin fevers. Somebody comes here for a city thinking he wants to live out in the woods forever, but after they're here a few weeks, they get restless and want to go to the village every few days or invite their friends out for a weekend, which is against the rules. Our biggest source of dissension has been the rule about coming and going no oftener than once a month. Some people have left because of it. But if we aren't careful, pretty soon the neighbors will know there are a lot of people living here and bludgies will be coming around. Like you say in Vonulife, Vonulife freedom isn't free.

Could we have done as well just squatting on land instead of buying some? If I had to do it over again, I think I would try it. Owning land has been a lot of trouble. But when we first moved here, I guess we wanted the sense of security, even if it was a false sense. I used to squat in many different places before I came here. I interesting now that I think of it. Of the families who have stayed, all but one were nomads before we came.

How could somebody join us? We would first have to get to know him and I don't know how he could manage that. I think the best way would be for him to get experience on his own living the way he wants to live, and tell his friends and ask them to tell their friends, etc., what he is looking for.

That way, "we" (or some other group) might learn about him.

If you print any of this, please type it over and leave off my name and address.

EXCERPTS FROM LETTERS

Hello, I'm writing a rap regarding my lifestyle that I'm told may get me a copy of your publications.

Gained an initial respect for nomadism when in Japan to do a study of the urban environment. I forsook the statist situation I'd been placed in by academic advisors to do some trucking around that lovely country, consequently increasing the potential breadth and depth of my understanding of how those people live together.

Returned to States, passing upon an informal invitation to visit Red China, to finish architectural school and work for a year in the Bay Area. I then set out for Europe, I suppose at the time thinking I'd spend a few months looking at old buildings. Found myself falling into comfortable situations – fishing in Norway, working in an Irish Pub – and wandered for a year, living in each place for a month or two, before reaching North Africa. There, with all of Africa tempting me south, I began to see myself as the "nomadic engineer" Gary Snyder talks of in EARTH HOUSEHOLD and African consulates seeing me as the needed technician quickly granted med visas though I had no money. Once there, in Ghana first, I found it almost impossible to

realize my fantasies of working for the people and instead, to make the money to move on. I was doing pretty houses for the westernized elite. I did however gain a good sense of real nomadism in, for one example, the Fulani people following their cattle through the north of Nigeria. Traveling on, I met others – the Pygmies of the Congo, a true forest people and the many different tribes of the north of Uganda and Kenya. After a year in Africa, I wandered back to Oregon via an Israeli kibbutz and a month or two in the Greek Islands to a small architectural office in Portland. Seemed somewhat sedentary. SO with seven other architects, three craftsmen, and families started what maybe a continuing carpentry community by building seven houses in the forest 40 miles south of...We're truly nomadic as we own no land are contemplating other involvements from B.C. to Southern Colorado. Hope to hear from you on my return from this hitchhiking trek through Mexico and Central America to highlands of Peru. -D

Dear Vonu Life: I have been a nomad for a couple of years, living in a hammock or a van to southern Mexico to California, across country to New York, where I am now. Sometimes I sleep inside with friends. I am especially interested in hearing how you escape coercion, pollution, and irrationality.

For typing stuff for VL, try mylar copying film. This is really superior "carbon paper" made of plastic. They claim 100 copies per sheet & great resistance to cuts & tears. My thing in VL3 was a carbon made with a new sheet of mylar & I'm typing this with a sheet that has been much used. If anyone is interested, I have a limited supply I will sell. Supposed to retail at \$4.95 per 20 8 1/2 x 11 sheets, I'll sell 10 for \$1.80, while supply lasts, to Jim Stumm/Box 29, Hiler Branch/Kenmore, NY 14223.

At this stage of my life, I'm not into the lone wolf wilderness trip like some others who write to VL. I like being around other folks too much, if they're my kind of people. Also, I'm not moved to react too strongly to the fascist shit that's going down because I personally have never been hassled by the Man, even though I don't pay much attention to his laws. Of course, I've always kept my visibility low. But I'm hedging my bets by getting my life as liberated as possible within a basically urban framework.

When renting an apartment in the city, look for this kind of situation: a house or building owned by a corporation, with just a couple apartments in the building, no superintendent on the premises, & no one from the corp. coming around often. Arrange to pay rent by mail, & mail always on time. Cause no disturbance & give landlord no reason to come around. Don't get to know your neighbors. Be aloof, but don't arouse unnecessary suspicion. Socialize away from home. Last apartment I rented this way, I didn't see my landlord from the day I got my keys to 6 months later, after I had given notice. No one bothered me at home, leaving me free to do as I pleased.

I'm much attracted by the group marriage idea, especially the line marriage as described by Heinlein in "Moon Is A Harsh Mistress." (That Heinlein is a writer, not a doer, is irrelevant to the merit of his ideas.) Besides being the best way I know of to live, such a social unit could enable a stateless society to really function well by providing all the social security anyone would ever need, on a voluntary, personal basis, without the inhumanity (not to mention, predation) of the bureaucratic state. Whether I'll ever manage to put together a family like this remains to be seen. For now, we're trying to get together a collective – a group of people living in one house, sharing rent, other expenses, eating together, playing together, getting into each other's heads, growing closer.

Make a deal with a friend to use his address as your "official" address. Use it for vehicle registration & any other communication with bludg. Also, perhaps, for out in the open bank accounts, since banks fall over themselves to give info to the bludg. Tell your friend if anyone asks about you, you've just left on a long trip. Then he should get in touch with you & you take it from there.

For other mail, a P.O. Box is safest for all concerned. A completely no hassle way to get a secure P.O. Box is to move into furnished apartment, rent box giving apartment as home address, then move, giving P.O. Box as forwarding address. As long as you pay box rent on time, P.O. won't ask about your actual residence. And you can't be traced through box – box leads to

apartment where you once lived, & apartment leads back to box. Of course, don't file change of address with P.O. Inform correspondents individually of new mailing address.

If you open a box this way, the only way anyone can find you through it is by staking out the box to see who picks up mail. To minimize danger from this, pick a 24 hour P.O. if there is one near you, and pick up mail during non-business hours. At least pick a P.O. whose boxes are hard to watch. At the P.O. I use, the boxes are in a small hallway that you go through to get to the main part of the P.O. One would have to wait in the hallway to watch any particular box, & anyone loitering there would be very obvious. When I pick up mail, I notice if anyone suspicious is standing around, if so, I don't go to my box.

Of course, a stakeout would succeed if it was done with the connivance of the P.O. One way is the box could be watched from the inside. An easier way is for the P.O. to put a notice to call at the window in your box, then when you go to check on it, they finger you to some bludg waiting there. I would appreciate any suggestions as to how to defend against this. One way is to have someone else pick up your mail (which would only shift the danger to him), & to deliver it to you through some circuitous route (which would be expensive, one way or another).

Discussion of imminence of nuclear war leaves me unconvinced. Soviets have had about equal nuclear capability with U.S. since mid-50's yet no attack has come in 15-20 years. Why? There must be additional restraining factor not being considered. I don't know what that factor is. Unlike Mitchell Jones, I don't presume to guess what goes on in the mind of L.I. Brezhnev or anyone else. Just off-hand I can see 3 possible restraints: fear that their military abilities may not be as great as they think, some residual concern for the welfare of the planetary biosphere, or perhaps lack of an opportunity to justify attack in terms of their own ideology. U.S. leaders are as power-mad as Russian counterparts, yet they are caught up in their own ideology & have to justify their aggression in terms of "defense". Anyway, regardless of the reason, the long nuclear stalemate is a fact, & its underlying cause makes the continuance of the 15 year balance of terror seem more probable than nuclear attack in a year or 2. So I remain more concerned about the growth of the total State and domestic tyranny than with fallout, etc.

Green Egg is still publishing, about 6-weekly. Prints exchange ad for VL each issue. Not much in it narrowly relevant to vonu. GE is published by Church of All Worlds "a neo-pagan religion dedicated to the celebration of life, the maximal actualization of human potential, & the realization of ultimate individual freedom & personal responsibility in harmonious eco-psychic relationship with the total biosphere of the holy earth."

We're having trouble with mosquitos here. Much rain has hatched a 2nd crop. We're not into using chemicals much, & the question has come up: what did Indians do about bugs? Can anyone tell me?

Rayo mentions immersion in hostile culture as a disadvantage of urban living for a free person. I find the hip radical community to be very congenial. I find most of these folks tolerant, voluntaristic, very anti-state, & usually quite reasonable – not the dirty, irrational, hippy stereotype you get from straight newspapers or rigid Randians. I work as a coordinator of a food co-op, live in a collective⁴, socialize with radicals, so I live 90% of my time in an anarchist society. I know there is a different fascist society out there somewhere, but I have very little contact with it.

Radical people tend to be very cool about aliases. You can become known in a radical community by any name you choose. You could wind up in a house where no one knew, or cared, what your "real" name was. And if you're underground, say because you're dodging the draft, your roommates would probably be willing to cover for to keep your presence in the house largely unknown.

REPORT ON PROGRESS AND PROBLEMS by Rayo

ag72

Shelter: Shelter development is still our biggest activity. Our situation the past year: vonu, comfort, convenience, winter - we can have any three of the four but not all four at once; i.e., we can live in vonu and comfort with convenience but not in winter. We can be comfortable and vonu during winter if we forgo convenience to do many things. Etc.

We are still living most of the time in polyethylene A-tents; part of the time in our van. Our A-tent survived the winter with one minor mishap. There was an exceptionally heavy snow while we were away. Snow slid down the poly and piled up at the bottom on each side, bowing in the sides and dragging down the ridge rope. The poly was punctured in a few places by sharp-cornered objects under it but didn't tear, nor did the polypropylene ridge rope (1200 pound test) break.

Other problems with the simple A-tent: cold in cold weather; no insect screening of tent as a whole (we use mosquito bar over bed only); no blackout of tent as a whole (again, we use curtain over bed); reflections from sides which slope south, east or west visible for several hundred yards; fastening of sides must be changed whenever weather changes from wet/cool to hot or back (frequently during spring and autumn); clear poly has a short life in daylight.

Our poly tent has held up almost a year now but little direct sunlight strikes it. We tinted it near the ridge with cheap spray paints for possible ultraviolet protection and for better blending with the surroundings. The paint rubs off easily but this isn't a problem so long as the tent doesn't move much. The paint appears much lighter on the poly than on the top of the can so dark shades should be purchased.

Our lay foam-hut has proven very satisfactory for tasks which can be accomplished in a reclining position such as sleeping, reading, eating, erotics. We slept in it from October through May. With two people inside, temperature rise over outside was about 35°F about six inches above the floor. During warm weather the door was left open, covered only with netting. The 2-inch-thick open-cell polyurethane foam (commonly sold for mattresses) "breathed" well. Even on the wettest days the inside stayed dry though beads of moisture condensed (and kept evaporating) on the outside. This was with two of us breathing inside with all vents closed. (The foam hut was inside the poly tent which sheltered it from rain.) At first we laid the foam hut directly on the plastic ground cloth but (apparently) moisture diffusing through the bottom condensed on the plastic and caused puddles in low spots. Then we built a foundation of boughs a few inches above the ground and ground cloth, which solved that problem. No stiffness was noticed inside. A vent plug, about six inches in diameter, was removed from the top when we used a kerosene lamp inside; the lamp was placed under the vent. Ordinary foam is very inflammable so care is required around fire. We replaced the internal brace (to prevent sagging) with cords to overhead runner-ropes which also held up the blackout trap.

The foam sit-hut is not yet satisfactory. Temperature rise was only 15°F over outside (one person); not enough for work requiring bare hands on cold days. Temperature rise was no greater than in lay-hut (also 15° with one person) even though dimensions were smaller – 4 x 6 x 2 feet versus 4 ½ x 9 x 2 feet, probably because there wasn't a tight fitting at the waist. I had hoped that the warmed air, being lighter, would remain trapped within the hut, but apparently there was much convection. Either a snug waist closure or a bottom will be needed for greater warmth. Already it is difficult to get into or out of, and to pull additional things inside. A tight closure or bottom will increase difficulties.

Foam is an easy and "forgiving" material to work with. A piece not quite the right size can be compressed or stretched into place. A mis-cut piece can be glued back together – a join with the proper foam cement is as strong as the foam. Foam is fairly expensive though – our lay hut consumed over \$50 worth.

In winter/spring 1971 we built a small den, intending to use it for a workshop and storage. First problem was condensation. In summer warm air trickles in and cools, relative humidity rises past 100%, and dew condenses on everything exposed. Last autumn I put in a fix, I hoped, and left it alone for the winter. I have yet to learn if the condensation problem is solved because last winter it flooded. The den almost filled with water; the things stored in it washed around some and got wet. For drainage there was a four-inch pipe topped by a one-foot cross section of rocks (covered with plastic to keep finer dirt out). This gives an idea of the flow of water! The water apparently welled up from the bottom. The structure was intact except for some washing near the entrance way. I opened up entrances to the drain some more in case clogging was the problem. Next spring I will visit it again and see if the problem is solved.

But, for now anyway, I'm turned off to completely underground structures too big to be assembled away from site (watertight) and packed in – i.e., much larger than a 55-gallon drum.

Not only are condensation and drainage likely problems but much equipment is needed to make a den liveable – artificial light and ventilation at least. And the basic structure must be strong to withstand soil pressure/weight. This results in the structure being heavy. This, in turn, requires that the structure be built mostly of native materials – prefabricated sections would be too heavy to backpack very far – no point having a den if there is a conspicuous vehicle trail leading to it. Volume of our den is about 400 cubic feet. Construction time of basic structure was about 400 person-hours. Materials cost less than \$100 – mostly plastic film, cord, pins (nails with heads clipped off), drain pipe, and plywood and glue for entrance. Most time consuming was not digging but preparing timbers: scouting trees which could be removed without altering the appearance of the environment, cutting, trimming, transporting, smoothing or debarking, drilling holes for pins. This was all done with hand tools. The only power tools which would have saved significant time would have been a drill/sander.

I now believe our first den was over-designed with respect to vonu, considering the remote and rugged area in which it is located. I would guess the mean time to discovery (MTD) under present conditions as 2000 years. An MTD of 2000 means that if I had 2000 such dens I would expect about one per year to be discovered by somebody.

We are now working on two types of shelter. The first we call a plinu. (That name has no particular significance.) It is semi-underground, like the shuswap but of different form to provide more light and (hopefully) remain dry in wet climate. After the problems with the den, I am proceeding cautiously. I am only building the basic structure this summer and autumn. If that stands up to winter rains, snows and winds, we intend to complete it and move in in early spring – hopefully early enough to check its insulative qualities. The interior will be insulated from outside air but not from the ground, thus using the ground as a heat source during winter and as a heat sink during summer. Ground temperature a few feet down remains about 55°F during the year around in most areas of this region. I expect the inside will remain about 50°F on all but the coldest days. Our objective is to be able to perform all kinds of work in comfort without an artificial heat source. I'm designing for 50 years MTD.

The second type of shelter is an improved poly tent. Unlike the plinu it is for warm weather use only. It is simpler and easier to construct than the plinu.

We have sent inquiries to many manufacturers and dealers in polyethylene, but have yet to find a source of wide (at least 16 feet) plastic in colors other than clear and black, in quantities less than 5000 feet. A source for Monsanto "602", a clear poly but with ultra-violet inhibitor, is A.M. Leonard & Sons Horticultural Tools, Box 816, Piqua, Ohio 45356. Developed for greenhouse use, "602" supposedly lasts two years in direct sunlight compared to six months for ordinary polyethylene. But a 20' by 100' sheet costs \$39 plus shipping, compared to \$20 to \$30 (West Coast) for ordinary clear.

For general storage we are now using wide-mouth steel drums, in the 10 to 17 gallon range, with tops clamped with circumferential bands. With a good gasket these seal water tight. We store food and other supplies which must be kept dry in 4-mil poly bags within the drums. For long storage I place drums under a small open-sided poly A-tent, similar to A-tent previously discussed but with black poly for longer life. Sides are tied out (as with "summer" tent) for ventilation and snow protection. The tent provides extra shade in summer and rain/snow protection in winter which reduces rusting of the drums and saves contents in case both gasket and bag leak (which has happened with one drum in 20). New gaskets would seal better but I haven't found a source.

General thought on shelter: Build small shelters and have several in an area, far enough apart so that discovery of one is not likely to lead to discovery of others. Use soft foot gear, such as moccasins lined with foam, for travel between them and to water source and latrines, to minimize disturbance of ground. (Good conservation and vonu.) Use hard foot gear (regular boots) only when hiking outside of home area. Advantages of multiple small shelters: many more suitable sites; easier to put under/between trees and bushes with little cutting; not as visible; small structure with few possessions appears less 'permanent' if discovered, less likely to arouse curiosity or hostility. Disadvantages: travel between them, items not always at hand when wanted.

Vonu: We have much less contact with unsavory characters now than three years ago when we were living in a van in Southern California. The improvement is due partly to living in a less populated region, partly to our increasing skills. While living at secluded squat-spots, during the last 18 months three groups have seen our van. Two of these, including the only bludg, happened by while we were parked on “private” land with permission. One object, weighing 50 pounds and worth about \$15, was stolen from a stash we had on “private” land (with permission). No stranger has seen any of our camps, even though some have been in relatively accessible areas. No one has molested us personally.

Projects for the next year include warning systems and more tell-tale techniques – the latter to indicate if anyone has been near our shelter in our absence.

The bad guys may be trying harder. But we are getting better at hiding much faster than they are getting better at seeking. It’s amusing to read letters from people – “conventional” dwellers, mostly – who delight in telling vonuans about all the things Big Brother will do to stop them unless they join a political crusade or something. Big Brother already has 60 million laws and regulations or so. If all laws were consistently enforced, almost every man, woman and child would be in prison for one or more violations. But Big Brother can only extort so much taxes to hire bludg and build spy devices. And taxes are already to – or beyond – the point of diminishing return. Each additional rule to be enforced means existing rules get enforced less.

Someone has worried because the bludg are talking about “requiring” permits to enter “public lands.” To put this in proper perspective, consider that for many decades permits have been “required” to hunt – even small game in most states. How many mountain people have ever shot a rabbit or squirrel (at least)? How many had a permit to do so? How many went to jail or were fined for doing so? Of course there are game wardens and every now and then they catch somebody. The few convictions I have heard of were all on circumstantial evidence: somebody’s deep freeze was searched and deer meat was found. No doubt the suspect had invited all his friends and relatives to a venison banquet and somebody talked.

Around Siskiyou some freeks are still using 18th-19th-century methods. Someone walks several miles into the woods on “public lands” and builds a conventional cabin out of trees he cuts to clear a garden. And, so far, the bludg do not even have the resources to find and run off these people. Or perhaps the bludg know that if they start hassling a lot of people, some of the least imaginative will start burning the woods. And that would make many people unhappy including the bludg’s superiors – the bureaucracies obtain a large part of their funds by selling timber to lumber and paper companies.

We should not get cocky and careless, of course. I appreciate specific, detailed information on tactics and devices in use or readily available, along with suggestions on how to foil these. I have no use for vague, hysterical warnings. Ways of “fighting back” should be considered. But nothing so foolish as shooting at every bludg one sees, or joining political movements. There are several thousand years of evidence that this kind of “fighting back” only makes matters worse.

Regarding Paul D’s concern about super metal-detectors: Rocks do move, around here at least. Not every rock every day, of course. But they get pried out by roots, turned over by bears, washed down hillsides, knocked over by other rocks, etc. About bears: while they can be fantastically destructive they create excellent diversions. One bear in one day will alter the landscape more than will a vonuan in a year, if the vonuan is halfway careful. To obtain food a bear turns over rocks, digs after little ground animals, and breaks down branches on berry bushes. Anyone seriously looking for squatters would need a crew of men and a helicopter, full time, to check out the work of each bear. Or else they must exterminate all bears. Then there are deer, porcupines, pack rats.

Of course, bears don’t build fires or use metal drums. So woods-vonuans may eventually have to keep fire and metal under cover, stop using them, or create diversions. Anyone really worried about super metal-detectors can always gather up a few dozen empty cans at a dump and leave them here and there, preferably under trees and bushes in rugged country where a helicopter can’t land; also leave a few hanging from trees in such a manner that they will bang together now and then for the benefit of detectors which detect the sound of metal against metal. In one day one person could scatter enough cans to keep a crew with “super metal-detectors” busy for at least a year.

Of course, wilderness-vonu may not be as easy here as it apparently is in “totalitarian” Russia where whole factories are hidden in ravines.

Thanks, Paul D. for lead to non-electric radiation detector. I wrote for further information. Olson has cut the price of their surplus CD detector to \$5 plus shipping. Possibly it is not selling well. Their order number is XX-113. Olson Electronics, 260 S. Forge St., Akron, Ohio 44327.

Anyone know of a source for an inexpensive nuclear-war detector? This is most likely a special AM radio receiver which sounds an alarm if most broadcast stations shut down or change frequency. It could be made by interfacing an alarm with the automatic gain control circuit of a radio, but there might be time-consuming problems so I'd rather buy one. Without such a device we might not learn that a nuclear attack was made until days or weeks later, and ingest radioactive fallout we could have avoided.

Back to bears: How can they be repelled from a camp not occupied for two months? We have been using a single strand barbed wire electrified fence. But we have been told this won't stop a bear and so far a bear hasn't come around to test it out. I have thought of saving up urine in bleach jugs, then when leaving, tie these upside down at intervals around the perimeter and adjust the tops for a slow drip. Will urine retain the proper smell for several months? Has anyone tried this?

Power: We cooked on a wood stove made from a five-gallon can when we first moved from a van to a base camp, but we have switched back to propane more and more. Now we only cook with wood on an overnight trip where weight is crucial. We switched back for vonu and convenience. With wood we felt we should restrict cooking to nights and rainy days when smoke would not be visible. But at night fire and any light source should be shielded. Also wood smoke is heavier than air once it cools, flows down hills and along creeks, and can be smelled a long way away. Finally, wood gathering and sawing means more activity near camp and more disturbance of environment.

While propane must be imported, we require little. A five-gallon tank now lasts us 6 months, thanks to techniques Dr. G. has developed. Sprouted wheat and beans are palatable after boiling for a minute or two. For rice or millet, the pot is brought to a boil, and then immersed in blankets or foam to retain heat. One further refinement will be to insulate the sides and top of the pot so that less heat is lost while heating to a boil. And we eat many foods raw.

With maximum use of insulated cooking we might be able to generate enough methane from our own shit to replace propane. Other possibilities: charcoal, generated in large batches in a kiln away from camp; 12 volt electric immersion heater plus insulated pot when we have hydroelectric; solar cooking during summer. I hope to experiment with one or more of these during the next year.

Artificial light we use mostly during winter and autumn – at present a kerosene lamp; during the longer days of spring and summer we go to bed at dusk.

For several years now I have wanted to put in a small hydroelectric system – an impulse turbine or a vane pump (the latter suggested by Skye d'Aureous) driving an automobile alternator. But I've been waiting for a shelter more permanent than an A-tent, since there will be several hundred feet of pipe to lay. Even a small creek will provide enough power for our uses. I would like electricity for a fluorescent light to replace the kerosene lamp, and for some electronic development work. At present we use a small gasoline engine driving an auto generator for battery charging.

Sanitation: I'm dissatisfied with our present shallow latrine system – dig a new hole after each defecation, using the dirt to fill in the old hole – because a large area of ground is eventually disturbed, and because of travel between shelter and latrine. We may experiment with deeper holes plus buckets. Any suggestions?

Food: Our diet has not changed much recently. Most of our nutrients still come from stored staples, especially whole grains, pulses and nuts. From February to August we kept records of stored and purchased foods consumed. Quantities are pounds per person per month. Costs are calculated from most recent bulk prices paid.

Stored staples: wheat 15.8 lbs, 67¢; brown rice 6.9 lbs, 69¢; shelled sunflower seeds 5.8 lbs, \$2.27; raisins 4.8 lbs, \$1.13; popcorn 4.5 lbs, 52¢; red beans 4.4 lbs, 48¢; walnuts in shells 3.7 lbs, 74¢; millet 1.6 lbs, 32¢; dry milk 1.6 lbs, 69¢; buckwheat 0.8 lbs, 16¢; soybeans 0.8 lbs,

12¢; blackstrap molasses 0.7 lbs, 4¢; sugar 0.6 lbs, 7¢; dry kelp 0.4 lbs, 4¢; alfalfa seed 0.4 lbs, 18¢; dry yeast 0.22 lbs, 16¢; limestone flour 0.19 lbs, 0.3¢; subclover seed 0.18 lbs, 8¢; also vitamin pills and seasonings, estimated 40¢. Total 52.4 lbs costing \$8.76 per person per month. We ate generously of sunflower seeds because we had a large stash and didn't know how well they would keep.

Other purchased foods: oranges 6.2 lbs, 75¢; grapefruit 2.8 lbs, 28¢; bananas 3.4 lbs, 35¢; apples 0.3 lbs, 3¢; watermelon 1.3 lbs, 9¢; carrots 0.8 lbs, 9¢; cabbage 0.7 lbs, 8¢; beef 0.8 lbs, 57¢; eggs 5, 14¢; cheese 0.5 lbs, 24¢; canned fish 0.3 lbs, 18¢; buttermilk 0.1 qt, 3¢; ice cream 0.4 lbs, 5¢; margarine 0.3 lbs, 9¢; butter 0.1 lbs, 7¢; oil 0.13 lbs, 5¢; garlic 0.06 lbs, 6¢; pastries 0.2 lbs, 12¢; smorgesborg meals 0.35 meals (1 lb ?) 37¢. Total, \$3.63 per person per month. I have listed averages, for comparison, but our actual purchases were irregular. For example, during this 5.6 month period we purchased one 15-pound watermelon and ate it, several days later, all in one day. We purchased meat twice, and each time, consumed it within a few days. Oranges, the most frequent purchase, were bought during five trips, and after each, lasted only for a week or two.

Replacement value of purchased food consumed during this period was \$12.39 per person per month. Whereas average expenditure on food, calculated for the entire year, was \$22.40 per month. (See next section.) Reasons for differences: stores of staples were increased; trips during the 5.6 month period were few and brief, and included not more than two days in populated areas.

Scavenged foods (from grocery trash bins), guess: fruit 4 pounds; melons one pound; vegetables 3 pounds. We made three big hauls during this period – about a hundred pounds total.

Foraged wild foods, guess: meat, cleaned but including bones, one pound; berries, 0.4 pounds; greens, 0.3 pounds. Many berries were picked and eaten while doing other things.

Dr. Gatherer sprouts alfalfa, sub-clover and buckwheat all year which we eat raw as a salad. Wheat is usually sprouted for a day or two to reduce cooking time and improve flavor and digestibility. Some is eaten raw. For breakfast I usually have sprouted wheat and beans, about 4 to 1, briefly boiled. Dr. G. usually fasts until noon. During the day we have one or more snacks of fruits, nuts, milk, occasionally and popcorn. For dinner we have sprouts and any other fresh vegetables as a raw salad, any meat, and a starch food which may be rice, millet, popcorn, or bread home-made out of whole wheat flour we grind ourselves. I often flavor rice or millet with walnuts or sunflower seeds. If there is no meat Dr. G. often makes up a stew out of beans or lentils and kelp plus any cookable fresh vegetables on hand.

The berry we gather and eat most frequently is manzanita (*Arctostaphylos*) which grows abundantly in many areas near the Pacific Coast, is easy to pick (strip off twigs, separate debris while eating), and is palatable if not delectable thru-out summer. Sometimes we reach areas growing many blackberries, black raspberries or Amelanchier (saskatoon berries) at the right time and in a good season and pick gallons in a few hours. But, except on such occasions, foraged berries are expensive compared to imported fruit, even with our low overhead. On a typical occasion I gathered 9 ounces of red huckleberries (*Vaccinium*) in two hours. So, on our infrequent trips to town, Dr. G or I top our load on the return with fresh fruit and vegetables to the maximum weight we can handle.

During the last few months foraged meat has included several mice, one rat, several squirrels, one porcupine, one rattlesnake. The mice and rat were caught in ordinary household-type traps. We began trapping for reasons of self-defense, then decided not to waste the meat. The mice were prepared as Olson's Outdoor Survival Handbook suggests: remove skin and guts, then grind or pound them up, bones and all, into a patty. All rodents taste about the same. Mice are easy to trap in winter and early spring, but not the rest of the year when their food is more plentiful. The porcupine and rattlesnake we just happened upon. The porcupine was impressive until it was cleaned; it seemed to be mostly guts. The liver, though, was big and good tasting. Its muscle meat was tough even after a long boiling. The rattlesnake, killed with a stick, was easy to clean, mild flavored and very bony – time consuming to eat. The only deliberate hunting recently has been done by Dr. G. who obtained squirrels and larger animal. Cleaned weight of small game: porcupine about 3 pounds, most squirrels (grey) over one pound, rattlesnake (two

foot) 9 ounces, rat 4 ounces, mouse ½ ounce. Cleaning and pounding up one mouse takes me about 10 minutes, so unless I become more adept, mice are expensive meat.

Nutritionally we prefer small game to deer because we eat it fresh; no preservation problems. We are still using some powdered milk and dried yeast which is probably undesirable for long term good health. In April we resolved to purchase no more meat because of expense, contaminants, staleness and preservation difficulties; so far we have kept to it. On two occasions I went for a period of two months with little animal protein and discovered, toward the end of the period, that I could not do rigorous physical work two days in a row – if I attempted to I felt extremely weak. (I felt okay so long as I worked every other day.) Since I had vitamin and mineral supplements and plenty of calories, I'm inclined to believe I had a marginal protein deficiency. Dr. G. has not experienced this. Our staple diet contains more than recommended minimums of essential amino acids in seeds and nuts. But the human digestive system may not be efficient at digesting protein in the presence of a large amount of carbohydrates (seeds are a mixture). And digestive efficiency varies from person to person.

We have not yet put much effort into trapping; shelter and storage have been consuming most of our time. When we do, probably this autumn, we hope to obtain enough small game to replace dry milk and yeast. Also we will experiment with mini-grow-holes for year-round fresh vegetables.

Finances: Dr. G. and I recorded personal expenditures for a period of one year ending this month. Results: *Food:* \$536.42 subtotal, including: dry staples (storable) \$365.45; spices and flavorings (storable) \$10.65; fresh fruit \$48.54; fresh vegetables \$11.91; fresh meat, cheese, eggs, fluid milk \$58.32; 'junk foods' – store-bought ice cream, cookies, bread, TV dinners, canned foods, candy \$17.89; prepared meals (restaurants, visiting friends) \$17.86. *Shelter and Storage:* \$713.05 subtotal including: materials such as plastic film, foam, rope, cord, drums, nails \$452.86; appliances, devices and their parts, including stove, lanterns, pack frame, inverter, traps, etc. \$116.34; space rental, mostly for storage \$43.24; propane and kerosene for cooking, lighting and occasional heating (van) \$21.50; tools \$14.61; cleaning and miscellaneous supplies \$14.50. *Transportation:* \$201.24 subtotal, including: gasoline, including tax \$124.06; parts and oil \$60.08; licenses and tolls \$17.10. *Clothing:* \$72.22 subtotal, including: materials thread and needles \$26.24; footwear \$26.62; other ready-to-wear clothing \$9.81; laundromat (when in towns) \$9.95. *Communication:* \$64.57 subtotal, including: books and magazines \$32.67; postage (partly estimated) \$15.00; phone calls \$10.90; stationary (partly estimated) \$6.00. *Other:* \$32.82 subtotal including: medical, dental and personal supplies and services \$28.95; taxes (federal excise and California state sales tax, not counting gasoline) \$0.71; miscellaneous \$3.16. *Errors and Unrecorded:* (plus) \$3.47. *Total:* \$1616.85 for one year for two people.

We were surprised and chagrined at the total – higher than the average for the two previous years. Explanations: We built up stores of staples, shelter material and clothing materials so these figures do not represent one year's consumption. Also many shelter items are (hopefully) durable goods. On the other hand our van and motorcycle are depreciating (but probably won't be replaced). Much of our shelter work is intentionally experimental and therefore scrap-generating so we might consider it a business expense. We are still betwixt and between two lifestyles – van-nomadism and something we are still developing/discovering – which increases costs. Excuses!

Seldom were we consciously stingy. We bought most of the things that we saw or knew of that we wanted, but few things of that society appeal to us anymore. Exceptions: no meat or restaurant meals purchased since April; we bought some new books but passed up others on the supposition we could buy them used, borrow them from friends, or scan at libraries.

We put 4300 miles on a van, including two round trips of 2500 and 800 miles, and about 2000 miles on a motorcycle. Our trips to towns of the area were few and brief but we loaded up on fresh fruits and vegetables when we came back. Most of the junk foods were consumed one several-week stay around large cities – the psychological pressures began to get to us.

Comparing our expenses with those of a traditionalist agrarian family, the Colemans, reported in *Wall Street Journal* and reprinted in *The Mother Earth News* #11: Per person (counting their two year old daughter as one half): food \$268 (us) compared to \$200 (them, though they claim to grow 80% of theirs); transportation \$101 (us, and we are 'nomads'?!) to

\$300; tools \$7 to \$80; shelter (except tools) \$350 to \$80 (their conventional cabin was completed and land was purchased previously); other \$83 to \$140. Total, \$808 (us) to \$800 (them).

While we are interested in developing vonu sources of income, so far we have been more concerned with reducing expenses. If expenses are very low, only a few weeks per year spent in a city will suffice to earn money.

Associations, Attitudes, Objectives: At the moment there are very few vonuans – perhaps several hundred in North America. And these are many different places and different life-styles. Most are not in contact with each other. At times Dr. G and I crave association with more people, not only for economic benefits such as pooling outside purchases and trips but for interaction with different minds. But we have discovered that association with sheep-people or bullshitters only makes us ‘lonelier’. Such association is like a drink of salt water to a thirsty man. We much prefer just to be with trees, flowers, birds, brooks – and the few people with whom we share values and goals.

But I don’t think this will be a problem for long. More and more people are rejecting the attitudes and roles of the servile society. While only a small minority of the whole population, they number tens of thousands. Some attempt to “turn back the clock” by moving to farms or small towns. But rural dwellers are conspicuously unfree, so those who really want freedom will search in other directions.

A vonuan, to me, is not just someone living in a particular manner. Life-styles may change. A life-style which was vonu 100 years ago may not be vonu today; some life-styles vonu today were not possible 100 years ago and may not be vonu 50 years from now. A vonuan is someone who places a high value on relative invulnerability to coercion – someone for whom freedom is worth a fair amount (though not infinite) of effort, inconvenience, discomfort. To a vonuan, vonu is not just a means to other ends, nor is it an ultimate end – like most qualities of life, and life itself, it is both. A vonuan will choose whatever way of living offers personal sovereignty and will change life-style again and again if necessary.

Although life-style may vary, a vonuan can be identified only by what he does – especially by perseverance over a long period, not by what he says. Words are cheap. This is not to reject ideology. Someone who does not see through the myths of the State will not for long remain vonu, if by good fortune he should become vonu. But anti-state ideology isn’t enough.

If freedom were free (more precisely, if vonu were gratis), almost everyone would be free (vonu). But freedom isn’t free; it is quite expensive and will likely remain costly in the foreseeable future. Most people presently alive do not value vonu very much. One reason, perhaps, is that during thousands of years of pre-technological agriculture servility had a survival value. During this period conventional farming was the most efficient way of producing food. And it is difficult to conceive of a life-style more subject to coercion than that of the traditional farmer. Not only is he visible and usually separated from his fellow, but “his” home and land are especially vulnerable to attack. Servility was not generally pro-survival prior to agriculture. When North America was “settled,” few of the natives, who were mostly hunters/foragers, were successfully enslaved. To obtain obedient subjects the bludg had to bring slaves and indentured servants from the most agrarian societies of West Africa and Europe.

I don’t know if servility is due mostly to genetic inheritance, to cultural background or to slave-school training. Most likely it is an interaction of all three. But I don’t believe that any amount of “education” (propagandizing) will change the attitudes/values/intelligence of most adults. Nor do I believe that the majority can be manipulated into a “free society” by some elite of would-be philosopher kings. Such an effort will, at most, only change the rulers. So long as most people can be easily manipulated, they will be manipulated for the aggrandizement of the manipulators.

Traditional agriculture is on the way out. (At the moment quite a number of people are playing return-to-ye-olde-homestead games, but few are producing enough food even to feed themselves.) Barring a catastrophe of sufficient magnitude to destroy technology world-wide, I predict that within a few decades there will be inexpensive, light-weight, mostly automated biochemical devices capable of converting most organic compounds into most other organic compounds. Load the hopper with dead leaves or sawdust, insert the proper program, wait a few days, and out comes food wafers which are at least as nutritious and tasty as most of the stuff

sold in supermarkets today. Insert different programs and out comes various plastics for construction and clothing. Of course this is just one approach. Maybe I will modify my digestive track to convert cellulose to sugar. Maybe I will develop hardier varieties of traditional food plants able to grow wild with little assistance, as well as more palatable varieties of wild plants. For the immediate future maybe mini-grow-holes are the way. In any case, I don't think that farming is the wave of the future.

With the decline of agriculture, servility loses survival value. Improving communication has the same effect – people will no longer need to crowd into cities or be visible anywhere to work and play together. Consider the potentialities of pseudo-random-noise radio transmission – coded transmission detectable only with matching receivers. Even that institution run amok, the contemporary State, has this effect; it is its most gullible and easily-intimidated subjects who are most likely to be killed in its wars. So I think in the long run, people who place a high value on personal/small group sovereignty will become a larger proportion of the human population.

Vonu, while difficult, is easier now than it has been since the neolithic period perhaps as high as one or two percent of the population, through accidents of heredity and environment, have values and abilities sufficient to achieve it. To become vonu we must disentangle ourselves from those who won't or can't achieve it – reject all “reform-society-as-a-whole” schemes, put aside utopian dreams of world-wide free societies, and get with ourselves and each other – build our vonuums and vonuist mini-cultures.

Possibly I underestimate the potential of existing humans. Possibly most people do value vonu and can achieve it. If so we are more apt to help them become free by becoming free ourselves and showing the way, rather than by joining political crusades. Political reform/revolution/re-education has been attempted thousands of times in hundreds of situations over hundreds of centuries, but at most changes only faces and slogans. Any sort of political movement becomes a contest at coercion and manipulation. Past crusades failed not because of “impure motives,” “betrayal,” or “defects in philosophy” (why is it invariably *defects*, not the good elements, which come to predominate?) but because of their very nature. Function determines form, means determine ends. The very programs of the State most detested by present “reformers” are reforms-gone-to-seeds of past crusaders.

Dr. G and I did not choose our way of life primarily because we expect a nuclear war or other apocalypse within a few years. While we have considered possibilities of various catastrophes in our planning, if nuclear weapons had never been invented we would probably be living much the same way – perhaps somewhat closer to large cities. Institutionalized coercion – States – is a long-existing social phenomenon; war is only its most dramatic form of destruction. We are striving to reduce vulnerability to all forms of coercion and maximize all satisfactions.

Dr. G and I would like to contact more people with similar ideas, attitudes and actions. If you are not in the region, we invite letters. If you are in the region, let's arrange joint drops at least, maybe meet occasionally. I think the Loose Open Association (as Lan has named it) is the best community model, at least at first. Any closer involvements should come only as people get to know each other over an extended time.

We are now able to provide someone with a food stash, shelter and equipment adequate (most of the time) from May through October. This would be already set up in an attractive, secluded spot – several miles (at least) from any habitation (including other vonuans) known to us. We can bring supplies and mail occasionally (once a month?) to someone who wants to remain completely out of that society for a while. By next autumn we may be able to provide year-round shelter. Our prices are low, or we will barter for services/products we want. Of course don't come to Siskiyou because a few vonuans are already here; hoped-for relations might not work out. Come only if, like us, you evaluate the region as optimum for you.

I too think much could be learned from USSR vonuans to learn how to avoid situations. I'd help to get info if I knew how to do it.

I sent Rayo a bundle of 2-3 baskisks that had returned by snail mail and some other stuff. I've sent you some. Pioneer #10 will be out in a week or three. I've been working on my boat and neglecting other things, but hopefully I'll be living on her soon...2-3 months...and will have more

time for zines. I had sent Rayo at least 2-3 different regular issues. He never received? I'll send you copies of whatever else I publish. No cost to friends.

Vonuans should consider life on a SMALL boat; mobility, the wind is free...easily hidden, sopped up with paint, it looks not worth much, peeling, and chipped and appearances can be changed with canvas and wood or sail changes or the mast lowered and anchor among tules...food easily available, fish wild plants on shore, seaweed and shellfish, farm produce, gleaned from food trees, part time work at some harbor, swap work for food and both beat taxer, short term constructing with no license. You can go up a river or in a shallow bay or even pull out onto an island. 20x20 screen will exclude any biter. Woodburning stove will use driftwood, down wood, sticks, even brush and tules. You stow water aboard and dry grain, beans, etc.

The best way for vonuans to get the little money they would need is by an independent service the straights need, that you can do at a lower price than the union-dominated. A classified advertisement for a week will get all the work you will want to do in any one area. Do it and split. Any questions and you are a new, just-starting business. After you are gone, who cares what asks? Or you lost job and can't get relief or having applied.

One variety of *rosa multiflora* grows to 20" and more high and wide and impenetrable without an ax and seems, if you have only a small entrance...to be just a natural cluster so wanderers will go around. Thorny honeylocus can be interplanted to heighten and improve natural look and add its thorns. Also r m and hl both have edible parts.

Would an alternator be better more power at lower revs, than an auto generator?

Al suggested chopping eucalyptus for sale. Why not use my favorite tool, the meat grinder, to mash it up fine and then mix it with lard?

The ancients put maggots into a festering wound. The maggot ate the dead meat but not the live and deposited sulfa into it. It was an effective treatment, other things being equal. They just let flies blow on the decay. What proportions of potassium permanganate for the work-girl? Any references to its action?

Anyone know of a good cheap folding bicycle I could use on a boat?

Again, while I'm here, which will be quite a while yet, I'll offer to forward mail and/or interface.

For a language, make a list of a thousand or so words, short, one syllable, easy pronounced, not mistaken for another, make them up arbitrarily and assign all by adding pre or suffixes; tense, number, gender, part of speech, even make questioning or exclamatory. The first words in the sentence, or a key letter-sound sitting alone, set the gender, etc. until changed or modified by another word. Thus, with a few sounds-letters, of many thousands. Make more by combining roots to form other words, like bite...bitlike, animalbitlike, dropping any letters so none doubled. Another word will do for all verb forms like am, is, are, etc. and would automatically change to was, were, etc. Make a number series that can't be mistaken for other symbols. Always use the symbol, never spell a #. Distinctive sounds and symbols couldn't be mistaken in different situations. Change word sounds so you need fewer phonetic types. In your word example in VL 8, why use the *dha* for *the* and equals? Use da.

For a shower, stop at a marina, usually open to the public, or a school or college. Say you are a student. At some marina showers, women may need to be guarded.

A very old corn variety with a complete protein...which our big-producing varieties do not have...has been recently discovered in Inca-land. Now, how to get seed?

T. Skinner, WHERE can I buy 10 acres of reasonably useable land for \$1000? Preferable on west coast somewhere with cleaner air. I'll pay you for info.

Indians parched corn by fire, ground to powder mixed with maple sugar...brown sugar is best we have now...and carried in bag, taking tablespoonful in mouth with mouthful of water, mix in mouth, and swallow...1 or 2, no more it swells in stomach, while on trail as travel food.

Green Egg is still published regular. Don't know why no answer to Rayo. Very good on alternate lifestyles and religions.

In articles in Pioneer, I usually give mag title and a date, so you can get rest in library if you're interested. -PAUL DOERR

MORE ABOUT VONULINK. I will probably get some of the pages printed, same as old vonulife. So it's okay to send clippings, diagrams, and other black and white things. But there will be an extra delay of a month or more for pages I print so if you want to get published quickly, better let me retype (if small) or do your own reproductions (if big).

If you send me 100 copies, wrap them so the package is flexible, not stiff. Something 8 ½ by 11 and stiff won't fit in the P.O. box and can't get picked up until somebody gets the P.O. while it is open which may not be for months.

Jim Stumm's carbon paper may be fine for ordinary use. But it gets riddled if typed on directly – not as bad as ordinary carbon but still riddled. I did first column with it.

REPORT ON ALTERNATE-MONEY EXPERIMENT by Rayo

ag72

During se71, Mike Freeman and I made up and paid out 24 "Extra Value Certificates" (EVC). Each EVC consisted of an ordinary bank check sealed within a folded sheet of onion-skin paper. The onion-skin paper was glued to itself at the margins but not to the check. The check was easily readable through the onion-skin-paper.

Each check had amount and check number filled in and was signed by Mike Freeman. The date and payee were left blank. Checks were for integral amounts: 50¢, \$1, \$2, \$5.

Each onion-skin sheet had dittoed in purple upon it:

EXTRA VALUE CERTIFICATE	\$(amount)
Instead of depositing the enclosed check #_____, you may:	
Pass this on to someone else, thereby reducing money flow through your account.	
Use this for purchases from us, for which it is worth 125% of face value.	
Present it to any one of us in person, if you are able, for payment in cash of 102% of face value plus 10¢. (We save our bank's check fee.)	
These offers are good only so long as the check remains sealed within the certificate, and date and payee are left blank. DO NOT REMOVE CHECK unless you are depositing it.	
If you send this through the mail, we suggest you record destination, check number, and our address. Tell us if it doesn't arrive. REWARD for information leading to our apprehension of anyone stealing this.	
We guarantee to maintain this bank account of at least two years after date of issue, barring catastrophic events beyond our control.	
VONU LIFE is a newsletter for nomads, troglodytes, backwoodsmen, van-people and other freedom/survival achievers. Four recent issues for \$1 in Extra Value Certificates (we make change), or three issues for \$1 in cash. Postpaid. VONU LIFE (address)	
Issued by Mike Freeman	Co-guarantor: E. Rayo
Account ...	Co-guarantor: Dr. Gatherer
15 September 1971	

Potential benefits of EVCs for issuer, compared to ordinary bank checks and/or government paper money: more payments made in products of issuer, less money needed; less money pass through bank account; any EVCs which are held in collections or lost are pure profit; EVCs which remain in circulation for more than a few months are effectively interest-free loans; advertising. Advantage of EVCs compared to silver coins or person IOU's: EVC can be sent to anyone; no need for special understandings because recipient can always treat it like an ordinary

check. Another advantage compared to either silver coins or government paper is relative ease and safety of mailing.

The 24 EVC's were mailed to 12 recipients. Ten of the 12 were small periodicals – all anti-statist, about half alternative lifestyles and half collective-movementist in emphasis – EVCs were payment for advertising and reprints. The two people not publishers were of long acquaintance.

Results: Deposited soon after by recipient: 9 EVCs, \$23 total, five recipients. Deposited within a few months by person unknown in same city as recipient: 1 EVC, \$2. Deposited later by libertarian organization (collective-movementist) in a different city: 1 EVC, \$1. Returned by recipients (one was non-publisher, other publishes small libertarian-conservative collective-movementist journal with which VL was not exchanging). Not returned, presumed destroyed by periodical which had ceased publication: 6 EVCs, \$5.50 total, 4 recipients. Not returned, presumed still held by recipient (non-periodical) or in circulation: 2 EVC, \$3 total, 1 recipient. Recipient reported that EVCs were not in container (tube when received: other items in tube received okay; presumed stolen or lost in mail – have not been deposited!): 3 EVC, \$11 total, 1 recipient.

Conclusions: Only 6 out of 15 EVC received as payments were not deposited immediately; only 2 of these went into circulation at all. So, even among the select people receiving them, EVCs were generally not accepted as alternate currency. Interestingly, two of the periodicals which promptly deposited the checks have espoused alternate moneys: one of these mints silver medals; the other offers discounts for payment in silver coin.

The acceptability of EVCs might be improved by: printing them more ornately, perhaps on checks themselves or on envelopes with transparent windows; having them issued or co-guaranteed by a large, well-known enterprise; offering interest, effectively making them bearing bonds.

The Extra Value Certificate idea was inspired in part by a refund check from a large mail-order house which was worth more if applied as payment for merchandise. So such offers may not be illegal at present. However, if EV's were issued on a large scale, the bludg would doubtlessly enact laws or reinterpret laws so as to outlaw them. And such laws could be easily enforced against an issuer with bank account and mailing address in the country in which EVCs circulate. So any larger-scale experiment had best be by a foreign enterprise with checks drawn on a Swiss bank account.

There is one Russian samizdat (underground) paper published in English: *The Chronicle of Current Events*, available (but expensive) from Amnesty International, Turnagain Lane, Faringdon Street, London.

I wrote it up in New Banner #1, if you'd like more information.

There are also several Western newsletters that reprint heavily from other Russian samizdat papers, especially those of the Russian Baptists.

Oakley Bramble has renewed the search for a location to start a libertarian enclave in the U.S. He wants something with a reasonably temperate climate and not too remote. The address is Box 836, Lansing, Michigan 48904. –JOHN

Main purpose of bookstore distribution of vonulife would be to save postage. I don't think it would reduce attention.

No one picking up vonulife mail has ever been openly hassled. (I won't divulge what if any inquiries bludg have made to postal employees, etc. – to protect my informants, etc.)

I don't expect hassling in the foreseeable future. Vonulife needn't advocate anything illegal. (Outlawing self-protection as such would be difficult.)

(In reply to somebody in vonulife 8, bottom right of page 1.)

Elmer Fudd's Bandwagon
or
How to Catch A Screaming Rabbit

Good morning! It being some time since I wrote last, I suppose I gotta get on my soap box again. First, on A. Fry's comments on rattlesnakes in VL 8: hate to be nasty, but don't sweat off the toxin! Running around will only increase circulation, which will spread the toxin, which may kill you. Also, it seems to fairly unknowledgeable to me that the length of time necessary to metabolize the toxin from blood system to sweat glands might be longer than a good run. Keep the victim quiet and his chances of survival are better. Use a snakebite kit or: make two incisions near the bite, may 1/8 inch deep or so. And such the blood (and venom); spit it out, of course, though a little swallowed won't hurt, I guess. Also, use a constriction band to prevent further spread. Actually, you may not die anyway; you may merely become very sick, but don't count on it. A slightly different method for porky quills: apply vinegar, wait 5-10 minutes, apply again. Then apply any type oil; they pop right out. For van and camper equipment: Viking Camper Supply, 99 Glenwood Ave., Minneapolis, Minn., or Glen-L Campers. Both have plans and kits. For inexpensive, high quality kits for backpacking nomads: Frostline, Inc. or Carikit. I've made several Frostline stuff, and it is excellent, though you need a sewing machine. Carikit looks like they have superior down filling system for their sleeping bags, etc. For REAL surplus clothing and other interesting items, plus some cheap junk: Arctic Outfitting Co., or Sioux Falls Army Store. Have dealt with both; they're little guys, and don't take advantage of you. Item: How to Build Your Home In the Woods, Bradford Angier, Hart Publishing Co. A truly interesting book on cabins, outdoor living, etc. Item: Book of Indian Life Crafts, Oscar Norbeck, Tower Publications. Mildly simplistic, but monthly good information. Item: Mother Earth News #16 has several items on boating as an escape; might want to look into it. Item: is anybody on the East coast vonu? What problems? Hello? Item: Indians, at least on East coast, seem to have grown some things in a fairly vonu manner, due to environment, manner of cultivation, etc. Anybody have any detailed info? Indians seem to have generally lived in a rather vonu fashion; they might have a lot to teach us, if we looked in the right places. Life Crafts above is a beginning, but not detailed enough for my wishes. Where do we go for more information? No anthropologists please; they know less than I do, which is little. Item: Field Guide to Edible & Useful Wild Plants of North America, Myron Chase, Nature Study Aids Inc. Get Euell Gibbons for general info, this for plant identification and further info. Item: Mothers Truck Store. This has a lot of very good stuff in it, quite a bit of it which is applicable to vonuism. Very nice to look at, anyway. Item: Insects. In the words of Al Nemlinger: "They's a bitch things!" The only stuff that REALLY AND TRULY WORKS is Woodsman's Fly Dope. It comes in a little bottle, and you put a LITTLE on your body, or a LOT on a RED (the color helps keep black flies away) handkerchief tied around your neck. The smell takes some getting used to, but it's worth it cause it works. Cutters stuff is okay too, and it smells better – but it doesn't last nearly as long. Cache Lake Country, John Rowlands, Mother Earth News, Madison, Ohio. This is a very good book, both reading and information-wise. I read the old edition (circa 1940?) from a library; I hope the new one is as good. Basically concerned with old-time ways of wilderness living, it reads as though an actual human being wrote it. Item: The people that brought you Mother Earth News is coming out with another (as slightly mentioned in Under Earth Directory, VL 8) mag: Lifestyle! it's called. May have relevance to what is doing here: anyways, it has a capacity for contacting other people on what you're doing (seems to be a heavy emphasis on communities.) Item: A very nice, thick catalog is Catalog 20 of Forestry Suppliers, Inc., Jackson, Mississippi, Absolutely anything and everything is there: clothes, axes, pollution devices, transits, and genuine, wholesome dendrometers (?): everything to become an actual forest ranger –0 though some of it is expensive. Item: Anybody out there into John Cole's (of Maine Times) post-industrial era ideas?? Until whenever... –Phil Smith, Woodbury, Conn.

Remember the Alamo...and keep it holy.

Hello Vonu Life People...Am interested in seeing your newsletter and I understand it's free to us people in the woods. I've been in scads of places in the last two years with my old lady and 3 kids and on my second tent now. Am presently in W. Virginia on a river with only two other families living within 6 miles or so. One of the families gave us the spot we're on now to use and so far we've been finding the peace and quiet, clean air, clean water, good vibes, far out animals and plants, etc., that we were looking for. We've got a 9' by 14' tent, built our own shelves, 50

pounds of brown rice, beans, and fishing poles. Cook over the campfire, rain or otherwise, bake bread. Made soybean coffee – you know the whole trip. We collect our mail at a commune 15 miles away about once every 3 weeks unless one of them stops over for a swim in the river or some trout fishing....—B & N

Dear Friends. I had the pleasure of learning about you and your project at a recent Libertarian meeting at ... University. I was astonished to discover that there are actually some Libertarians who are basically where I'm at at present. It seems I was always anticipating new trends in the movement. At age 11, I was saying some of the basic things that the objectivists teach long before I heard about Ayn Rand...Following this, I was one of the first libertarians to get into Max Stirner, and following that, I combined Stirnerite and Randite ideas into an ideology which I called "apoliticism"...Actually, I practiced it on a sense-of-life level long ago. When my parents got a typical divorce when I was quite young, my mother, brothers and sisters and myself were thrown into a situation in which we had to live with the whole "clan" on my mother's side of the family. Needless to say, it was quite unbearable for a rational person like myself to live with a bunch of hysterical Yankees...so...I proceeded to live the Retreatist life: when things got bad I'd high-tail it to the forest for a week or so and live off the land on foods like dandelion roots and greens, banana fern, wintergreen, boiled acorns, etc. (Sometimes I'd cheat and bring some canned food along.) The worked well, except for the fact that certain members of the clan would call the pigs periodically, but I was just a kid so they didn't do much. Anyway, it saved my sanity. —N, Mass.

PREPARATION FOR NUCLEAR WAR by Rayo

10ag72

(This is mostly a reply to Mitchell Jones. Reference VL8 p5-6, VL5 p5-6, and VL6 p9.)

SCENARIOS: To Dave: Any show of national chauvinism was contrary to my attitudes. I limited my discussion to Soviet-first-strike scenarios because they entail the most missiles landing in North America. A first strike by U.S. bludg is also possible. The U.S. government is so far the only government which has actually used nuclear weapons – and used them for deliberate mass murder of civilians. Hiroshima and Nagasaki were not military targets. Furthermore, the Japanese government had already offered unconditional surrender. (U.S. military commanders had been ordered to refuse all surrender offers until the top bludg could 'test' their pet weapon again human targets.

To Mitchell Jones: How much evidence do you have that Brezhnev's self-image is solely that of a tyrant/thug? May not he also think of himself as "benefactor of the Soviet peoples" or something?

Surprise, all-out nuclear attack within (now) 1 ½ years may be the most likely SINGLE sequence of events. But I am not convinced it is SEVERAL TIMES as likely as ALL other possibilities COMBINED, which would be necessary before I would disregard other possibilities. I am not urging preparation for any PARTICULAR alternative but rather for a range of possible futures.

The "lob over a few missiles" scenario is not one I suggested.

POST-ATTACK TRAVEL: The feudalism of the middle ages developed as a result of gradual social disintegration lasting for centuries. A nuclear war is not a "like cause" and effects may not be similar. But you have convinced me. I now agree that the hazards of traveling more than a few miles after an attack are likely to outweigh possible benefits.

REFUGEES: A hypothetical "typical" resident of Los Angeles spends some Winter weekends in the desert, goes to nearby mountains in Summer, and occasionally visits an aunt and uncle in a small town of the Sacramento/San Joaquin valley. So what will he do if he gets warning of an impending attack? Most likely nothing except watch the boob tube. If he is exceptionally concerned, he buys some canned goods and improvises a shelter in an interior room of his home.

If the scare lasts several day, the supermarkets get cleaned out. This happened in Los Angeles during the Cuban missile crisis of the early 1960's. A friend and I evacuated as far as a motel in Bakersfield, which wasn't considered a likely target (then, anyway). Few others did; highway traffic was normal.

However, let's assume this person leaves. Where does he go? Most likely he forgets the desert and mountains and head for his aunt and uncle (or friend, or parents of a friend, etc.) in a rural area, which is probably the wisest thing he can do at that point in time. If he can't get there or gets turned away, he looks for some kind of shelter around or on the way there.

But all this presumes a warning of at least several hours, more likely several days. You are assuming a surprise attack – 15 minutes warning at most. With your scenario, 90% of more of the residents of Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, and other large cities are soon dead or disabled. How about the survivors? Some will be too stunned to do anything. Most of the rest will be occupied with immediate problems: caring for family members who are injured; trying to locate family members who were away at work or school; jerry-rigging fallout protection; repairing their homes. This was the aftermath of the World War II raids, like the Hamburg firestorm, inflicted damage approaching that of nuclear weapons.

But some of the survivors will flee. Also, residents of small cities not hit in the first strike may fear follow-up raids. Around Siskiyou, there is Klamath Falls, Redding, Eureka, Eugene, and possibly Coos Bay, Medford, and Grant's Pass – about 400,000 people total in an area of 100,000 square miles, not a high population density. Most of these people will stay at home and concern themselves with food and shelter. Many of them "own" their homes (more than in larger cities) and have economic and psycho investments which will hold them. Easier for them to argue "it won't happen here". Of the minority who do move out, again, most will go to smaller towns or farming areas, where there is the food and shelter they are familiar with. Few will be attracted to wilderness, which is regarded as rather barren by most local non-vonuans (correctly, for them).

But let's suppose that, for unknown reasons, large numbers of metropolitan Californians survive the attack and head for the interior of the Siskiyou region. (The smaller population of Portland is surrounded by farming areas and close mountains.) How many will arrive? Wilderness areas I am now speaking of are 50 miles or more from Redding or Eureka; hundreds of miles from San Francisco and Los Angeles. So it is vehicle travel mostly we are concerned with. There are two main highways and about three secondary routes entering Siskiyou region from high-population regions to the south. All are two lane, at least in stretches. All go through small towns and mountain passes. How much traffic will flow? Under post-attack conditions at least some will likely be blocked by accidents and disabled vehicles, or commandeered by the military. And gasoline will be quickly sold out or requisitioned for emergency use by local authorities. But even in the unlikely event that all highways remain open and gasoline remains available for 12 hours, a flow of ten vehicles per minute carrying 6 people each, on each of five roads, will bring 216,000 refugees into the Siskiyou region. About 200,000 people already live within it (discounting "border" towns such as Eugene and Redding) so population will double.

Where would these refugees live? Most likely in motels, resorts, and "private" homes – the last, perhaps, under orders of bludg. There might be some tent/camper/shack perhaps, under orders of bludg. There might be some tent/camper/shack communities. But almost all of these people will go to, or be directed to populated areas – Medford (if not attacked), Grants Pass, Eureka, Weed, Crescent City, Roseburg, etc. and surrounding farms – because it is here they can obtain the shelter and food they are accustomed to. These towns are many miles from areas of interest to us – beyond ordinary hiking distance.

Siskiyou region is not normally a food-surplus area. The main industry is timber. But a fair amount of livestock is raised. And most animal feed would be diverted to human consumption, which greatly increases the efficiency of its end use. So I don't expect a famine – here anyway. But meat would be very scarce after a few weeks. So the few mountain people who already hunt would hunt or trap more. On the other hand, the larger number of hunters who now come from towns would not have the gasoline to travel. So fewer, not more people are likely in the woods.

I agree that refugees can pose a threat. But it is to people living close to routes leading out of large cities, not where we are.

So far I have assumed your scenario of attack, more or less. But I have not found any likely alternative which would bring refugees in such numbers they "swarm of your like locusts". How about a limited first strike against predominately military targets, such as we have discussed in previous issues? This would bring more refugees than an all-out attack. But with limited gasoline and other travel problems, influx of as many as 200,000 is still unlikely. Might there be a several-

days advance warning? This is unlikely from the Soviets for it would reduce the destructiveness of their attack or invite a pre-emptive strike. U.S. bludg are unlikely to sound an alarm (assuming they have intelligence data) for the psycho reasons you have analyzed. And masses are unlikely to relocate on their own initiative. But if there should be a large scale evacuation of “non-essential personnel”, most will be to larger rural areas where there is more food and shelter.

What happened during World War II where there was aerial bombardment of cities? Many evacuated to small towns and non-industrial cities, which were swollen to several times their normal population. I haven’t read of large numbers taking to the woods.

How about occupation by foreign bludg? Might many people hide out in the mountains to escape atrocities, real or expected, or to wage guerrilla warfare? Most “citizens” have been trained all their lives to obey – obey – obey. And it is much easier for them to keep obeying the somewhat different orders of somewhat different bludg than to drastically change their ways of living. Again World War II can be instructive. France, Russia, Germany, and Japan all suffered occupations. How many took to the woods?

For any of the latter scenarios, the non-secret desert community you have suggested is undesirable. If there is mass evacuation, you may be ordered to take in thousands of refugees – people not of your selection, most of whom will be a drain on you. If you don’t have shelter to accommodate them (in the opinion of the bludg), your “excess” food “hoards” will be taken to feed them elsewhere. With a thousand people, existence of stores will not remain secret. Many of your people will be subject to conscription for “emergency labor”. In event of occupation, you will attract special attention.

SKULKING IN SISKIYOU: We expect a few people in these woods; there already are some. Most mind their own business pretty much. But some steal anything attractive they come upon, or otherwise try to cause trouble.

The skulking you envision is rarely feasible in brushy areas. The skulker cannot move without making noise – rustling leaves, cracking twigs, or triggered bird alarms. Rarely does he reach a camp without being detected, even if there are no special sensing devices. The vonuans, forewarned, move to hiding places, ambushes, and/or gathering spots. This is already “standard procedure” with us, not something we hope to be doing in a year or two, though very few people pass through our area. Moving on unobvious trails, the vonuans can move quieter and faster than a stranger. The skulkers become the skulked.

The only time a skulker would have a chance is during heavy rains or winter. Not even skulkers like to be out in such weather. But to cover this possibility, we plan detection systems.

The skulking you fear is possible in relatively open woods, also in windy areas and near large creeks where noise is masked, unless there are artificial detection devices.

PROSPECTS: Considering, further, a non-secret desert community: How many people exist who are (1) sufficiently compatible to be an asset? (2) Financially able to live most of the time where there are few employment possibilities? (3) Willing to move to a desolate area SOLELY because they fear surprise nuclear attack? Such a community offers no defense against “routine” pre-war coercion. For instance, children will be forced to attend local slave schools or else “private” schools which “meet State standards”.

One indication: How many people do you know of whom you would want, who are already prepared to the extent of having food reserves, having a shelter, and regularly sleeping in it? A shelter involves only a relatively-small addition to one’s present (conventional) life, not a big change. Yet few have and use them. Quitting employment and moving to an isolated community is a much bigger change.

And, as you realize, it is not enough to have a retreat for people who expect to stay in cities “until things get bad”. To be viable at all, the community must have hundreds of people there at all times.

Recruiting difficulties are compounded by the unsuitability of such a community for other than one restricted scenario. If there is anything you are not aware of and thus do not take into account – if you err in psyching out foreign bludg, estimating their capabilities, estimating domestic conditions prior to an attack, estimating time remaining until an attack, estimating potential number of recruits, estimating bludg activity after an attack, etc., the non-secret community will be a poor haven. And all such uncertainty is an added deterrent to recruits.

In contrast, our way of life is attractive under a wide range of conditions. We can cope with many possible disasters, not just one. But we also live productively and joyously in the here-and-now. Our way does represent a big change from “conventional” living. We do not know how many people will make such a change. We can survive and be happy without hundreds or even dozens. However, the desirability of our way, under a wide range of societal conditions, increases likelihood of good associations.

Dan: Concerning your interest in VL#7 in vonu groups of the past: How about the Sasquatch (Yeti, Abominable Snowman)? Have been around for at least hundreds of years, but nobody is even sure exactly what they look like or their living habits or where to find them. Have managed to avoid all while being searched for for years.

Some interesting techniques such as avoiding leaving tracks when they know they’re being followed, defecating in running streams or rivers – attempts made to identify and track by droppings, but can’t find a way. Of most interest, maybe, is that they’re always on the move – nearly always “sighted” walking or running – always moving. No permanent shelters – always temporary – probably just overnight in tree hollow, cave, or?

Also of possible interest to vonuans – only way they are detected and/or followed is by tracks of feet and chance encounters which are infrequent considering the possible number of them...So, if you leave no tracks in area you live and can remain unnoticed even in midst of many, chances are, you won’t be found. Don’t tell nobody where you are – not even a hint. Only takes time and one person knowing and eventually you’ll have to move.

A truly amazing and vonu “people” and apparently their number is increasing even as more and more join the search. Don’t just live in NW America and BC either. Large population in Russia, East Europe. Sighted in many different areas.

Two books (pretty good actually) by John Green. “Year of the Sasquatch” (most recent); “On the Track of the Sasquatch”. Another interesting note – they don’t use fire or make fire.

To Paul: Instead of bow and arrow, how ‘bout crossbow? Herter’s has 80 pound pull for \$35-40. Get lots of arrows and extra bow string or make. Could probably make crossbow too. I’m gonna get or make one I think. Would be more useful than bow and arrow. Silent, too. –H&M, BC, Canada

THE UNBREAKABLE CIPHER. Quoted with some editing, from a recent thousand-page history of cryptanalysis, “THE CODE BREAKERS” by David Kahn 4/72.

...despite the most strenuous bangings of (US) counterintelligence, this cipher remained hermetically sealed against cryptanalysis. All three rings employed the then-standard Soviet espionage cipher. It achieved a triumph of encipherment, for it is a system that the spymasters of the Soviet Union rightly regarded as unbreakable.

It brought the old Nihilist substitution to a peak of perfection. It merged the STRADDLING CHECKERBOARD with the ONE-TIME KEY.

It increased the efficiency of the checkerboard by specifically giving the high-frequency letters the single digits. (These were the eight most common letters, which in English they memorized by the rather ominous phrase “A SIN TO ER”. However, the sequence of those letters played no part in the construction of the alphabet.

For that construction, a keyword was selected. Clauses used SUBWAY. The encipherer wrote this out, followed by the rest of the alphabet in rows beneath it, with a full stop and a letter-number switch sign at the end. (Full stop = a period.) (Letter-number switch sign = /.)

Then the digits 0 to 7 were assigned to ASINTOER as they occurred vertically in columns from left to right.

Finally, the two-digit groups from 80 to 99 were assigned to the remaining letters and symbols, also vertically.

[IMAGE BELOW – ARTICLE CONTINUES]

S	U	B	W	A	Y
0	82	87	91	5	97
C	D	E	F	G	H
80	83	3	92	95	98
I	J	K	L	M	N
1	84	88	93	96	7
O	P	Q	R	T	V
2	85	89	4	6	99
X	Z	.	/		
81	86	90	94		

(Any number of columns can be used. If the keyword was TUESDAY there would be seven columns.)

These equivalents can be placed into the more compact checkerboard if it is desired:

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8	S	I	O	E	R	A	T	N		
9	C	X	U	D	J	P	Z	B	K	Q
	.	W	F	L	/	G	M	Y	H	V

The encipherer next replaced his plaintext (the message) with his checkerboard equivalents. For numbers, he enciphered the switch sign (/), then repeated the digits twice, then enciphered the switch sign again to indicate a return to letters:

Message: W H E R E I S / 1 0 6 / D I V I S I O N
 Equivalents: 91 98 3 4 3 1 0 94 11 00 66 94 83 1 99 1 0 1 2 7

The next step enshrouded this simple text by adding a numerical key – an operation called “closing”. Clausen and Foote took their key numbers directly from a common reference book with many tables, like the World Almanac, possessions of which would not necessarily be suspicious. (Other methods of obtaining or generating key numbers will be discussed later). For example, we will use a fictitious group of numbers:

Message: W H E R E I S / 1 0 6 / D I V I S I O N
 Equivalents: 91 98 3 4 3 1 0 94 11 00 66 94 83 1 99 1 0 1 2 7
 Key Numbers: 3 1 3 4 5 3 4 5 1 7 1 8 3 1 2 8 1 1 9 5 1 1 0 4 1 8 8 4 7
 Cipher: 2 2 2 2 8 7 7 6 1 6 5 9 4 1 2 4 7 0 3 3 4 2 9 3 2 8 9 6 4

These digits he wrote beneath the checkerboard encipherment and added them with “noncarrying addition” to produce the cipher.

The encipherer divided this into groups of five, 22228 77616 59412 47033 42932 8964, with perhaps a 0 at the end to fill out the group. He then composed an indicator group to tell the decipherer where to find the key numbers: 11 for the row, 3 for the column, 71 for the page. Putting this indicator group at the beginning of the cipher gives us the final enciphered message to be sent:

11371 22228 77616 59412 47033 42932 89640

DECIPHERMENT

Cipher:	2 2 2 2 8 7 7 6 1 6 5 9 4 1 2 4 7 0 3 3 4 2 9 3 2 8 9 6 4 0
Key Numbers:	3 1 3 4 5 3 4 5 1 7 1 8 3 1 2 8 1 1 9 5 1 1 0 4 1 8 8 4 7
Subtraction:	9 1 9 8 3 4 3 1 0 9, etc. In other words, 12-3=9, 2-1=1, 12-3=9, 12-4=8, 8-5=3, 7-3=4, 7-4=3, etc.

The following paragraphs show how to generate “One-Time-Pads”, which were small booklets composed of tables of numbers, and these numbers were the key numbers.

CHAIN ADDITION:

Many generating methods are possible. The simplest is chain addition. Successive digits of the printing key are added together and the sum tacked onto the end of the key number, forming part of it, and the process repeated with these digits. For example, with the priming key 3 9 6 4, 3 and 9 are 12, which is listed as 2, since all addition is non-carrying and tens digits are dropped; 9 and 6 are 5, and 6 and 4 are 0. These three figures join the key at its tail: 3964250. The process is then continued with 4 and 2, making 6, which is put on after the 0, with 2 and 5, making a 7 which is put on after the 6, and so on: 3 9 6 4 2 5 0 6 7 5 6 3 2 1

Chain addition systems are not unbreakable. However, the following system IS unbreakable, when used in conjunction with the “straddling checkerboard” discussed earlier.

RANDOM NUMBERS GENERATED BY TYPISTS:

Interestingly, some pads seem to be produced by typists and not by machines. They show strike-overs and erasures – neither likely to be made by machines. More significant are statistical analyses of the digits. One such pad, for example, has seven times as many groups in which digits in the 1-to-5 group alternate with digits in the 6-to-0 group, like 18293, as a purely random arrangement would have. This suggests that the typist is striking alternately with his left hand (which would type the 1-to-5 group,) and his right (which would type the 6-to-0 group). Again, instead of just half the groups belonging with a low number, which would be expected in a random selection, three quarters of them do, possibly because the typist is spacing with his right hand, then starting a new group with his left. Fewer doubles and triples appear than chance expects. Possibly the typists, ordered to type at random, sensed that some doublets and triplets would occur in a random text but, misled by their conspicuousness, minimized them. DESPITE THESE ANOMALIES, HOWEVER, THE DIGITS STILL SHOW FAR TOO LITTLE PATTERN TO MAKE CRYPTANALYSIS POSSIBLE.

So there we have it: the straddling checkerboard in order to put the letters into numbers, and the one-time-pad to make the final cipher completely random. THE UNBREAKABLE CIPHER.

Two years ago, the Bank Secrecy Act zipped through Congress with almost no opposition and little fanfare. But now a swarm of critics, including the American Civil Liberties Union and the 158 member California Bankers Association, are unleashing a last minute attack on the law in federal court in San Francisco and in Congress with a hope of blocking at least part of the

measure. Some of the provisions of the bill are: banks are required to microfilm the front and back of every check written by everybody, excluding payroll, dividend, and similar large-scale operations. Banks would have to store these records for five years for possible perusal by government investigators without notification to bank customers being investigated. Banks would have to obtain Social Security numbers of all persons opening checking accounts; keep records of all loans made to customers over \$5,000 (except for real estate), including the nature and purpose of the loan; record every request or instruction about the transfer of more than \$10,000 outside the U.S.; report any currency withdrawals or deposits by customers from their checking accounts exceeding \$10,000 (except routine business operations). Individuals planning to travel abroad with more than \$5000 in cash or travelers checks would be required to file a report with the federal government before traveling or risk being arrested on a felony charge and forfeiting their cash. "This legislation, in effect, creates a financial dossier on nearly all Americans and may well contribute to the widespread feeling of alienation, paranoia, and mistrust that seems to exist," contends Arthur R. Miller, professor of law at Harvard Law School and author of "The Assault on Privacy."...29 June 1972 "Wall Street Journal" by way of "Libertarian Connection".

Thanks to the person who sent in a similar article. I thought this one was more complete. Does anybody know of an alternate money system that does work? Especially I would like a way to receive and send money through the mail without using checks or cash and which more people would accept.

...Presidential Orders (Executive) 10995 to 11005 are still on the books from an emergency situation a few years ago and provide for government takeover of practically everything except the American's soul in the event of a national emergency. At the moment, there are several bills before Congress seeking to repeal the old reliable mining law of 1872. S-2727 would sock you up to \$1000 a day for prospecting on public land without a license and the Sec. of Interior is proposing a bill to require a permit or license for all public land use...These things are going to hit you and I right where it hurts most. Locally, we contend with a big brother helicopter that spots "squatters" in the river bottom areas and land within city limits, but this is evidently only a foreshadow of the goodies to follow. All over the west, the Forest Service and B.L.M., have made life almost intolerable for the small miner. It is now getting harder and harder to camp in a national park area without shelling some green over or packing your Golden Eagle passport stamps around like a good little sheep. Can't help wonder how long we will get in the national forests free?

In any event, V.L. is small enough to get away with a lot more of the hard truth of "how it is" if readers will open up...where does the Gestapo lay his hand heaviest on vonu people in the East? In the west here, it's Orange County, just E. of L.A. – like you get caught in the middle of the night in your psychedelic bus on some back road and you can fairly depend on having all your belongings in a pile on your floor and be headed to jail if everything isn't kosher and it's getting worse all over. Even so, I hope in this all doesn't sound too negative. I haven't had to go out and hold down a regular job in years and the few rich people I keep tabs on don't have any more free time or probably aren't any less paranoid than I am. Like many other V.L. readers, I suppose it's all in keeping things simple...after all, it is a very fascinating planet to live on – yes!

Thanks to you who have written...and will try to cover answer, etc. in V.L. later.

Oh yes, there are dozens of little "mimeo mags" of limited circulation around. One which prints a lot of letters and covers very controversial ideas on scientific theory, occult, etc. is "Meeting Place" in Storrs, Conn. –FRY

Spent a marvelous 5-month period in Mexico living in my VW bus conversion. Had 4' wide stationary bed in the rear portion, behind driver was a small chest of drawers, then bench which concealed a Corlon toilet. Above bench, I hung a plastic garment bag. Behind the passenger seat was a 25 lb. ice box (Coleman). On top of this was a 5-gallon water container/sink combination with drain running through the floor. Icebox worked great for a week without replenishing with ice. Closed container for ice had spigot for drinking water so melted ice was not wasted. A large 6" folding alum. table was placed outside the sliding door. One burner tiny Blueutt stove (gas)

was used for cooking. Used indoors on occasion with windows opened. A second battery (95 amp.) with switch installed to prevent draining main battery worked great for lights – 1 week without starting car. Trick with lights is to use fluorescent, they use $\frac{1}{4}$ or less current than incandescent. \$22 bought a Selecta-Volt (12/110) unit which is portable, built-in alum. rod sticks ground outdoors or hang on a chain, plugs into cig. lighter. Light (14 watt bulb) produces equivalent of 100 watts. Instead of spending more on a Corlon, plastic-lidded coffee cans can be used as a portable john. All in all, a great rig. Problems were lighting, solved with the Selecta-Volt (though 110 was not needed); lack of head-room – during good weather, not much of a problem, but during bad weather, a pain in the neck. Most serious problem was keeping warm. Don't like sleeping bags. Sheets were quickly replaced by flannel sheets, which were cold & clammy, replaced by wool blankets (bought out Goodwill) choosing the softest for use next to the skin. On top was placed a Space Blanket. Great for reflecting body heat once you get used to the crinkly noise they make. I'd go to bed at 8 or 8:30 because of extreme cold. Mornings, I'd wake with roof dripping wet from condensation. Rig should have been insulated. If headroom could be achieved with raised roof costing less than \$700, would recommend it.

Once can pay nothing or 50¢ a night for a night watchman (complete with gun and dog) on Mexican beaches. It's really public land. Also \$5-\$10 a month leases can be obtained. Paid \$10 for a lot on 10-yr. lease with fantastic view of ocean. Planned to build a small house in this community of weekend Americans (about 100 houses complete with outdoor johns). Went through a lot of changes about ownership of land & decided against it. Weekly trips were made back across the border, to shop, buy ice, pick up mail at post office box, etc. Suggest you rent a post office box while you still have a permanent address. They insist on one & apparently verify it, but you could probably use friend's. Could be useful for picking up welfare check, unemployment check, remittance money, or whatever.

Sold my rig to spend two years working and bumming my way around the world. Promised myself I'd stay in the Establishment 2 yrs. on my return to save \$\$\$ to drop out again. Now, amazingly, I've found a job I like (rare indeed) but still resent a 40-hr. wee. However, can have 1 month leave time for each 6 months employment, so plan to use this to the maximum. Will in a few months move into a motor home, try to live on the streets while working. Friend lived in his pickup camper successfully in Oakland 8 months – only hassled once when we stayed about 2 weeks in 1 spot. There's an overnight ban in San Francisco so will have to be really cool. Will stay only 2 nights in a location.

Know this sounds like a compromise, but seems very workable for a couple years. Meanwhile, will try to find a way to freelance so I can cut the cord with the Establishment.

–PEACE, THE GYPSY

VONULINC 10, NOVEMBER 1972

Vonulink is published every two months as a readers' forum and supplement to vonulife. Compiled by Lan. Circulation limited to 100.

A vonulink subscriber has the right to publish in vonulink material which is relevant to vonu living in my opinion, up to a maximum of: (Option 1) 1200 words. I retype and print. I am not responsible for errors. (Option 2) 6 photo ready pages. Type or write neatly in black on white paper this size, one side only. Put anything not for publication such as complete name and address on a separate sheet. (Option 3) 100 copies already printed. Up to two sheets of 8 ½ by 11 ordinary weight paper. Okay to print on both sides. Mail rolled up, not flat. Roll so that roll is 11 inches long. Options may be mixed. Deadlines for next issue: Jan. 1 for options 1 and 3, Nov. 25 for option 2.

Dear Vonu Tribe,

I have always lived in sort of out of the way places. Always cheap, not inexpensive, but cheap. No keeping up with the Joneses for me. Tried jackrabbit homesteading on the high desert. The water problem was just too big. A \$5000 well and pump system would have solved it, but who has a spare five throw?

I was truly fortunate to get to try living aboard small boats and cruising part of the Pacific. After messing around Southern California for the first real cruise was to Mexico, as far south as Acapulco. Lots of fun and good times. Also a miserable beat back up the length of Baja. This trip was on a friend's boat but it showed many things about my own that changed my mind about it as a cruiser. So I sold it, went half on another, and sold it.

The second cruise was off to the "South Seas". A really special place. Really enjoyed the Margueas. Tahiti was fun. Some good times, also some rotten ones. First time the bum lungs gave an indication of the misery to come. Hawaii was too much after the neat places down below. So back to Newport.

Friends from the Tahiti cruise settled on Oahu then Maui. They offered a job running the kitchen in their bar. It didn't work out so back to Newport to build a new boat.

The next summer, the friends from the Mexico trip were bringing their boat home from Hawaii after a "South Sea" cruise. Flew down and helped bring it back. We had about 5 days of the grandest sailing ever. By the time we got to Frisco, we were all frozen. To get warm and see the country, we took a side trip up the river to Sacramento. That was a super trip. Then on back to home. After a good bit of overhaul, they put the boat up for sale.

"Dead John" was the buyer. Since he needed crew to help him sail off into the sunset on his death trip, I went along. We left Newport way too early in the season and had a tough trip to Hawaii. Rain, snow, sleet, cold, and head winds nearly all the way. After "Dead John" played act II of the leukemia death role we headed southeast to Tahiti. After some really bad scenes finding out what a phony deal we were mixed up in, we headed for home and "Dead John" sold the boat at a profit.

Picked off a neat job for a month on an oceanography survey. A fun trip out Honolulu. Then back to Newport.

The last cruise was again to Mexico. This time to Manzanillo. Put in a lot of time in Mazatlan. As a side trip, made the bus trip up and back. When I finally got home, the shot lungs started to give up and got worse all the time. So now I exist in my hideaway. Out of sight, out of mind. Let the rest of the world go by. J.B., So. Cal.

(The conclusions part of this letter is in vonulife 8. The letter was received about May. Sorry to be slow printing this, but there have been a lot of photo ready letters and they have had priority. -LAN)

Our group at the state college living in busses, tents, etc. in the field across from the college is here again. Bludg has control of field this year. Most of group migrating from field to street to

campus to field again. I have refuge in trailer park for duration of few months till leaving for northern Idaho mountain. My bus is 33 feet long, too bulky and costly to hide and seek in this area.

If there is a need to attend college for classes, resources (shops, etc. open to use) or social reasons, you can usually find a place to hole up. One friend is going into second year in a pup tent, taking full class load. He goes through the winter here of continual rain with just the pup-tent, this year hid in a patch of bushes in rural area. Have known girl to live in unused water tank on campus elsewhere, another in treehouse, though both were discovered to carelessness with lamp and frequent exit. College can be free too.

Yes, alternator will give power at lower RPM and higher capacity than generator...but for a given energy source will provide same amount output as a generator. You put in what you will get out, minus efficiency. See #17 Mother Earth News for windmill data. Use wooden vanes if radar is used in your area.

Radio scramblers are complex. Cheap walkie-talkies work well from hilltops. Restrict use to brief use at irregularly scheduled times. I.E. – 1pm one Tuesday, 3the next Tuesday, 5 the next...Individuals climb to high point and listen. A coordinator calls #1. Any message from station 1 read quickly and off the air. Calls #2, etc. through group, if large. This will coordinate: emergency medical needs, supply runs (time date, order placing), dangers such as survey party, hunters camp, etc. 1/10 watt walk-talk is legal for any use, no hassle from FCC detectors, and will cover several miles in a clear path between high points, yet will not carry to many bludg areas. Also a relay person can repeat message in turn and thus in steps carry a message over many miles, wherever there is one participant each two miles or more. Used even better at night, there is no interference on the air from bludg hobbyists, may carry 5 miles between peaks, thus 4 relays covers over 25 miles. Yes, loop antennas with good mobility, or a second cross reference can pinpoint location if you are transmitting any length...but the mountain top you use to talk won't be home base. Allied Radio Shack, an easy source, lists: 60-3030 \$14.95 for a pair of them 60-3029 micro-size \$17.95 a pair or best, 21-121, \$13.95 each. Latter is more durable. Comes with channel 11 crystal. Can be changed, as 11 is listened to commonly, others such as 2-8 not so much. The first two come on ch. 14, not changeable without surgery, not so much monitored, but use normal caution. Receiver on the 21-121 is better, superheterodyne. Receivers on the first two listed emit a radio signal (super-regenerative) which can be picked up even when listening. The latter cannot be detected when listening. Provides utility communication to home base while scouting locally too. Just don't transmit FROM base or near if your security standards are high. Sold at Radio Shack stores all over. In Oregon: Bend, Corvallis, Eugene, Klamath Falls, Lake Oswego, Medford, etc. Other stores, Sears, etc., sometimes higher price. Lifetime solar cell for 21-121 available from other sources for \$9. Replaces rectangular 9v radio battery, complete with snap connectors for walk talk or xter radio. These require full sunlight, but don't wear out, cost nothing more over years. Essential if war survival an object. Can't stock up on batteries, they go out in a year even if not used. Alternate is hand crank generator, as on a bike, but would have to match voltage to set, convert AC to DC and filter. Radio, especially short wave, would provide source of strategic info in disaster time, for whatever it's worth.

–South Wind (no location print: protect camped students)

A REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE ART: The Unbreakable Cipher, affectionally nicknamed “TUB” (The Un-Breakable).

I was surprised and gratified to see TUB in Vonu 9. The half-size reduction will come in handy for me. Seeing it in the paper gave me an objective view of it that made me think of how the other readers would see it. Without any introduction to it, it might be difficult to get used to. Also, I have developed a few new wrinkles to it which make it much handier. But first, let me digress.

At first, I was going to keep all this ty myself, but then I realized that I had still the almost universal failing of the common man. One of the sad things about being a code-person is that,

alas, I never have had anything of supreme value to put into a shroud of the cryptic sciences. I usually end up swearing cosmic curses which the ear of mortal should never hear or nonsense like that. However, there may be a few of you out there who wish to make notes of stash-locations or the like.

To get to the heart of the matter, TUB as it was presented in Vonu 9 is indeed perfect, but still unwieldy for the average Vonuan. A Vonuans has limited table space, and limited space of any kind. Typist-generated random numbers are too much excess baggage. Furthermore, they take up space and must not be lost. Additionally, the Decipherment system of subtraction is a bitch for the average guy like me, and prone to error. So what follows is my new way to put TUB into the hands of even a Vonuan who may find himself in the woods with no desk space, not much patience if the weather is bad, not much time, etc. In separate paragraphs I'll lay on you: (1) Only one word to memorize. (2) Elimination of subtraction.

Following the example in Vonu 9, take the word SUBWAY and use it to generate the CHAIN ADDITION. Do this by noting down each letter's place in the alphabet, viz: S=19, U=21, B=2, W=23, A=1, Y=25. Then we start the CHAIN ADDITION process with the block of numbers 1921223125.

Now, to eliminate subtraction in the decipherment process, we will use the RECIPROCAL of 1921223125, which is 9189887985. In other words, the first number of the one group, added to the first number of the next group, gives TEN. The second with the second gives TEN, and so on. Put in plainer language: the word SUBWAY is not only used to generate the encipherment numbers, but also used, by the use of reciprocals, to generate the decipherment numbers. I have tried it out and found that the two chains are the exact opposite of each other, so that when you decipher, you ADD instead of SUBTRACT. And the two chains are exactly opposite even if you generate hundreds of numbers out in a long string.

Just for the hell of it, I'll end this letter by imagining that I am in a blizzard, under a lean-to, 13,000 feet up in the Rockies. I want to remember the location of the gold mine I have just discovered, but I will have to be examined by customs, at the border of the territory of the Hobbits. So I will use TUB to note the location, and I will TIME how long it takes to write the following: DROP A PEBBLE THROUGH THE EYE OF THE SKYLL, FROM THE TOPMOST BRANCH", code word GOLD...tick...tock...tick...tock...15 minutes flat! That time is starting from scratch, constructing all the checkboards and chains, etc. Considering its high security, and speed, and the fact that all you have to remember is ONE WORD, "gold", it is really a honey of a code. To those who might tend to take something as simple as this too lightly, consider that it took the cryptanalytic geniuses, roughly from the time of Martin Luther, down to the last decade, to dream up this baby.

Well, that's all I have to say. I'll be interested to see any comments on TUB in Vonulink, or Vonulife. It's hard to explain some of this jazz unless you looking over someone's shoulder. Once you get it into your head it is really very easy..."Try it, you'll like it!!"

On my travels, I spent July and Aug. in my bug in the Southwest gathering sand. Once again, I knew the great existence of being on a JOURNEY, instead of just a VACATION. John Steinbeck said that on a Journey, somehow you never return as the same person. You are changed, in subtle ways, but in ways that alter your whole being. And I found, to my embarrassment, that almost all of the people I encountered on my Journeys were nicer than I was. Especially small towns in Utah. Well, so long. I'll just close with an ancient Irish saying that I like: "I am hurt, but am not slain: I will lay me down and bleed awhile, then I'll rise to fight again." -AIKIDO AL.

(Added Note) Say, I tried the Cryptostrip method, but I must confess it was a bit cumbersome for use in the forest. As far as I can see, it also is unbreakable. A thought just occurred to me,

to keep bludg busy: send a continual stream of ciphers in mysterious letters to the bludg. All random numbers, in groups of 5. One way to reduce unemployment. One other thing: it helps to work out TUB using several different colored pens or pencils. –A.A

NOAMTRAC – North America Trail Complex. A network of overland hiking trails and routes traversing the continent. A comprehensive design to provide on-foot access to all parts of the land, affording the adventurer and nomad an un-paralleled, sustained experience in the open country from inhabited rural areas to remote wilderness. Currently in the planning stage, NOAMTRAC routes will be based on trails, tracks, and rural roads already in existence...All trails will remain unmarked, but will be easily followed with the aid of guide-maps made widely available to the public. –Noamtrac, Bloomington, Indiana 47401. Lee Nadding (339-6056).

Results of Foam Test

Rolled in $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 7' x 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' piece, nude, on top of 3" slab. No tent. Rolled foam, tied ends, wrapped completely around. Dry cool night – stars out all time. Breathes inside most of the night. Stuffy but bearable. No noticeable condensation on outside of foam. Tried putting nose out, also exhaling through tube. Seemed to make no difference on warmth.

Chilly, discontinued when outside air 37°, inside air 65°. Assuming inside air (should be?) 75° for comfort: $99 - 65 = 34$, $99 - 75 = 24$, $65 - 37 = 28$, $75 - -20 = 95$. $\frac{1}{2} \times (34/24) \times (95/28) = 2.4$). To be comfortable to -20° with no other clothing would require 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " foam. 20se71

(I found this in "to be published file. Looks like Rayo's writing.)

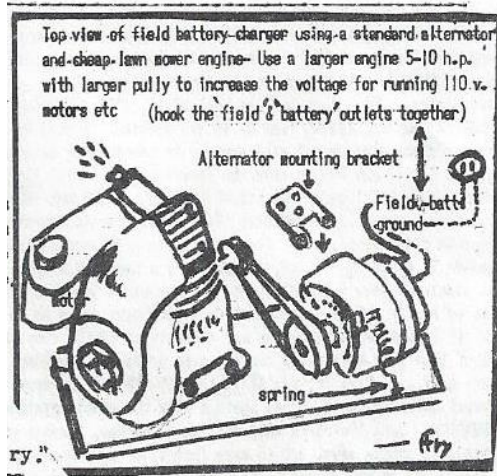
Finally, I'd like to submit a qualified withdrawal of my comments on "truants". Even if the kid did decide he wanted a government education certificate, he could (at least in Vancouver) get a HS diploma starting from zero in about 3 years if he is over 25 or so. That's a hell of a lot better than 12 years of boredom and bullshit, slavery, and servitude, stagnancy, and...Formal "education" doesn't really mean as much in society as I thought it did (though learning does). The Public School System is just a great big concentration camp for kids as anyone knows who can see the fences and watch them marching en mass.

What is your impression of ham radio as a means of inter-communication between libertarians in the wilderness and elsewhere? What types of material would hesitate to speak about on the air would you be more restricted than you are in print? Who cares if they monitor conversations about edible roots, etc.?)

(Fragment of a letter, no name or date, from before my takeover.)

In ancient times, the use of scientific discovery was loosely guarded for social reasons – if not by the scientists themselves, then by their rulers. Thus, the steam engine invented in Ptolemaic Egypt for pumping water to the top of the famous lighthouse on the Island of Pharos was soon abandoned, apparently because it encouraged laziness in slaves who had previously carried waterskins up the lighthouse stairs. Still more remarkable was the medieval invention of the electric battery by Baghdad Sufis and their abstention from putting it to commercial use lest it interfere with traditional arts and crafts. Then there is Suetonius' account of how an anonymous inventor came to the Emperor Tiberius, offering to show him a new sort of glass. He dropped a lump of this on the marble floor in front of Tiberius' throne as if by accident. When it bounced, Tiberius asked him whether he had divulged the secret of its manufacture to anyone. The man swore that it remained his own, so Tiberius sentenced him to death, remarking that glass of this nature would be found so valuable in the making of jewelry and tableware that it would depreciate the value of gold and upset the economy.

The goody on the left [above] is from "New Scientist" by way of "Intellectual Digest". The author who is Robert Graves sounds like e would approve. Thanks to Rayo for clipping. Title is "The Secret War Between Science and Poetry".



(Letter Continued) The student life (in Architectural School) isn't bad and the activities going on in the school get down to a practical personal level, like helping build houses, etc. I see no future in monster office building and the like which I avoid any involvement with. I'm going to start exploring the North East this summer and I'm working up a series of squat spots. —E., N.Y.

vonu is yours for the making.

ARTICLES WANTED

The next issue of vonulife will be a big one. It will be published in the spring. Deadline is Feb. 1.

I am looking for good how-to-do and where-to-get articles. If you have already published in vonulife, I may send you a note asking for more of the same. If not, write and tell me what you have done. Even if your life isn't as vonu as you would like, there are probably some angles you know more about than do most people.

I'll pay ½¢ per word as published*, maybe more depending on how many I think I can sell. I expect a first printing of 5 or 10 thousand. I'll pay whether or not the article is a reprint from vonulink.

Mostly I want articles based on firsthand information. I don't want a rehash of something that was in "Mother Earth News" (for example) unless you have personal experience to add to it. But you needn't write in the first person. You may write about a fictional person, like Gumona in vonulife 7, page 7.

Most readers of vonulife 1973 will be new readers. Most of them will be interested in vonu, but not yet vonuans. So articles must be down to earth. Directions must be simple and specific and clear. Point out likely problems, but be optimistic in feeling. (If you have a way worth writing about, it's probably a way you are happy with.) Worries about what the bludg may or may not do in 1984 are okay in vonulink, but not in vonulife.

I will arrange vonulife by topics, such as food, shelter, communication, education, power, city vonu, woods vonu, land vehicles, etc. So I'd prefer several short articles on one subject to a long article which rambles. But there will also be a section for lifestyle descriptions, such as Erich's and Gypsy's in vonulife 9.

When listing sources, please include address, also prices if just a few items or sample prices of many items. Also date of your information. Also tell if you have bought and used the things, or if you are going by what others say or by what catalogs say.

Articles don't have to have "proper" grammar or be typed. I can type over, though rather not. Information is the important thing. Go into plenty of detail. Try to anticipate misunderstands and questions. I'd much rather have too much on a subject and cut than too little. (If you don't want to be edited, tell me.)

If you can write and type pretty, so much the better. Keep the final copy 6 ¾ to 7 inches wide, no wider. Black on white paper. Single space and keep everything fairly compact. White space is waste. I can use a few black and white photos, but they should be separate so I can group all photos on one page. (Cheaper to print that way.)

Vonulife 73 will probably grant the same reprint rights as did vonulife 9 so if you don't want your article reprinted, you should copyright it or whatever.

I'll be looking for help typing and especially editing, to get things smoother than I can get them myself. If you like around here and are interested let me know. (Sending things back and forth through the mail is too much trouble.)

I have been offered a big IBM electric typewriter for typing vonulife on. It makes crisp letters, like the article in vonulife 5, page 3. Supposedly, it will operate okay from an inverter if it is kept warm. What I'd really like to rent is an IBM composer, but they are expensive and I don't imagine I could operate one of them from an inverter. Or could I? (The inverter is 200 watts.)

Here are a few of the articles I would like to get. Hopefully they will suggest others.

Shelter. Rayo is trying to build structures which are comfortable year around without fire or other artificial heat. Anyone else doing this? If you heat with wood, what precautions do you take to avoid attracting nasties? Had any problems?

Food. There are many books telling about all the wild things which can be eaten, but keeping well fed that way is something else. Like Rayo wrote, most people who "live off the land" for a week or two actually live mostly off their fat. Is there anybody in North America who hunts and forages most of e's food? Also there has been quite a lot written about hidden gardens, but I get the impression that so far, this is mostly dreams. Anybody doing it? How?

Power. Here, too, I keep reading about hydro-electric and methane generation. Anybody doing it on a small scale, compatible with vonu?

Little people. I would like to hear from them or any of their bigger comrades who are living vonu. I would like to hear from them or any of their bigger comrades who are living vonu. Also, I'd like to know mail order sources for learning books, "educational toys", etc. but only if you have had personal experience with them and they are especially suitable for vonuans. I don't want to just duplicate "Whole Earth Catalog".

Vonumes – vonu communities and associations. Tell about yourselves. Go into detail, especially about how you started it, letting in new members if any, visitors if any, physical arrangements, what is private property and what is common property, managing common property, sources of income, keeping vonu. I'm only interested though in vonu communities which probably means that most of you most of the time are out of sight, sound, and mind by one means or another, maybe in the woods, maybe in the city, maybe some other way.

Money. A while back in "Libertarian Connection" (I no longer have the issue), Klondike wrote an article about working gravel for gold dust. E said that somebody could earn as much in a summer as most unskilled jobs pay in a year and e offered to tell somebody where and how to do it. Has anybody done it? How vonu? (Dredges I'm familiar with are noisy.) This seems like an ideal source of income for vonuans if it can be done quietly and without building a lot of sluices or something. Gold dust is easy to store and haul around.

F.E. had a brief letter in vonulife 7 about collecting and selling herbs. I'd like to read more from people doing this. How much do you clear an hour?

What city jobs can somebody take for a few weeks without giving sheep security number, life history, and all that? I'd especially like to know of possibilities on the west coast, seasonal employment, etc., how does somebody go about getting the job?

Sources for cheap, good food, clothing, building materials, especially things used by vonuans, anywhere on west coast. Also mail-order specialty things anywhere. Again, don't just copy W.E.C., etc.

Concealment. Everyone seems to have a few tricks of e's own which e doesn't want to tell about. Which is good. But how about a summary of published information? Book reviews? Maybe there is a good article somewhere I could reprint.

Sky spies and how to fool them. I want not 1984 scare stories, but facts about what is in use or being put into use. What can and can't be detected. Be as specific as you can. The bludg's press releases usually aren't worth reprinting, but maybe you know somebody who uses or tests out the devices. Or maybe you have suffered losses. What were the circumstances? Don't depend on the bludg telling the truth. (To B. in Sweden. Maybe Che was infiltrated and the bludg said it was a sky spy to preserve their infiltrator.) Last I knew, forest fires were being spotted only by seeing the smoke. Anything new in use?

Alternate sheep beep bells and such. Here too one probably has tricks of e's own. But it is helpful to warn about techniques which don't work. "The Paper Trip" (review in vonulife 6) is

being widely reprinted, but some of the things it suggests may be out of date. This is worth pointing out.

City vonu. Jim Stumm wrote a little about collectives in vonulife 9, page 2. A collective might be good for woods people on a fundraising tour as well as for city vonuans. Maybe there are city collectives which will take in woods vonuans as borders. If you live in a vonu collective which has lasted long enough to work out problems maybe you will tell how you do it.

CONSTRUCTIVE OPENNESS

by John L. Wallen

Barely do two persons talk openly about their reactions to each other's actions. Most of us withhold our feelings about the other (even in relations that are very important or dear to us) because we fear hurting the other, making him angry, or being rejected by him. Because we don't know how to be constructive open, we say nothing. The other continues totally unaware of our reaction to his actions. Likewise, we continue ignorant of the effect our actions produce in him. As a result, many relationships that could have been productive and enjoyable gradually flounder and sink under the accumulated load of tiny annoyances, hurt feelings, and misunderstandings that were never talked about openly. The following points increase the probability that openness will improve a relationship rather than harming it.

1. Openness must stem from a desire to improve your relationship with the other. Openness is not an end in itself but a means to an end. We are not open with people about whom we do not care. When attempting to elicit and open sharing of reaction to each other, try to convey that this encounter indicated that you value your relation with the other and wish to improve it because it is important.

2. Aim at creating a shared understanding of your relationship. You wish to know how the other perceives and feels about your actions. You wish him to know how you perceive and feel about his actions...Each of you, thus, will view the relationship from more nearly the same viewpoint.

3. Recognize that openness involves risk-taking. You cannot receive a maximum guarantee with minimum risk. Your willingness to risk your self-esteem, being rejected or hurt by the other, etc. depends upon the importance of the relationship to you. Likewise, you cannot ask that the other guarantees not to become angry or feel hurt by your comments. The important point is that you are willing to risk his being himself – whatever he feels – in the effort to make the encounter into a learning situation for both of you.

4. Although the discussion may become intense, spirited, angry, or tearful, it should be non-coercive and not an attempt to get the other to change. Each should use the information as he sees fit. The attitude should not be “who's wrong and who's right?” but “What can each of us learn from this discussion that will make our working together more productive and more satisfying?” As a result of the discussion, one, both, or neither of you may act differently in the future. Each, however, will act with fuller awareness of the effect of his actions on the other as well as with more understanding of the other's intentions. Any change, thus, will be self-chosen rather than to placate or submit to the other.

5. Timing is important. Reactions should be shared as close to the behavior that aroused them as possible so that the other will know exactly what behavior is being discussed. For example, behavior during the encounter itself can be commented on. E.g. “What you just said is kind of remark that makes me feel pushed away.”

6. Disturbing situations should be discussed as they occur rather than saving up massive accumulations of hurt feelings and annoyance and dumping them on the other all at one time.

7. Paraphrase the other's comments about you to make sure you understand them as he intends them. Check to make sure the other understands your comments in the way you intend them.

8. Statements are more helpful if they are. Specific rather than general. “You bumped my cup,” rather than “You never watched where you were going.” Tentative rather than absolute. “You seem unconcerned about Jimmy,” rather than “You don't give a damn about Jimmy and never will.” Informing rather ordering. “I hadn't finished yet,” rather than “Stop interrupting me.”

9. Use perception-checking responses to ensure that you are not making false assumptions about the other's feelings. "I thought you weren't interested in trying to understand my idea. Was I wrong?" "Did my last statement bother you?"

10. The least helpful kinds of statements are those that sounds as if they are information about the other person but are really expressions of your own feelings coming out as – judgements about the other. "You never pay any attention" –accusations, inputting undesirable motives to the other. "You enjoy putting people down." "You always have to be the center of attention." – commands and orders. "Stop laughing." "Don't talk so much." – sarcasm. "You always look on the bright side of things, don't you?" (When the opposite is meant.)

11. The most helpful kinds of information about yourself and your reactions are. Behavior descriptions: reporting the specific acts of the other that affect you. "You cut in before I had finished my sentence." Describing your own feelings: "I feel blue." "I like what you just aid." You should try to describe your feelings in such a way that they are seen as temporary and capable of change rather than as permanent attitudes. For example, "At this point, I'm very annoyed with you," rather than, "I dislike you and I always will."

This is reprinted from "Community Notes", intentional communities project, Racine, Wisconsin. Originally written 1968. This is about the best thing like this I've read. Many vonuans spend a lot of time in close quarters with the same few people so being able to talk through bad feelings can be important. More endeavors are wrecked by "personality conflicts" than by any efforts of bludg. –LAN

My wife and I have been living out of tents for three months, and I am hoping to build the smallest possible transportable structure to move into as soon as possible and before winter. (She) is building a slightly larger and more fixed cabin. How do you keep books from mildewing in a tent in a deep woods? (I have them on a bookshelf now, behind sheets of plastic, hoping that's good enough to keep the mildew from spreading.)

I've been trying to do the sort of thing you described, for ten years, and this is as close to it as I've been able to get. My first idea was a cave. (Where can you find caves? Within range of cities?) ...May you have peace and the lord God bless you. –T., N.Y. (August)

About the books. If you have a stove going most of the time, you might keep the books close so they keep a little warm which ought to keep them dry (so long as they don't get rained on). Keep them away from any wall or floor, not too high up so they don't get vapor from cooking.

Or you could dry them out well first and then put them in a container that closes very tightly. A metal or glass container is best so that mice can't gnaw through it. –LAN (Anyone have other suggestions?)

Rainbow Family inter-tribal communications center on alternative lifestyles and communes – where they are and what kind of trip they're on. Will be publishing an intercommunal newsletter, SMOKE-SIGNAL.

...Greyhound has long been selling its used buses. But sales have been booming in the last few years since someone discovered that buses can be converted into recreational vehicles. (Gilbert J.) Klocker says his office is now swamped with requests for used buses...Greyhound has stepped up its promotion of the retired buses, which normally will sell between \$9000 and \$12,000...The buses often have logged over 1.5 million miles when put up for sale. (Thanks to Rayo for clipping.)

MORE BY LAN

I received the first issue of "free" magazine, whose purpose is to provide information on free and cheap travel and transportation. The first issue is mostly reprints. Some of the articles are on freight hopping, buying used airplanes, living in Goa (India), and driving other people's automobiles. Also has a lot of unnecessary illustrations and white space but pretty good for a

first issue. First issue is 35¢, four issues for \$3. Like vonulife, they will accept information instead of money.

Latest "Mother Earth News" is almost all on farming. Except for people into that, their split-off magazine "Lifestyle" will probably have more useful information.

Phil Smith. Stuff sold by Mother's Truck Store seems high-priced to me. Might be worth looking for alternate sources.

August 1972 issue of "The Green Revolution" announced beginning of an alternate money experiment – "constants". Designed by Ralph Borsodi. Results not in yet. Issue is 35¢ from School of Living, Freeland, MD.

Paul Doerr. I asked you in a letter, but you didn't say, so I will ask you again. What issues of "Pioneer" have the information about the bludg spy things? Are these back issues now available? I've gotten #8, #9 and #10 and I don't recall seeing anything.

The report by Rayo in vonulife 9 about what *e* and Dr. G are doing, which I solicited, was the longest article ever in vonulife. Do you like this much detail? If so, I will solicit similar reports from other vonuans. Or do you prefer more short letters? (Don't spend an 8¢ stamp just to write and tell me, but if you are writing anyway and think of it, tell me what you would like to see more of or less of.)

Rayo, you seem bitter against conventional farms. Did you grow up on one? Why couldn't there be a farm which is visibly run by an elderly couple but which is a front for a group of vonuans with secret chambers underneath the barns and haystacks? Seems like secret chambers would be easier to build under a farm than under a city building, which you mentioned in vonulife 5, page 4. Food would be easier to come by. Going to and from would be more difficult than to a city vonuum but no more so than to a wilderness vonuum. Personally, I prefer to live in the woods as I'm sure you do. But I don't think anyone is qualified to say that there is no possibility for vonu on farming land, which is a large part of the earth. Maybe you or I can't think of a way which is practical. But maybe somebody else can. Why discourage *e*? (This is in response to what you say in vonulife 9, page 5, and you have said elsewhere.) Other than that, I really liked your report.

Does my not capitalizing bother anybody? I can type fastest this way. Each capital letter takes three movements – shift, type, release. And why use more than one kind of letter except maybe for special effects? Just complicates things for little vonuans learning to read and write.

Al Fry, thanks for the warning about Orange County. I'll stay away. I would like to hear from other people about other towns which are hostile or friendly. Vonuans, nomads, van-people, gypsies, and other freeish people between them spend a lot of money. This might as well be spent where trades people and local bludg (which mostly live off the tradespeople and can be influenced by them) are friendly. Encourage them to become friendlier.

GETTING MAIL

...I rented a box here in town to see how their system worked, if I would be able to rent a box in, say, California previous to going there and having mail forwarded there, etc. I was surprised at the amount of bludg paranoia I ran into, requiring a residential address (verified by the carrier that one has received mail there), ID, and all sorts of restrictions on use of the box. Presumably, the sternly-worded form is a standard Federal one applying to all states of the U.S. I didn't want to pick information from the clerk (already suspicious and hostile! about somebody renting a box who lived in town), but I hope to establish a mail-order business and am trying to figure out a way to get mail without having an address – since I won't be living at an address..

Reply: We've had similar experiences. Solutions: (1) Take over the box of someone who no longer wants it. Add your names to the names authorized to receive mail at the box (takes only a post card from original box holder) but the post office may object if the list of names gets long. Or get mail addressed c/o original box holder. Usually after doing the latter for a while, the clerks will learn that you "belong" and you can then delete the c/o. Pay rent by money order and illegibly scribble name of original box holder (though clerks presently don't seem to care who pays rent). Money orders sold by banks and stores are usually sold blank except for the amount. Buyer fills in payee and signs his name, which is of no importance unless money order is lost and he files claim for refund. (2) Get a friend who is moving away to rent the box using his ID

before leaving. (3) Arrange with someone trustworthy a “residential” mailing address. (Either he tells the postman you are visiting, or you use c/o for a while to “train” the postman.) I believe this is the preferred solution. There are many more residential addresses than there are P.O. Boxes so they arouse less suspicion and the effort which can be devoted to checking them out is less. If anyone does check your “landlord” says you are away on a trip. Your “landlord” can leave mail in a drop for you which should be outside any dwelling, accessible 24 hours a day, and so located that it cannot be easily kept under surveillance – also so that neighbors won’t get suspicious. The “landlord” doesn’t need to see you each time you pick up.

Mail any letters with “soiled” stamps, stamps not in conventional position. “Sell the Post Office” emblems, etc. away from your “home” post office.

Presently P.O. paranoia seems to be directed, not at vonuans, but mail-order swindlers. The paranoia we have encountered has been almost entirely at the time of initially renting the box. P.O. clerks seem to give little trouble thereafter, so long as nothing is done which causes them extra work. (Rough draft by Rayo. This letter and Rayo’s reply is something else I have had around from before I took over. The letter is dated March 14. I should be able to do better in the future, because the vonulife-vonulink split will provide more room. –LAN)

NATIONAL DRIVER REGISTER SERVICE IN OPERATION

Irresponsible drivers are being kept off the nation’s highways through the operation of the “National Driver Register Service”, a clearinghouse for information on driver licensing. Set up by the National Highway Administration, the driver register currently has a master file containing the names of nearly three million persons whose driving privileges have been revoked or suspended. These names were provided by all of the states and U.S. territories...when a state wants to learn whether a driver license applicant may have lost his license elsewhere, it requests a “search” of the Driver Register file. This request is fed into the computer system where information on the applicant may have lost his license elsewhere, it requests a “search” of the Driver Register File. This request is fed into the computer system where information on the applicant is compared with data for a possible “match” or identification. In 1970, there were 160,827 “matches” sent to participating states. Revocations for serious violations, such as drunk driving or conviction involving a traffic fatality, remain in the file for seven years, while those for less serious violations are removed after five years...(from “behavioral sciences newsletter for research planning”. –JANUARY 14, 1972

WINTER SURVIVAL TECHNIQUES

by Dora Edgar

(condensed from “Caliche County Rendering Works” by way of “The Green Revolution”)

J.G. (Gil) Phillips, an Albuquerque engineer, has developed a winter camping technique using polyurethane foam equipment and Eskimo survival knowhow. His equipment is warmer and lighter than any yet devised by non-Eskimos, and fantastically cheaper as well. There is a local company marketing equipment based on Phillips’ principles, but it’s still cheaper to make your own.

We usually go about winter camping all wrong. People give up and go home because their feet get cold. Their feet get cold because boots and socks compress to the point where you’re practically standing on the snow. And if the boots are waterproof, foot sweat collects and freezes. Even thick boots let in the cold after a couple of days of tramping and socks give you blisters. Gloves are just as ridiculous. Each finger is attacked from all sides by the cold. Divide and conquer.

People who need fires to keep warm didn’t dress warmly enough in the first place, and fire melts snow, which subsequently soaks you and freezes. Furthermore, sleeping in a bag in a tent leaves your head in the air. It is a fact that you lose more heat from your head than anywhere else. What’s worse, if your bedding gets wet from a fire or a thaw, you’re doomed. Wet down will freeze you almost as fast as wet cotton.

It is very important to understand that different materials and techniques are needed for winter and fair weather camping. In the rain a tent is nice. In snow its dead weight to carry. We need to move slowly in the cold so as not to waste energy or sweat too much. It is best to carry dehydrated foods and not to use fires except for a luxury.

Illustrated are the patterns for a mukluk and a sleeping bag. These are made of 1 inch thick polyurethane foam, which can brought in great sheets from an upholstery supply store. The only adequate glue is 3M77. A very fine spray will seal all seams without hardening them and forming a heat leak. Just glue the cut edges together. The finished product can be covered with nylon for durability.

The basic foam mukluk, with its double thickness of folded over foam on the bottom, is all you need in snow. But their wear can be extended and you'll be prepared for rocks and bare ground if you stuff them into Army surplus canvas mukluks, extra large for everybody, or just cover them with a canvas or nylon bag with a drawstring around the top and a string around the ankle. Reinforce the bottoms and maybe an inch or two up the sides with overshoe soles if you like. Foot sweat has a chance to evaporate in these mukluks, and if it gets them damp, at least they stay warm. Even if you fall through ice, the water squishes out after a little walking and never does freeze. Honest! I can testify to that from personal experience.

Mittens, also useful whether you camp or not, are simply folded over rectangles.

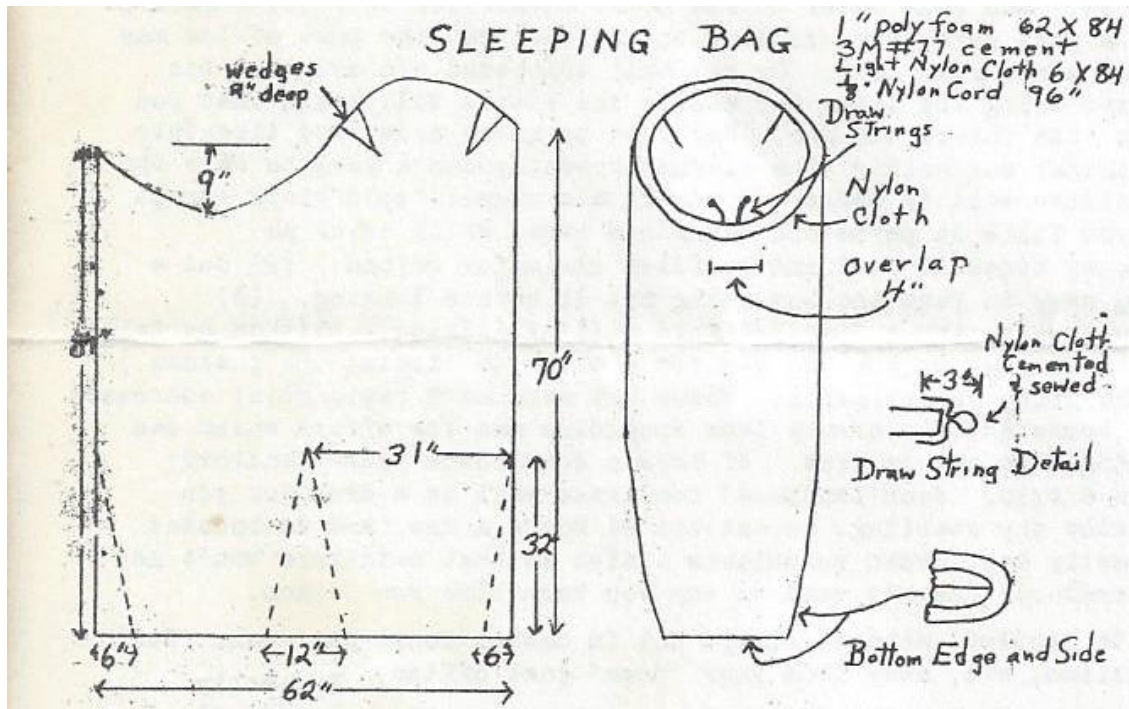
The sleeping bag illustrated is an envelope just big enough to receive you wearing your clothes. You don't need any spare cold air in there. After you wiggle in, pull the drawstring, tie it, and start warming up your cocoon with your breath and body heat. Foam allows plenty of air exchange with outside.

Where you sleep is an important matter. Where the wind blows free dig a ditch in the snow. Sleep in it with your sleeping bag completely wrapped in a sheet of strong polyethylene rolled into a tube that extends well beyond your feet and head. Wrap it around one and a half times to anchor under you, before you crawl in. If there's a blizzard that night you'll be covered with insulating snow, but not buried permanently, since the wind will keep a drift from forming on top of your trench. That's why you build it where the wind blows. Water from breathing and perspiration will condense on the plastic sheet rather than your foam. Shake it off in the morning.

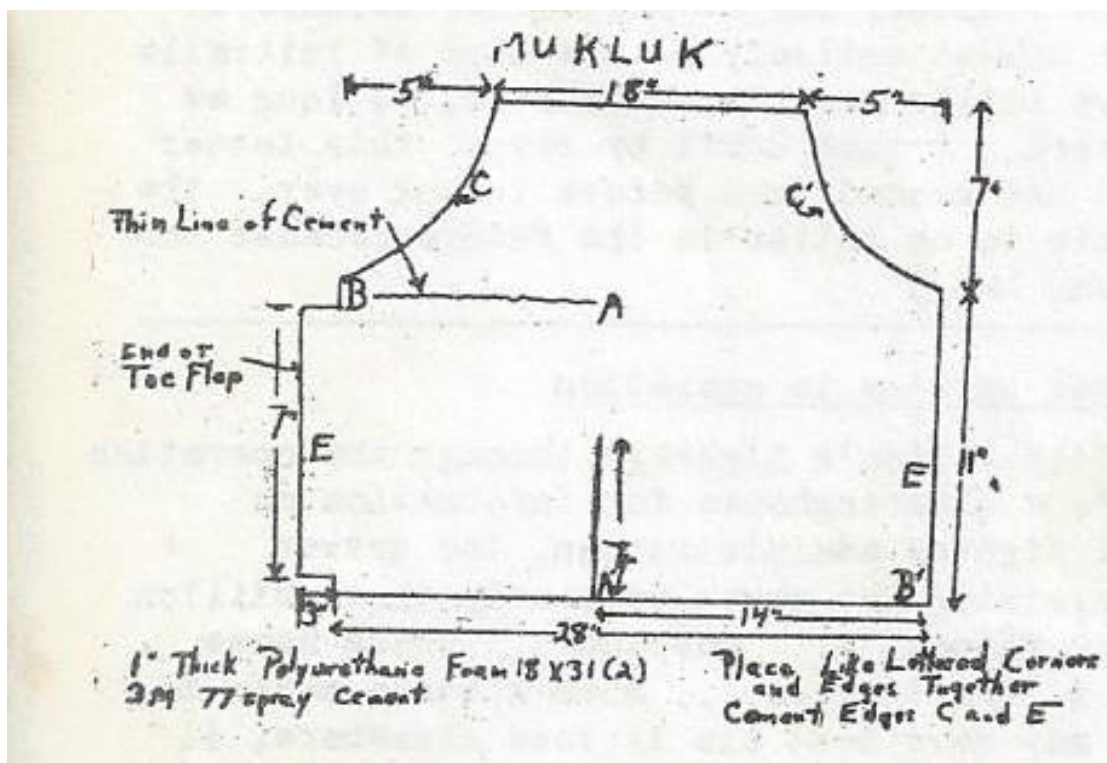
Besides mukluks and mittens, body clothing can be made from foam as soft as you can find. 1 inch is best, but it may be necessary to use ½ inch on legs and arms, for flexibility. Rectangular sheets of approximate sizes can be wrapped around arms, legs and torso, leaving gaps for elbows and knee joints. Friction will fasten them well enough where they overlap themselves. To suit up, start with the foam next to your bare hide where it will do some good. Cotton underwear only holds moisture. Over the foam put a pair of huge loose pants and a hooded parka about five sizes too big for you. Then your mittens and mukluks. That's all. Any more defeats your purposes of warmth, mobility, and evaporation.

(The original article includes a list of food and gear for a winter camping trip. It is in volume 8, number 7 of "The Green Revolution".)

[IMAGES BELOW]



Rayo, who called this article to my attention, doesn't think it is long enough for a very small person. *E* suggests making it a foot or two longer. That gives extra space for a book, some food, etc. inside. (*E* says 1" foam will pass enough light to read by.) Under arctic conditions, the end can be tied off by mounting a separate drawstring part way in.



I'll agree with you that it's hard to have vonuan ideas and live in a small town, which is what I live in. I do try to stay out of sight as much as possible in this town as there is a certain amount of prejudice against me here because of my ideas and lifestyle. I don't know, maybe you would class me as a vonuan if you knew me. Your publication has made me feel better because I know now that I'm not alone in my way of thinking. -J, Iowa

We live on a small island offshore...and many of our friends live in boats and cabins. We just moved from a tent where we'd spent a year and half. In this climate, it seemed like a long time. We'll pass the newsletter among us. Anyone interested in a water/small rocky island trip can write us. Our territory is around Lasqueti north to Desolation Sound about. -D. Macy, Lasqueti Island, B.C., Canada

Indians

reprinted from the spring 1972 issue of "akwesasne notes", white roots of peace, mohawk nation at akwesasne.

Not guilty!

via rooseveltown, ny 13683
Sacramento, California

There was a quiet joy among Pit River Indians as a jury found five defendants innocent in the Battle of Four Corners trial and then gave up in trying to reach verdicts in two other cases.

The defendants were arrested October 27, 1970, during a bloody clash with federal and Shasta County law enforcement officers when authorities moved in to demolish a Quonset hut built by the Indians on land controlled by the U.S. Forest Service at a highway intersection known as Four Corners near Burney, California. The trial was in Federal Court here in Sacramento.

The victory was the second major triumph in Sacramento courts. Last June 28, Indians were acquitted by a municipal court jury of trespassing on a Pacific Gas and Electric Co. campground in Shasta County in 1970. Seven Indians were convicted of occupying buildings at the site. The Pit River Nation is involved in a sustained effort to get a return of land which was taken from them a century ago, and which the U.S. Government now wants to purchase in a claims settlement for 47 cents an acre.

The Indians who were on trial said the acquittals indicate a growing public awareness of the treatment accorded American Indians. Pit River people are currently occupying land at Four Corners again, as well as another occupation on PG&E land, but no action has been taken to remove them.

The main prosecution witness was U.S. Forest Supervisor James Berlin. He said it was "out of my compassion for the Indians" that he had been willing to allow them to stay even temporarily in the hut on the site. "However," he testified, "the hand was forged and the game was up when the big trees were cut (by the Indians) ... This was on a scenic highway..."

On further questioning by defense attorney Aubrey Grossman, Berlin testified that millions of dollars in trees are cut every year on U.S. Forest Service land by lumber companies with federal government contracts.

Berlin concluded nearly a full week of testimony after admitting that he did not follow U.S. Forest Service regulations in the removal of the hut. In a full day of slow and tortuous process, another defense attorney, John Moulds, took Berlin through a maze of U.S. Forest Service regulations.

As Berlin resisted each step of the way, Moulds brought out that in cases of land claims or suspected legal violations in the U.S. forests, federal rules require a raft of steps to be taken by forest service officials. The steps include discussions with the persons making the claims, cooperation with the claimants in determining the legal justification of claims, comprehensive reports to be sent to Washington, and in cases of legal violations, the issuance of citations rather than arrests.

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"SO AFTER THE BIG BREAK-AWAY, AND ROAMING ARIZONA + NEW MEXICO FOR SOME MONTHS, I FELL INTO A TIPI SCENE FOR A WHILE HERE ON THE EASTERN SLOPE OF COLORADO'S FRONT RANGE. MEADOW, MEADOW SCENE. HEAVY, HEAVY HEAD CHARGES. THE PREVIOUS ENVIRONMENT HAD BEEN COLLEGE GARD STUDENT / WATER-BARTENDER IN CASSY RESTAURANT.

ONE DAY, WHILE EXPLORING FORMIDABLE TERRAIN NEAR 10000', CAME ACROSS AN OLD OVERGROWN + UNKNOWN MINING WORKS. COMPLETE WITH LUMBER + TIMBERS + EVEN A SERVICABLE WOODBURNER STOVE. WELL... FAR-OUT.

5 WEEKS LATER I'D COMPLETED A 16', 9-SIDED, YUAT-TYPE STRUCTURE; FLOOR, WINDOWS, SKYLIGHTS, INSULATION. CUT UP 2 CORDS OF WOOD + MOVED RIGHT IN IN TIME FOR THE LAST OF THE FALL COLORS.

ONWARD

VISCIOUS WINTERS IN THE HIGH COUNTRY. 10-30° BELOW; DAYS UPON DAYS OF GALE-FORCE WINDS. 4 TO 6 FEET OF SNOW CONTINUALLY ON THE GROUND FROM NOVEMBER TO MARCH. (MAN, THAT TAP WOULD HAVE BEEN JUST TOO COOL) DID SEVERAL WEEK-LONG STABACHES UPHEAD THE FARTHEST I'D MOVE WAS TO THE OUTHOUSE (BRAR) + WOODSHED.

AMAZING!

...AND SWEET SOLITUDE
SILENCE AND SATURATION
WITH MOTHER NATURE'S VIBRATION
LOOKING INWARD
I SEE
A PILGRIM
THE INNER JOURNEY

SO IT GOES
ONE STEP AT A TIME
IN COSMIC RHYTHM
AND RHYME

thanks to thomas
skinner for article
on right.



your BROTHER GARY

WASHINGTON (LNS) - The Senate Finance Committee approved a plan in the beginning of March that would require every child in the country to be assigned a Social Security number when he or she enters the first grades, beginning in 1974.

The Finance Committee is studying a plan that would make fingerprinting mandatory for "older" persons who apply for cards but "voluntary" for 6-year-old children receiving cards for the first time.

An objective of the plan, according to Committee Chairman Russell Long, is to block poor people from obtaining multiple cards with different welfare checks.

"I personally think that everyone ought to have fingerprints on file but I don't think we should require it at age six," Long said.

"It would be useful for other reasons with children - to trace lost children and runaways," he continued.

The Social Security and Welfare bill, to which the fingerprinting plan would be attached if approved, will be ready for Senate action in about a month.

HALIFAX (CP) — The Canadian outdoor sportsman faces many obstacles in pursuit of his or her particular activity but winter adds one element that could turn a hobby into a fight for survival — the cold!

Frank Pyke and Tony Richards, members of the faculty of the school of physical education at Dalhousie University here, have been studying outdoor activity in Canada, where 50 per cent of the land mass has a mean annual temperature below 32 degrees fahrenheit.

Their particular concern has been body heat, the lack of it and the principles behind its retention by the human body active in such an environment.

Pyke and Richards say man has two alternatives available that permit him to work in a cold environment. He can either produce more body heat or cut down heat loss.

The two physical educationists say a person active in the cold must know how body heat is lost—by radiation, convection, conduction and evaporation—before determining which measures should be used to avoid or reduce it.

They say the body will lose its heat to some other nearby body that has a lower temperature by radiation. The body attempts to fight back by restraining the flow of blood to the surface of the flesh but this can also result in frostbite.

The two men say one method of beating the loss of heat in this way is to add more fat under the skin surface by eating, a method favored by English Channel swimmers.

Loss of heat by radiation also results in loss of heat by convection. The warm body heat causes air near the body to rise and is replaced by colder air which in turn attracts more heat.

They say loose woollen garments are excellent for trapping layers of still air close to the body. Covered by a wind-proof anorak, a skin or cloth jacket with a hood, the person so clothed is able to prevent air flow near the body surface and helps in heat retention.

INSULATION HELPS

Pyke and Richards say mountain climbers have a problem with loss of heat by ice axes and pitons made of steel and are in constant contact with cold rock.

They lose heat by conduction when their bodies come into direct contact with a solid, cooler body. The two men say heat loss in this way can be minimized by wearing insulated boots and by using an insulated object, such as a rucksack, to sit on instead of the ground.

But the instructors say the most potent avenue of heat loss is the evaporation of sweat from the body. They say the skier and hiker must avoid getting wet either from rain or by sweating.

They say the loss of heat by evaporation of sweat can be prevented by removing layers of clothing as the body heats up during exercise. Upjohn includes opening collars, cuffs and the bottoms of trousers.

A man in Texas buys used hearses, cuts off the backs, installs campers in the rear, and sells the vehicles. Two men that I know have purchased these converted hearses and use them on fishing and hunting trips. They sleep where coffins formerly were placed –Mrs. Lyle C. Hugo, Ramona, Okla.

Vonu Life People,

I can say I am a vonuan according to your definition. The only blight on my life that I became a member of Bludgs Naval Reserve force several years back to avoid worse when they came breathing. I am starting to turn my van into a self-sufficient vehicle. I am much into shelter/structure as I languish in architectural school. The time I have in the Navy is equivalent to the time needed for my degree so I'm staying around here till then. –E., N.Y.

VONU EDUCATION AND THEORY

10je73

Mailing address: ALA, Box 91, Berkeley, CA 94701. Subscriptions: 15,000 words (four of these sheets) for \$1, mailed first-class after an ounce has accumulated. Orders are filled with back issues when available unless otherwise requested. This sheet is also distributed as part of some VZW-member publications such as VONULINK. Quantity price: 100 copies of one sheet for \$3.

Articles, letters, and clippings are welcome and will be published, space permitting, unless otherwise requested, ad will be paid for in subscription credit at the rate of ¼¢ per word. Full names and addresses are not published unless requested. Preferably type single-space, black on white paper this size allowing one inch margins, one side only. Put anything not for publication on a separate sheet. This sheet is edited by Rayo. Other sheets which may accompany this one reflect the views of their respective editors/publishers, not necessarily those of Rayo. First printing: 300 copies. Reprinting is welcome; please give credit including address and price. Member: Vonu Zinet Exchange.

Note: If there is a red mark here this is a sample copy. To receive more issues, send \$1 to ALA, Box 91, Berkeley, CA, 94701.

INTRODUCTION

VONU EDUCATION AND THEORY (VETH) exists to help develop more-useful insights on freedom achievement and to disseminate vonuist worldviews. VETH is for vonuans (or “self-liberators”) of all lifestyles. VETH is also for the many individuals who yearn for less vulnerability but have not yet managed to break away from the State’s shackles and blandishments. VETH is for seasoned libertarians who are weary of the dogmatism, ego trips, contradictions between strategy and economic theory, and general ineffectiveness of previous anti-statist ideologies. VETH is also for those just becoming aware of the ties which bind, and seeking better understanding of problems as well as real solutions. Likely topics:

Overall strategies of freedom achievement. Comparing wilderness vonu, vehicle mobility, smumism, small-boat living, deep-ocean developments, underground structures, international mobility, deception involving conventional structures, etc. Is it better to try to change one’s life by “quantum leaps” or through a series of small steps?

Learning vonu techniques and attitudes. What are the best methods for young born into a vonu lifestyle? For adults changing lifestyles? “Psychological liberation”. What attitudes toward the State are most conducive to effective action? How can existing anti-state “expose” literature be best utilized? Can someone develop from statism to vonuism without going through a movementist phase and wasting time and energy trying to “reform the world”.

Associational means. How can vonuans interact for greatest mutual benefit within families? Groups? Cultures? The Earth?

Traditional groups with some vonu characteristics such as Gypsies, Free-Masons, Jews, Navahos, Seminoles, Shuswap, Doubkuors, Mennonites, internationally-mobile rich, hobos, witches? How successful have they been? Why? What characteristics might vonuans profitably adopt? Avoid?

How many vonu and non-vonu cultures evolve? Probabilistic, multiple-scenario forecasts of the next ten years. Indirect effects of various vonu techniques on the non-vonu society. What techniques are best kept secret from outsiders? What techniques are advantageously popularized?

VETH will not go into detail on specific lifestyles: e.g., how to trap a bear, how to build an “undetectable” slow-code transceiver. For this kind of information, see VONULIFE, VONULINK, LIBERTARIAN CONNECTION, ALTERNATE SOURCES OF ENERGY, LIFESTYLE, MOTHER EARTH NEWS, SHELTER PUBLICATIONS, GREEN REVOLUTION, and various trade/hobby books and magazines. (See VONULIFE 73, pages 111-114, for addresses and prices.)

Nor will VETH run articles refuting statist myths (“why we need” state schools, drug laws, taxes,...etc.) except for pointing out refutations especially relevant to vonuism. For a catalog describing a wide spectrum of “mind liberating” books, send a few postage stamps to Laissez-Faire Books. Also see back issues of such periodicals as THE INDIVIDUALIST, RREASON, WIN, A IS A NEWSLETTER, THE MATCH, INNOVATOR (28 back issues of the latter, which include early vonuist writings as well as ideological pieces, are sold for \$5 postpaid by Lisa Dawn, Worldway Postal Center, LA, CA. This is not an unqualified recommendation of all these periodicals; some of their articles, especially their ideas on strategy, are poor.

To anyone not already a VONULIFE reader, I strongly recommend buying their 1973 handbook plus all older issues, for background information on vonu and vonuist theory. These are sold for \$3.50 postpaid (total for 11 issues) by VonuLife, Box 248, Paradise, CA 95969.

VETH will be small at first, usually a single sheet per issue. It may evolve into a larger journal if demand and articles become sufficient. I expect to publish a few issues per year. I have been a vonuist for about eight years and have lived as a “drop out” urbanite, van nomad, and wilderness-vonuian. –RAYO, Editor

ROOTING OUT THE OUTPOSTS – BIBLIOGRAPHY

When preparing this article (VONULIFE 73, page 109) I wrote to several libertarian/anarchist book sellers for bibliographic suggestions. Sharon Presley of Laissez-Faire Books Sent the following list (which arrived too late for my VONULIFE article).

Education: CRISIS IN THE CLASSROOM, Hotl's books, MACHINERY OF FREEDOM, and many more.

Welfare: REGULATING THE POOR (2.45)

Money and Banking: WHAT HAS GOVERNMENT DONE TO OUR MONEY? (1.25), ECONOMIC DEPRESSIONS (40¢), UNCLE SAME THE MONOPOLY MAN (6.95)

Judicial systems: UNCLE SAM THE MONOPOLY MAN (6.95), FOR A NEW LIBERTY (7.95), MACHINERY OF FREEDOM (forthcoming in paper, price not set, see catalog)

Conservation, anti-pollution: TANSTAAFL (3.50), THE LAISSEZ FAIRE IN POPULATION (free from Population Council)

Prevention/regulation of monopolies: ANTITRUST LAWS OF THE U.S. (5.50), THE INCREDIBLE BREAD MACHINE (2.95), MACHINERY OF FREEDOM

Radio allocation; MACHINERY OF FREEDOM

Auto/aircraft safety: HIGH PRIESTS OF WASTE (8.95)

Building safety: FREEDOM TO BUILD: HOUSEING BY AND FOR THE PEOPLE (2.95)

UNCLE SAM, THE MONOPOLY MAN is also suggested for the topics local police protection and roads/highways. Sharon adds, “Even though UNCLE SAM...is \$6.95, it's SO GOOD and I had to list it. See review in catalog.” (Send 25¢ to Laissez Faire for catalog.)

Most (all?) of these books and many more are sold by Laissez Faire Books, which sells both over the counter and by mail. I believe these prices are postpaid.

Note by Rayo: Most of the authors of the above books with which I am familiar are not vonuists. Their exposes of government programs are carefully researched, perceptive, and well worth reading for “psychological liberation”. But their recommendations on strategy – i.e., what a concerned individual might do to increase freedom – are usually naïve and flagrantly contradict their economic ideas.

(This is partly in response to the ongoing debate between advocates of “limited government” and “anarcho-capitalism”).

Both ‘limited government libertarians’ (LG) and ‘anarcho-capitalists’ (AC) believe in *deux ex machina* [NOTE: “God from the machine”] which will keep their idealized open-market capitalism pure. For LG the *deux ex machina* is a Constitutional Government which has powerful military/police forces to discourage foreign and domestic aggressors yet which somehow abstains from harassing the peaceful. For the AC the *deux ex machina* consists of various protection agencies and insurance companies, which remain peacefully competitive and cooperative on the whole, rather than fighting each other, forcing people to do business with them, staking out territories, and becoming States.

Both hypothetical systems are contrary to historical experience. Power corrupts sooner or later. State functionaries do what they can physically get away with regardless of what is written into a Constitution. A Constitution can be amended, suspended, “reinterpreted”, or simply ignored. And, on the rare occasions when sovereignly-independent military forces have occupied the same territory, the result was not competition in protection but civil war terminating in one or more territorial States. Many AC seem to believe in word magic: if independent forces are **called** protection agencies and insurance companies, they will somehow abstain from doing the dastardly things which States will do. How insurance companies, for example, behave in that society as organizations subordinate to the State, is not necessarily how they would develop if independent of the State.

Achieving freedom and preserving freedom are really the same thing – States can be thought of as bad protection agencies (or whatever). But most LG and AC try to separate the problem of *achieving* utopia from that of **preserving** utopia once achieved. Few LG are seriously running for legislatures (other than for publicity) or testing the constitutionality of laws. Even fewer AC are attempting to organize protection agencies capable of defying existing States. Instead, to achieve their utopias, both LG and AC invoke another, higher-order **deux ex machina** – a “cultural revolution” – a fundamental change in the world-views / ethical values / political attitudes of most people. Certainly popular attitudes can and do change, and can and do affect political systems. But LG and AC err in thinking of popular attitudes as something independent of and antecedent to a political/economic system. A person’s world-views depend in large part on the opportunities and problems he perceives for himself; so long as he feels subject to the State and powerless to change it, he will rationalize that the State is really necessary if not good, and will reject out-of-hand arguments to the contrary.

I have come to question not only the LG and AC approaches to the problem of institutionalized coercion, but their ideal as well – open-market capitalism (which is not what is commonly called “capitalism” in that society). Even if pure open-market capitalism were achieved through some fortuitous circumstances, I believe it would be hopelessly vulnerable, both to outside enemies and inside power-seekers. U.S. economic and political history from about 1880 thru 1910 comes close to being an example of the decay of capitalism by internal forces (reference: Kolko’s **The Triumph of Conservatism**). During that period there was considerable economic freedom and consequently relatively little stability of wealth. “From shirtsleeves to shirtsleeves in three generations” was typical. Large, long established companies were often cut down in a few years by newer, smaller, more capable competitors. There were no “safe investments” in which playboy heirs could multiply their wealth while concentrating on “high society” games. The “old rich” watched in dismay as “new rich,” still with “lower class” manners and speech, enjoyed the trappings of wealth. It is no accident that many socialists were the no-longer-very-wealthy offspring of wealthy families. And it is no accident that many large industrialists were instrumental in obtaining government regulation of their industries. The supposed purpose of the regulation was to protect the Public from Big Business. And this served to co-op most of the “reformers” of that era into supporting the legislation. But the actual result of regulatory laws was to protect established companies from new competition.

There already existed a central government for the “capitalists” to manipulate and expand. But some large companies also hired private thugs to harass competitors and unions. If there hadn’t been a State, it is difficult to believe that these forces would not have evolved into States.

Given pre-industrial technology, especially the communication and transportation which existed at the beginning of the “capitalist era,” open-market enterprise, even to the limited extent it was able to develop under State controls, was probably the most efficient way of producing/marketing things. Given the vastly different capabilities today, I wonder if this is still true? Comparing problems of open (publicly displayed) market and vonu (clandestine) market: An open market is subject to State restrictions and taxes, if any, whereas a vonu market can largely avoid them. On the other hand an open-market can advertise openly, produce in large quantity, and sell thru a relatively few middlemen, whereas vonu marketing must be by “word of mouth” and requires either decentralized, small-scale production or many middlemen.

In the recent past, vonu marketing has been limited mostly to products and services which (1) can only be produced locally on a small scale, such as lawn mowing, auto repairing, hair cutting; or (2) are illegal. Products for which both approaches are competitive indicate the comparative costs of open and vonu marketing at a given time and place – e.g. alcoholic beverages.

In the future I expect more and more automatization of “word of mouth” communication and middlemen functions, greatly increasing speed and security at reducing costs. The newer electronic technology (integrated circuits) is greatly reducing the time/cost of coding and interpreting data. It is also increasing the ability of snoopers to snoop and correlate their findings, but not in proportion. For example a relatively small, cheap device can encipher data beyond the ability of any conceivable computer to break in a thousand years, or even to identify as a cipher. And soon there will be inexpensive radio systems capable of relaying data in ways not traceable by a hundred FCC’s.

Here is how one such system might operate. To buy or sell something I type or speak an inquiry, order or offer into my Secure Communicator (SC). My SC enciphers my message and transmits it to SC’s of a few individuals I know and trust, which in turn they automatically re-encipher and relay it in microseconds to SC’s of people they trust, etc. In this way my message can quickly reach the SC’s of a very large number of people. Someone who is selling what I’m buying has keyed his SC to watch for messages concerning that product. When my message reaches it, it deciphers and notifies its owner. He and I then converse, almost as easily as by telephone/telefax, but without having any idea who or where the other person is. At this time we may change our cipher so that our message is no longer intelligible to intermediate SC’s which relay it. We come to terms and arrange delivery. If it is a physical product, delivery may be made through a drop. But most “products” will be information in one form or another, and can be delivered through the SC net. An example might be a program for my automatic micro-shaper which enables it to machine a replacement part for our home flour mill, or even parts for a newer, more capable automatic micro-shaper.

While a dishonest or unreliable person might join an SC net, he could endanger only his immediate contacts, who made the mistake of trusting him. Anyone who used the net to defraud could be cut out of it; furthermore, his immediate communicants would for a time be considered less reliable. My SC could automatically compute the reliability of intermediaries thru which a message comes, as well as selecting alternate routes. Proprietary data, such as a program for my hypothetical automatic micro-shaper, might be protected from plagiarism by putting individual variations of non-critical dimensions in each part. Payment would most likely be in credits, transmitted thru the net to an “underground” bank.

Secure Communicators and many other vonu products/activities will be developed and used only to the degree that people acquire secure shelter of one form or another, either thru outright concealment or by clever deception. SC’s can be declared illegal, just as armored cars, firearm silencers and gold have been. All known abodes and places of business will be subject to inspection, just as they are now. And if an unidentified or “unauthorized” piece of equipment is found, the bludg will likely presume that it’s contraband unless the occupant proves otherwise. Such laws will be difficult to enforce; SC’s can be hidden or disguised, just as gold sometimes is now. But the few violators who are caught will be publicized. And most of those who lack vonu

shelter will be sufficiently intimidated to abstain from using gold – or Secure Communicators. So vonu shelter is a crucial prerequisite for substantial vonu trade.

ONTOGENY RECAPITULATES PHYLOGENY IN PHILOSOPHY

by Chet

27my73

You ask whether it is necessary to first go through the mass movementist “stage” before becoming a vonuist, and after reflection, I think that it probably is. X would have appeared to skip the movementist stage but it soon became clear to me that in many ways she was playing a game she secretly did not understand (or even thought ridiculous) simply to make herself acceptable to me. That doesn’t mean that she couldn’t have learned the real reasons later or that her desire for my approval based on admiration of other features was necessarily irrational.

A good analogy is that “Ontogeny recapitulates Phylogeny” – rather than the developing fetus rapidly undergoes all the stages which have been involved in the entire biological evolution of the species from a unicellular organism. Sometimes certain steps are dropped or added, but this is merely an elaboration of a theme.

The knowledge-behavior orientation of a newborn probably follows similar patterns. Simplification plus the fact that it is harder to discover answers than to relate them can easily lead to telescoping of stages. I’ll frequently take years to arrive at a position and then look at myself and think that it seems as though I should have known it all along.

Societal evolution: (1) pre-statist (disorganized violence); (2) statist (organized violence); post-statist (organized violence); post-statist (civilization). I think the world contains individuals fitted to all three societies. The pre-statist brutes often end up in jail. The post-statist “civilized men” should at least know enough to be careful or discrete with the state.

SURMOUNTING PERSONAL OBSTACLES – ADDENDUM

by Rayo

10je73

One “heuristic” I neglected to put in my VONULIFE article: Make optimum use of existing resources. Example: If someone has already spent many years getting into a high-paying vocation, and now finds e doesn’t like it, it may be wise for e to try to bear it for a few more years, live frugally, and salt away the surplus so as to be financially independent for a long time to come.

Another example: We once knew someone who had an almost new pack frame and bag which, he decided, wasn’t the best size and style. Although his financial situation was precarious, he sold his pack for a small fraction of what he’d paid and bought a new one.

Many people behave this way. I sometimes did when I was a child. Perhaps a cause is a false sense of perfectionism – an unwillingness to accept PAST actions which do not accord with PRESENT values and knowledge, and a wish to be rid of objects which remind one of one’s mistake.

Turning this heuristic around: Profitably use the discards of others. One way to outfit inexpensively around here is to visit the former camp sites of “summer hippies” in early Winter and pick over the clothing and other equipment which has been abandoned. (Caution: make sure it is really abandoned – if in doubt, leave a note.)

BOOK REVIEWS

MARATHON 16, Martin Shepard and Marjorie Lee, Pocket Books #1971; reviewed by Haelan.

I recommend it most highly – for the techniques illustrated: I don’t necessarily agree with the values expressed, except that one’s life should be as joyful as possible and that one needn’t allow stifling conventions to deprive one of satisfactions. Rayo read the book also, and then we had our own “marathon”, asking and answering some of the same questions that were used in Marathon 16. That helped to bring out some things which I had thought but never talked about. (E.g. the qualities/characteristics one doesn’t like about the other person. There aren’t many things about Rayo which I don’t like, and they are not important to me, but nevertheless, telling him what they were made me feel better. We also told what we most liked about each other.)

THE PECULIAR INSTITUTION, Kenneth M. Stamp, Vintage V253, \$1.95. This book is about negro slavery in the U.S. South before 1860. And it's interesting as straight history. But of special relevance to vonuists, are the descriptions of psychological control techniques employed and their similarity to those of current State institutions: compulsory school, conscript military, taxes. As Dick Bray (I believe) once wrote: "Slavery hasn't been abolished, just nationalized." Some quotes:

"A small group of slaves obtained from their masters the privilege of "hiring their own time." These bondsmen enjoyed considerable freedom of movement and were permitted to find work for themselves. They were required to pay their masters a stipulated sum of money each year, but whatever they could earn about that amount was theirs to do with as they wished...By permitting a trusted slave artisan to hire his own time the master escaped the burden of feeding and clothing and of finding employment for him..." (p. 72)

"Untutored slaves seldom speculated about freedom as an abstraction. They naturally focused their interest upon such immediate and practical benefits as escaping severe discipline and getting increased compensation for less labor." (p. 88)

"The masses of slaves, for whom freedom could have been little more than an idle dream, found countless ways to exasperate their masters – and thus saw to it that bondage as a labor system had its limitations as well as its advantages. Many slaves were doubtless pulled by conflicting impulses: a desire for the personal satisfaction gained from doing a piece of work well, as against a desire to resist or outwit the master by doing it badly or not at all..." (p. 98)

"The overseer on a Florida plantation, dissatisfied with the rate at which the hands were picking cotton, tried 'pushing them up a little,' whereupon some of them retaliated by absconding. Sometimes these escapes resembled strikes, and master or overseer had to negotiate terms upon which the slaves would agree to return." (p. 113)

"James Redpath, the Massachusetts abolitionist, traveled through the slave states trying to persuade slaves to run away. But the bondsmen generally needed assistance more than persuasion." (p. 121)

"An Arkansas master suggested the adoption of the 'Army regulations as to the discipline in forts'. They must obey at all times, and under all circumstances, cheerfully and with alacrity"... (p. 144)

"The master should make it his business to show his slaves, that the advancement of his individual interest, is at the same time an advancement of theirs. Once they feel this, it will require but little compulsion to make them act as it becomes them." (p. 147)

"Through religious instruction the bondsmen learned that slavery had divine sanction, that insolence was as much an offense against God as against the temporal master...They heard that eternal salvation would be their reward for faithful service, and that on the day of judgement 'God would deal impartially with the poor and the rich, the black man and the white.' Many claimed that imparting Christian doctrine to impressionable slave children was especially beneficial. It taught them 'respect and obedient to their superiors,' made them 'more pleasant and profitable servants', and aided 'the discipline of a plantation'... (p. 158)

"Much could be gained by 'exciting his pride,' by cultivating in him a desire to have a reputation for honesty and fidelity...'If I ever notice one of 'em getting a little slack, I just talk to him; tell him we must get out of the grass,...and then, may be, I slip a dollar into his hand and when he gets into the field he'll go ahead, and the rest seeing him, won't let themselves be distanced by him.'...The rewards and incentives took numerous forms. Giving slaves a small plot of ground in which to cultivate their own crops during spare hours was one of the most popular." (p. 163-164)

"His slaves are sometimes his creditors to large amounts; at the present time he says owes them about five hundred dollars...' Since the money settlements did not come until after the crops were harvested, deductions could be made for misbehavior. This I have found to be a powerful lever in my hands to enforce obedience and fidelity"... (p. 165)

"Critics also argued that when slaves EARNED money they became 'vain and arrogant' and felt 'more independent.' It was better to...GIVE money rewards to those who served faithfully." (p. 166)

"A slave was not to be 'at large' without a pass which he must show to any white man who asked to see it..." (p. 208)

"Those who belonged to a master with great wealth and social prestige frequently identified themselves with him and looked disdainfully upon those who belonged to humbler masters." (p. 338)

"The mere threat of sale was an effective method...Many slaves believed that bondage in some distant state would be infinitely worse than the bondage they knew...Virginia slaves trembled at the thought of being shipped to the Louisiana sugar district." (p. 194)

VONULINC 11, JANUARY 1973

Vonulink is published every two months as a readers' forum and supplement to vonulife. Compiled by Lan.

BY LAN

I'm sorry about the poor purple pages in vonulink 10. So I'm reprinting them here. You can throw the purple away. From now on I'll try to print most of each issue. I dog what Rayo says about bulk. I'm still looking for a printer on the west coast who can do 100 copies cheap and photo-reduce.

I'm trying narrow columns this issue to see if this makes it easier to read. Typing and pasting up is a little more work.

Now and then I get a letter from somebody who wants to meet vonu people and who asks how to find "us" when *e* gets "here". Vonulife and vonulink are just means of communication. There isn't any central community of vonuans all living in a big cave under Mt. Shasta or somewhere. There are different individuals and families and little communities living in different places and different ways. Some are around Siskiyou, some are in other places.

Different people have different policies about meeting people. Some have homes which are open to visits – a few even print their addresses. Some don't tell where their vonuums (homes) are but are willing to meet visitors somewhere else. Some meet people only through mutual friends, not through zinets. Some are completely closed.

My own situation is somewhere between the last two. It's not that I'm a complete hermit. But I don't want my doing vonulife to cause problems for people I may be involved with in other ways.

If you want to get together with other vonuans you might first try people who have open home situations and who live near where you live. I've got a file of hundreds of people all over the continent and a few overseas who have subscribed to vonulife at one time or another. Chances are there are some near you. You can write letters to them and I'll forward. The first six forward a year are free to subscribers except for postage, after that 25¢ each.

If you live around Siskiyou or come here often maybe we can arrange a drop somewhere where we can leave things for each other. Save postage. Also more privacy. I can lend you things – books, magazines – vonulife gets a lot in exchanges, and maybe you can lend me things.

I've been told that vonulife's P.O. Box was broken into in late Oct. and mail taken. Luckily there was only a couple of day's accumulation. But if you wrote me and haven't had an answer this may explain it. This is another reason I want to arrange more drops.

Last issue I forgot to thank Rayo for helping rewrite the heading, also suggestions about the split. Also I agree about "e's". I'm switching to "er." "Free" magazine which I mentioned last issue may be out of business. I sent them a letter and it came back marked, "moved left no address".

Paul Doerr, I'm interested in what you said in v. 9 page 5. "The best way for vonuans to get the little money they need is by an independent service the straights need...A classified advertisement for a week will get all the work you want to do in any one area. Do it and split." What services have you sold this way? How about other people? (With most services I would think straights are fearful of doing business with somebody who isn't "established". Or haven't you found this to be a problem?)

Thanks to somebody (anonymous) for sending "the first and last freedom" by J. Krishnamurti and "Walden" by Thoreau. I haven't finished "freedom". It's pretty abstract and heavy reading but the ideas are really good. I read "Thoreau" a long time ago, but it's worth re-reading.

Thanks to Rayo for "Anthem" by Ayn Rand. (I received it last summer but didn't get to it until the last snow storm.) It's kind of like "1984" but shorter and with a happier ending. It's about two vonuans who grow up in totalitarian village – sort of a kibbutz gone sour – which is surrounded by woods. Most villagers are afraid of the woods and never go outside the village. But the heroine and hero run away to the woods and find an abandoned house in which they live. "The Mother Earth News", Nov. 72 (\$1.50 from Madison, Ohio) had several items of interest.

"The Plowboy" interview with Ram Bux Singh mentioned that one pound of dried leaves will generate 7 cubic feet of methane whereas one pound of cow dung only one cubic foot. Singh, from India, seems to be really into "simple, small" (relatively) methane generators. One e designed for "mother" isn't working yet. Sounds pretty big and complicated for vonuans.

"The Return of the Sod Roof". This is about ordinary farm building roofed that way for which sod seems to me not to be good. It makes the roof twice as heavy which means there must be stronger support. And all the stuff which is put on first would make a pretty good roof without any sod. But for vonuans who want to blend in sod could be useful.

"No Budget Snowshoes". Make out of branches and string. Not fancy to look at but they work.

I saw Nov. 1 issue of "Alternatives Journal". It contains criticism of behaviorism and "Walden 2" as sexist, also rebuttal.

"Communities" is a merger of "alternatives" (The Modern Utopian), "Communitarian" and "Communitas". First issue of about 40,000 words is \$1.

If you have sent something for publication and it's not in this issue it may be because I'm keeping it for vonulife. Since vonulife will be out in a couple of months I didn't think it would be worthwhile to print these things here too.

I've received a lot of good articles for vonulife but I'm still looking for more, especially about education/children, keeping warm without artificial heat, update information on buying, outfitting and living in vans, campers, and buses, earning money without much involvement with the system.

I'm looking for a good summary article on the draft – telling about all the different ways of responding to it – c.o., disability, emigration, disappearing, etc. – advantages and disadvantages of each and places to go for more information about each. There must be something I could reprint but I haven't seen it.

When you write me a letter tell me if you want it published and how much – vonulink only, vonulink pool pages (see page b this issue), vonulife. If you want things published different places put on different pieces of paper. I only guarantee publication in vonulink.

Right now my pool pages are only going into one other zinet (200 copies total). I've gotten quite a few letters from people looking for mail forwarding services. If you know someone who does this and who is stable and reliable tell e to write.

Great, we need a specialized directory, particularly for North California. I hope you get it out soon. In another month or three I'll be living on my boat. I still hope to find several people with boats so we could form a discontinuous community. I have heard of a deal near Ukiah of land at \$100/a if anyone is interested in splitting a 40a piece. Evidently some issues didn't reach Rayo when he published v1. Is he reading yours? If not I'll send to him if you'll give me a drop for him. Can you use a hand whip in place of an electric blender? I'm working on a design for a backpack that can double as suitcase when in town...just take off straps, etc. New suitcase types have covers of cloth, etc. so either a flat or safari type round shape with sewn-in bands and d-rings and removable shoulder straps would look okay. I carry a tarp, sleeping bag, hammock, 2 or 3 changes of clothes plus the usual pans, survival stuff, etc. Several city friends now keep a ready-packed pack and gear ready to grab at any time and run. One calls it a scatpak. An Armalite AR-7 stores in its own stock, floats, and uses regular 22lr. It's very accurate though I would prefer a bolt action. It's used by services as survival gun and is available to public. You could get a mail drop for your mail. I do this for some free but if you want a business arrangement, how about \$1/month? Mail official to be held until called for but actually to be mailed to any address one time on receipt of a postcard and every card can have different address for travelers. I never see you nor you, me. You can shift P.O. monthly, weekly, or whatever. Officially, I would have no current address for you. I would postulate three restraining factors against nuclear war...1 sovereign wants vast over-capability over us to enable them to smash us with no retaliation/damage to them...2. they want various products from us first...3 they hope/expect our form of government to change or us to lose our will freedom whether from political/physical/disease reasons, thus delivering us to them at no cost to them but the price of subversion/disease spreading. We are their first target since we are, now, the one obstacle to

their world rule, so if they can't take us, the next best would be to get rid of us. Who else could resist them? Close study will show our actual military ratios relative to them are slipping much faster than even the scare papers show so possibly a fourth reason will be that we may become too weak to resist their demand for the equivalent of surrender. A determiner drive to catch up might precipitate a preemptive strike. This may be the intention of various political personages. They seem to be trying to bring this about. You can see various political/bureaucratic changes progressively increasing speed over the last few years. I sometimes wonder if me-govern isn't just a stalking horse. He is so ridiculous he may be used just to cover other actions. Rayo, while the science fiction devices for detection do exist and are being used and improved, I doubt if they have much availability or efficiency here yet but they are coming and are something to be considered for the future. I mention them just as what is on the drawing boards, though some are in use now, of course. You can buy air maps from any county courthouse now. They are used for tax purposes, to find buildings, etc., count stock, etc. They could be used in a concentrated search now and may be standard someday. The various detectors...rock, metal, heat, light, etc...are used in conjunction with cameras. The photos through the different gadgets are all taken at the same time then developed and superimposed...then later, other photos of the same kind are taken and again superimposed. They are treated differently so differences between the two sets of photos will stand out to the observer, in high-magnification comparison-scanning, much of it done by machine. Any difference will then be checked, by foot if necessary. It is a complicated process but as it becomes more mechanized, it will be an almost instantaneous process. I know what a bear can do and what a storm can do but so will the machine. Consider the advance from Buck Rogers in the paper to the actual flying belts we now have. I have seen these. They are a small jet with a large transparent plastic fuel container strapped to the back and look just like the small gadget Buck wore in the early comic strips. And we are on the moon too. You might also be interested in the various "UFO Detector" gadgets for sale at \$10 or so. These are simple field detectors which you could use to detect one of the search fields they might be handy to vonuans depending on what type of detection they want, and what type search fields the bludg use. Some years ago someone put out a thin powered by batteries...the alarm that is...which plugs into regular current and, if the current goes out, the alarm sound goes off. A civil defense thing. Something similar is available for radio...if the stations go off the alarm sounds off. It is said by some Alaska guides that bears will respect your keep-off signs if you use what the bears understand...that is, a ring of urine around your camp. A company...davis?...selling plastic boat gear, sextants, etc. also sells a solar cooker for \$10 or so. It uses the sun heat to cook your food. European outhouses, especially in Greece, are just squat holes so why not a deep hole with a movable squat stall to set over it with a lid when not in use? There are only two or so of us. I read now that kelp can be ground and made into bread though I've not tried it yet. Ever consider hidden trot or set lines for fish? Work them before dawn and avoid all other times. For an age-long example of the elimination of the freedom instinct in man read...medieval village, manor & monastery, G.G. Coulton, and Roots of Evil, C. Hibbert. Honey is hard to find now. Anyone know where to buy it around the bay in 60s or 100# cans? During WWII, someone...England?...found he could isolate stomach enzymes in termites, etc. that digested grass, etc. and plant them in man's stomach, though I've heard no more of it lately if anyone wants to type out a letter size stencil of information adv. etc. I'll run it free in Pioneer. Make your own gear. Nylon and dacron for boat sails can be bought...3 to 8 oz., 36" \$1.25/yd to \$3 from companies listed in boat mags. Suitable for sails, packs, tents, clothes, etc. Dye any desired color. I know a man who can find treadle sewing machines for \$20 plus freight. Several Euell Gibbons, etc. books are in pb at \$2.98 to \$4.98 each. Someone should make a list with where got. Indians in west planted corn, squash, etc. in places in spring and moved on to return at harvest time. Probably left someone to watch but most work was done. Man or woman lived in small Hogan in field. I'm interested in how to grow garden and field crops in dry land without irrigation. Any ideas? There's a law which most don't know about in emergencies, only vehicles with civil defense stickers can use very many roads. This may keep some out of your area or it may keep you from running you are in the city. Why wouldn't an enemy hit high mountain passes and bridges over canyons to bottle traffic? Maybe sabotage just before attack? Have you noticed the recently, greatly increased number of civil defense type breaks on TV? Tests, etc. for traveling muddy ground, is it possible to make

bear or cattle “shoes” to wear to hide your tracks? Or a BIG padded shoe to spread weight enough to leave no track? Or a foam padded snowshoe? Bow is faster and less clumsy than crossbow or so it seems. A strong crossbow would need a crank device. The crossbow is more accurate only for dubs, which is why they were invented, an archer needs much more training but he is the better, faster shot in the end. Desert people use sand after toilet. Swamp people use water, which may be why disease is so prevalent there. Arabs wash several times, even after urination. Incidentally the men squat, perhaps to cut sound? They have an allium that grows wild in the dry places they use for food. Perhaps people here could start patches of various kinds of “wild” foods and leave them till needed in out of the way places? Anyplace around the bay to buy dry kelp? –PAUL DOERR

SMALL ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADS

These announcements are free to subscribers – up to 100 words a year. Otherwise 10¢ a line plus 20¢ an ad. Need not be about vonu living.

DIRECTORY OF UNUSUAL PUBLICATIONS. Keeping up with the unusual and smaller periodicals is a real hassle because of the constant change. Don’t know of anyone even attempting a yearly listing, however for several years we spasmodically put out our E.S.P. Directory which is a fair attempt to list the weird, unusual, the metaphysical, the occult, the mind improvement schools, mystery schools, new age, and generally all the publications that would possibly appeal to someone with an open mind. The only other concern we know of with a similar directory sells it for \$ plus. As usual, I will let V.L. readers have mine for a paltry 50¢. Also Herb Book, “How to Survive the Depression” and other non-V.L. things. –AL FRY

BARTER WORLD offers a currency system backed by productivity. Participating small businesses transact business with this medium amongst themselves, reducing taxes, saving cash for other expenditures, and finding new customers at minimal expense. Currently operating in southern California, distributors sought worldwide.

Most of the two ads above were typed using a sample of “mylar reusable carbon typewriter” sent by Recorded Dictionaries. Reusable? Not on this typewriter it isn’t – riddled after one pass, looking poor after two passes.

Thanks to John and to Al Fry for mimeo stencils. I’ll try them out next issue. This issue I have too much.

The LIBERTARIAN CONNECTION is an open-forum laissez-faire magazine for libertarians. All subscribers have the privilege of contributing material, which will not be edited. LC is known for its creative ideas on practical actions and theoretical considerations in the expansion of both individual and larger-scale freedom.

INVICTUS – a magazine intended for rational, open-minded people concerned with personal happiness and individual freedom. In addition to essays on philosophy, psychology, economics, and politics. INVCITUS features poetry, fiction, satire, book and movie reviews, and more.

BRING BACK PAGANISM! The Church of All Worlds is a neo-pagan religion dedicated to the celebration of life, the maximum actualization of human potential, and the realization of the ultimate individual freedom and personal responsibility in harmonious eco-psychic relationship with the total biosphere of Holy Earth. We have a growing number of Nests across the continent – one may be near you. Our magazine, GREEN EGG, is published 8 times a year. Thou Art God! –CAW

We will protect and maintain your abandoned farm dwelling for the privilege of living in it. Caretaking includes safeguarding adjacent outbuilding, fields, woods, crops, livestock, and water systems. No utility hookups needed, except on-site water. –Dale Deraps

Dear vonu people: We're mostly into wilderness living. We're not vonu; our present goal is an out-of-the-way, small farm, but that may change. Anyway, we're sympathetic and we respect your secrecy.

I don't know much you know about nutrition; I haven't read all the newsletters, but I hope you're getting enough nutrients. We second Erich's recommendation of "Diet for a Small Planet". We've both biology backgrounds and we've been studying Adelle Davis – she's got the most documented and complete info we've seen.

We hope the winter in those rugged hills will treat you kindly. We need to learn more about squatting possibilities. Heard there are new controls on mining claims. A & C (Oregon)

Greetings Lan: The clipping enclosed about Dewey Walker's lifestyle is about ten years old. He may still be out there. It gives me pleasure now and then to re-read about how he does it and it might be of some inspiration to your readers. My location, about four miles from Lake Erie, is close to the most southerly part of Ontario and Canada. So I do not have any firsthand information on suitability of northern Ontario for vonuans. I do know that Northern Ontario temperatures drop to 25 and 50 degrees below zero. There is lots of space up there to get lost in but knowledge of surviving the harsh winters would be important. No. 1 issue Lifestyle features a \$50 underground house that might be useful in the north. Some of the park areas in Ontario might be good locations for vonuans and a map of Ontario showing them is enclosed.

Just thought of the book: "Cache Lake Country" by John J. Rowland, available Mother Earth News. It is based on author's experience of spending winters in Northern Ontario woods will timber cruising. It is one of the best books on getting away from it all and surviving the harsh winters. –TOM SKINNER, West Lorne, Ontario.

BEARDED HERMIT LIVES LIKE MAN IN 19TH CENTURY. A visit with Dewey Walker is like stepping into the last century.

Walker is a bearded hermit who has built his own house, makes his own shoes and grinds his own corn with a home-made mill fashioned from two pieces of limestone.

He is 61 and has lived alone 15 years in a wooded area near the Mississippi River in southwestern Illinois. There is no road to the clearing where he has constructed a one-room log home.

He has few complaints. One he mentioned was the shortage of flax thread, which he needs to make his shoes from discarded tire casings. Cotton thread doesn't wear well.

Walker built his heavy grindstone mill for the corn he grows in the clearing. He grows most of his food. Anything else he needs – threat, tobacco, or lard – he gets by bartering with an occasional passing neighbor. "I don't remember the last time I went to town," he says.

He receives no pension or relief money, but once in a while he trades a few hours work for a distant neighbor for a few things from Grand Tower, a town of 1000 population.

Walker's house is the work of a nineteenth century craftsman. He learned woodworking as a boy and was employed in a sawmill.

He never married, and until clearing his portion of the woods worked as a hired hand around the area. Using an antique tool called a froe, he split over 600 shingles for his roof. He still makes barrel staves for water casks and furniture for his home, working with hand tools, some of which he made himself.

But Walker is thoroughly happy. "I like the feeling of independence." (thanks to Tom Skinner)

Lan: Wish I could help you on investigating vonu here in Sweden. Someone else must look into this. Not because I'm not interested. It's just that paranoia reigns supreme. I've been here 4 years. On 5 different occasions, I feel attempts have been made on my life. These have ranged from cloral hydrate poisoning (and walk home past the canal) to road accidents (2) one of which left a body, to being followed in other countries (when I was looking for a safer home). Which led directly to James Bond stuff and a pool of blood in front of my house. (I think they got the guy in the front room).

Another time I got a faceful of gas (What smells like onion?) when I should have been sleeping. At the same time a key was tried in my door lock. These guys spoke very good American.

I live in a 9'x12' gas chamber complete with cooking gas piped in. I've been told that another man killed himself by gas in this room. Sweden has the highest suicide rate in the world. They call it suicide when the cops kill.

Jimi Hendrix died in London. He was sleeping in a hotel with a white girl. Two coroner's reports. First said: obstruction in throat. The second said: drugs. He died with two great horse pills of something just poked deep into his throat and drugged so he couldn't cough. The girl was unharmed. It's my idea that he was gassed too, same as me. Possibly the girl too. I can see little teams of specialists who just tour around doing errands. I met one of them a la Orient Express on a train in East Berlin. Well, we got to talking. Nothing I said surprised him. He even added details. He said, "Nothing personal, your name is on a list". I heard this phrase "nothing personal" before. Always just before I got shafted. This was also just before an "incident". This guy was obviously on "speed", maybe other stuff too. This explains a lot. A job to do, fine, temporarily I'm superman. I know where the body is buried so after a while, I get an O.D. of something. Then the boss doesn't worry about loose talk.

Mass anything has got to be done by idiots. Mass espionage and repression is no different. Drugs help reward and punish. They also close the books. Of course only idiots will be attracted by these methods. There are other methods too but they are more expensive and take up intelligent people's time, so are used more sparingly to achieve more remunerative results.

Vonu can be done anywhere. Years ago, an American Army deserter married a French woman and lived with her about 15 years without anyone knowing. A Finn was found 10 years ago living in a milkhouse on the farm. He ran away from the cavalry during the First World War because he was afraid of horses. 45 years vonu.

It can be done. I doubt if it can be done without a lot of help.

Sweden is like a small town. Everywhere. A Swede I know came from Poland during Hitler's invasion. He was an injured 15 year old Russian high wire circus performer. He's got people who come checking up on what he's doing yet. I doubt if he's aware of it. He's got a "friend". The bludg to great lengths to watch everybody. A foreigner disappear? Not goddamned likely.

I still say Guevara was found by aerial photography. Here's why. The L.A. Free Press had a note where someone at some air force base in California (Vandenberg?) was boasting that a spy plane left there to photo rap them hills. True, a high altitude photo may not just do everything needed. However, they've got cameras that will focus for less than 60,000 feet and as there's no risk at all, they can come back many times. And you can pick up game trails without too much trouble. Radar will photograph the ground and eliminate all foliage. I've seen some of the photos (reprints anyway) and it's really weird. From low altitude you should get enough detail to see any digging for arms caches easily. Now these bludg were very interested in him. They trained special groups to deal with him. I can't see them begrudging the cost of film.

It's true that all areas of the world can't be covered so intensely. But patterns show on those real high altitude photos. And for geologic, mineral reasons they may become interested in any area intensely enough for more and closer photos, giving small details. And there you are!

So I favor digging. Limestone caves are damp and prone to flooding. Yet they are deep enough to be warm. Maybe you could start there and dig to eliminate dampness and flooding. It should be lots easier to dig up than down. And there's plenty of space for dirt. Some caves may have enough ventilation for cooking with a wood fire.

Easter Island is full of small caves formed by gas bubbled in molten lava (glass). There's two kinds of islands in the Pacific, coral and volcanic. It seems to me that caves could be found in all the volcanic areas of the world and that's a lot. All the caves are apt to be small though and may even be dangerous due to gas in a new eruption. A plug of concrete may solve that in most cases. Maybe there are dikes (lava intrusions) in Siskiyou. Geological maps may show some. -B. (Sweden)

Have you tried "Wildcrafter World" and "Back to the Sticks"? Very strong on gathering roots, herbs, and barks, trapping, fishing, and assorted means of making a living from the woods. Has outlets for the various wildcrafting. Started printing in 1946, with nearly all back issues available. Many special manuals on things like ginseng, goldenrod. The "Homesteaders Landcrafters Newsletter" is not as good as the other publications.

VEHICLE LICENSING MORE COMPLICATED. In making application for 1973 validation stickers for license plates, it is not required that the owner give the following information besides the name and current address: 1972 license plate number; owner's driver's license number or social security number (joint ownership must have both numbers); type of fuel used (gasoline LP or diesel), and color of vehicle. (Iowa, thanks to W.A.)

ANOTHER LOOK AT FOOD

by Al Fry

The human being is designed for a given life expectancy just as each breed of animal has its "measure of days". Persons or animals that reach a cellular deficit beyond a certain point just cease functioning regardless of what they eat or what they think. I believe man should have a potential of maybe a hundred and fifty years, but in the course of the last few thousand years, this potential has been bred out.

Yes, I think that man has constantly exterminated his superior breeding stock and just as a stock raiser who fostered the weakest of his herd would get short-lived "scrubs", so we have short-lived disease prone "scrubs". Hospitals are filled today with persons whose nature is trying to liquidate and who are in most cases recovering to propagate more of their kind. I am touching on this because there are many persons who get so wrapped up in the "health food thing" that much of their perspective is lost.

Man is king of the animal world mainly because he has his 5 point digestive system – he can eat and assimilate about anything. (The rat with a 4 point digestive system is the next most efficient and popular animal.) So if man's genetic background is up to snuff he can eat about all the nasty white flour and other garbage that he wants if it doesn't clog up his system first. I'm sure we all know persons with "good stock" who can eat just about anything without problems. This at first perplexed me because for years I lived on "whole" this and "natural" that and often had worse health than these "garbage stuffers".

So to wrap it all up, I suspect we should all learn what is right and wrong for us to eat and forget about what Joe "know it all" next door advocates. If you are allergic to a food you will get a slight rise in temperature and perhaps a stuffed up nose – if the food contains a poison to your system, you will get a headache, etc. – if the food is not rough enough for your system, you will get constipated. All in all, nature will guide you along and in good health if you have the breeding. If you don't, you may have to baby yourself or your weakness or condition.

I almost ruined my stomach once from eating whole wheat. Even when my stomach knew better week after week. Each person is different and you should find your weaknesses and strengths if you would live up to your potential.

Also forget about living to over a hundred unless your ancestors did. You will find longevity tied to heredity, not what is eaten, although it can help of course. These whiskey drinking, cigar smoking, garbage-eating centenarians among us should us a clue.

Fewer colds, more energy, freedom from minor aches and pains, yes good healthy food can help here but generally speaking I am enjoying better health now that I am using common sense instead of worrying so much about what I put down my gullet.

Phil Smith is correct as to snake bite procedure and I didn't mean to imply running was a good therapy, only as an illustration as to the effectiveness of the sweat glands to eradicate poisons and toxins. (v18) Ice packs are often used now on bitten area to slow down circulation. However if I had access to a very hot steam room...The fever nature induces is only good for mild toxins and 150° temperature at least is required for more toxic poisons. I have a chiropractic machine that will direct heat through tissues much like a wiener in an infrared ray oven and can get very good results on internal heat problems, etc. with just this artificial heat (or temperature if you will). This and half a dozen other machines incidentally came from an Estate sale and v.l. people in populous areas might check with their coroner for a good means of keeping some green filtering in.

At the moment my mate will lose her son if she follows me in my usual lifestyle so while thus temporarily rooted we have found yard sales, swap meets and such are a good alternative to punching a time clock. Estate sales are often a good way to “stamp in”. –Al Fry

“A slave is one who waits for someone to free him.” Ezra Pound

My suggestion for sending money via postal money orders assumed that the situation was a number of people sending money to more-or-less established businesses (like yours), and hence was oriented towards protecting the sender. One way to protect both would be through an “underground bank.” Each account holder would be given a set of four- or five-letter identification codes for withdrawals (to be used one time each), and a similar set for deposits (which could be used as often as one wants; or one could specify that some or all were to be used once only). Transfers could be then made from account by the payer giving one of his withdrawal codes and one of the payees deposit codes in a letter to the “bank.” This could be sent by the payer to the payee, like a check, for the payee to note amount, etc., and then forward to the “bank.” The bank would have a list of all ID codes alphabetically, giving the same (or just account number) of the owner of each, so that the appropriate transfers of accounts could be made. Access to a computer to generate and alphabetize the codes would be helpful, though not strictly necessary.

The “one-time-use-only” feature of the codes would come in handy if/when the bank was set up to take radio orders. That way, someone overhearing the conversation couldn’t use the overheard code(s) to rip off the account. Right now, it looks like there will soon be authorized a new Citizens Band radio service, called “Class E” (vs. the present “Class D”), at a much higher frequency (not that vonuans would worry about “authorization;” it’s just that that would cause the market to be flooded with a large assortment of cheap gear for this band). This frequency would carry a lot less far than the old Class D (making overhearing by the bludg much less likely), and could be directionally beamed by hand-held devices (instead of a roof full of plumbing, as now required). In an area, cheap transponders that would rebroadcast any received signal could be placed at various places with commanding views (e.g., hidden in the tops of trees, etc.) Monitors (such as the bank) could keep directional receiver antennas pointed towards these (solar cell powered?) relays. Callers would just point their directional antennas, and call. As bludg locate one relay, another could be used, placing new ones from time to time so there would always be plenty. To get fancy, they could be equipped with selective-call systems, like car phones are now, so that they would only respond when the correct sequence of tones was transmitted. A few strategically-placed banks of relays within range of each other around the upper slopes of a peak (naturally, the peak itself would be best; but of course it would be very vulnerable to detection) could cover hundreds of square miles, with only one or two trips a year needed to replace broken and discovered stations. Peak-to-peak relays could tie as much territory as you wanted into a net. With different tone sequences, or maybe just by pointing your antenna at a different spot, you could key into whatever locality you wanted to reach. Sort of like Direct Distance Dialing. Or maybe each area could have its own frequency, with relays in all areas on that frequency to relay calls to (or from) that area from (or two) all the others. The Class E band has room for dozens of channels, and of course you could use the same gear for frequencies lying some distance outside the “official” band. Perhaps some single channel or group of channels could be set aside for communications from individuals to relays in all areas, since the areas would, by definition, be out of radio range of each other (if they weren’t, they’d be in the same area).

Ambitious projects, but maybe eventually there’ll be vonuans enough to make it economically feasible. Something like the “bank” could even be started by mail today. The Atlantis people, with their ATCOPS Transfer Orders, are doing something along this general line, though not really underground. A mail address outside the U.S. (in B.C., for instance; or in England, like the Agora Fund) could even make this sort of operation moderately safe, though how profitable it could be in the near term is another matter.

I sold my business in July and am now back selling my house. In short time I hope to be gone like a great speckled bird. I will use the same address for awhile as these people will hold

my mail. I tried Adam's idea of planting some crops under beaver dams in hills, got unsatisfactory results. Big problem I had was I couldn't get back often enough, when I did get back in the crops had been destroyed, animals, or unusual amounts of rain had either eaten or washed out crop. Also because of rain, I couldn't even read signs of animals. I must write to Adam to see how he is doing this. Do you still mail letters for us? (Yes, see upper left page 1.) (New Mexico)

Dear Lan,

October 16

Enjoyed the copies of VL awaiting when we returned after wandering through New England and maritime Canada. We have been parked in one spot of the last month and a half. It's an alley way in the city and the bludg do come down the alley occasionally. So far no contact. Not very invulnerable except I'm living with the expectation of moving on any time necessary. So if you want to change my subscription you may. Al Fry asked about bad spots in the east: we never had any trouble (i.e., bludg contact, etc.) but we didn't find likely spot for one night's stopover difficult to locate in southern Vermont. Finally stopped on road to obvious vacation homes and prepared cover story to fit – it wasn't needed. I suspect any area heavily into tourism, etc. might be the same. Never had any trouble using "rest stops" or picnic grounds. Recent motor home mag mentioned getting tough policy in White Mountain Forest in New Hampshire for camping in unauthorized locations.

Don't quite understand your new publication scheme: will first vonulink be out in November? Did you mean 1200 words? The general idea sounds admirable. Already checked local offset shop and may send you a long rap when I determine your publication schedule. Well anyway it looks like I am definitely getting out of here in 26 weeks. Would like to get up your way but probably won't head west till next Fall at the earliest.

After four months in the bus – it ain't bad. That heater I mentioned in the last communication works great. Turn it on in the morning, put water on top. Get back in bed. By the time the water is boiling, the bus is warm. And cheap old kerosene you can buy in any general store for 25¢/gallon. Will report when the weather gets colder, but so far it's beautiful.

Thommy Barton of Nomedics Tipi Makers, Star Route Box 41, Cloverdale, Oregon writes in a letter in "Mother Earth News":

"After one year here I've found jobs to be abundant. The forest service has about 10 different types of contract employment, from piling slash by hand to road repair and planting (trees). Pays \$3 to \$5 an hour...Live in a tipi or whatever, right in the middle of it all. Bid the contract yourself and be your own disciplinarian. "

October 20, 1972

Last issue I mentioned that I have never been hassled by the bludg. As I write this (mid-Sept.) I'm lying the field behind the house we're living in, sunbathing in the nude, drinking a pint of homemade brew, listening to the crickets chirp, and watching bees flit around goldenrod beams. If I stand up, I can see the houses of suburbia way over there, but they can't see me down here behind the tall grass. We've lived here for months now; they don't bother us, we don't bother them. It seems I don't have to go off to the wilderness to do my thing, not just yet anyway. I can usually find a comfortable niche wherever I am.

This morning we walked back behind the house to get some pears. The house we're renting sits on an acre lot, but you can walk maybe 3 miles back through overgrown fields and small woods. This is good foraging land, land that's in between, no longer being farmed, but not yet cut up for suburban development. The speculators in the city who own this land don't care who wanders around on it, as long as it gives them no trouble. So we can go back and gather the harvest: pears, apples, wild grapes, elderberries, choke cherries, strawberries, sumac, hawthorns, & more. Picked a couple bushel of pears this morning which didn't dent the supply. We'll can some, dry some, and tomorrow I'll take a boxful into the Co-op to give away.

If anyone wants to gather, dry, and sell herbs, I can provide a market. The co-op where I'm coordinator stocks 4 or 5 dozen herbs and perhaps I could provide a link to other food co-ops in

this area. You'd have to match the quality and beat the prices of our other suppliers. Rayo, we can pay 60¢ per lb for bay leaves, postpaid to us. Let me know if interested and we'll order. Anyone, write to me what herbs you can supply and I'll quote prices we can pay. (Jim Stumm/Box 29/Hiler Branch/Kenmore, NY 14223)

Most banks already microfilm all checks, regardless of fate of Bank Secrecy Act. They also ask for social security number for a checking account. Perhaps one could refuse to give it. It would be less noticeable to make a "mistake" when giving the number, reverse a couple digits or something. Does anyone know the coding of S.S. numbers, so one could construct reasonable phonies? There apparently is a pattern which may relate to issue date and perhaps geographic location. I formerly worked in checking account department of a bank and I've seen IRS bludg spend days by the microfilm reader gathering info on some "evader". Consider bank records about as secret as a billboard. I will be happy to answer any questions I can about the internal workings of a checking account department; just write to me.

I'm really confused now about vonulink. I don't know how much of what I send you'll print, or what the readership of anything I write will be. As with others, vonulife has been useful to me mostly for information, access to other information, and inspiration. But a 2 month wait for another jolt of inspiration is already long. A year between issues would make it useless for that. Sorry to see you dropping photo repro with reduction which I thought a very efficient, flexible technique. Won't mimeo cost you much more in postage? I'll continue to send whatever I have, and you can print all, or some, or none.

My experience with collective living and observation of other around here indicates that this is an ongoing process rather than achieving a fixed status. There is a constant flow of people, houses, changing relationships. If you need something more stable, this is not for you. But any bludg will have a very hard time trying to trace you through all the changes. Getting the right people requires a continuous selection process. With non-compatibles, you ask them to leave, or you leave. When we have an opening in our house, we all talk to the prospect; any present roommate can veto. You have to be ruthless about telling someone they can't move in, if it won't work. A house should stay small enough so everyone knows everyone, then social control will prevent anyone getting ripped off, e.g. you'll do the dishes as a favor for your friends, unless you decide on a more formal work rotation. Any conflicts must be talked about, don't let them fester in silence. The collective I know are all both sexes, but few children. Sex relations are flexible and tend to evolve over time. Persons are free to work out their relationships as they please. Where all are tolerant, problems are manageable. But collective living is an art. Some are naturally better at it than others, & it does take some learning.

MEMON has a NEW address...Preferably mail for MEMON, in a plain envelope marked simply "MEMON," should be wrapped in a sheet of paper (to prevent show through) and inserted in another envelope addressed to: "Laissez-Faire Books, New York, NY." P.S. MEMON is seeking people who have somewhat "public places" (like a store or an office) who would be interested in operating terminals on a "Transcription System." This would be a sort of "underground post-office" for the confidential anonymous and safe transmission of letters, money, and goods from place to place. For more information, write and if possible give Libertarian references and details concerning your facilities.

Now would be a good time to establish an open season on the two-legged predators of the Fish and Wildlife Service...

I'll bet you thought that the Fish and Wildlife Service was established to protect wildlife. Wrong! Their main duties were to kill wild animals and birds.

Last year, the Fish and Wildlife Service wiped out 6,000 badgers, 842 bears, 1000 beavers, 89,000 coyotes, 20,000 lynx and bobcats, 7,000 opossums, 7,000 porcupines, 6,000 raccoons, 19,000 skunks, and 3,000 wolves.

Mostly they do this by wholesale poisoning, using a poison referred to as "1080." It is put on food and grain the animals and birds eat. Death is lingering and agonizing. Many animals, including the bear, slowly lose their fur and just gradually die. (from unknown newspaper by way of "Awkwesasne Notes")

For sea dog and city dweller alike, the urge has never been stronger to set a sail on open water – equipped, of course, with as many dry-land conveniences as budget and ingenuity will allow. After spending tantalizing hours at winter boat shows – and an estimated \$3.8 billion for new gear – nine million U.S. boat owners are preparing impatiently for the new season. Among new seafarers the trend is away from the big, sleek yacht to smaller, less expensive boats. Many of the new craft are multipurpose. Among them: a hydroplane-sailboat that frisks along at 30 knots; an air cushion vehicle for use on shore as well as at sea; a snowmobile that converts into a speedboat and a house trailer that becomes an ark...Wearing Aquaskims, small pontoons with fins along the bottom for traction, a mariner (walks) across the water for his mooring. Made in Canada, the new water shoes cost \$19.95 (source unknown, thanks to Erich for clipping).

UNDER WATER! UNDER GROUND! HYDROPHONE OR INTRUSTION SENSOR. For detection of marine life, human voices beneath the sea, and as a property intrusion device. Sensitive to sounds of footsteps, trucks, vehicles, human voice, all marine life. This unique MIKE with amplifier makes excellent under water and intrusion detection device. With amplifier circuit using popular 741. Output impedance 2,000 ohms. (thanks to Lisa Dawn of “Libertarian Connection” for information).

TONGAN NEGOTIATIONS. Preliminary details have been worked out for opening negotiations with the government of Tonga for the sovereignty of the Republic of Minerva. Mr. Fred Elliot of Guam has been appointed Chief Negotiator. Mr. Elliot has lived in the Pacific since World War II and is familiar with the customs of the island people...Negotiations with Tonga are only a part of an overall Plan of Action for the acquisition of additional territory in the Pacific area. First and foremost, if Tonga can be persuaded to recognize the Republic of Minerva, the other countries of the Pacific Basin will do likewise. We are attempting to purchase the land area of three other islands from the individual land owners which will enhance our position when we attempt to annex them into the Republic of Minerva...The new nation is a constitutional republic where government is limited to protect and give recourse to citizens against force and fraud, and cannot engage in any commercial or welfare activities. (from October 1972 “Minerva Times,” Minerva Office of Information)

(from “Two-Thirds” of the Nation’s Land: Report of the President’s Public Land Law Review Commission”. Thanks to Dave for the Xerox of recommendation #81 which I am excerpting from.)

A general recreation land use fee, collected through sale of annual permits, should be required of all public land recreation users and, where feasible, additional fees should be charged for use of facilities constructed at federal expense...Because of the widespread nature of recreation use of most wild land areas, and the general lack of control of access to such lands, it is impractical and too costly to levy and collect a fee only upon entrance to areas either generally or for each use occasion. We believe a general use fee can be most efficiently collected through the sale of annual licenses or permits. Sales can be made effectively and simply through sources such as the post offices similar to the manner in which duck stamps are sold, while at the same time permitting sale at entrances to national parks, for example, where personnel are stationed...The general land use fee should, at the outset, be minimal (\$1-\$3) to assure that it is not discriminatory and to simplify its administration...Children under 12, welfare recipients, and persons over 65 year of age should be exempted from the payment of any fee...We recommend that a penalty be imposed for failure of a recreation user to have the permit in his possession on the public lands.

Dear Lan,

November 17, 1972

Thanks for your note. My position on this job is, as it would be for most VL people, to raise funds (for a high-seas venture next fall), rather than as a “company man” just doing a little tour here. I happened to have worked for the same outfit before simply because when I got out of the arm, only GE offered me a job, and when GE laid me off in Santa Barbara, GE here in Alaska

was again my only offer (well, not quite: on both occasions, I was offered a job (the same one both times) in Buffalo, NY, for \$2000 less than I got in Santa Barbara; some choice). The only difference is in the way I got the job: GE in Santa Barbara passed an intra-company resume around, whereas someone on the outside would have had to do the passing around himself. Most of the other people here, though, are “company men” who were laid off in the Lower 48, or who got into some financial bind, or who wanted to build up a nest egg, etc., but the plan to go back to work for GE after spending a while here. The makeup of people at this site is different from those at similar GE sites in other parts of the world, though. The pay scales are similar, but the other sites offer tax advantages – if you stay 18 months, there is no tax on the first \$20,000 earned. For this reason, the minimum tour there is 18 months (vs. 1 year here), and the minimum tour extension is 1 year (vs. 6 months here). The net result is that this place is filled with “short timers”, who plan to go back shortly and/or new people trying out this sort of life. Jobs at the other sites are made available on a seniority basis: one needs to have a year or 18 months in here to work up the ladder. As a result, most of the people here have been here less than two years; the senior man on site has about 3 years, and has just agreed to transfer to another site.

As for the outfits I mentioned in LC, I don’t really know any more about them than is contained in their standard package. Just write them and they’ll send you the same stuff.

This place is a two mile by four mile island entirely taken up by an Air Force base, and is 1400 miles west of Anchorage at the end of the Aleutians. Not much opportunity for vonuans. Sorry ‘bout that.

–FILTHY PIERRE (more by Pierre later)

VonuLife or VonuLink?:

Where did I see name-ad for geologist in Selma-Cave Junction area? In VonuLife? Can’t find it now. Would like to contact.

Tom: Found extra VL 3 & 4 and have copy of Monopoly for you, where is your drop box?

Rayo: Comments regarding your “Comments on Vonu Life #5 and #6 To Lan” (VL #7, May ’72, last page): For a youngster your points are well taken and show considerable understanding. We “middle-age-to-elderly-sympathizers” may go for the small farm but that may be just a means to an end. The time is nearer to us than to you when backpacking a ton of stuff may be more than the body will take. Old injuries return to plague us, and the cold is colder. There should be a less rugged Vonu Lifestyle. Keep trying, we may be with you yet. You have come a long way since the Pacific Island project.

Looking back just to 1940, there were virtually no people or publications to even question Big Brother Bludg; J.T. Flynn was ranting and Leonard Read getting started. Many considered government as evil but necessary. The concept of bludg being unnecessary evils seems new, to this present society anyhow, at about the middle of this century when some half dozen authors (one in ’30) either firstly stated that government force, coercion, was evil and UN-necessary or indicated that they were considering such a novel and unpopular idea.

By government or bludg, I refer to the organized force used by an elite to control the rest – chief, king, communist, dictator, fascist state, democracy, the limited government, the conservative, talk about, or the vigilante-insurance-defense agency of some libertarians. There are hundreds – thousands – who have been exposed to this self-government concept. Time will tell how this exposure develops, but it is new and growing.

Individual liberation is not new, perhaps some hermits of old, Monks, mountain men, and gypsies were opting out of their society as the Vonuans today. We have no records of those really successful yesterday or today.

I can’t speak for all m-a-t-e-s but I am delighted to have the opportunity of knowing such modern pioneers – to know that you are out there. We hope to work out exchanges profitable to all, that is our objective – to apply Spence Heath’s Golden Rule of voluntary, reciprocal exchange, particularly between the land owner-developer and the land user. –JIM STUMM

P.S. VL 10 came on day I was mailing this.

Lan – note to Rayo. Excellent, Where and when can we get together to develop some of these ideas?

Our emerging pattern of living: From April through December we live in a wilderness area – usually secluded, occasionally moving. During Jan., Feb., and March, we are on the road in our camper, traveling as far as Baha Calif., the north again to Siskiyou region; buying supplies, sometimes working, browsing in libraries, and rapping with freedom achievers.

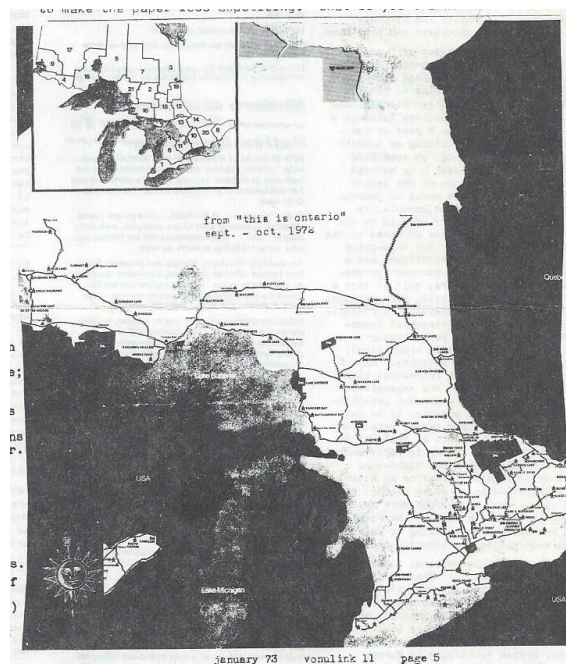
Our major activity is experimenting with vonu – devising and testing techniques and equipment with potential for reducing vulnerability to human predation. Roberta is especially interested in food supply and nutrition, Tom in shelter in communication.

We have chosen, at least for now, a more accessible if less vonu pattern of living than some seek. We are not especially threatened by bludg – less so than is the “average law-abiding citizen”. Tom is over draft age; we have no school-aged children; we rarely use psychedelics; our income is below taxable levels. So we can experiment with unorthodox living arrangements in relative safety – we can survive the failures as well as celebrate the successes – and communicate the results. Our personal stake in vonu, besides the challenge of finding better solutions to a chronic human problem, is survival of nuclear war or other disaster.

In many ways, we admire the closed-close vonuans who, seemingly, have no outside communication except in writing. But, at present, such communication depends on the Post Awful. We hope to reduce our own dependency by cultivating a network of personal contacts along the Pacific Coast.

We have difficulty making connection with visitors in our home areas; it is easier for us to go to them. Most of the people we are able to visit have stationary places of contact. Through them, we meet other nomads.

We like to exchange information, herbs, used books, and instruction. If you and we have not met, and you are open for a visit, write and let us know place, best times, your interests, etc. Our mailing address (only) during Jan. through March 73 is Vonu Life (R), Box 458, Cave Junction, OR. (If we have visited during the past two years, we will attempt to contact you if we get into your area – please write if you have a new address or phone number.) We come with our own food and shelter.



Congratulate me! I finally made it! Color me vonu!

I'm now living in an abandoned stone cabin on the side of a large canyon, which shall remain nameless, with a friend of mine. It is in a transitional region between desert and mountains. There is an abandoned (gold?) mine in the backyard. There is no water here yet, but there is a permanent spring nearby that could be developed. Its miles to the nearest other habitation. I will try to expand upon this later on, when I have some experiences to report. For the winter, I plan to live on dehydrated food, but next spring, I hope to be able to do some informal gardening.

Speaking of the government, have you noticed any attempts at government surveillance of your operation? You would probably be in a better position to observe this, since your publishing operations are more visible to the bludg than the rest of us. The bludg is undoubtedly aware of our "back to the land" movement, though it has given no overt sign of this. I feel that, in general, the bludg wish we would go away, but they have no real desire or ability to hunt us down. However, they will certainly try to make life more difficult for us in the future.

I have noticed a general tendency toward greater boldness in VonuLife. In the beginning, I used to feel that it was somewhat unnecessarily or excessively concerned with secrecy. Of course, some secrecy is necessary, but I don't feel that you need to worry seriously about surveillance by satellite for the moment. But lately, you have gone so far as to consider city vonuism, which would have been unthinkable earlier, a virtual contradiction in terms. What audacity! This shows the changing attitudes of vonuans, perhaps gained through experience, that vonuism may be easier than first thought.

However, I don't agree with the idea, expressed earlier on, that it would be desirable to establish a colony of independent vonuans about a half mile apart in the wilderness. That seems too close together to me. Except in a heavily wooded area, I think you'd have the various vonuans constantly bumping into each other unintentionally and finding each other's vonuum. A half mile really isn't very far for an inveterate wanderer. My father's farm back in New York is a quarter-mile long, and we were constantly finding some of the strangest people there. A mile or more seems to me to be a more satisfactory distance.

I have also noticed that the issue of nuclear warfare receives more prominence in VL than in the publications of other groups of free people, where it is regarded as nearly passé. Witness the continuing exchange between Rayo and Mitchell Jones. Of course, nuclear warfare is about the only issue you can't avoid through seclusion. What is the reason for this unusual preoccupation? Can it be that these vonuans subconsciously wish for nuclear warfare, as a solution to the population problem and other problems of vonuism?

Getting closer to home, I have a problem with small animals which nibble at my cardboard boxes and other papers. Can anyone help me devise some method to deter these hungry little vermin? I thought of sprinkling moth balls inside, but I don't want to smell up the contents. Maybe I could spray something on the outside, like mustard-powder paste, to make the paper less appetizing. What do you think?

CRITIQUE OF HARRY BROWNE'S DISASTER PLANNING

by Filthy Pierre

(condensed from "Libertarian Connection", Nov. 23, 1972)

I just finished reading the interview with Harry Browne in the November issue of Reason. Browne's basic problem is that he is a specialist in financial matters.

As Prince ("War is Too Important to Leave to the Generals") Metternich might have put it, financial matters have ramifications that extend beyond the area of financial analysis. In Browne's case, for example, they lead to wilderness survival; he advocates the preparation of a "retreat" to which one can repair when the "crunch" comes, and wait it out. But of course, wilderness survival is much more complicated than that. Suppose someone who had been born and raised in the hills considered that there was a significant chance of a forest fire that would make the countryside uninhabitable, and sought to provide for that eventuality by preparing a "retreat" in the city. Obtaining the necessities of survival, and "coping" generally, in any environment (city or country) is a highly specialized art. A few weeks spent camping in the country no more prepares one to live off the land on an extended basis than a three-week vacation

in New York would equip our hillbilly to make it in the city. If one really thinks that one's survival depends on surviving in the wilderness, one should go there and start now. To get some idea of the difficulties involved in adaptation to that lifestyle, read some of the personal histories in VonuLife of people who actually have made the decision. Even with the best of books well studied, and some camping trips, there remains much to learn about wilderness survival in general, and the peculiarities setup one has selected, that can only be gained in at least a full year, if not two, of "doing it." The idea that one can simply strike out on one's own after a few man-weeks (or even months) of prior preparation is sheer city-slicker fantasy.

Compared with Browne's expert analysis of purely financial matters (which I don't know enough about to criticize in detail), his rather conventional view of Armageddon grates. His basic scenario is of upheaval in the mold of the classical financial panic which he has studied extensively; a short (perhaps year or two), sharp "crunch," which those who have watched for signs can anticipate in time to go to their "retreat," followed by a return to some semblance of normalcy and financial sanity to which the retreaters come home.

By contrast, consider my "conservative" scenario (i.e., a situation somewhat worse than I would consider most likely, which I would want my planning to provide for to provide some margin for miscalculation). I look for a slow decline (perhaps a decade or two, rather than a year or two – too long to survive by "holding my breath" in some temporary retreat), on something like the Roman Empire model – or perhaps like Imperial China in one of her cyclic periods of eclipse. This would be punctuated by a number of sharper convulsions similar to the confiscation of gold in the Thirties, the roundup of the Japanese on the West Coast during WWII, or the wage-price freeze of 1971. Some possibilities are a "freeze on jobs" (i.e., government permission required to hire, fire, quit, or take a job); requirement of official permission on a case-by-case basis to travel; "preventative detention" of "seditious elements" (someone like Browne would be particularly vulnerable, given his public reputation); and "requisitioning" all vehicles. Any of these could play hob with retreatist plans. Even Browne failed to see the wage-price freeze as any more than a general possibility; had he been in a position to be hurt by it, he would have been caught completely by surprise. And this sort of "putsch" is always done this way. I was in Paris during DeGaulle's troubles with the right-wing Secret Army in Algeria. Fearing an attack on the city, DeGaulle moved at night; when we woke up one day, the troops were in the street, tanks were stationed at strategic points, and all people entering or leaving the city were subject to identity checks.

And at the end of this decline, I see no quick return to normalcy. There would be erosion of the central government's powers de facto (quite likely no one would really care about the de jure formalities, with various localized power centers developing. This would follow the general pattern of the feudal system developing in Europe after the fall of Rome, or the warlord system in China. Perhaps the best comparison would be Europe after Charlemagne; for centuries, the various German principalities, free cities, etc., professed nominal allegiance to the "Holy Roman Emperor" (Charlemagne's title), but the holder of this position had little real authority that he didn't have by virtue of being head of his own bailiwick.

Economically, I see a prolonged period of general depression, perhaps like the situation today in Haiti, Portugal, or East Germany – no sharp ups and downs; just a general grinding poverty. The market for specialized skills commonly found today will be limited, and marketing them will be risky (placing oneself under the jurisdiction, at least temporarily, of local bosses). Judging from history, it will be a long time, if ever, before the U.S. again becomes the economic and political center of the world that it is today – look at Greece, Rome, or England.

So what do I recommend? I start out by assuming that the "troubles" will be worldwide in scope. The Depression of the Thirties was worldwide to a large extent, and the economies of the world (including Switzerland's) are much more closely interlocked now than they were then – particularly in matters of currency. Of course, if one assumes the "crunch" will be significantly less elsewhere, one simply moves there now and sits back to watch the show. But assuming a worldwide collapse, the need is for some lifestyle that can be used with minimum inconvenience now; will continue to provide a good living throughout the decline, with a high degree of security from various convulsions; and that will insure being able to profit from whatever civilized activity remains, and claim a secure place in the rebuilding process.

(The next two reprints are from "Akwasasne Notes," Mohawk Nation, via Rooseveltown, NY 13683.)

TEPEES DECLARED UNFIT FOR HUMANS IN ASPEN, COLORADO; LACK PLUMBING

Aspen, Colorado — Lamont Kinkade, city sanitarian here, has been trying to have a number of white youths living in Indian-style tipis evicted from them, citing "health hazards."

One couple, Steve and Linda Conger, returned home one day to find a notice tacked on the tipi door flap. "NOTICE: Closed. Unfit for Human Habitation." The notice went on to list 15 violations of the Uniform Building Code, including no kitchen sink, no hot running water, no bathtub or shower.

The Congers demanded a public hearing, which was attended by over 200 people.

"We made our home safe, beautiful and pollution-free," they said.

Lou Wille, a lodge owner, concurred.

"The real polluters are the people with two or three homes," he said.

(Thanks to the Skiers' Gazette, a newspaper generally about the mountains, and to writer Bill Rollins for this information.)

Modern Medicine: Nothing New To Native American

With all the fancy laboratories and "scientific knowledge" at their disposal, today's pharmacists have not been able to discover one new use for a plant that was not well-known to the native peoples — at the time of Columbus.

In the "drugstore" of the fields, native people found essentials as diapers, pain-killers, shampoo, even birth control "pills". And researchers still are finding out why some medicines actually do work.

For example, Shoshone, Navajo, and probably Black-foot Indians relied on stoneseed, a common weed, for an oral contraceptive. Laboratory analysis has disclosed the plant does in fact contain estrogen — the same chemical used in the "pill" of today.

Indian medicine was closely tied to religion, and Indians are reluctant to discuss practices with outsiders. Sometimes medicinal secrets go to the grave with the elders, because there is no young person who is pure or qualified enough to be trusted with such power.

Others still are common knowledge. Toothache, for example, is treated by chewing the root of purslane, more commonly known as wild licorice, and holding it in the mouth. Earache is treated by chewing the leaves of the same plant and holding them against the throbbing ear.

Acne is treated by boiling the leaves of fern (wild bergamot or horse mint) and applying them to the pimples.

Puffballs, a type of fungus, is also useful. The soft central portion of a dried immature puffball was held on the eye to remove foreign objects. It was also bound on wounds to stop bleeding, and for the same reason was applied to the umbilici of newborn babies. The spores of the same fungus are sniffed to stop nose bleed.

Moss and the pads of cattails are useful for diapers. Soapweed makes a shampoo that leaves a fine luster to the hair.

When someone ran a fever, or got a headache, the preserved bark of willow was steeped in boiling water. Guess what chemists find in willow bark: salicylic acid — the basic ingredient of aspirin.

For diarrhea, take the root of a cherry tree, boil it and strain it through a cloth. Or boil Indian hemp root in water and use as a rinse to prevent falling hair.

January 73

A photo freak vonuan could have an easy and absolutely foolproof coding and decoding system if my idea works. The drawbacks are that it's a little complicated, but not hard to use.

The heart of the idea is fiber optics. Glass fibers can be bought in large spools (called roving) with a bundle of maybe 100 fibers that are continuous for the whole spool. It's the cheapest way to buy glass fiber. Wind up a bundle on a board. Then cut both ends. Join the two bundles. Now you can comb the bundle straight. A picture in one end comes out a picture on the other, with stray fibers giving defects in it.

Suppose again that you wove a thread back and forth many times through the center of the bundle, then pulled it straight. The center comes out pretty scrambled, but just to make sure, you do it again at right angles to last time. Then put the whole business in epoxy. Picture still comes through. But it won't if you cut it right in the middle. Now the exposed middle face of your bundle, or the ends of your now two bundles only show a pattern of dots for the picture. Photograph this. This is the message. Interception tells nothing. There's no intelligence here at all except sender had a camera and maybe some glass fiber. Is it a column of figures, a photo, text? There's absolutely no clue. Yet it can be decoded with either the bundle that made it or its mate which is a mirror image. It can be decoded no other way. Computer analysis is a waste of time. (Garbage in, garbage out.) Electronics freaks could scan photo with photocell to get signals for television type broadcasting. It would sound like real loud "white noise."

Decoding would be simple. Place photo on scrambled end. This must be done very carefully. Position is all important. Then read or photograph and enlarge picture coming through other end. Hang onto yer tights. —B (SWEDEN)

There is an article in "Motor Boating & Sailing" Oct. 72, on regimentation of small boats. Thanks to Erich for clipping. It sounds pretty grim for anybody who expects to obey the law.

VonuLife, Mie her (not hur) iz beelow mie shoeldur blaeds; mie beard is between mie tits; these too sints 1947; berfootud wints Jan. 1960; kut'of pants mints 1969; noe jakuts oer sweturz (oenless shurt thout sleevz) sints 1968. Ie liv umung peepul, but liv as mie "inur kunvikshuns" diktaet, except now, iem wundreeng fie kood git bie asu "soeshhul noodist", thown haveeng mie miend "woerpt" bie thu "bluj" (powrz that bee). Those iem not foolee toeld (inurlee) too goe naekud werevur ie am, ie

wood like this kundishun too preevael umung peepul, asu freeum uv choys, geruntee bie thu konstituoooshun, an pleez doent theenk mee nie-eev fur menshuneeng thu “freedomz” ritun in ovr konstituoooshun, kuz Friskoe brot tits owt in thee oepun, then Elae brot asux along with tits, u fue yeez laetur, soe sumhow, soeshul noodizum out bee u wae uv life werevur peepul deezier it soe. Ie woerk foer mie room and hav bin wunteeng too git foniks ukros fur thu past too yeez. –Joesif, Bednash, Venus, Kalif.

[EDITOR’S NOTE: The above is an example of new type of languages that some vonuans sought to create. If it’s not super comprehensible, don’t worry. –SHANE/RAYO2]

Buildings and roads built below the living green surface of the land can restore ground space to life again...This new office that I’m building for myself, an experimental underground building, is based on the best of present day know-how, but it has been designed for the purpose of testing many of the unknowns still connected with this kind of architecture. Not only will the 500 pounds-per-sq.-foot roof loading will be tested, and waterproofing systems checked; temperatures and humidities will be monitored at various levels, power consumptions will be observed under differing conditions, and many kinds of green plants will be tested for use above subsurface structures.

If you have experience in any of these fields and are willing to share your knowledge, will you please get in touch with me? There’s no time to waste. –Malcom B. Wells

“Smart But Not Wise – Further Thoughts on Domebook 2, Plastics, and Whiteman Technology” by Lloyd Kahn. From Shelter Publications. Kahn now less enthusiastic about domes, more for traditional.

People – We are fellow invisible people who have been tenting in Europe for two years. Right now, we are hidden in Alpine fog, tending heifers. But we are about to start moving again and plan to return to the U.S.; crossing east to west. We’d like to hear more about your ways of life. –John & Martin

Dear People: Heard about you and your publication in N.L.V. We up North here are doing various alternative lifestyles and organizing. We also act as a resource center for communicating what’s happening out here in Canada. Nor Kounty Faire Tribe. Edmonton, Alberta.

A LIFE FILOSOFÉ

by Al Fry

Over our short span of years on earth, we have come to categorize the dwellers here into two categories: the Domination and those desiring to be dominated and the Free and those desiring to be free.

Almost without exception, the captains of industry are “hardcore” domination who must dominate, to some extent, hundreds or thousands of others to gain their wealth. They inwardly feel that control of another human being is perfectly justifiable and the majority of persons who work for them feel that such control of men is necessary to a “civilized” planet. These workers are what I call “the dominated”, not because they work for the domination, but because they think such control is necessary.

On the other hand, we have a handful of persons who I call free, and a growing percentage of the freedom desirers. Some of the free have reasoned that since their maker or the “all that is” has not interfered with their freedom beyond the point of natural law, they, in turn, to advance to a level beyond the restrictions of Earth, should allow and grant freedom to all.

A person who is free for instance will take orders from a dominator since the dominator is responsible for the action, but the free will not order those under them to act unless the persons under them have a free choice. In conversation, this would be a “would you like to” instead of a “Do!”

This subtle difference of thinking is not too easy to grasp unless one gives it some thought or perhaps can recall the teachings of Christ, etc.

Those younger persons of today who have rejected society's rules and standards at the expense of comfort and "security" so-called make up the core of what I call the "free" desirers. Unfortunately, these persons haven't put it all into a perspective and don't really know what it is necessary to change to bring about a planet under free principles.

On a domination-controlled planet, it is most difficult to accumulate quantities of the current unit value substance which is now money, without dominating. You can be a public entertainer or perhaps inherit large wealth, but generally speaking, the real are reduced to smaller business enterprises and public service jobs, or must go to work at a "regular" job under some undesired control.

I have many friends who are "domination" and just as my creator grants me freedom, so do I grant these persons their freedom of choice.

However, I see a vision of potential of a planet free of domination and limitations. We are part of an awesome universe and I suspect that unless we recognize and use the Free laws existent, we will continue to be in the quarantine.

WILD EDIBLES

Approximately 90% of the plants growing in the Western forests are edible. They may not be tasty or particularly flavorful, but they are quite nutritious. Tubers, leaves, flowers, and stems of several plants are edible – boiled, roasted, as greens, or in soups or tea.

It's always wise to eat only the plants you are certain of, but many times you will be in a strange area and will not know the plants. The following food test may be used: (1) Put a small portion of the plant in your mouth and chew it. Don't swallow! Spit it out and wait to see if there are any ill effects on the mouth or tongue. If not, then – (2) Swallow a small raw portion. Wait for possible ill effects. If there are none, then – (3) Cook some of the plant (do not add any foreign substance such as salt) and swallow a small bit. If not ill, results occur after waiting 6-13 hours, then – (4) Increase...

Warren Stevens
Operation Atlantis

7 May, 1972

Dear Warren Stevens:

The following has been reported to me. Frank Traver, manager of Atlantis Motel, and members of his family, were approached by agents of a criminal conspiracy. The criminals were attempting to kidnap and enslave a resident of the motel whom I shall call Vic (for victim).

Reportedly, Traver and family voluntarily supplied information about Vic to the criminals and, in general, "fully cooperated" with them in their attempt to molest Vic.

I recognize that Atlantis Motel does not claim to be a liberated country or to offer to physical protection against criminal attack. Nevertheless, voluntarily supplying information to known kidnappers, which will help them abduct an innocent person, is clearly aiding and abetting coercion.

It is not my intention to be unduly vindictive toward Traver for what might have been only an unthoughtful indiscretion. However, I think that Traver is liable, at minimum, for damages and time loss suffered by Vic as a result of Traver's involvement. (If Traver has already made restitution to Vic, or if the affair has been otherwise settled by an arbitrator mutually selected by Traver and Vic, please tell me and I will not pursue this further.)

In the event that Traver does not pay restitution, I do not consider Operation Atlantis liable for damages. (I don't consider an employer liable for acts of his employees, unless the acts stem from his orders.) However, I do believe that to exonerate itself, Operation Atlantis must (1) fire Traver; (2) publish a warning about Traver, including descriptions of the guilty members of his family, and circulate this warning in circles where Traver is likely to show, such as to motel owners, businesses in his home town, etc. If Operation Atlantis retains Traver, Operation Atlantis is giving sanction to his criminal act.

I have heard a rumor that Traver was known to be in sympathy with criminal elements long before he was approached by them. If true, this would cause me to have serious doubts about other projects of Atlantis, including ATCOPS. Complying with at-the-point-of-a-gun demands of criminals is one thing. Hiring people known to be in sympathy with criminals and who are likely to voluntarily aid criminals is something else.

Vic is not a personal friend of mine. However, I am strongly concerned because I have recommended Operation Atlantis to others...If Traver continues in your employ and does not make restitution, I intend to publish a warning...Please do not interpret this as hostility toward Operation Atlantis or toward you personally. I continue to hope that Operation Atlantis succeeds. But I believe that the way to achieve freedom and justice is by living free and acting just.

Sincerely,
Rayo

7/16/72

Rayo: Sorry for delay. Read your letter for the first time today; it had been buried in a pile of "to be answered" stuff. Again, sorry.

I believe you are misinformed or at least have misjudged. What question Frank answered, he answered under what he considered to be duress. As a "decent American citizen", he does not view agents of the law as criminals. He is not a libertarian in the sense you and I use the term. He was hired to run a motel and he does that superbly well. I cannot fire him, for a replacement would be no better. There is nowhere in the US to my knowledge available a motel manager who would have acted differently. My alternative is to close the motel. –STEVENS (typed by Rayo)

When I wrote this letter, I was under the impression that Traver was ONLY manager of the motel and had no other involvement with Operation Atlantis. I have since heard from a reliable source that Traver oversees other projects of OA as well. Based on what I presently know, I would avoid any involvement with OA, ATCOPS, etc. at this time.

I am not able to reveal my source. Anyone who seeks further information might attempt to contact former employees of OA by advertising in VONULINK or FREE MARKET (LC). –RAYO

COMMENTS

by Rayo nv72

TO "PHANTOMFIELD" (VL9): You seem to regard community as an alternative to buying hundred-pound sacks of rice. Do you grow all your own food? (I don't know anyone in N. America who does, which is why I ask.)

I'm interested in VONU community not primarily for self-sufficiency, but for easier/better interfacing with the outside world. I doubt that complete self-sufficiency is presently possible except at an impoverished AND non-vonu level.

ABOUT BOATS: I was very interested several years ago in living on a boat, but as I learned more about it, much of my enthusiasm faded. Reasons:

Concealment along a coast doesn't seem to be as easy as inland. Even along the B.C. north coast, where there are hundreds of thousands or miles of uninhabited coastline (counting all the indentations and islands), most of it is quite steep and rocky and grows only sparse trees and brush (close to the water). Elaborate equipment would be needed to hide a boat bigger than a canoe. Only the bays and deltas have sheltered water and/or heavy forest. Not too many of these are out of sight of the channels and even the ones which get visited now and then – there are quite a few fishing boats at times.

Ports and navigable waterways, which must be used occasionally if one wishes any contact with the outside, seem to be regimented and patrolled more than are highways, at least in U.S. (In B.C., I don't know.)

A boat is roughly three times as costly (counting labor if one builds one's own) as a van/camper/bus in similar condition and with similar capacity. A 25-foot boat provides very little living space. Our van (not exceptionally large) has as much inside space as a 30-foot trimaran or 35-foot monohull.

Even with these drawbacks, the decision between sea and land mobility was a close one for us. A boat has international mobility and can be powered by the wind. (A small boat (under 65 feet?) must be a sailing boat if it is to be capable of cross an ocean: a small power boat can't carry enough fuel.) But a boat isn't a panacea.

One fantasy I had was to build a submergible houseboat which could be sunk into the mud on the bottom of a bay or delta.

ARTIFICIAL LANGUAGE (To Paul Doerr): LIBLAN, described in LIBERTARIAN CONNECTION #19 is along the lines you suggest.

RETALITATION (To Paul Doerr): In GREEN EGG #50, you wrote: "I hear the Olympiad has been cancelled because of some Arab murderers. Obviously, the Arab governments know who the killers are and support them. If those responsible were hurt – if a bombing fleet spent an active hour over the Arab capitals, I'll be the killings would stop immediately..."

Granted that Arab (and other) GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS are criminals and "fair game", how do you rationalize killing innocent civilians, which would be the inevitable result of your bombing?

FARMS (To Lan): My remarks in VI and elsewhere were directed against CONVENTIONAL farms. A farm with people living in "secret chambers underneath the barns and haystacks" is NOT conventional farm. As to food, most agrarians obtain no more of their food by farming than we do by foraging. Around here, most of them live off food stamps.

I criticize farming as much as I do because I have seen many a person expend a large part of *er* life buying and developing a "remote" ranch or farm in a mistaken effort to increase personal freedom. The ranch is usually so remote that it is known only to the sheriff, tax accessor, postmaster, truant officer, sanitation inspector, etc.

The general fallacy, of which agrarianism is a variety, is expecting a PLACE to make one free. A certain place may be a useful tool in achieving freedom. But a place, in itself, doesn't make one free any more than a good set of wrenches makes one a skilled mechanic. A coercer can potentially get anywhere you or I can, and will if something there appeals to his lust for loot and power. Even the most secluded squat-spot or well-buried smial is valueless to someone who builds smoky fires in the daylight, makes loud noises, and invites all his acquaints over to impress them.

TYPE SIZE (To Lan): Small type not only saves the publisher printing and postage, but is a convenience for readers who move around or don't have much at-hand storage space 9which includes us). All our bask issues of VL fit easily in one 9x12 envelope. I wish all magazines and books used type as small or smaller. Incidentally, the reduced printing is easier to read, at least for me, than the full-size ditto pages in VONULINK 10.

Experimentally, I tried reading some material which was photo-reduced 7 times – over 3 times MORE than VI! With my near-sighted eye (equivalent to strong reading glasses), I could read it easily, faster than I can speak aloud.

It is interesting to see some of the magazines which preach so belligerently about ecology – with big type, irrelevant pictures, wide margins, huge house ads, and much white space all over – consuming many trees.

VONULINK (To Lan): A disadvantage of Option 3 (which this represents) for the sure is the need to fill a sheet (8 pages if 2:1 reduction) before publishing. On the other hand, I'm less inhibited about writing things which are only marginally relevant to vonu (like some of the following).

I am in sympathy with your dislike of upper case letters. They are an added complication for someone learning to read and write. Yet, I find them a convenient when typing – for emphasis of words, names of books, etc. – faster than underlining. And they provide a redundant indication of separation between sentences. (In their absence, leaving three or even four spaces after a period might help.) What would be ideal would be a typewriter with capital letters the same shape as the lower-case letters, only larger.

I still prefer this style of paragraphing. Fractional-line spacing requires extra effort on most typewriters. But I'm switching to Aikido Al's paragraph symbol, which approximates the standard proofreading mark.

PRONOUNS (To Lan): I prefer your third-person non-gender pronouns “e” to “de/der” (which I saw somewhere). “De” and “der” are too likely to get confused with “the” and “there/their” in phonetic spellings. But “e’s” is time consuming on a typewriter and ambiguous – is it possessive or a contraction of “E is”? Howa bout “er” for possessive, by analogy with “you-your”, “they-their”? I will try using “e” and “er”.

PHONETIC SPELLING (To Lan, VLK 10): Why make use of phonetic spelling conditional on other users adopting one single system? Why not adopt a system, if any, because YOU like it? In addition to the people you mention, Jim Stumm is interested in phonetic spelling and has his own system.

I am not especially interested in reforming English. But I do hope that any phonetic spelling system which MIGHT come into use by compatible with those foreign and artificial languages (including Volan) which already ARE phonetic or near-phonetic. Bednash’s present system is not compatible. Imagine asking a writer of Spanish, which is already a near-phonetic language, to change “Muchas gracias, Senorita” to “Moochos groseeos, Seenyawreeto”, which would be the spelling Bednash’s system. Or, alternately, asking bilingual people to learn two different phonetic systems.

English is a mess phonetically. ANY phonetic system will seem strange at first to a reader of traditional spelling. So I prefer a system which is efficient and consistent rather than one which has maximum conformity to traditional English spelling.

Some advocates of phonetic spelling, including myself, prefer simplicity and standardization to phonetic precision. I prefer to use no more than 26 Roman letters for ease of typing, and to spell the same regardless of the accent with which I speak. The one good feature of present English spelling: it is nearly uniform worldwide. Since the most communication between people with different accents is in writing, I believe this feature is worth retaining. But other advocates of phonetic writing want precision at all cost. The system I propose here accommodates both camps through the use of optional diacritic marks. Simplicists can drop the marks and special symbols; precisionists can use as many as they want. Yet their writings will be mutually intelligible.

<u>CONSONANTS</u>			
<u>Sound as in</u> -----		<u>Write as</u>	
bet, ebb		b	
cheek, catch, nature		ch or Ch	
do, bid		d	
fee, phone, rough		f	
go, egg		g	
he, hill		h	
outhouse, grasshut		-h	
Jean (Fr.), measure,			
azure, rouge, vision		j	
adjust, jail, gem, edge		dj or dj	
kilo, cow, quick, chord		k	
loch, Bach, lebon, giro		kh or kh	
me, him		m	
no, bitten		n	
canyon, señorita		ny or ñ	
singing, sink, angle		ng or ŋ	
<u>Sound as in</u> -----		<u>Write as</u>	
pea, hip		p	
so, cell, kiss		s	
she, ocean, chute, issue			
motion, racial		sh or Sh	
tea, kissed		t	
think, south		t or th	
		or th	
the, feather, ciudad (Sp)		d or dh	
		or th	
vine, of		v	
six, access, excess		ks	
example		gz	
zoo, is, xenon		z	

VOWELS, SEMI-VOWELS AND SOME DIPHTHONGS			
Sound as in	Write as	Sound as in	Write as
father, far	a	ruby, sue, boot, to, route	u
path	a or ă	put, could, book	u or ũ
above, cobra, focus	a or ə	grün(Ger), duk (Fr)	ü
aisle, buy, my, sight	ai	you, few, unit, beauty	yu
Hausfrau, cow, doubt	au	yes, view	y
peso (Sp), chaotic	e	we, quick	w
get, dead, bare, said	e or é	what	w or wh or u/h
rain, pray, pain, lane	ei	low, flee, papel	l
machine, baby, be, see	i	hell, help, hold	l or ĩ
bit, been, myth, tear	i or ĩ	fully (accented)	ll or ll
poco (Sp), obey	o	purple (unaccented)	l or ĩ
dog, for, ought, raw, ball	o or ɔ	red, wrong, free	r
got, hot, rod	o or a	for, beer, fair	r or ř
dough, low, toe, so, coat	ou	furry, murder (accented)	rr or rr
some, love, cut, what	o or ɔ	murder (unaccented)	r or ř
oil, boy	oi	pero (Sp)	r or ř
		perro (Sp)	rr or rr

ounli lour-keis letz ar yuzd. eniwon wishing tu kapitalaiz mei du sou
 bai ondraining or meiking bigr -- e.g. rōki Mauntēnz, or rōki mauntēnz.
 PP an individjul mei yuz nou dēiakritik marks, som marks, ol marks, or
 iven adishonl marks. sins ai probabli wont yuz marks maiself, ai du not
 espeshli ker hwat marks ar assind tu hwat saundz. bot ai wud laik for da
 beisik letz tu bi moustli az shoun hir. for egzaml, 'mashin' mei bi
 speld 'mashin' or 'mashin', bot not 'mashēn'. PP abaut verieishonz ov
 'a' and 'o': moust inglish spikrz autsaid north amerika, soch az british
 ail rezidents, pronauns 'got' with a vaul saund similr tu 'dog', and path
 similr tu 'fadr'. hweraz meni north amerikan rezidents pronauns 'got'
 laik 'fadr', and 'path' with a vaul saund klousr tu 'get' dhan 'fadr'.
 dis sistem folouz da british prononsieishon ov diz saundz, tu minimāiz
 spelling cheinjez. PP spelling ov meni forin langweidjez cheinj litl.
 egzaml: 'muchas gracias, siñorita'. PP tu lan: ai wil spel whot ai
 reit for vonulingk dis wei, if yu prifrr, bat duing sou wil meik riding
 mor difikolt, espeshli with da smol taip. (meibi dats dizairabl.) reio

VARIOUS THOUGHTS ABOUT GROUP MARRIAGE

(This is partly in reply to comments of Paul Doerr in VL8 and Jim Stumm VL9.) That Heinlein is just a writer, not also a doer, IS relevant to the AMOUNT of consideration his ideas merit. If MOON IS A HARSH MISTRESS is intended as a serious recommendation for line marriage, why isn't Heinlein trying it? If, on the other hand, MOON and Heinlein's other books are intended only for "entertainment" (which Heinlein has said), why read them as anything else? Of course the fact that Heinlein is not putting his life where his pen is doesn't prove that line marriage WON'T work; it just means that MOON should be taken as evidence that it will. Line marriage is, so far as I know, an untested idea (at least in "Western culture") just like an idea I will suggest further on.

The best source for data – more relevant than anthropologies studies of "primitive" peoples, is the experience of contemporary North Americans trying group marriage. By now, quite a few people have tried quite a few forms. So far, results are not very encouraging, at least for groups I've read about. The most detailed report I have seen is the chapter on group marriage in Robert Houriet's GETTING BACK TOGETHER. Houriet lived for a while with Harrad West, a six-person marriage inspired by Rimmer's novel, THE HARRAD EXPERIMENT. The group began with just four people and (this may be only my impressions from the book) the four lived together quite well. But they felt they should expand to six because this the number had fictionalized. The larger group resulted in too many problems for their encounter techniques, etc. to cope with and broke up amidst bad feelings. When interviewed by Houriet, Rimmer declined to say (as I recall) whether or not he practices what he preaches. When told of the Harrad West break-up, Rimmer said it must have happened because the individuals involved weren't attractive people. This is

the same philosophic cop-out heard over and over again in history: “_____ is beautiful in theory, but people aren’t good enough to make it work.”

Some problems I would expect with line marriage (as described in MOON):

DISEASE: Erotics were not limited to within the group – a member could have an affair with an outsider. This would guarantee that all members would catch most diseases that came along and/or be on a heavy antibiotics trip. Thoughts: Disease could be minimized either by strict polygamy or by requiring a period of isolation and tests after each outside affair before reunion with family.

CHILDREN: Some still living at home were almost as old as some of the spouses. Various emotional involvements could be expected. But the children were not allowed to remain in the family – they were traded off for new spouses. Thoughts: A family organization should be flexible with regard to children. Some will want to stay, some go away. Perhaps there could be a dual structure – a child can change from one “clan” to the other occasionally, for a change of personalities and to get away from people who have become accustomed to treating it as less mature than it is. Many authors have suggested/described dual-clan structures, which have a number of other advantages.

DISABILITY: If a small group attempts to provide unlimited disability and old age insurance for its members (“social security”), this can be a source of much bad feelings – malingering, suspicion of malingering, etc. (“He says it hurts him to work. Well, I have aches and pains too, but I don’t lay around every time I do.”) (“Funny how it always seems to be him who gets sick or has an accident.”) This conflict-generating situation exists now in families where someone feels obligated to care for a chronically-disabled spouse or aged parent. It also happens in homes for old people where a lump sum is paid for care for the rest of one’s life. The caretakers often pray for the death of the caretaker, and sometimes hurry it along. If somebody lives to 120, it’s a disaster. Thoughts: In a free situation, out from under the State’s minimum wage laws (which force anyone who can’t work hard enough to earn the minimum wage to become a ward of the State), I don’t think there would be many people chronically disabled beyond the point of being able to perform tasks sufficient to pay for their care. If this happened to me, I would commit suicide -- I consider it irrational to experience the “last dregs of life” at all cost. Optionally, personal savings, kept outside the family, can be used to pay for care by the day or month; this way, there are no grounds for resentment. I would do (and have done) this in case of short-term total disability.

I will introduce with an example a general criticism of group-marriage forms I have read about.

When two people are sleeping in our foam hut, each person is disturbed and usually awakened every time the other comes in or goes out. If two people go to bed, arise, and get up twice during the night, all at different times, it figures out to five disturbances per person per night. If four people slept together in a larger hut, there would be an average of 15 disturbances per person per night. With six people, 25 disturbances. That would be intolerable. So a group which intends to sleep together must be composed of people who go to bed at the same time, arise at the same time, and are able to synchronize their urinations, defecations, and water drinkings.

Of course, group marriage spouses need not all sleep together. But every shared activity will give rise to similar problems. Personal conflicts will tend to be proportional to the SQUARE of the number in the group. And any of these conflicts can threaten the whole group. So the usual kind of group marriage requires a HIGHER digress of compatibility than does a two-person marriage. Discovering and maintaining (people may change in different directions) this compatibility is difficult, to say the least.

One way to avoid these problems is to associate, most of the time, in subgroups of two adults. The subgroups might be monogamous couples. But there will be greater continuity of child care and property caretaking if the adults “swing” (swap partners) within the group. To give this form a label, I’ll call it “swia” – Swing Within (the) Association.

I’ll describe a swia as it might work with two families (Flo, Gay) two males (Mike, Nick), four children (a, b, c, d) and two homes, a van (va) and a smial (s). When they meet they are to couples each with small children and a home. The configurations can be abbreviated a sFMab-vGMbc –

i.e. Flo, Mike, a and b live in the smial and Gay, Nick, c, and d live in the van. The two families first visit each other as families but maintain their separation. If they decide to form a swia, a next step might be for the adults to interchange, one person at a time for a period of a month or so, resulting in sFNab-vGMcd, then sFMab-VGNcd (back to original), then sGMab-VFNcd. This familiarizes all adults with both shelters and all children. Next, the children might interchange to become acquainted with each other and the different shelters. I will assume the closest van squat-spot is a long distance from the smial, each child is accompanied by one adult. Successive arrangements: sFMbc-vFNcd; sFNad-vGMbc; sGNcb-vFMcd; sGMac-vFNbd; sFMbd-vGNac. Perhaps now Flo and Mike take the van to a city where they work for awhile, leaving all children (some of whom may be of slave-school age) with Gay and Nick in the smial; sGNabcd-vFM. After they return, Gay and Nick take the van and the oldest child, a, on a trip (it's now summer) leaving the other children with Flo and Mike on a trip (it's now summer) leaving the other children with Flo and Mike in the smial: sFMbcd-vGNa. After this the children take turns living in the van, the adults interchanging at the same time: sFNacd-vGMb; sGNabd-vFMc; sGMabc-vGNe. After this, the children take turns living in the van, the adults interchanging at the same time: sFNacd-vGMb; sGNabd-vFMc; sGMabc-vFNd. Maybe the two men go off together to work on a job sometimes: sFGabcd-vMN. Other times the women use the van for a joint project and leave the men to take care of the smial and the kids: sMNabcd-vFG. Altogether there are 96 possible combinations with adults grouped in twos. In event of nuclear war, all can crowd into the smial: sFGMNabcd-v.

If each interchange involves no more than two adults, there is a continuity of child care and shelter care. Never is a child confronted with a complete new set of guardians plus an unfamiliar set of guardians all at once, as often happens with "conventional" babysitting. And if interchanges are a week or more apart, each adult "newcomer" has time to learn the latest idiosyncrasies of the van, where *e* is at in *er* math studies, what *d* is being fed, and where the raisins are now stores, before *e* becomes the "veteran." Yet there are frequent "fresh faces – a child or adult who has been away for a time and has some new experience to relate or technique to show. For groups living relative seclusion, this may be more important than absolute numbers. Even families with five or six kids have told us that the kids get bored with each other after a while and long for other playmates. The adults also have opportunity for taking vacations – from the children, from the customary home, from each other – without worrying about baby sitters, care takers, parking places, or venereal diseases.

Unlike an everybody-together group marriage, a swia might work with slightly less computability than is necessary for a happy two-person marriage. A marginally-annoying trait, which becomes very irritating when two people are together constantly, would be less so when they are together half of the time or less.

With a group as small as four, large items of property which all use, such as shelters, might become the joint asset/responsibility of all. With larger groups, there may be fewer problems if shelters remain the asset/responsibility of subgroups, in which case at least one member of a subgroup would usually remain with the subgroup's property, with other people being reciprocal "guests". In the above example, if the smial belonged to Mike and Flo and the van to Gay and Nick, combinations of adult and shelters would be sFM-vGN, sFN-vGM, or sGM-vFn but not sGN-vFm. If each couple retained primary responsibility/authority for "their own" children, this would also be the situation with child care.

I wonder if a swia has been tried. It seems like a natural, fairly easy step beyond swinging (dating) which quite a few people are doing. G and I have not tried swinging, for fear of disease and of emotional involvement with people tied to that society, so we have no firsthand experience in this area.

To me, the biggest potential advantage of any form of group marriage is not erotic variety (I think two or three partners would soon seem as familiar as one) but economic pooling of trips, purchases, seldom used equipment, special skills, etc. A greater percentage of exchanges can be internal to the group and thus not potentially subject to taxes and restrictions. And with pooling of transportation/communication, a more remote location if feasible. Thus group marriages, as well as less intimate forms of association, are of special relevance to vonu. –RAYO

FILMGAP INSULATING LINER FOR TENT

A unique new insulating liner is now being made for the Warmlite tents (and) eliminates the need for sleeping bags. The unit hangs from the tent and provides a warm insulated compartment for two down bags with 4.8" of insulation, yet is fully adjustable for warmer weather. Polyether foam pads underneath provide bottom insulation and comfortable padding. Amazingly, the weight of the basic Filmgap insulating unit is only 2 ½ lbs., the packed bulk is less than a single down bag, and the cost is less than the cost of the two down bags it replaces. The Filmgap insulation consists of 10 layers of aluminized plastic film with ¾ inch airgaps between layers. The unit is constructed like a small wall tent hanging from the tent frames. An oversize end closure at the neck end permits the user to sleep with head outside of the liner, but inside the tent, thus eliminating the need for a hood. The neck closure may be regulated for any amount of ventilation for warmer weather use. The wind stability of the tent assures only convection free air between the film layers, thus providing efficient insulation. (This information was sent to us by a friend who says it is from a catalog of backpacking items of Stephens.)

how to live and let live, out of sight
and mind of those unwilling to let live
by people who are doing it

73

VONU

WHAT IS VONU? p.1

16 'WAYS TO LIVE FREE', A CRITICAL
EVALUATION p.3

shelter

40 BY 8 FEET OF SHELTER FOR \$30
AND ONE DAY p.13

A HIDDEN HOME: THE SHUSWAP p.15

HOW TO BUILD AND DESIGN WITH
NATURAL TIMBERS p.16

WARMTH WITHOUT FIRE: COMPLETE
PLANS FOR \$55 FOAM HUT p.29

BUS REBUILDING p.35

A VAN FOR LIVE ABOARD p.37

A SMALL BOAT FOR LIVE ABOARD p.39

FREE CITY SHELTER p.39

food

FAR OUT EATING FOR \$10 A MONTH.

A condensation of Haelan Hygeia's new
book: OUT OF SIGHT EATING, p.41;
Storage p.41; Nutrition p.43; Prepara-
tion p.46; Sprouting p.50; Wheat p.54;
Other Grains p.63; Pulses p.67; Oily
Seeds p.68; Wild Plants p.69; Sweets p.73;
Daily Diet p.75; Supplements p.76

money

NUDE DANCING p.77

MOBILE MONEY MAKING p.79

INTERNATIONAL EMPLOYMENT p.80

HOW TO AVOID INCOME TAX p.80

BRING IT HOME FREE p.81

SECURE BANKING p.82

communication

ALTERNATE ID p.84

SECURE MAILING ADDRESS p.88

SECRET RADIO NETWORK p.88

WHAT IS BIG BROTHER WATCHING? p.89

CHOOSING A MOTORCYCLE p.91

FALLOUT DETECTOR p.92

young

TEACH READING AT HOME: A NEW,
SIMPLE, UNIQUE WAY p.93

HOW TO STAY OUT OF PUBLIC
SCHOOLS p.97

ways of living

TROGLODYTE COMMUNITY p.98

HORSE NOMADS IN PRESENT-DAY
CALIFORNIA p.99

SMUMANS: THE SUPER HOBOS p.101

WINTER IN THE WOODS p.105

doing it

ROOTING OUT THE OUTPOSTS p.109

SPECIAL INFORMATION SOURCES p.111

SURMOUNTING OBSTACLES p.114

WHERE TO GO TO BE VONU p.117

COMMUNICATE WITH OTHERS p.119

BIBLIOGRAPHY p.121

by Darby Anderson, Eldorado, Al Fry,
Haelan Hygeia, Jeffrey, Lysander, Pierre,
Rayo, WJP, et al. © 1973, Mike Freeman.
Special handbook issue, March, 1973.

TRANSCRIBER'S FOREWORD

When Kyle Rearden and I launched *The Vonu Podcast* in January of this year, we took up the tough task of trying to chronicle Rayo's ideas and direct action, as well as trying to re-ignite life back into this very unique strategy, with little to no original source material.

That said, in the past six months or so, I've been scouring the deepest parts of the Interwebs to locate some of it. I have a few feelers out in California and Michigan, but until today, I had yet to hold a physical copy of any libertarian publication from the 1960s and 1970s, other than Rayo's book.

The publication in question is the March 1973 issue of ***VONULIFE from Earthlight books***. It is an 80,000 word booklet, containing a total of 34 articles, about 15 of them being "new" ones from Rayo.

That's right folks, **80,000 words**—that's **twice** as long as ***Vonu: The Search for Personal Freedom***. When the economical Rayo put this together, you'll notice that he scrunched four pages onto one and the font is extremely small, so as to save money on postage and ink.

Due to this, I have decided to manually transcribe the entire publication. That should make it easier to read, but I have also included scans of every page for authenticity's sake. It will be transcribed as it is in the publication, with any original errors in grammar or spelling left intact. Any notes/changes/additions made by yours truly will be placed in [brackets]. Also, there are a few instances where the ink is illegible—in those cases, I will place [?] after, denoting that I'm not positive as to the accuracy of the transcription. Any errors beyond that are solely the responsibility of your humble transcriptionist.

A final note: some of the chapters do not contain the names of the authors. I would posit that if, for example, Rayo is attributed as the author for one article and the next is "authorless," it is likely safe to assume that he authored the following one too. Regardless, that is pure speculation, but worth noting.

Just from looking at the table of contents, I can already tell this is going to be a lot of fun. I hope the upcoming articles provide you much inspiration to continue your pursuit of vonu.

Shane Radliff
The Vonu Podcast
November 2017

NOTE TO MAIL-ORDER BUYERS

To save time, this copy was probably sent to you by whoever picked up the mail. Any other business, such as answering questions, forwarding letters or sending VONULINK must wait until your letter reaches the editor, who is usually off in the mountains. So please allow a couple of months.

You may have answered an old ad which said "3 issues for \$1". That was for old newsletter-size issues. This book contains more than three of the old issues. However if you answered such an ad (to a 975XX address) and aren't satisfied, return this postpaid in resaleable condition and I will substitute three small issues.

There are still older listings (for PRE-IN-FORM, which was VONULIFE's predecessor) saying, "4 issues for \$2." If you sent \$2 you will also be sent back issues 7 through 9 if your order comes early in 1973, or the 1974 issue when published if your order comes later.

Sorry for the complications and delays. Lan

ABOUT THE SMALL PRINT

Yes, it's difficult reading. But this way I pack many words and illustrations (more than in two average novels) into this slim book. I save on printing and postage and pass the savings on. (Printed like an ordinary book this would cost \$5 or more.)

Also this conserves paper – and trees. (Funny about those magazines which preach about ecology – and use big type, heavy paper, wide margins and space-filling decorations.)

Also this is a convenience for readers who move around or don't have much storage space.

For easiest reading I suggest: plenty of light; dimestore reading glasses or a big hand lens; reading only one article a day.

WHAT IS VONU? AN INTRODUCTION

“Vonu” means relative physical vulnerability to coercion. “Vonu” (rhymes with so’-new) is a contraction of Voluntary and Not vUlnerable. “Vonu” is somewhat like “freedom” or “security.” But those words mean many different things to different people. Rather than argue about what those words ought to mean, I speak of “vonu.”

“Coercion” includes murder, mayhem, slavery, robbery, rape, extortion, pollution – any physical interference with peaceful activities of another – whether by individuals or organizations.

Coercion – especially institutionalized forms such as war, regimentations and taxes – is one of the major problems of mankind. Practically all past attempts at solution have been top-down efforts to change “society as a whole.” Since the days of Babylon there have been countless attempts to reform governments, take over governments, destroy governments, and manipulate public opinion. At most such efforts bring temporary relief. Usually they have little effect. Often they make matters worse.

VONULIFE represents a different approach to the problem. VONULIFE does not waste space scolding government officials or proclaiming how society ought to be. VONULIFE speaks to you as an individual or small group and suggests ways YOU can avoid exploiting and being exploited. As you reduce the vulnerability, not only do you help yourself; indirectly you also help others by decreasing support of criminal institutions. Vonu is not necessarily only a few; vonu will expand as there are more people willing to do.

A vonuan is a person who has achieved relative invulnerability to coercion. There are many kinds. Some live in wilderness where outsiders rarely go. Others live under the earth. Others move from place to place – living in vans, campers, buses, boats or tents. Some have been vonu for ages – people such as gypsies, mountainmen, hobos, Seminoles. Others are recent refugees from the dying cities. This issue describes some of the equipment and techniques used.

It is not a complete guide. Some topics are covered little or not at all. In future issues I hope you will add your knowledge to what is in here. The people who have written VONULIFE are people who live it. As I write this I am on a secluded mountainside, amongst trees and bushes. The sky is mostly blue and the sun is shining, after a day of rain.

Thanks to Rayo, Haelan, Al Fry, Darby Anderson, Lysander, Eldorado, WJP, John and others for helping research, write, edit and type this. Put together by Lan – March, 1973.

ECOLOGY → VONU → TECHNOLOGY → PEACE

By: Rayo

ECOLOGY → VONU: To be relatively safe from coercion I must live in harmony with nature. I must disturb the environment less than does a deer or bear or porcupine – else I will draw the attention of two-legged beasts.

Our shelters are small and low. They blend in with the trees, bushes and rocks. I cut few trees and those I cut are dead, or crowded and dying. I use fire sparingly – only for cooking and crafts, not heating. I kill only to eat or in self-defense, and usually eat what I kill. Around camp I often wear moccasins and mukluks, or walk on rocks to minimize erosion and tracks. Any gardening is in small patches and grow-holes, scattered in natural openings.

TECHNOLOGY → VONU: In some ways vonuans – wilderness vonuans at least – are like the people who lived on this continent 400 years ago. But I am not hostile to technology. On the contrary, advanced technology makes vonu attractive. Limited to the materials and methods of 400 years ago, most of my energies would be spent securing food and protecting myself from the elements. I would have neither time nor tools to protect myself from organized predators. I would be less successful than were American Indians, who had generations of experience and faced more crudely equipped aggressors. This doesn't mean I shun "primitive" methods either. I happily blend techniques of all ages to live most freely and effectively. Usually I use native materials for basic structures and large furnishings; manufactured items for light and mobile accessories.

TECHNOLOGY → ECOLOGY: Technology of the early industrial era was cumbersome. Manufacturing was most efficiently performed by throngs of people and big machines crowded together in huge factories. Products were big, consuming large amounts of raw materials. Big railroads and trucks were needed to haul ores to smelters and products to consumers. Mountains of wastes and lakes of pollutants were generated. Early-industrial technology was not very compatible with vonu nor with a clean environment.

But bigness usually indicates crudeness. Trends are now the other way. The newer, more sophisticated products are smaller. Compare a transistor radio with an old vacuum-tube set; a cassette recorder with a player piano; a box of microfiche cards with a library of books; freeze-dried foods with canned foods; a desktop computer with an office full of clerks. As products grow smaller and more efficient, less raw materials, space, power and transport are needed. And less waste is generated.

Better communication replaces physical concentration. Factories, offices and stores are beginning to decentralize with electronic links replacing the routine face-to-face contacts.

VONU → PEACE: Advanced technology makes vonu attractive; contemporary weaponry and coercive institutions make vonu imperative. In earlier times government provided order if not freedom and defense if not peace. But now, when nuclear and bacteriological weapons can be rocketed or smuggled to any city on earth, governments are as obsolete as moats and parapets. The contemporary State is not only incapable of protecting "its citizens" from outside aggressors; it has become the biggest aggressor with its endless taxes, conscriptions and interferences. The State provides "justice" by mass terror, "freedom" by mass servitude, and "defense" by mass murder.

Just as the State is obsolete as a means of defense against foreign governments and private criminals, so politics are obsolete as a means of defense against the State. Political "reform," "revolutions" or "education" at most changes rulers and slogans; it does not bring about enduring freedom. In a community of a few hundred, democratic procedures can be helpful; in a nation of millions they are only placebos.

Defense, like industry, commerce and agriculture, must be decentralized. Individuals and small groups must provide their own. It is too early to say which forms of vonu will prove most effective – how many will live in wilderness, or underground, or on the move, or in ways I can't even imagine. But I think the emphasis will be on concealment/deception/mobility, not intimidation. I believe I can be relatively safe and free only by being invisible or inconspicuous, not by pointing missiles at everyone else on earth.

VONU → ECOLOGY: Pollution and exhaustion of resources is caused not by too many people, so much as by too many people all forced to live the same way. The earth supports a vast quantity of life so long as that life is diverse – live in different habitats, eat different foods, defends itself in different ways. Organisms tend to diversify because there are advantages to diversity – that is why there are so many different forms of life on earth. Similarly humans diversify when able to exercise their preferences – consider the variety of peoples in North America 500 years ago – all descended from just a few bands of immigrants.

The relative sameness of humans today is due in large part to coercive institutions of the recent past. Just as a one-crop farmer depends on uniformity of plans, so an authoritarian system depends on uniformity of people. A State can control only to the extent that people act and react in similar ways. It is no accident that the strongest motive for compulsory tax-supported school in the U.S. a century ago when they were imposed, was not better education (literacy was already substantial and fast rising) but destruction of minority cultures through forced association and indoctrination of children.

So big, coercive government, like one-crop farming, is inherently bad ecology. Free “non-conforming” people, like diverse natural vegetation, are part of the earth.

16 “WAYS TO LIVE FREER” A CRITICAL EVALUATION

By: Rayo

Here are brief critiques of various methods for increasing vonu or liberty, including some approaches often touted as liberating which usually aren't. Use these to stimulate your own brainstorming and study.

NOT WORTHWHILE

JOIN A MOVEMENT. There are countless political and propaganda organizations – “left,” right,” and bottom center – which claim to be promoting peace, freedom, security, conservation, etc., and solicit donations of money and time. There isn't space here to thoroughly analyze movementism, but I will point out the most obvious faults.

A political movement seeks to change “society” as a whole rather than help people as individuals. Consequently incentives are weak, except maybe for a few organizers at the top. One will share in the benefits, if any, whether or not *e* joins. So why join? Relatively few do. Very few remain active for long.

Movements use manipulative or coercive means – they must if they are to “move the masses” who have little incentive. And it is the means employed, not the intention of the rhetoric of the founders, which determine the ends achieved.

Movements lack constructive feedback. When someone tries to repair a truck (for example) *e* learns whether or not *e* did it properly from the truck's performance or customer's satisfaction. But in a “crusade” to improve society there is no way of learning the real effects of one's own efforts – “society” may be getting “better” or “worse” for unrelated reasons. Often there isn't even an adequate way of learning what is an improvement – what helps some may hurt others. A crusader can only try to impose *er* ideas of what is better on others. And the longer-range the movement the poorer the feedback. Someone campaigning to repeal a specific law (for example) can at least count votes in a legislature to gauge effectiveness. Whereas an “educationalist” movement which hopes to “improve” the attitudes of future generations gropes blindly.

Movements bring out the worst in people. Eric Hoffer, in his book *THE TRUE BELIEVER*, hypothesized that movements attract incompetent neurotics who are trying to “escape” from their unwanted selves. More importantly, I think, movements turn competent people into incompetents by encouraging them to neglect their own affairs. To “compensate” for inadequacies they seek power over others.

Not surprisingly, movements have a dismal record. They are begun by well-meaning dedicated people but usually bring regimentation and destruction. Current U.S. problems – war, taxes, pollution, inflation, unemployment, coercive schooling, drug laws – are largely the fruits of “noble crusades” of past generations. For example, “pure food and drug” laws were enacted to protect consumers from unhealthy food and treatments. Their main effect has been to deny

people the options of legally obtaining raw milk, raw sugar, fresh (locally butchered) meat, and medicines not approved by the AMA [American Medical Association].

It is the broad, long-range movements which have been the most harmful. Both Bolshevism in Russia and Nazism in Germany begun as social betterment movements. In the U.S., the “liberal” movement, originally for helping the poor, brought withholding taxes, “urban renewal” and the Vietnam War. The “conservative” movement, originally for less government interference, brings no-knock laws, wage and price controls, and S.S. [Social Security] registration of six-year-olds.

To blame such results on bad leaders or imperfections of ideology is to miss seeing the forest for the trees. Politics, whether conducted by outright violence or by symbolic forms of civil war such as elections, lobbying and propaganda, is a contest of coercion and manipulation – the most coercive/manipulative people naturally rise to the top.

As for ideological errors: ALL new creations contain errors. With inventions, works of art and other personal endeavors, there is constructive feedback – flaws are identified and eliminated as development proceeds. With movements, in contrast, errors snowball – authoritarian ideas drive out peaceful ideas – ideology is “reinterpreted” to justify exploitation and regimentation.

Short-range campaigns for repeal of specific laws are less apt to run amok, but even these are doubtful worth. Prohibition of alcohol was repealed only after it became unenforceable. Repeal merely replaced, in part, home-brewing and free enterprise (moonshining) with heavy taxes and regulations. But, assuming that repeal was nevertheless desirable, a crusade is unnecessary. So long as a law is enforceable, repeal is unlikely; when it becomes unenforceable, the bludge themselves will end it – e.g., the draft. The best way to reduce coercion is to develop techniques which render it “unprofitable.”

Movementism cashes in on guilt – unearned as well as earned. Anyone who contributes to murder and slavery by paying taxes has reason to feel uneasy. The cure is not writing angry letters or joining a demonstration but discovering ways to avoid or reduce taxes. To the degree that one steps out of the oppressive society, does *er* own things and doesn’t harm others, *e* has no grounds for guilt. In view of movementism’s records, it is the manipulators who head most political organizations who have the most reason to search their souls.

This is not condemnation of everyone involved with movements. Many show integrity and courage that is commendable. But their energies are misspent. Nor is this a rejection of theory or education. It is a rejection of “theory” which doesn’t relate to practice (which is mysticism) and “education” which doesn’t teach useful arts (which is preaching).

The question to ask about any endeavor is: Does it fill real needs of flesh-and-blood people as individuals? Or is it aimed at unreal groups – “society,” “humanity,” “nation,” or “race”? Someone who solicits donations to “fight” cancer, “fight” pollution, or “fight” taxes turns me off. Someone able to tell me how I can better prevent cancer, clean up my environment, or reduce my taxes gets my attention.

PROBABALY NOT WORTHWHILE

SEE A THERAPIST. If you are unhappy, you will be told by most psychiatrists, ministers, counselors, and relatives that YOU are at fault, and that it is up to you to change – “adjust” to society.

Instead “adjust” society to you by changing your pattern of interactions with it. Some of your supposed faults may prove to be assets once you are in freer surroundings. Others result from continuous exposure to sick culture and will resolve themselves as you reduce your involvement.

Beware of religions, cults and psychotherapy groups which offer “mental freedom” and claim that it is separable from and more important than “physical freedom.” Such “freedom” can be achieved only by numbing oneself – reducing awareness and sensitivity to the outside world – focusing instead on myths, rituals and goals set forth by leaders of the faith.

In a sense almost everyone has a free mind (exceptions being inmates of “mental hospitals” undergoing shock treatments, etc.). It is freedom for my body which I am concerned.

This is not a blanket condemnation of all forms of therapy. Some may be helpful for certain conditions. But therapy is not a substitute for physical security.

PROBABLY NOT WORTHWHILE

BUY A FARM. Commercial agriculture is not a freedom way to earn money. Farmers are harassed by Big Brother as are urban workers. Some have been fined out of business for growing grain on their “own” land to feed their “own” livestock.

Most “back-to-the-land” people don’t expect to earn money farming, only raise some of their own food. But even as a place to live, a farm or small-town is rarely desirable. True, one is more likely to survive a nuclear war than in a big city. But day-to-day coercion is great; there isn’t the anonymity of the city.

For example, many a city-dweller has allowed *er* children to remain out of coercive schools for months – sometimes for years without being hassled. Whereas in the country word soon reaches the authorities.

One family wrote: “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, and, ironic as it is, my husband was put in jail that same year because we wanted to educate our children at home.”

If, nevertheless, you yearn for a farm, I suggest: (1) Try it for at least a year before buying, by care-taking, share-cropping, renting, or hiring out. (See “Situations and Positions” in THE MOTHER EARTH NEWS.) (2) Locate in an area where there are already many people of your sub-culture – freek if you are a freek, conservative if you are a conservative, etc. A large flow of seasonal transients is helpful for anonymity.

Some areas of the Siskiyou region have quite a few alternate-culture residents the year around plus a large Summer Influx. Soil and climate are poor for most commercial farming but adequate for small-scale gardening.

WORTH CONSIDERATION BY A FEW

LIVE OFF THE LAND. This may sound like the ultimate in vonu. Leave behind all the clutter of “civilization” except maybe a jack-knife and trip lightly thru the woods – dining on berries and nuts.

Half-truth: “Over 90% of wild plants are edible.” Elaboration: While relatively few plants are actually poisonous, only a few portions of a few plants are particularly nutritious – some seeds, berries, nuts; a few roots. These mature only at certain times of the year. And they are avidly sought by many little animals, birds and insects. When hiking I nibble almost continuously on various conifer needles, grasses and berries. And I undoubtedly obtain vitamins, minerals and roughage this way. But I always return to camp with a hearty appetite.

Half-truth: “I lived completely off the land for a week during a survival course.” Elaboration: Most likely you lived off your fat – the bugs and berries were *hor d’œuvres*. Most people out of the slob society have at least 15 pounds of fat, which will fuel one for two weeks to a month, depending on activity. Haelan has fasted (for therapeutic reasons) for a month – imbibing only water. She was active and vigorous for much of that time.

Half-truth: “Some city people have moved to the woods and lived off the land.” Elaboration: The ones we know of write mostly about the wild foods they get, but also consume large quantities of wheat, corn, beans, rice, and other staples.

Some Indian tribes lived exclusively by hunting and foraging. They had generations of experience learning not only what was edible, but where to find, when and how to gather, and how to prepare and preserve. Most of their working hours were spent obtaining and preparing foods.

Half-truth: “The only way to be really vonu is to be completely self-sufficient; if you need anything at all from that society you are vulnerable.” Elaboration: The more self-sufficient one is the more vonu one is, OTHER THINGS BEING EQUAL. But other things often are not equal. Vonu is costly; for example, a concerned shelter takes longer to build than does a conventional shack of the same size. If one must spend most time foraging, one won’t have time to develop vonu.

In conflicts between American Indians and government soldiers during the 19th century, the Indians were usually more skillful and better armed (due to the army ordinance bureaucracy). The Indians won many battles but lost extended campaigns because they had to take time out to obtain food (or starve); the soldiers had outside sources of supply. Today there are tribes in the Amazon Basin who are completely self-sufficient yet very vulnerable.

Haelan and I have eaten a great variety of wild foods – dozens of different kinds of berries and greens, porcupines, rattlesnakes, squirrels, rats, mice, grasshoppers, and acorns. Yet after three years “in the woods” only 20% of the food we eat is wild, figuring raw weights; only about 5% counting calories.

On the other hand we have devoted relatively little time to foraging – we consider shelter development more important. As we gain experience and have more time we expect to forage more. We have available more processing and storing techniques than did the Indians (though some of these use materials out of the other society). Eventually we believe we can obtain most food thru foraging plus small-batch horticulture.

A few people already have decades of experience and do much better. A few others are exceptionally talented and learn faster than we [do] or are in unusually lush areas. But to anyone new to wilderness vonu I recommend a big grub stake plus a way to get more supplies.

WORTH CONSIDERATION BY A FEW

GET A HORSE AND WAGON. This conjures up romantic images – perhaps of American settlers moving west – perhaps of gypsy caravans in Europe.

Unlike a motor vehicle, a horse feeds itself, largely maintains itself, and sometimes even produces a replacement. A horse and wagon can travel legally on many rural roads if they stay on the shoulder. Contrary points:

The less time one spends on the road the safer one is. I once towed an unlicensed, oversize trailer a thousand miles with an automobile without being hassled once, by choosing my route carefully and traveling mostly at night. I doubt if anyone has moved a thousand miles with horse (or bicycle) on roads in present day North America without being questioned by the bludg.

One is safest on the road when traveling at the same speed as other traffic.

A motor vehicle needs little care when not in use; an animal is a continuing responsibility.

In forest or brush land, a horse or even a burro is largely limited to prepared trails – it can't get to places a human on foot can.

A horse is easily followed by hoof prints and droppings.

When being worked a horse needs supplemental feed, just like a human does, unless there is exceptionally rich grazing.

A human can pack a larger load, in proportion to body weight, than can a horse.

Horses eat small trees and churn trails into foot-deep mud, and so are usually more objectionable to “land owners” than are jeeps or motorbikes.

Nevertheless, a horse (or mule or burro) may be worth consideration by someone who is already very experienced with horses, and lives either where there is miles of open country (parts of the southwest) or where there are many parallel farm roads (parts of the Midwest and south).

WORTH CONSIDERATION BY A FEW

EMMIGRATE. A permanent move to another country may be worthwhile for someone who has a special legal problem in the country where *e* lives but not elsewhere – e.g., someone coming of draft age in the U.S.

But emigration doesn't offer a high degree of liberty. All major countries have repressive governments – less so than the U.S. in some ways, even worse in others.

Large English-speaking countries include Canada, England, Australia, New Zealand and Rhodesia. The latter three are in the Southern Hemisphere and may receive less fallout in event of nuclear war.

Legal immigration involves much red tape. Some people just enter as visitors, then develop “phony” ID. Regardless of how one enters, having friends in a country who “know the ropes” is recommended.

Some smaller countries offer interesting legal interstices but few job opportunities and little anonymity. English-speaking places include Bahama, Bermuda, British Honduras, Channel Islands, Grand Cayman. Such spots may be useful to one who is internationally mobile (further on).

WORTH CONSIDERATION BY A FEW

TRY TO START A NEW NATION. Probably quite a few will be started during the next 50 years (many have started during the past 30 years). And some of these will have interesting features. But this is not a worthwhile activity for most people.

New countries are most apt to be founded by (1) regional rulers who manage to secede from larger states; (2) large multi-national corporations with millions of dollars of speculative capital (the formal rulers may be local “puppets”). Trying to pool the capital and energies of a large number of small investors is unwieldy; it gives rise to the same problems which infest movements of all kinds – corruption and power-struggles.

The chances of any particular venture succeeding are small, though the potential payoff if it does is correspondingly large. Success or failure will likely hinge on unpredictable circumstances. Even a project which succeeds commercially may not offer much liberty (Freeport, Bahama, for Example). And how much liberty it offers may, again, depend more on happenstances than the ideology of its founders. A small new nation must be on friendly terms with most other governments if it is to have foreign trade and visitors, which it must have to survive. Principles will be compromised.

There may be opportunities right now for people with such skills as oceanic construction, small-boat operation, dealing with foreign bureaucrats, etc. The liveliest new-free-country venture at the moment I know of is Minerva which can be reached by writing to International Maritime Legal Research, Station E Box 4022, 1723 Broadway, Toledo, Ohio 43609.

The wisest course for someone who doesn’t have any special skills but would like to move to a new, free country IF any materialize, is to keep self and savings internationally mobile (topic further on).

At one time I believed that oceanic free-states on artificial islands were the wave of the future. I now think that the same opportunities can be realized more easily, economically and vonuly if less dramatically on continents. Hiding is easier on or under land than ocean. An artificial island is a conspicuous target, unlike a dispersed group of wilderness-vonuans who associate mostly thru undetectable radio links.

I expect formal claims to territory will become less and less important as the ability of any organization to control or defend large amounts of territory declines.

WORTH CONSIDERATION

COMPARTMENTALIZE YOUR LIFE. Conform outwardly while doing your own things in private. The best places for this is a large city where there are millions of people, and people are less observant and curious than in small towns and farming area.

Compartmentalization probably includes rented living quarters separate from mailing address and from legal home (ID) address. An adept may sleep, work, bank and play under different identities.

Many people cannot for long withstand the psycho pressures of such a life – a sense of emersion in an alien culture of hostile values – the need to keep up a false front much of the time. One tends to become what e pretends to be.

One doesn’t have a secure place to do or own things. A house or apartment is subject to inspection by landlord or police.

Such a life offers no protection in event of nuclear war. I’m not predicting apocalypse; it MIGHT not happen this year, then again maybe not for 10 or 20 years. But an attack will probably

come without warning – the weapons exist. So living in a target area is like playing Russian Roulette once a year.

Cities have smog and noise on one hand, and the availability of a great variety of products and services on the other.

Despite the hazards, living this way for a short time may be advantageous for someone who already knows the city and wishes to accumulate savings.

WORTH CONSIDERATION

LIVE IN A GHETTO. One way to reduce psycho pressures while remaining in the city is to gather together with fellow non-conformists. One loses anonymity with respect to the larger culture as one develops subculture speech, customs, mannerisms and dress. But one becomes a relatively-indistinguishable member of a subculture, requiring an aggressor to attack everyone or no one. “All (Chinese, Niggers, Hippies,...) look alike.” This doesn’t always stop aggressors – e.g., Jews in Germany and Japanese in U.S. during World War II. But this may be a fairly pleasant way to live between pogroms [programs?].

Someone wrote in VONULIFE #9: “I find the radical community to be very congenial. I find most of these folks tolerant, voluntaristic, very anti-state, and usually quite reasonable – not the dirty, irrational, hippie stereotype you get from straight newspapers...I work as a coordinator with a food co-op, live in a collective, socialize with radicals, so I live 90% of my time in an anarchist society. I know there is a different fascist version out there somewhere, but I have yet to come in contact with it. Radicals tend to be very cool about aliases.

You can become known in a radical community by any name you choose. You could wind up living in a house where no one knew or cared what your “real” name was. And if you’re underground, say because you are dodging the draft, your roommates would probably be willing to cover to keep even your presence in the house largely unknown.”

One is still threatened by nuclear attack and other hazards of the city. But for someone who can find a compatible, already-established group without much effort, this life is probably more satisfactory than living alone in a city.

WORTH CONSIDERATION

BUILD A SECRET CELLAR beneath a cabin or garage on “owned” or leased land. Entrance to the basement is from within the covering structure. Traffic appears to be to and from that structure, so trails can be made and vehicles driven to the site without arousing suspicion. Thus conventional building materials and techniques can be used, which makes construction easier than is the case for a completely hidden shelter.

Such a cellar may be used only as a bomb shelter and for keeping a part of one’s home or shop out of sight. But with good soundproofing and insulation, self-contained utilities, and careful access, what appears to be only a weekend/vacation cabin could become a full-time home. One person at a time could commute weekly to city work, using a vehicle with few windows, so that apparent travel is consistent with weekend-only use.

Possible drawbacks: Keeping secret during construction is difficult. Draining and dampness may be problems as in all underground structures. It will be complex and costly, especially if equipped for surreptitious full-time use. It is immobile and may not be saleable for full cost should one move. It necessitates considerable involvement with that society – “owning” land, permit to build the covering structure. The covering structure draws attention to the site, which is thus more apt to be closely scrutinized than an area where no structure is known to exist.

Nevertheless this may be an attractive way for someone with plenty of money who is committed to an otherwise-conventional way of living.

WORTH CONSIDERATION

FIND AN ABANDONED SHACK in the woods. In some areas there are quite a few, though on “public lands” the forest bludg burn them when they find them. Some already have stoves and other furnishings.

Drawbacks: Most such shacks were not built with vonu in mind so they are easy to find. Repairing them may be as much labor as erecting a plastic tent. Insulation may be no greater than that provided by a tent.

WORTH CONSIDERATION

GET A BOAT. “Life in a small boat, with the simplest food and clothes, is indeed free and easy. Go where and when you please. You have a sturdy, simple, not too expensive, not too easily damaged boat you can leave tied places while you make side trips. Anchor among islands and eat fish. Tie up at a big city dock for \$20 or so a month and water, electricity and garbage disposal is free. Stay along a river and grow a garden in the fertile, well-watered riverside flood land and probably no one will bother you if you choose it well. Sail the world and travel. Want to hide? Lower the mast, push into the tules and put some on your deck.” (Paul Doerr, PIONEER, page 222.)

A contrary view: “I have investigated the maritime scene and my best advice is to forget it unless you need a tax write-off. A boat is only a symbol of freedom...It was having a boat that taught me to hunger for freedom as a drowning man hungers for air...I’m reluctant to become involved with owning anything that requires The Man’s approval (registration and licensing), insurance and endless goods and services.” (Dick, PRE-IN-FORM, 1968-1969 reprints.) Also in this vein, Oct. 72 MOTORBOATING has a long article on small boat regimentation.

My own comparison of boat and van: A boat costs roughly three times as much (counting labor if one builds one’s own) as a van/camper/bus in similar condition with smaller capacity. For short visits to cities, a van can be parked anywhere (at least for short times), not just in marinas. Waterways seem to be patrolled as much as are highways and roads, at least in North America. For remote living, there are many more miles of interior land than of seacoast, and much of the coast is steep, rocky and sparsely timbered – not suitable for a boat larger than a kayak. The wind is free but maintenance can be expensive – salt water is very corrosive. While a boat can potentially go anywhere there is water, crossing an ocean in a small boat is a major undertaking, not a routine trip.

There are many different kinds of boats and many different life-styles possible with boats. To someone interested I suggest first trying a way of life with someone else’s boat, by being a crew member and sharing costs.

WORTH CONSIDERATION

DIG A HIDDEN CAVE. Unlike a secret cellar, there is no covering structure; the entrance is camouflaged to blend with the terrain. While a very high degree of vonu is hypothetically possible, achieving it is not easy. Problems:

The basic structure must be very strong to withstand soil and water pressures and thus heavy. Since a vehicle cannot be driven to the site (to do so would defeat the purpose) and backpacking materials a long distance is arduous, the structure must be built mostly of native materials. Many heavy timbers are needed and these must be cut with care over a wide area and carried to the site.

Much equipment is needed for habitation: at least artificial lighting and ventilation.

Good drainage is necessary. And during warm weather there will be condensation inside on everything exposed unless there is continuous artificial heat or some other means of reducing relative humidity of inside air. (Otherwise warm outside air enters, cools, and moisture condenses.)

The easiest way to construct is to dig a hole, assemble the structure in the hole, then fill the dirt back in, contouring with the surrounding terrain and adding covering debris. But while construction is underway the hole is visible to anyone walking by, or flying over if there isn’t tree cover.

Alternately, if a tunnel is dug, timbers must be put in as one digs (more difficult and dangerous) and dirt carried away from site for disposal. Rarely is solid rock so close to the surface that timbering isn't necessary; if there is, noisy equipment is needed to cut the rock.

Great care is necessary going to and from the cave, to avoid forming visible trails.

All of these problems are solvable but require time and expertise. Completely-underground construction is a promising field for pioneering by someone who is already vonu and has time to experiment. It's not for someone trying to get out of the city who needs something quick, simple and reliable.

WORTH STRONG CONSIDERATION

BE INTERNATIONALLY MOBILE. Don't settle in any one country. Instead be multi-national. Pick and choose the best features from a number of nations while bypassing their undesirable aspects. Thus one might be a "citizen" of Canada, live most of the time in Bahamas, do writing or designing for a U.S. company, and bank in Switzerland. Many different life-styles incorporate international mobility.

One might use a boat for shelter and transportation. But most of the pros lease living space, travel on commercial airlines, and rent equipment as they need it. A great variety of products, from electronic test gear to earth-moving machines, can be rented in any large city.

International mobility is an extension of urban compartmentalization. Instead of slipping thru the cracks and crannies of a single city one exploits the interstices of many countries. Someone who does well at this kind of life is probably an "extrovert" who enjoys dealing with many people and a great variety of people – among other things e knows when and how to bribe a local customs inspector or immigration bludg and doesn't mind doing so. Some internationally-mobile people live and travel very economically. But life-styles of this kind are easier for those able to affect the outward appearances of affluence, especially when crossing borders. Visibly "poor" people are unwelcome everywhere in the "welfare" world.

There is no set procedure for developing such a life-style. Avenues to explore: overseas employment with U.S. companies; technical specialties in high demand in various countries; free-lance writing; employment in certain capacities with multi-national corporations; being secretary or assistant to someone already into this kind of life. Two periodicals about international mobility are NOMAD/OTHER SCENES and HARRY SCHULTZ LETTER. (See listing of periodicals).

WORTH STRONG CONSIDERATION

BUY A VAN, camper or bus. This can be a mobile shelter as well as occasional transportation for someone who lives part-time in woods and mountains.

One can choose from a great variety of equipment over a wide price range. For ten grand or so one can buy a new "self-contained" motorhome equipped with most of the conveniences of a deluxe apartment. Or, for a few hundred, one can throw a mattress on the floor of a worn out delivery truck.

A van can't be hidden nearly as well as can a shelter that's back-packable or built from native materials. But, if disturbed, one is usually able to move on.

Also a van depends on fuel and roads for mobility; it is comparatively costly as a means of transportation. A van is most suitable, not for one who travels considerably, but for one able to limit movement to seasonal migration and infrequent trips.

WORTH STRONG CONSIDERATION

RIG A TENT IN THE WOODS. For a very few dollars' worth of plastic and rope, and a day's work, one can erect a bright, spacious, airy, rain-shelter any place e can hike to. A few more dollars will furnish it with a foam pad, used bedding mosquito net, and cooking utensils.

Choose a site away from habitations, roads, trails, lakes and main creeks; put the tent among bushes; keep it low, put a few branches over it; be careful with fire, and it will rarely if

ever be found. An extremely remote site isn't necessary or desirable – count on backpacking in 50 pounds of dry foods a month plus other supplies.

A plastic tent is pleasant during Summer if shaded and if openings are covered with netting. In the Siskiyou region, it is tolerable all Winter if one has a warm inner dwelling such as a foam hut. Maybe you don't want to live in a tent or live in seclusion the year around. But perhaps you can do it during Summer – vonu that much of your life.

A plastic tent is merely the simplest and quickest of a whole “family” of shelters which can be built out of a few pieces of native wood, polyethylene film, rope and cord. A next model might be a semi-underground structure such as a Shuswap dwelling.

DEVELOP YOUR OWN WAY. This is actually what each individual or family does. There is no universal formula for vonu; different people have different desires, abilities, problems, and opportunities.

A few years ago I did not even conceive of some of the approaches described here. And, a few years hence, I expect there will be ways I can't dream of now.

Approaches which seem especially promising for the near future: 1) Various kinds of semi-underground dwellings, built mostly of native materials, which are comfortable the year around without artificial heat – inside temperature remaining close to that of the earth – about 55°F. (2) Pre-fab modular structures weighing a few hundred pounds, with space and built-in “conveniences” comparable to a small motor-home, which can be backpacked in pieces to a remote site and easily assembled or disassembled. (3) Smum life-styles involving migration between multiple, relatively specialized, relatively stationary low-cost shelters.

SITUATIONS AND SEARCHES

TO VONULIFE: Most of the area around here (middle Mississippi Valley) is still pretty much covered by hunters. The bludg are ever at hand to check the hunters. I built an old shanty boat (32' X 12') ten years ago that I stay on quite a bit – it seems to draw little more attention (more really) from bludg – has wood stove, comfortable, but must be licensed, easy to watch.

There are miles of bottom and back waters here off the main channels. Yet all are covered by hunters, mushroomers, etc. Also people here are highly suspicious of strangers. I would feel safer in an area where people are a little more used to nuts and strangers, perhaps a bit more tolerant than here.

TO VONLULIE: Enjoyed the copies of VL awaiting when we returned after wandering through New England and Maritime Canada. We have been parked in one spot for the last month and a half. It's an alley way in the city and the bludg do come down the alley occasionally. So far no contact. Not very invulnerable except I'm living with the expectation of moving on any time necessary.

Al Fry asked about bad spots in the east. We never had any trouble (i.e., bludg contact, etc.) but we did find likely spots for one night's stopover difficult to locate in southern Vermont. Finally stopped on road to obvious vacation home and prepared cover story to fit – it wasn't needed. I suspect any area heavily into tourism, etc. might be the same. Never had any trouble using “rest stops” or picnic grounds. Recent motorhome mag mentioned get tough policy in White Mountain forest in New Hampshire for camping in unauthorized locations.

Well anyways it looks like I am definitely getting out of here in 26 weeks. Would like to get up your way but probably won't head west until next fall at the earliest.

After four months in the bus – it ain't bad. That heater I mentioned in the last communication works great. Turn it on in the morning, put water on top. Get back in bed. By the time the water is boiling the bus is warm. And cheap old kerosene you can buy in any general store here for 25¢ a gallon. Will report when the weather gets colder but so far it's beautiful.

TO VONULIFE: So after the big break-away, and roaming Arizona and New Mexico for some months, I fell into a tipi scene for a while here on the eastern slope of Colorado's Front Range. Mellow, mellow scene. Heavy, heavy head changes – the previous environment had been college grad student and waiter-bartender in classy restaurant.

One day, while exploring formidable terrain near 10,000 feet, came across an old evergreen and unknown mining works – complete with lumber and timbers and even a serviceable wood burning stove. Well – far out.

Five weeks later I'd completed a 16-foot, 9-sided, yurt-type structure; floor, windows, skylights, insulation. Cut up two cords of wood and moved in in time for the last of the fall colors.

Vicious winters in the high country. 10 to 30° below; days upon days of gale-force winds. Four to six feet of snow continually on the ground from Nov. to March. (Man, that tipi would have been just TOO cold.) Did several week-long stretchers where the farthest I'd move was to the outhouse (brrrr) and woodshed. Amazing!

And sweet solitude, silence and situation with mother nature's vibration – looking inward I see a pilgrim – the inner journey – so it goes one step at a time in cosmic rhythm and rhyme.

TO VONULIFE: Last issue I mentioned that I have never been hassled by the bludg. As I write this (mid Sept.) I'm lying in the field behind the house we're living in, sunbathing in the nude, drinking a pint of homebrew beer, listening to the crickets chirp, and watching bees flit around goldenrod blooms. If I stand up I can see the houses of suburbia way over there, but they can't see me down here behind the tall grass. We've lived here for months now; they don't bother us, we don't bother them. It seems I don't have to go off to the wilderness to do my thing, not just yet anyway. I can usually find a comfortable niche near wherever I am.

This morning we walked back behind the house to get some pears. The house we're renting sits on an acre lot, but you can walk maybe three miles back thru overgrown fields and small woods. This is good foraging land, land that's in between no longer being farmed, but not yet cut up for suburban development. The speculators in the city who own this land don't care who wanders on it, as long as it gives them no trouble. So we can go back and gather the harvest; pears, apples, wild grapes, elderberries, choke berries, strawberries, sumac, hawthorne, and more. Picked a couple of bushel of pears this morning which didn't dent the supply. We'll can some and dry some.

My experience with collective living and observation of others around here indicates that this is an ongoing process rather than achieving a fixed status. There is a constant flow of people, houses, changing relationships. If you need something more stable, this is not for you. But any bludg will have a very hard time trying to trace you thru all the changes. Getting the right people requires a continuous selection process. With non-compatibles, you ask them to leave, or you leave. When we have an opening in our house, we all talk to the prospect; any present roommate may veto. You have to be ruthless about telling someone they can't move in, if it won't work. A house should stay small enough so everyone knows everyone, then social control will prevent rip off.

40 BY 8 FEET OF SHLETER FOR \$30 AND ONE DAY

By: Rayo

Tents I've seen for sale are ill-suited for full-time living in wet, forested areas such as the Pacific Northwest. They are dark and dank inside, and unnecessarily expensive for the space they provide.

Two years ago we were living in a tipi-shaped military surplus tent. After two days of steady rain, condensation or leaks (we weren't sure which) dripped from every irregularity and soaked us and our gear. In disgust we moved out, tied a rope between two trees, threw a piece of plastic over it, and found this was a big improvement. There was still condensation, but it ran down the plastic instead of dripping on us. The plastic passed plenty of light and was inexpensive. Since then we've experimented with several variations, all using polyethylene film ("builder's plastic").

Based on experience so far, here is how I would erect a base-camp shelter for two in a heavily forested spot, where there is little wind or direct sunlight, and where winters are mild enough to live without artificial heat – temperatures seldom below 20°.

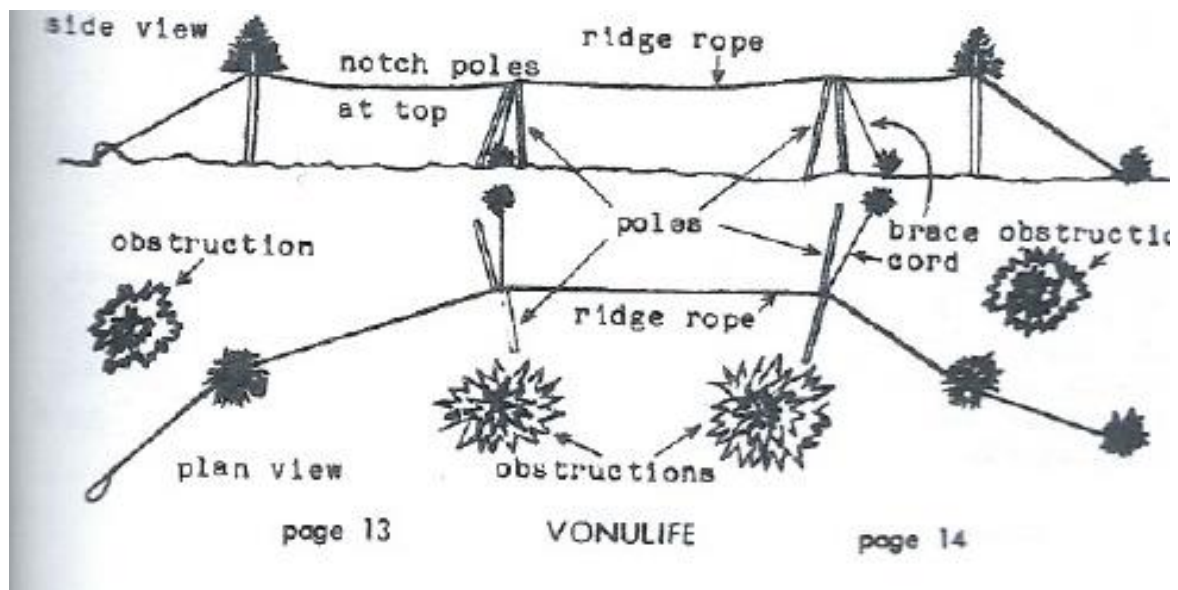
I buy a fifty-foot roll of clear 6-mil polyethylene, 20 feet wide. This costs about \$15 and weighs about 30 pounds. This will make a tent that is 35 to 40 feet long, 8 feet wide at the ground and 6 to 7 feet high in the center. This size is not excessive for a camp which two will occupy for several months; there are not the shelves and cabinets of a cabin or camper – much ground area

is used for storage. Polyethylene in wide widths is sold by Sears, Wards and many building-supply stores. I also buy a hundred feet of inexpensive polypropylene rope (at least 1000 pound test) and several hundred feet of lighter cord – cost about \$6. Polypropylene doesn't rot as do natural fibers, and stretches less than nylon.

I probably spend several days scouting a good site. I look for a 10-by-40 foot strip which needs little clearing but is among evergreen trees and high brush for shade and privacy. The strip may bend or zigzag, it need not be straight. If possible I avoid spots which show signs of washing during heavy rains. (See figure 1.)

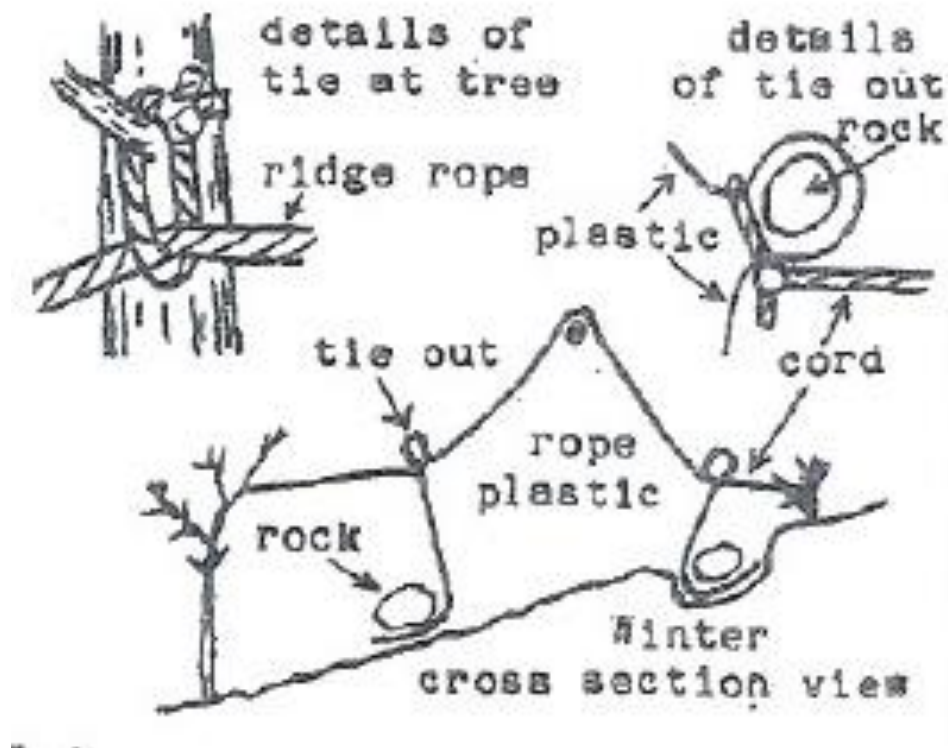
When clearing I cut as little as possible. Along the edge I tie back branches instead of cutting. I may ditch around the high side for drainage. I check for dead trees or large branches which might blow down in a storm and pull or cut them down. (*Transcriber's Note: Figures 1-4 are below.*)

I string the rope between two trees at the ends of the strip. If the trees are small I brace to large boulders or the bases of bushes. I do not tie around a small tree; instead I tie the ridge rope up to a branch. (See figure 2.) This is to avoid damaging bark. If there is not a conveniently located tree at one end of the strip, I cut a post from a dead tree and brace it erect. If I am angling the shelter around obstructions (as shown in figure 1), I cut poles and brace them in pairs where the ridge rope changes direction. This also minimizes sag of the ridge rope.

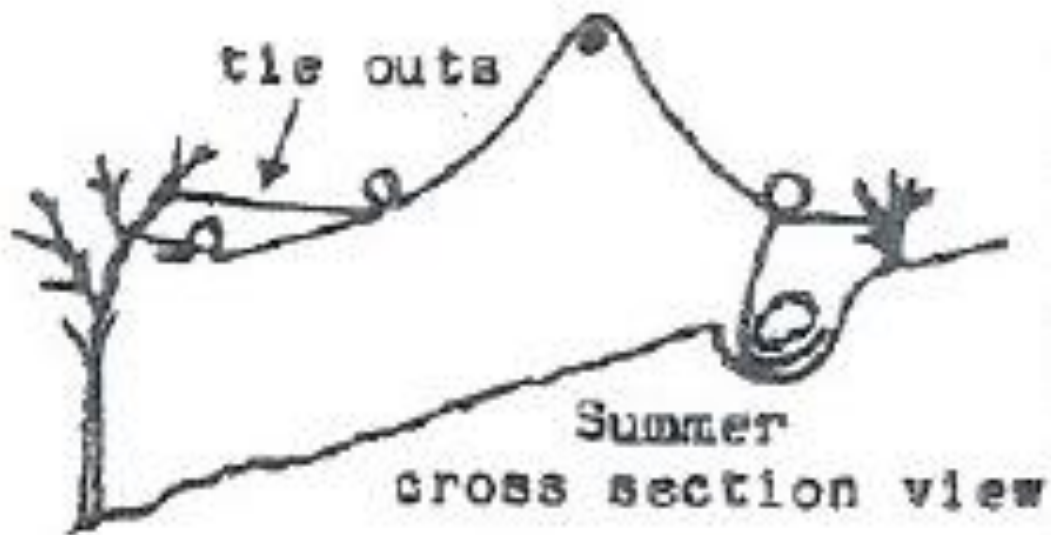


I drape the polyethylene over the ridge rope, between the end trees. During winter I tie both sides outward a couple of feet from the ground, then angle inward at the bottom and anchor with rocks, logs or dirt. (See figure 3.) This shape allows the snow to slide off the tent. (If the tent were delta-shaped, the snow would pile up on the sides and stretch the plastic.) I tie to the plastic every few feet by bunching it over a small pebble $\frac{1}{2}$ inch to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch diameter; no cutting is necessary.

If I use a ground plastic, I leave a few inches of bare ground between its edges and the sides of the tent, so that condensation does not run onto the ground plastic. For the same reason I do not place objects in contact with the tent. If I do not ditch, in winter I keep possessions which could be damaged by water off the ground – even in a well-drained spot water will run in once the ground outside becomes saturated.



In warm weather I remove the anchor rocks along one side and tie the plastic out for greater ventilation. I leave the other side anchored to block wind. (See figure 4.)



The poly tent provides shelter only from rain, snow, dew and wind. I can keep out insects by adding large pieces of curtain material or netting to the ends and open side. But more likely I only protect the bed area by rigging a mosquito bar over it. (Herters sells one of nylon, 76 x 36 x 36 inches for about \$6.) During fall and winter when days are short and we use artificial light in the evenings, I rig a blackout tarp over the bed - a 12 by 16 foot piece of black polyethylene suffices.

If we cook within the tent, we use a small propane stove. If we cook on a wood stove, we do so away from the tent under a fly (all sides open) of black poly.

This design isn't suitable for a sunny location. Sunlight deteriorates ordinary clear polyethylene in six months (I've read). Other problems: the tent becomes very warm; the plastic casts reflections visible for hundreds of yards. Monsanto 602 or some other plastic made especially for greenhouse use will withstand sunlight for two years (it is claimed). One source is A.M. Leonard and Sons, Box 316, Piqua, Ohio 45356. 602 costs about twice as much as polyethylene.

Comparing this shape with the covered-wagon-shaped polyethylene dwelling described in The Mother Earth News #16: The covered-wagon-shape provides more standup space for the same amount of plastic, but involves more work, uses more trees, doesn't shed snow, and is likely to have condensation drips.

This tent has proven satisfactory in the Siskiyou from about April through October, tolerable in winter with the addition of a foam hut. And it is bright, roomy, simple and inexpensive.

A HIDDEN HOME: THE SHUSWAP DWELLING

By: Jeffrey

Here is a way to build a warm, well camouflaged, almost free dwelling that doesn't take a whole lot of anything but a few tools like an axe and shovel and a little hard work to put it up.

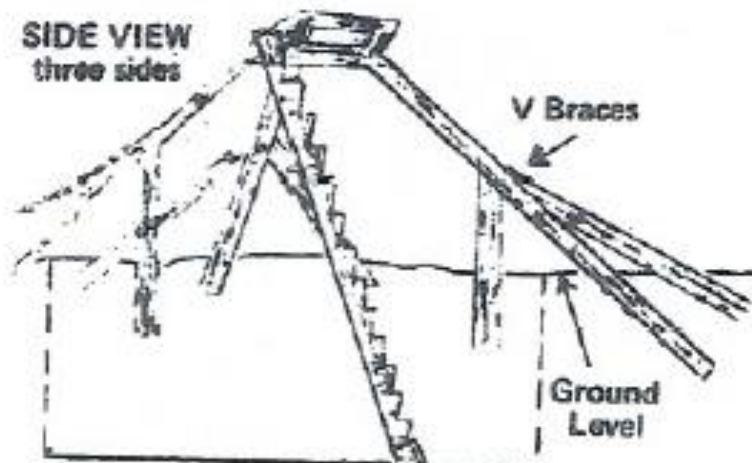
I got the idea from a survival manual written by a very right wing Christian dude named Dallas Roquemore called *GET THREE TO THE HIGH MOUNTAINS* and used a few of my own ideas to make construction easier.

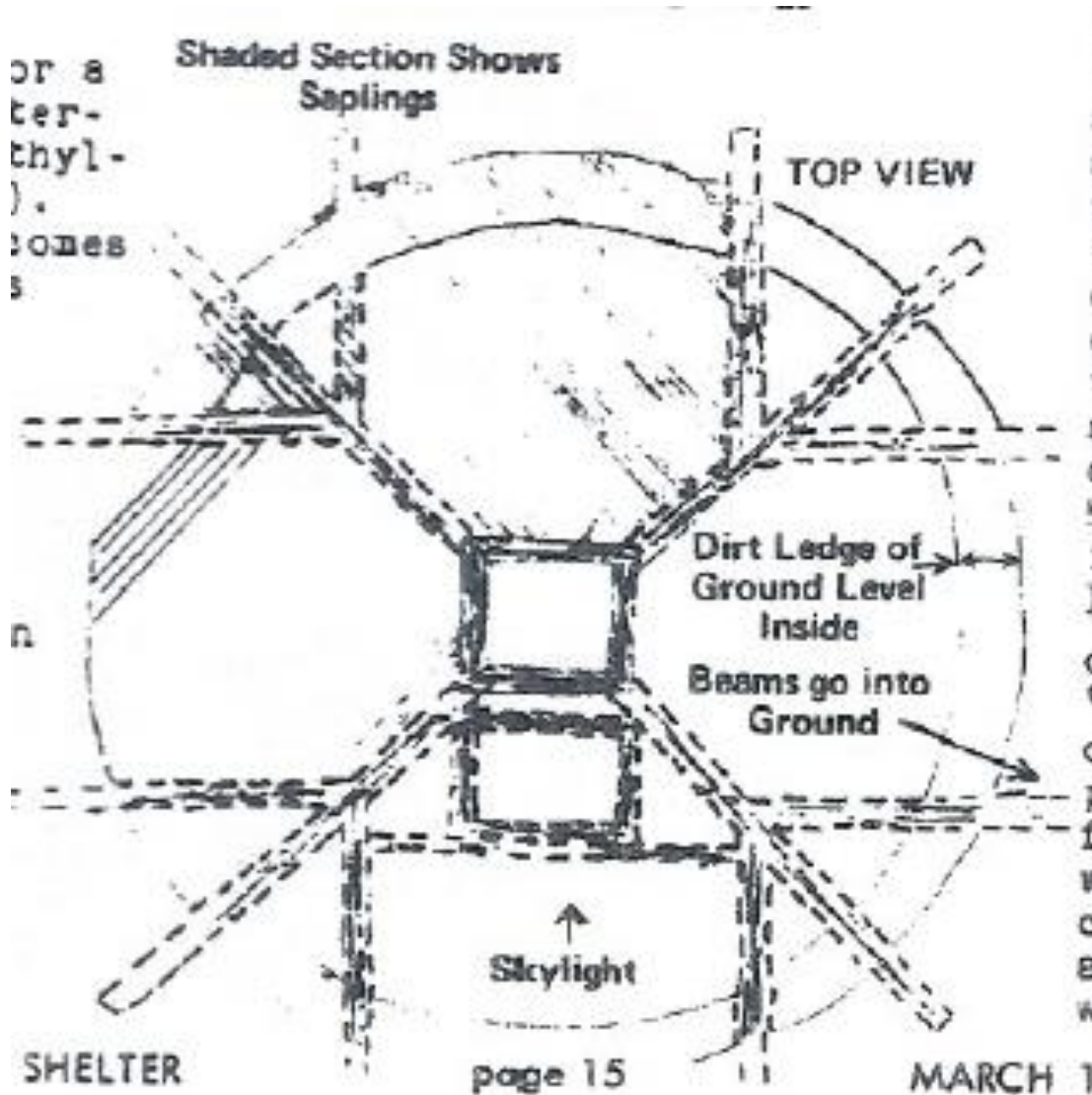
It's called a Shuswap Indian dwelling, and the Shuswaps are a small tribe who live in the Canadian Rockies – the only non-treaty tribe left in Canada. Got a little information from one of them I was in jail with and I guess they're pretty nomadic now too. From all I gather they must have some piss and vinegar behind them.

The dwelling is a small dome dug into the earth with lodgepole pine for beams and saplings over that. Then I use a layer of Visqueen (polyethylene film?) and over that the dirt dug out, or adobe if you have the time for it and the dirt is right for it.

I've built four now, and each one is a little different. The biggest is 18 feet diameter and 8 feet from floor to ceiling in the middle, and the smallest 12 by 6. Skylights are nice if you can get some old window, rawhide and varnish, or even Visqueen will do I guess but it should probably be doubled.

I usually find a small, old barrel at the dump for a stove and flatten the top to put pots on, and run the stove pipe out the entrance hole, which I cover with a small dismountable A-frame, or dome made of willows and canvas. The A-frame is 3-sided, the fourth being a canvas flap.





A piece of drainpipe makes a good ventilation hole.

It's a good idea to ditch the outside perimeter and run the Visqueen all the way down, then fill the ditch with rocks you've dug out of the hole. Usually there is more than enough.

The main beams can be bolted, spiked, pegged or lashed together. I've always nailed the saplings to them. The ladder is simply a log with notches out for steps.

I've had some problems with condensation when I've left for a week or more, but keeping a fire going for cooking, and heating in Winter has kept it pretty dry. This is in semi-arid country though, and I imagine around the coast there would be more of a problem.

The shuswaps I've been building have never had any serious attacks by bears, and they have been built in bear country – both blacks and grizzlies. But then I don't eat meat or keep anything too appetizing for them to smell in the open.

One person can build one for himself if he's into a solo thing, which is handy. I built my first with the help of Claudia and Lynn. After putting some large stones for steps on, it collapsed due to excessive weight and faulty spiking. So we did it all over with two feet of snow on the ground and I spent the Winter in it, warm and comfortable with temperatures as low as 40° below. We had a hot spring nearby and it was truly a blessing for laid-back bathing.

HOW TO BUILD AND DESIGN WITH NATURAL TIMBERS

By: Rayo

This article is based on my experiences over a three-year period building one completely underground smial, one semi-underground structure, sever[al?] bed frames, and bracing for plastic tents. My practices are still changing – I have much to learn. However I have seen little in print relevant to this kind of construction so I offer these tentative suggestions.

WHERE TO USE: Vonu construction with natural timbers is slower than dimensioned (commercial) lumber. I use trees only at sites remote from roads. If a 4-wheel vehicle can be driven to a site, I would use one or more vans or campers for shelter. If a 4-wheel vehicle can be driven to within a quarter mile, I would use mostly salvaged lumber or other processed materials. Or I might prefab a structure in small sections away from the site, backpack to the site, and assemble it there. I make these choices not only for economy (money and time) but to minimize activities near a site likely to draw attention to the area.

WHAT TO BUILD: A conventional log cabin requires large quantities of wood. This was seldom a problem for European immigrants a century ago because: home sites were usually on land where trees were plentiful; trees had to be cut anyway to clear land for crops; trees were all cut close to the site and didn't have to be moved far; homesteads were not concealed, nor would concealment have been possible with traditional farming, stock raising, logging or mining.

But even a century ago a log cabin was a "brute force" solution. It not only consumed many trees but provided poor insulation – a fire was needed in Winter for warmth. And if one moved, the cabin had to be left. The Indians – more sophisticated in working with native materials – built structures which used fewer and smaller trees.

For a vonu dwelling a lob cabin is usually unsuitable. The site is often on steep and rocky terrain where trees grow small. Trees must be cut sparingly over a wide area so as to not significantly alter the environment, and so timbers must be backpacked thru brush and over rough ground – a vehicle trail or even mule trail would defeat the purpose. Use of a power saw or axe is undesirable because of noise. Then too, a vonuan can use materials which did not exist a century ago such as polyethylene and synthetic cord.

In my projects to date, the most time consuming tasks have been timber preparation – including finding removable trees, cutting, trimming, debarking, disposing of unusable parts, and carrying to site. Even when building completely underground, I spent more time preparing timbers than I did digging and filling rocky soil.

So I use natural timbers sparingly, for main beams and posts where there are bending or compressive loads, usually not for bracing, surfacing, or shelving. And I design for use of pieces light enough to carry easily – rarely over 100 pounds.

At present I do not recommend any particular design. What is best will depend on the environment (rain, snow, drainage, temperatures, shade, slope, soil), materials available (trees, brush, rocks, soil, leaves), size (covered space, warmed space, headroom) and degree of vonu desired. And it is to vonuans' advantage to use a variety of shapes and locate in various kinds of terrain, so that hostiles do not know what to look for.

One good source for ideas are the dwellings of "primitive" peoples such as the Shuswap (preceding article). Look thru books on native peoples in a large library. Use such designs for starting points for your own creating. Primitive people did not have, on one hand, strong waterproof plastics available for a penny or two a square foot, nor, on the other hand, airborne snoops to contend with.

Vonu construction seems to have little in common with "conventional" building, so experience in the "building trades" is not especially helpful.

For a first structure I suggest something that is small, mostly above ground, not especially remote (but at least 400 yards from the nearest vehicle trail), and very well hidden. The latter is important since one will want to quickly weed out forms difficult to conceal. A first structure might be a sleeping hut for one person which is also a scale model of a possible larger shelter.

One should build *er* own shelter and do so out of natural materials only if *e* is willing and able to experiment – i.e., can survive a failure or two.

PREPARING TIMBERS: For vonu and conservation (which usually go together) I cut only dead or dying trees. If dead I choose trees which have been dead long enough for bark to be easily peeled off, yet with most of the wood sound – not rotted or eaten away by insects. But for the crucial parts – main beams and posts – I prefer trees which still show a few green needles. I look for trees which are being crowded out, such as one or two of the smaller trees within a clump which are overtopped by their neighbors and are green only on the uppermost branches. I prefer conifers – e.g., pines, douglas-fir. I do not take isolated trees regardless of condition.

If I expect to use the shelter more than a few years I remove bark. With live trees this is easiest if the trees are cut in Spring and debarked as soon as they are cut.

I use a bow saw for main cuts and a small crosscut saw for removing branches. I saw each tree off flush with the ground to minimize stump, and cover the stump with rocks or leaves. Any parts I am not able to use I dispose of under thick bushes.

I allow live wood to dry, preferably for several months before using. I stack loosely under a rain/shade shelter – fast drying in the sun may increase splitting.

The wood of a few trees – redwood, giant arborvitae – are naturally resistant to decay. Other woods must be treated with a preservative if they are to last more than a few years, if used underground, in contact with the ground, or frequently damp. I have used preservative paint contain pentachlorophenol (there are many brands – sold in most building-supply stores). The paint dries to a hard finish and is then supposedly non-toxic to touch. Creosote, which is often used for wharves and telephone poles, is cheaper but always sticky and smelly.

FASTENING: Nailing is difficult with natural timbers. A stout nail often splits the wood. A slender nail usually bends. If I use nails I first drill a hole slightly smaller in diameter than the nail. Gluing [gluing] wood to wood doesn't hold well because of absence of flat surfaces. Binding with fiberglass tape and then epoxying might work – I haven't tried it.

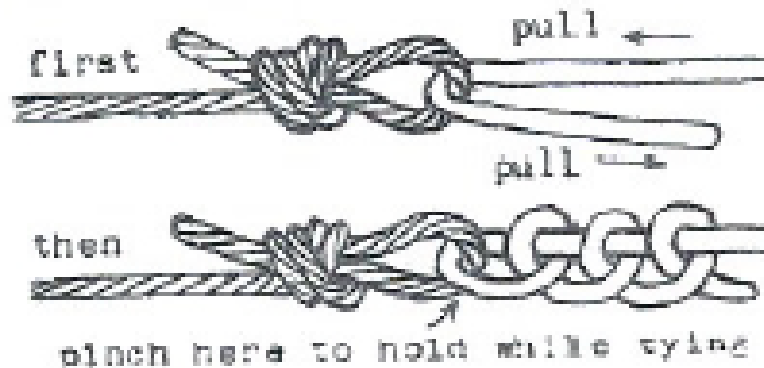
I do most fastening by lashing with cord. I use mostly polypropylene, which stretches less and supposedly weathers less than nylon. I do not use manila or cotton because they quickly rot in a wet climate. I find woven rope easier to work with and usually less expensive than twisted.



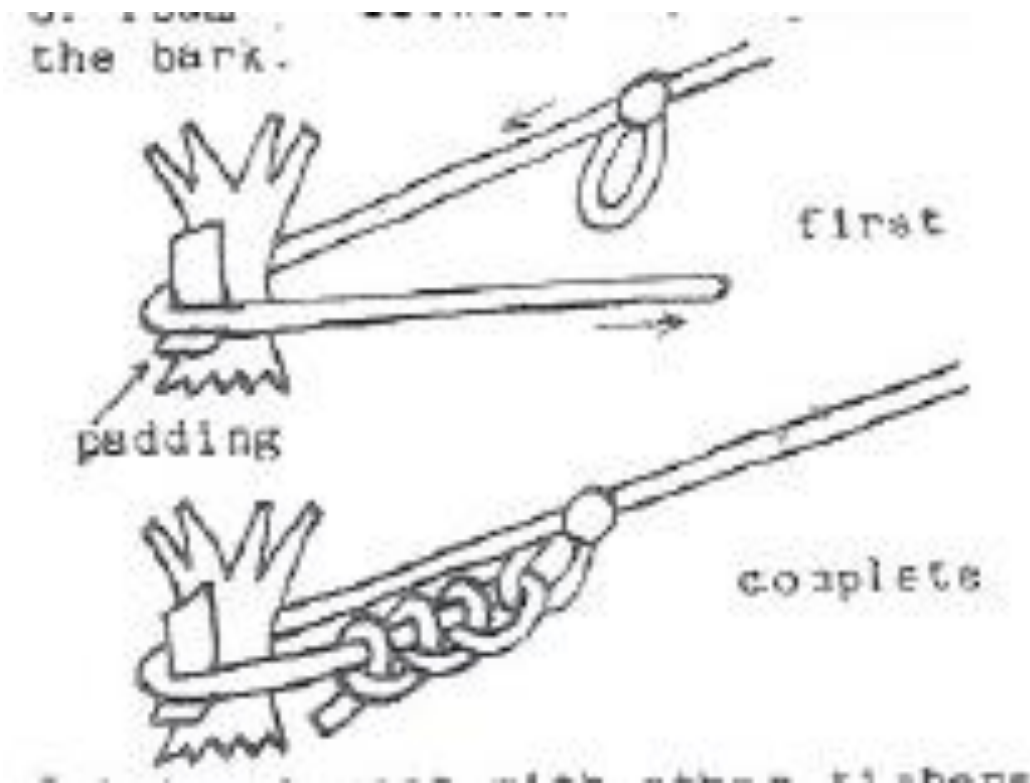
For exceptionally tight bindings I use ½ inch wide rubber strips cut from old inner tubes. But rubber is probably not as durable as polypropylene.

Poly cord is slippery; most "boy scout" knots won't hold. If in doubt I add extra loops and tucks.

To tie tightly (for guy ropes and lashings) I first tie a loop in one part. I then feed the other end thru the loop, pull tight, and tie to itself. This pulls tighter than any ordinary knot and will hold in any fiber I've encountered.

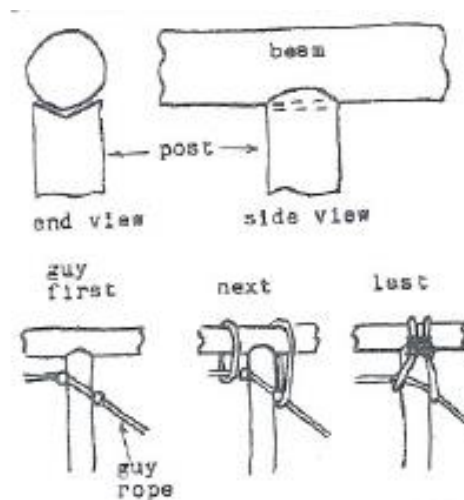


If I must tie to a living tree or bush I do it as shown below. I don't tie completely around a trunk; doing so might cut off sap flow and kill the tree. Unless the bark is very thick I put an inch of padding – rags or foam – between the rope and the bark.



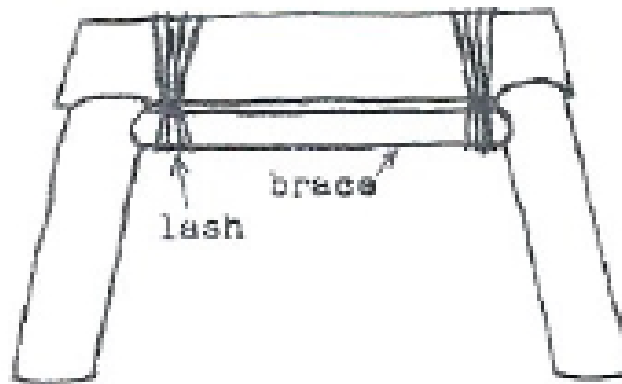
I brace a post with other timbers or with guy ropes, I don't depend on soil around the base to keep it upright. (If I dug a deep enough hole and had a long enough post the soil might be sufficient but guying is usually easier.)

To keep a beam in position on top of a post, I cut the top of the post to a shallow V shape, and lash the beam to the post.

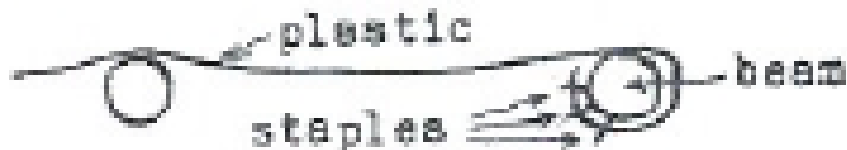


If there aren't guy ropes which keep the lashing from slipping up the post, I take advantage of branch stubs, groove the post with a rasp, or use rubber strips.

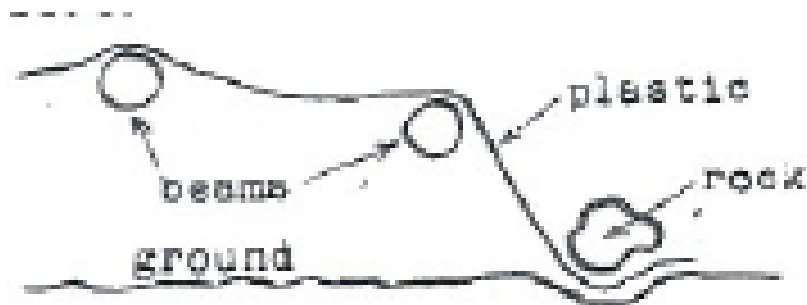
A variation of this can be used in underground construction where the posts bear side pressure as well as the weight of the beam. The ends of the brace as well as the tops of the posts are V-cut.



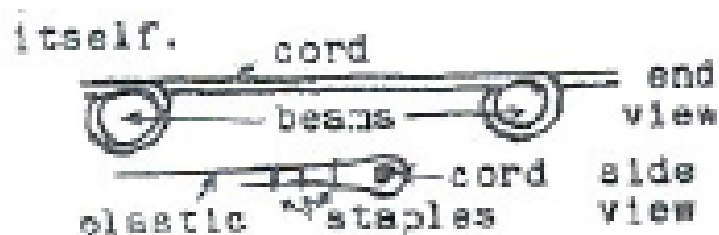
If I fasten the polyethylene film to an end beam or post, I wrap it most of the way around and staple – stapling three rows, each at one inch intervals, staggered. I have used an ordinary paper stapler and chisel-point staples on conifer wood with satisfactory results.



Alternately, I may use the same plastic as a side wall in which case I anchor with rocks or dirt.



If I fasten the plastic to the ends of beams, I first tie a cord between the ends, then fold the edge of the plastic over the cord and staple to itself.



CALCULATING LOADING: **Caution** – To keep the math fairly easy I have made many simplifying assumptions. Also the strength of materials can vary greatly from values I have used here. If failure of a structure could be dangerous or very costly, I recommend having a design checked by someone who is experienced at building with natural timbers.

Weight of some covering materials in pounds per ft³ (cubic foot):

- Bracken fern, dry, dead, not packed – 5
- Leaves or pine needles, wet, packed – 24
- Gravelly soil, wet, packed (some are heavier) – 100
- Snow, new fallen (weight will vary) – 7
- Water – 63

To get the weight of one ft³ of any material I weigh a measuring cup full on a postal scale, subtract the weight of the cup, then multiply by 120. Weight of 6-mil polyethylene film, the most used surfacing material, is 0.03 pounds per ft² (square ft.).

To predict the pressure on a surface, I calculate the weight of each material which is supported by each square foot of the surface, then add together.

Example 1: A roof must support 2 inches of wet leaves, average after settling, plus 4 feet maximum of fresh snow. 2 inches equals 2/12 feet, so weight of leaves on each square foot of surface is: $24 \times 2/12 = 4$.

Weight of snow is: $7 \times 4 = 28$ pounds/ft²

Wind pressure on a surface depends on the shape of the object and direction of the wind as well as wind velocity, but is rarely more than:

$$P_w = V \times V \times 0.003 \text{ pounds/ft}^2$$

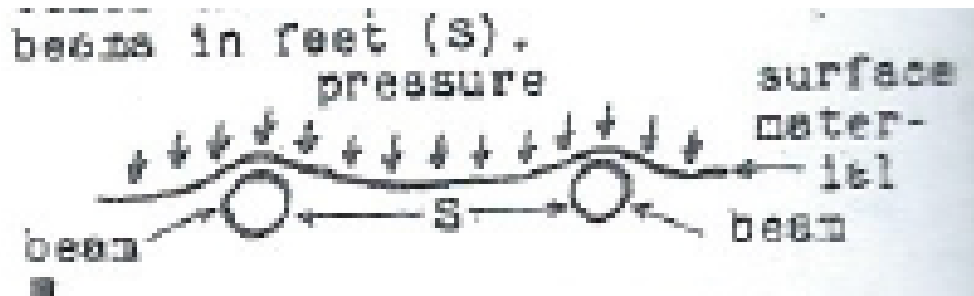
Where V is wind velocity in miles per hour and P_w is wind pressure on a square foot of surface.

Effect of wind is often to lift a roof, so wind pressure may be opposite to pressure due to covering materials and should be considered separately rather than adding it in.

Example 1, Continued: The structure is low and in a sheltered area. Wind gusts are never expected to exceed 40mph. Wind pressure on the roof:

$$P_w = 40 \times 40 \times 0.003 = 4.8 \text{ pounds per square foot}$$

STRENGTH OF SURFACING MATERIAL REQUIRED: If the beams which support the surfacing material are uniformly spaced, I calculate the weight of covering (W_c) per foot of length of each beam by multiplying the pressure times the separation of the beams in feet (S).



$$W_c = P_c \times S \text{ pounds/foot}$$

If I use 6-mil black polyethylene film for surfacing, and it is rarely exposed to sunlight, I calculate the number of layers (N) required to safely support the weight by: $N = W_c/36$.

I always round upward to the nearest whole number. For calculating other surfacing materials see Appendix 2.

I use these same formulas to calculate material needed to withstand wind. But S is now the distance between anchor areas of the polyethylene. (The plastic may only rest on most of the beams rather than being fastened to them.)

The larger value of N will be the number of layers I use.

Example 1, Continued: Pressure due to cover is 32 pounds/ft² (calculated above). The beams will be two feet apart.

$$W_c = 32 \times 2 = 64 \text{ pounds/ft}$$

$$N = 64/36 = 2 \text{ layers}$$

Pressure due to wind is 4.8 pounds/ft² (above). The plastic is anchored to cords tied between the ends of the beams which are ten feet long.

$$N_p [?] = 4.8 \times 10 = 48 \text{ pounds/ft}$$

$$N = 48/36 = 2 \text{ layers}$$

So two layers of 6-mil poly should be sufficient.

Polyethylene is usually strong estimated lengthwise – as it comes off the roll. Crosswise strength may be reduced by folds or seams. So I orient it with its length across the supporting timbers. There are much stronger plastics available such as nylon reinforced vinyl, but they are heavier and must costlier.

BEAMS SUPPORTING SURFACING: If the beam is round (natural timber) I calculate the diameter (Db required by using both the following formulas and taking the larger answer:

taking the larger answer:

$$D_b = \sqrt[3]{\frac{L \times L \times C}{B}} \times W \quad \text{inches}$$

OR

$$D_b = \sqrt[2]{\frac{L \times K \times W}{H}} \quad \text{inches}$$

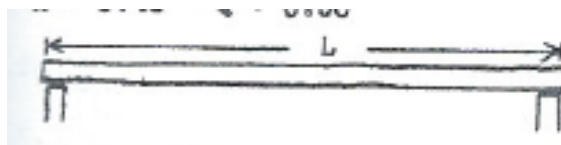
whichever is larger

D_b is diameter of sound wood only, not including bark and any rot. W is weight per foot of length of beam (calculated before).

B and H are strength of wood to bending and horizontal shear respectively, including safety factors. Most conifers have values of B and H greater than 500 and 20, respectively. Some broad-leaf trees (willow?) are weaker (Appendix 3). L is length of the beam in feet.

C and K depend on the manner in which a beam is supported. Values for some common configurations are in the figures below. Loading is assumed to be the same at all points on a beam except for configurations 6 and 7. (Q is used further on).

Configuration 1 – Beam supported on both ends... C = 15.3, K = 0.43, Q = 0.50.



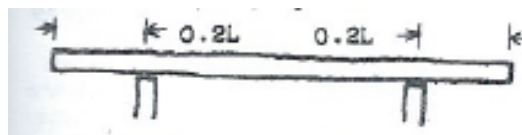
Configuration 2 – Beam supported in the middle, braced with ropes on both ends, force on both ropes not greater than 10% of weight on beam. $C = 17.0$, $K = 0.52$, $Q = 1.10$.



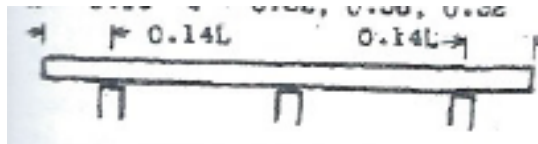
Configuration 3 – Beam supported at one end and at a point three-tenths of length from other end. $C = 5.5$, $K = 0.34$, $Q = 0.28, 0.72$.



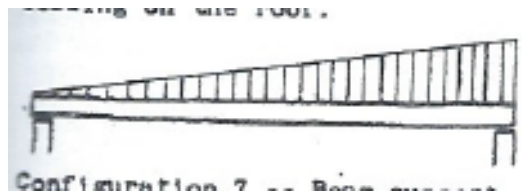
Configuration 4 – Beam supported at points two-tenths of length from both ends. $C = 2.6$, $K = 0.25$, $Q = 0.50$.



Configuration 5 – Beam supported in middle and at points 14% of length from each end. When not loaded the beam touches all three supports. $C = 1.2$, $K = 0.16$, $Q = 0.32, 0.36, 0.32$.



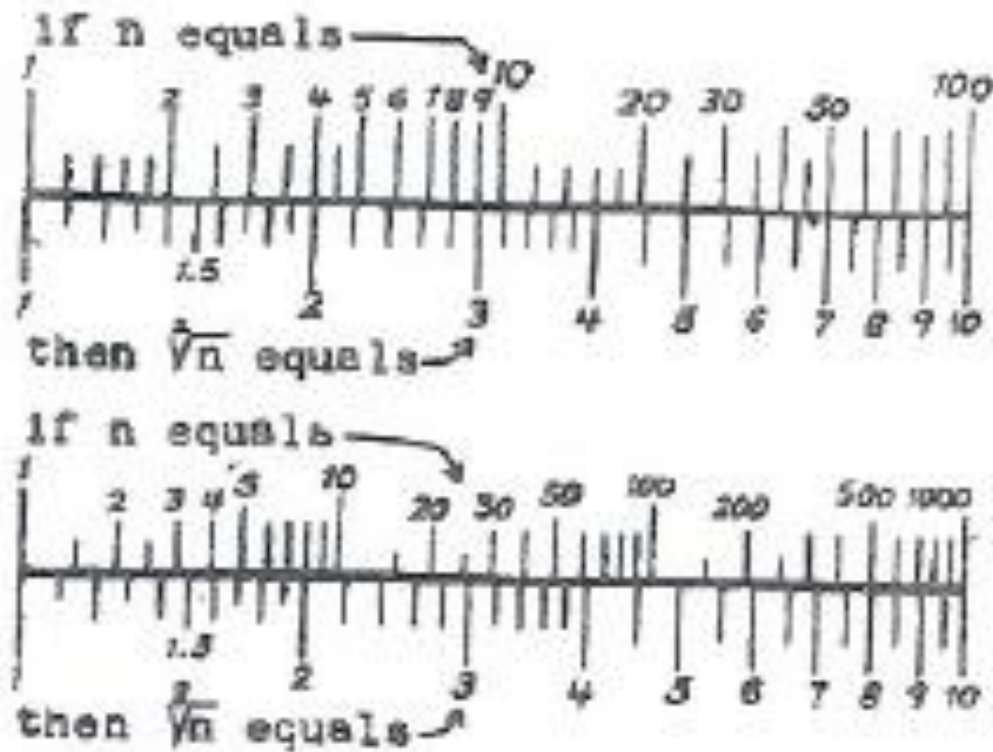
Configuration 6 – Beam supported on both ends. Loading varies proportionate to distance from one end, from zero on one end to W pounds per foot on the other. $C = 7.5$, $K = 0.29$, $Q = 0.17, 0.33$. This configuration occurs in round structures with uniform loading on the roof.



Configuration 7 – Beam supported on both ends has concentrated load in the middle. $C = 19.3$, $K = 0.43$, $Q = 0.50$. (Note: The load plugs go into the formulas as $W \times L$, not just as W .)



$\sqrt[3]{}$ and $\sqrt{}$ are called “cube root” and “square root.” For example $\sqrt[3]{8}$ is 2 (because $2 \times 2 \times 2 = 8$) and $\sqrt{25} = 5$ (because $5 \times 5 = 25$). Cubed root and square root may be obtained from the following scales, off a slide rule, from a book of math tables, or by trial and error.



I calculate a trial value for the diameter, then use this to calculate the weight of the beam per foot of length with the formula: $W_b = D \times D \times D \times 0.22$.

I add this to W_c to get the total weight per foot of length: $W = W_b + W_c$.

If W is more than 10% greater than W_c I recalculate D using W . I repeat this until W [?] changes less than 10% from previous trial. (If I need do this more than once, it indicates that the configuration is inefficient. I redesign, using more points of support to reduce the diameter required.)

Weight of the beam equals length times weight per foot of length: $L \times W_b$.

Example 1, Continued: W_c is 64 pounds per foot (calculated before). Suppose the beam is 10 feet long, is uniformly loaded, and is supported at points 2 feet from each end as shown in Configuration 4. Therefore $C = 2.6$ and $K = 0.25$. The wood is not very strong with $B = 500$ and $H = 20$. Plugging into the formulas:

$$D_b = \sqrt[3]{\frac{10 \times 10 \times 2.6 \times 64}{500}}$$

OR

$$D_b = \sqrt[2]{\frac{10 \times 0.25 \times 64}{20}}$$

After doing the multiplying and dividing inside the root signs I get:

$$D_b = 2\sqrt{8} \text{ or } 3\sqrt{33.3}.$$

I look up 8 on the n scale and read 2.8 on the square-root-of-n-scale. Likewise I find 33.3 on the n scale and take the number at that point on the cubed-root-of-n scale, which is about 3.2.

3.2 is the larger answer so this means the beam must have sound wood at least three and two tenths inches in diameter. Calculate its weight per foot:

$$W_b = 3.2 \times 3.2 \times .022 = 2.2 \text{ pounds per foot}$$

I add this to the weight supported by the beam to get total weight:

$$W = 2.2 + 64 = 66.2 \text{ pounds/ft}$$

Since this is less than 10% greater than 64 I need to recalculate D.

Weight of the beam is $2.2 \times 10 = 22$ pounds. Of course I will not be able to find many trees exactly 3.2 inches in diameter so many of the beams will be somewhat heavier than 22 pounds.

Post placement makes a big difference in diameter required. If the beams were supported at the ends I would need a beam at least 5.9 inches in diameter and weighing at least 77 pounds (calculations not shown).

Strength of wood has less effect (with beams). If the wood were twice as strong required diameter would go down to 2.5 inches.

So far I have assumed that the beams are horizontal and pressure upon them is perpendicular to their length. Most often beams are slanted for snow or condensation run off and/or because one end rests on the ground. The slant may be disregarded provided the beam is not also a post or prop. (For other cases, see section further on.)

POSTS SUPPORTING BEAMS: To calculate the vertical force (P) exerted on a post by the beam it supports. I use the formula:

$$F = L \times W \times Q \text{ pounds}$$

L is the length of the beam and W is total weight per foot of length of beam (as before). Values of Q are given for each configuration (previous illustrations). If more than one value of Q is given it means that the forces on the various posts will be different; the order of values is the same as the order in the illustration (left to right).

After finding force on a post I calculate its required diameter with formulas:

$$D_p = \sqrt[3]{\frac{11.5 \times F}{B}} \text{ inches}$$

OR

$$D_p = 0.4 \times L_p \text{ inches}$$

I take larger answer. B is the bending strength of the wood (as before). These formulas assume that the post is round and fairly straight (Appendix 4). Dp is diameter of sound wood only, excluding bark and rot.

If a post is held only at the top and bottom (usual case) L_p is the total length of the post, including portion underground. If a post is supported only by the ground and not braced at all – i.e., neither the top of the post nor what it supports is guyed, set L_p equal to twice the length of the portion above ground. If a post is very firmly braced or guyed with steel cables at intermediate points in all directions (at least three guys) then L_p is the length of the longest unbraced section.

Example 1, Continued: With configuration 4, $Q = 0.5$. So the force on each post is:

$$F = 10 \times 66.2 \times 0.5 = 331 \text{ pounds}$$

Suppose the post is to be 5 feet long, total length, and will be guyed at the top. B is 500, as before.

as before.

$$D_p = \sqrt[2]{\frac{11.5 \times 331}{500}} \quad \text{OR } 0.4 \times 5$$

$$= \sqrt[2]{7.6} \quad \text{OR } 2$$

$$= 2.8 \quad \text{OR } 2 \text{ inches.}$$

So the post must be at least
2.8 inches in diameter.

So the post must be at least 2.8 inches in diameter.

FOOTINGS: In rocky/gravelly soils I have not had trouble with posts settling further into the ground so long as the bottom of the post is below frost line.

SUSPENDED ROPES AND FABRICS: to calculate the tension at the support points of a uniformly loaded rope, I use the formula:

$$T = \frac{S \times W}{2} \times \sqrt{\frac{S \times S}{G \times G \times 4} + 1}$$

S is horizontal separation in feet between points of support. W is weight supported by rope in pounds per foot of separation of support points. G is vertical distance in feet by which the middle of the rope sags below the support points.

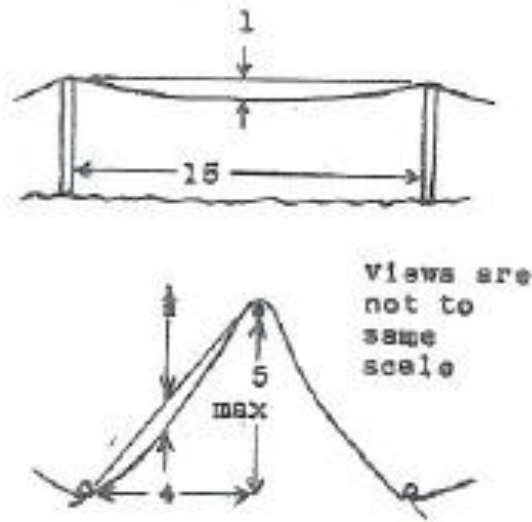


If the rope is fairly taut, I use this formula even if the support points are at different heights. (See Appendix 5). In this case G is the vertical distance between the rope and a point halfway between the two supports (as in the illustration above).

To calculate the breaking strength required I multiply tension (T) by a factor of safety of 2-to-10, depending on how destructive a failure would be and on the elasticity of the rope. (An elastic rope such as nylon will stretch some before breaking, increasing the sag and thereby reducing the tension.)

I use this same formula to calculate the tension of plastic or cloth which is suspended. Here I use pressure per square foot of plastic in place W. The answer will be pounds tension per foot-width of plastic.

Example 2: A tent is rigged by laying polyethylene film over a ridge rope and tying out the sides. The rope is braced over the tops of two poles, 15 feet apart. A one-inch-wide strip of 6-mil poly breaks with a pull of 10 pounds, after stretching considerably.



I assume that snow will slide off the plastic; so the greatest force will be due to wind. If I do not expect a wind faster than 20 mph:

$$P_w = 20 \times 20 \times 0.003 = 1.2 \text{ pounds per foot}^2$$

Tension in each foot width of plastic:

plastic:

$$T = 4 \times 1.2 \times \sqrt{\frac{4 \times 4}{4 \times \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2}} + 1}$$

$$= 10 \text{ pounds}$$

To calculate the intervals at which I must tie out the sides, I will assume that each tie grips a 4-inch-wide swatch of plastic (approximately true if the tie is around a one-inch-diameter rock). Since the plastic has a strength of pounds per inch, the strength of each tie will be $4 \times 10 = 40$ pounds.

If I want a two-to-one safety factor I must tie to the plastic at intervals of 40 divided by (10 x 2) = 2 feet.

A small factor of safety is probably sufficient here because failure will not result in injury.

To redesign this tent for stronger winds (desirable if it is to be used the year around), I would drape the plastic over three ropes and anchor each side firmly to the ground with rocks.

Each side of the tent may pull on the ridge rope so I use $2 \times 10 = 20$ pounds for W. Force will probably be less because the sides are at an angle to each other, and because both sides won't receive full wind force. Calculating tension in the rope:

$$T = 15 \times 20 \times \sqrt{\frac{15 \times 15}{4 \times 1 \times 1} + 1}$$

$$= 1150 \text{ pounds}$$

If I want a three to one safety factor I will need a ridge rope with a breaking strength of 3500 pounds, which is a strong rope. I can reduce tension in the rope by allowing greater sag or by adding a brace in the middle of the tent.

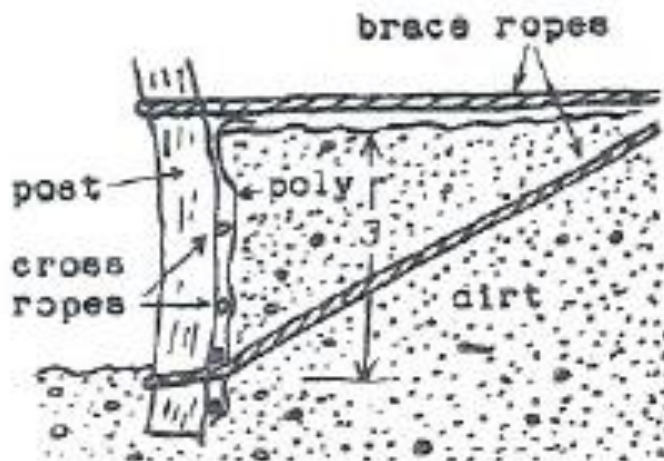
If the posts even bear [?] the full tension of the rope (conservative assumption if the guy ropes incline to the horizontal at less than 45°), and are 6 feet long and of wood with B equal to 500, the diameter required is:

$$D_p = \sqrt{\frac{11.5 \times 1150}{500}} \text{ Oh } 0.4 \times 6$$

So I must cut posts which are at least 5.1 inches in diameter.

RETAINING WALLS: A post which is part of a wall holding back dirt bears loads similar to a beam in Configuration 5 and is calculated the same way.

Example 3: A retaining wall is formed by posts 2 feet apart supporting cross ropes 5 inches apart at the bottom which in turn brace polyethylene film. It holds back dirt 3 feet deep.



The soil pressure at the top is zero. If the soil weighs 100 pounds per cubic feet, pressure at the bottom is:

$$P = 100 \times 3 = 300 \text{ pounds/ft}^2$$

The cross ropes are spaced five twelfths of a foot apart so:

$$W_c = 300 \times 5/12 = 125 \text{ pounds per foot}$$

If I use 6 mil plastic, number of layers required at bottom is:

$$N = 125/36 = 4 \text{ layers}$$

Part way up the wall, where pressure is less, I may economize by reducing the number of layers or putting the cross ropes further apart. If I do the latter at $1 \frac{1}{4}$ [?] feet depth the ropes may be 11 inches apart, etc.

If I leave enough slack in the rope so that it will sag inward 6 inches ($1/2$ foot) between posts:

posts.



$$T = \frac{2 \times 125}{2} \times \sqrt{\frac{2 \times 2}{4 \times \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2}} + 1}$$

$$= 279 \text{ pounds}$$

With a safety factor of two, I'll need rope with a breaking strength of at least 556 pounds. This should be [a] sufficient safety factor because any stretch of the rope will increase sag and reduce tension.

Since the post is like a beam in configuration 6, $C = 7.5$ and $K = 0.29$. Strength of the wood is as before. Separation (S) is 2 feet and pressure at the bottom is 300 pounds/ft².

$$W = 300 \times 2 = 600 \text{ pounds per foot of length of post}$$

$$D = \sqrt[3]{\frac{3 \times 3 \times 7.5 \times 600}{500}} = 4.3$$

Or

$$D = \sqrt[2]{\frac{3 \times 0.29 \times 600}{20}} = 5.1$$

So I'll select timbers which are at least 5.1 inches in diameter. Since the posts are vertical I do not include their weight.

For calculating forces on the brace ropes in Configuration 6 is 0.17 and 0.33. Force on the bottom rope: $F = 3 \times 600 \times 0.33 = 600$ pounds.

(Force on the bottom rope is slightly greater than that because it is angled, assuming the soil takes no load at all.) Unless the bottom of the post is embedded among large rocks I do not depend on the soil to hold it.

With a safety factor of 3, I'll need a rope at the bottom having a breaking strength of 1800 and a rope at the top with a strength of 900 pounds. (Calculations for top rope not shown.)

POSTS SUPPORTING BOTH BEAMS AND RETAINING WALLS: I calculate the diameter for each use considered separately, then choose the larger. If the post has any curvature, I POSITION IT SO THAT THE CONVEX (outward curving) SIDE IS TOWARD THE DIRT being held back. (See figure in example 3.) This way the effects of the side load counteracts the effects of the top load.

Example 3, Continued: The posts also support the beams in example 1. As previously calculated, beam support requires that the posts be at least 2.8 inches in diameter. So I use timbers at least 5.1 inches in diameter.

INCLINED TIMBERS SUPPORTING EACH OTHER: I calculate each timber as a beam and as a post supporting other beams, then choose the larger value. The force (F_p) I use for calculating post diameter is:

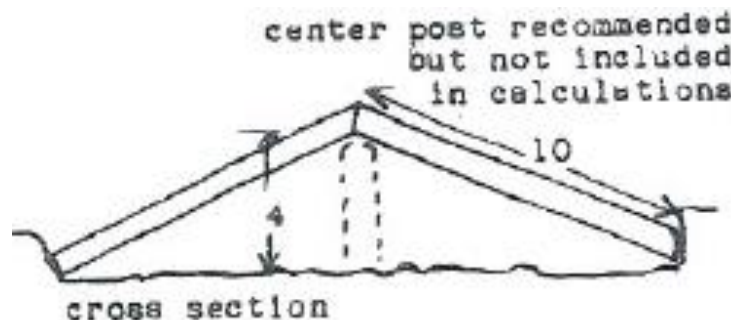
$$F_p = \frac{F \times L}{E}$$

F is the force the timber would exert if supported by a vertical center post. L is length of timber and E is difference in elevation of its ends.

Caution: Forces may be much larger in this configuration than if beams rest on vertical posts. And the less the slope of the beams, the GREATER the forces. The bottom end of each timber must be SECURELY ANCHORED – else it will push out and the structure will collapse.

I recommend addition of a center post for safety if the timbers and what they support are heavy enough to damage someone underneath, and if slope of the timbers is less than 45° (less than one foot elevation for each foot on the level).

Example 4: The main frame of a square structure consists of four ten-foot-long timbers which butt together at the top. The top ends are 4 feet higher than the bottom ends. Each beam, at its bottom end, supports 10 square feet of surface per foot of beam length. The surfacing materials and cover weigh 32 pounds per square foot. Strength of the wood is $B = 500$ and $H = 20$.



Considering as beams, the timbers are in Configuration 6, so C is 7.5 and K is 0.29. Weight per foot of beam (maximum, at bottom end) is:

$$W_c = 10 \times 32 = 320 \text{ pounds/ft}$$

Calculating diameter:

$$D = \sqrt[3]{\frac{10 \times 10 \times 7.5 \times 320}{500}} = 7.9$$

Ok

$$D = \sqrt{\frac{10 \times 0.29 \times 320}{500}} = 6.8$$

Weight of timber per foot:

$$W_b = 7.9 \times 7.9 \times 0.22 = 13.7 \text{ pounds}$$

$$W = 320 + 13.7 = 334 \text{ pounds/ft}$$

Since this is less than 10% larger than W_c diameter need not be recalculated. Total weight of timber (minimum) is: $13.7 \times 10 = 137$ pounds, which is heavier than desirable for easy handling. If each beam rested on a vertical center post, force exerted on it (Q is 0.17, Configuration 6) is:

$$F = 10 \times 334 \times 0.17 = 555 \text{ pounds}$$

But the supports are not vertical so I calculate:

$$F_p = \frac{555 \times 10}{4} = 1390 \text{ pounds}$$

This force is applied by each timber to the timber opposite. Diameter required as a post:

$$D_p = \sqrt[3]{\frac{11.5 \times 1390}{500}} = 5.7$$

Ok

$$D_p = 10 \times 0.4 = 4 \text{ inches}$$

So 7.9 inches is sufficient diameter, provided that timbers are straight or are positioned with any curvature upward.

The force exerted on the soil by the bottom end of each timber is 2760 pounds (Calculations not shown).

The weight of the main timbers can be reduced by using more of them. But, unless there is a means of distributing the center forces evenly among the timbers (such as padding) each timber must be capable of bearing the trusts of all opposite timbers and thus must be at least 5.7 inches in diameter. (This is another problem that would be avoided by using a center post.)

If I used 8 main timbers instead of 4, I could reduce the minimum diameter of each to 6.3 inches, giving a minimum weight of 87 pounds (calculations not shown).

If I add a center post, it must support the vertical forces applied by all four (or however many) beams: $555 \times 4 = 2220$ lbs.

$$D_p = \sqrt[3]{\frac{11.5 \times 2220}{500}} = 7.1 \text{ inches}$$

SCALE MODELS: If building one, I recalculate for the smaller size, keeping the stresses and safety factors the same. I don't simply multiply all dimensions by the scale. (A creature the shape of a daddy long legs but the size of an elephant couldn't stand.)

Example 4, Continued: Suppose I am building a half-scale model – main beam to be 5 feet long. Since snowfall, etc., will be the same I assume the same weight per square foot of covering materials (i.e., I do not scale the weight of cover.)

$$\begin{aligned}
 W_c &= 5 \times 32 = 160 \\
 D &= \sqrt[3]{\frac{5 \times 5 \times 7.5 \times 160}{500}} \\
 &= 4 \text{ inches}
 \end{aligned}$$

So I can halve the diameter of the main timbers and have the same stress. (If I had halved the covering materials, I would have to reduce the timber diameters to less than one-half.)

Appendix 1: The best West Coast sources we have heard of for plastic and rope: Plastic Sales Inc., 863 Folsom St., San Francisco, CA 94107 quoted (late '71) \$20 for one 100-foot roll of 20-foot wide 6 mil thick clear polyethylene film. Frantz Enterprises, 10907 Inglewood Ave., Inglewood, Calif. sells mill ends of poly rope and cord, various colors and gauges, for \$1 per pound or \$80 per hundred rolls at fairly low prices. Price are f.o.b. [Free On Board, meaning that the seller pays for transportation of the goods to the port of shipment, plus loading costs?].

Appendix 2, surfacing: The formula for calculating layers of polyethylene assumes that the plastic has a sag (G) equal to 30% of the separation between supports (S) (see section on suspension). Even if polyethylene is initially put [?] on taut, it will usually stretch and sag under load rather than tear. The formula assumes a breaking strength of about 10 pounds for a one-inch-wide strip of 6 mil.

To determine the strength of a fabric, cut a 1 ½ inch wide strip. Narrow it to one inch at one place. Tie one end to a branch and the other end to a pail. Gradually load the pail with soil until the strip breaks. (Note if the strip stretches before breaking). Weigh loaded pail and subtract weight of empty pail.

Appendix 3, beams: Woods commonly used in construction range in strength from douglas-fir with bending strength of (B) of 1200 pounds per inch² and horizontal shear strength (H) of 40 pounds per inch² to eastern hemlock with B of 800 and H of 20. These values assume that the wood is often wet, has radial cracks for two-thirds of its diameter (illustration below) which mostly effects H, and a safety factor of three (douglas-fir, for example, probably will break with a bending stress of about 3600 pounds). For strength of other woods, consult a construction handbook and/or test samples – loading until they break, then calculating backwards.

The two different formulas for diameter (D) consider two different ways a beam can fail. If the formula containing B gives the larger answer, the beam will probably fail by bending – break in the middle. If the formula containing H gives the larger answer, the beam will probably fail by horizontal shear – the wood will split near one end, then break. The first mod of failure is most likely with long, slender beams, the second with short, heavily loaded beams.

Configurations 2, 3 and 4 have the posts at optimum points (assuming uniform beams). For example, with Configuration 2, if the post is less than or more than three-tenths of the length from the end, C and K will increase and a larger diameter beam will be required. To calculate C and K for other configurations, see a mechanics of materials textbook. A knowledge of integral calculus will be helpful.

The formula for weight of timber assumes wood weighing 40 pounds per foot³ such as dry douglas fir. Common structural woods range from 30 to 60 when seasoned; more when green.

The formulas assume uniform diameter. But natural timbers taper from one end to the other. To be conservative I would choose a timber whose diameter at all support points is at least as

large as the required diameter. If a timber is most apt to fail because of insufficient bending strength (the diameter formula containing B gives the larger answer), the timber is probably safe if diameter midway between supports is at least required diameter if diameter at one support is a little less, provided there is not much overhang (Configurations 1, 6 or 7).

For a long span without intermediate supports, a truss made of several timbers and cables will be lighter than a single beam. In my work I have found it simpler to add intermediate supports.



Appendix 4, posts: Assumptions which I made in deriving the formulas for post diameter:

(1) EITHER post is short (less than ten times its diameter) and has eccentricity of loading equal to its diameter OR post is long (but less than 25 times its diameter) and has eccentricity of loading equal to $\frac{3}{4}$ of its diameter. One combination of post curvature and load off-center which has eccentricity equal to the diameter is shown above. Curved posts should be sawed so that the load rests near the convex side so that load off-center counteracts curvature (as shown).

The loading on a short post can be increased (or diameter for a constant load decreased) several times IF the post is straight, and the load is carefully centered and distributed on top of the post (possibly by heavy padding), and the post is only a post, not also a retaining wall. In this case the formula for post diameter is:

$$D_p = \sqrt[2]{\frac{1.3 \times P}{C_m}} \quad \text{inches}$$

C_m is allowable compressions parallel to grain. For most woods C_m is about $\frac{3}{4}$ of B.

(2) Post has free ends. While one end may be buried, the dirt around it may yield when wet, so I don't depend on it for stiffening the post. Effect of a fixed end is significantly only on a long post.

Appendix 5, suspension: I never calculated suspension forces before writing this article, mainly because I had not built any suspension structures in which a failure would be very damaging. Wind has ripped out one or two ties in each of several small open-sided tents which were protecting supplies; other ties, the ridge rope and the supplies underneath kept the plastic in position. Now that I've figured out formulas, I intend to calculate before building anything I expect to use for more than a few days.

If the suspension points are at different elevations:

$$T_h = T \times \sqrt{\frac{1 + (4 \times Z \times A \times A)}{A + (4 \times Z \times A)}} \\ Z = \frac{G \times G}{S \times S} \quad A = \left(1 + \frac{E}{4 \times G}\right) \times \left(1 + \frac{E}{4 \times G}\right)$$

T_h is tension on higher support. T is tension calculated neglecting difference in elevation. S is horizontal separation of suspension points, E is different in elevation of suspension points, and G is sag of the middle, as before.

$$T = \frac{S}{2} \sqrt{\frac{E}{4}}$$

T will be less than T_h provided that G is less than:

Tension at the lower support is less than T in all cases.

I have assumed that the loading is uniform per horizontal distance rather than per length of rope. This best approximates most situations I have encountered and results in easier math. The two different assumptions give appreciably different results only if sag is very large.

WARMTH WITHOUT FIRE: COMPLETE PLANS FOR \$55 FOAM HUT

By: Rayo

For several months during the past two winters, Haelan and I slept, ate, read, wrote, talked, loved and grew sprouts in a hut of polyurethane foam. Our foam hut made the difference between barely existing and being warm and comfortable during wet, cold weather, which is often the weather in Siskiyou from Nov. thru March.

The foam hut somewhat resembles a giant sleeping bag but has walls stiff enough to hold a definite shape. And, most important, an occupant is completely inside and breathes inside – diffusion thru the foam is sufficient to keep the inside dry and the air breathable. This solves the biggest problem of traditional bedding – the need to leave at least a nose out to breathe, and put an arm out to eat or read.

This design* is large enough for two 6-foot adults plus either a 4 ½-foot child or quite a few books, dishes and clothes (Figure 1). Length is 8 ½ feet. Width and height taper from 5 ½ by 2 ½ at the head end and 1 ¼ by 1 foot at the foot. Also shown are various possible configurations of occupants. The head-end height is sufficient to sit on a cushion and work on a low table.

With the hut shielded from wind, and with door and window closed, inside air will be about 40° to 50° warmer than outside air with two adults, half that with one. (Warming will depend on size and activity of occupants and on amount of padding underneath.) In the shade with door wide open, warming with two adults is about 10°F. Thus, with an outside temperature range between 10° and 65°, two people enjoy inside air between 50° and 75° – comfortable for most activities. In colder weather or for one person alone, the hut suffices for sleeping provided a sleeping bag or plenty of blankets are used inside.

Materials cost about \$55. One person can build the hut in one day but some steps in the assembly are easier with two. The hut weighs about 20 pounds.

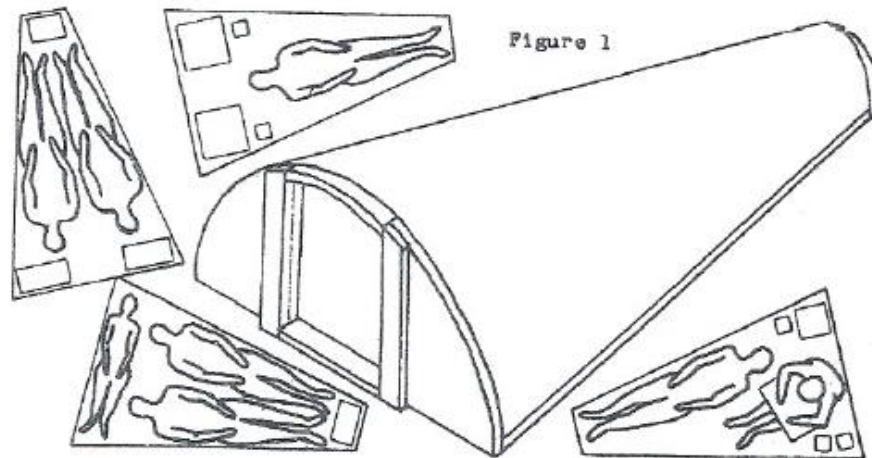
MODEL: I recommend first building a 1:6 scale model (2 inches equals one foot) out of newspaper. This will show the cuts and joins to be made and perhaps suggest changes to better fit your individual needs. Newspaper at 1:6 scale is not as stiff, proportionately as is ordinary two-inch foam, so if a model holds its shape, the actual hut probably will. Also make rough models of people and things which will go inside. If the hut will be built of 76 and 54 inch sheets, begin the model by cutting newspaper into 12 2/3 by 9 sheets. Make every cut and join as you will for the actual hut. Join with bits of tape.

MATERIALS for the basic hut (not including windows): 108 square feet of two-inch-thick polyurethane open-cell elastic foam weighing about 3 ounces per square foot (the lightest of the three weights of foam in Sears catalog), and two quarts of foam cement. Foam is most commonly sold in 76 by 54 inch sheets for mattresses, in which case buy four full sheets. (A 54 by 54 inch piece will be left over which can be used for extra padding underneath or for window frames.) The foam MUST be open cell in order to “breathe”. Test a piece by blowing thru it. Besides Sears and Wards, many stores listed in the yellow pages under “plastic” sell foam and cement. Test a cement on two small scraps of foam; if it is proper, the foam will tear before the cement gives way. I have used a special rubber cement costing \$6 per gallon.

For a door I suggest a 2 by 3 foot piece of styrofoam at least an inch thick, preferably two inches. Scrap styrofoam can often be found at motorcycle dealers (Japanese motorbikes are shipped in crates of it). If styrofoam can't be obtained, pieces of foam left over from the hut can be used. Another possibility: use two sheets of plexiglass, with an inch spacing between, to make a door which is also a storm window.

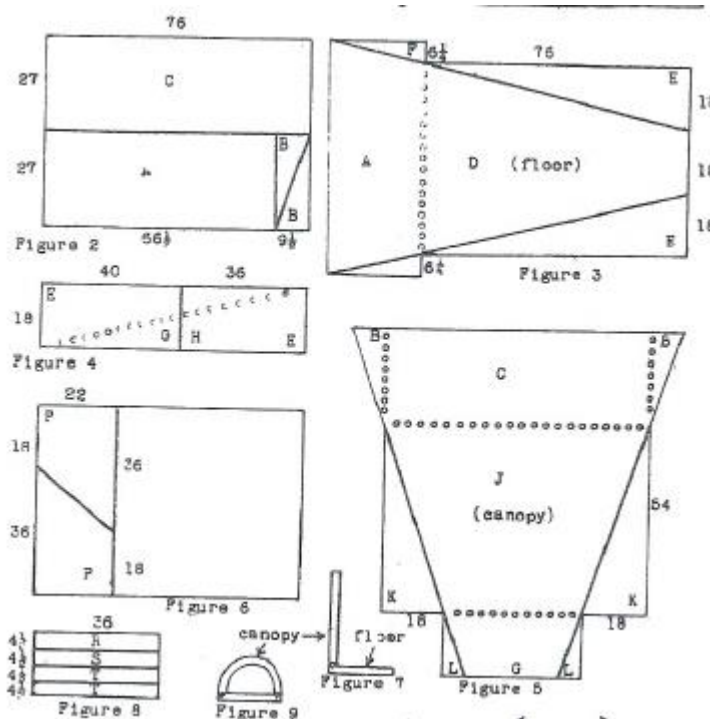
For a screen door use a 2 ½ by 3 foot piece of nylon mosquito netting, curtain material, or other fine-meshed plastic screening.

I use a felt market for marking, any long-bladed kitchen knife for cutting foam (with a sawing motion, a 1 to 2 inch wide paint brush for supplying cement, and a scissors for cutting screening.



DIRECTIONS: Accuracy within one-quarter inch is sufficient. A piece not quite the right size can be stretched or compressed slightly to fit.

Cut one full sheet into pieces A, B and C (Figure 2).

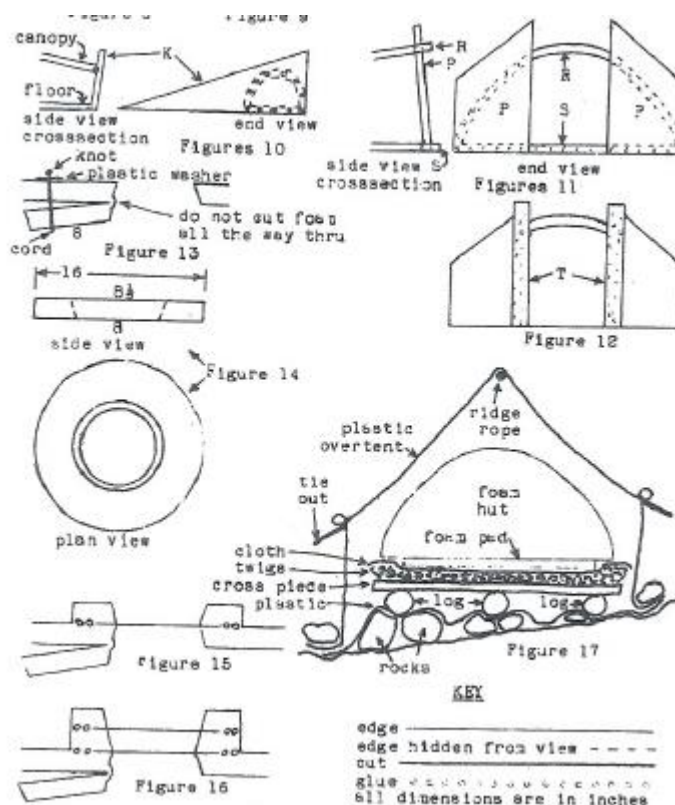


Glue A onto one end of a full sheet EDE (Figure 3). Cut off pieces E and F. AD is the floor of the hut.

Glue pieces E together along their cut edges to form a rectangle (Figure 4).

Glue B pieces onto the ends of C (Figure 5). Glue BCB onto one side of full-sheet KJK.

Cut HE to form G and H (Figure 4). Glue G onto the other side of KJK (Figure 5). Cut off pieces K and L. BCBJG is the canopy of the hut.



From a full sheet (or from a 22 by 54 inch piece) cut P pieces (Figure 6).

Glue one side of the canopy, a foot or so at a time, to one side of the floor of the hut (Figure 7).

Cut piece H lengthwise into strips R, S, T (Figure 8).

Glue the other side of canopy to the floor. This will be easiest if there are several assistants. If not, first tie or prop the canopy in approximate position. Glue a foot or two at a time (Figure 9).

Glue one K piece onto the foot end of the hut (Figure 10). After glue sets cut off K flush with the outside of the hut.

Curve the head end as desired, using props and weights. (A somewhat peaked roof and sloped sides provide the most head room for someone sitting. A flat roof and sides curving to vertical provide the most storage room at the sides.) Glue both P pieces onto the head end of the hut (Figure 11).

Cut R and S to fit and glue onto the head end (Figure 11). These are attached so that their 4 ½ inch sides are horizontal.

Glue the T pieces on each side of the opening, flush with the edges of P (Figure 12).

If a somewhat peaked roof is desired, an additional piece above 4 and between P and P may be necessary to hold this shape. This piece can be formed from scrap.

Trim P and T to within an inch or two of the canopy (which gives most stiffening), flush with the canopy, or however you like for appearance.

Trim door about one inch wider and one-half inch higher than the opening for snug fit. If polyurethane foam is used for the door, glue extra strips of foam around its edge for stiffening.

Fabricate a screen door out of coat hanger wire and netting. Fold the netting over wire and sew.

Save the larger scraps of foam for window framing and for additional reinforcement of the head end, should this prove desirable. Small pieces may be chopped up to make stuffing for pillows.

Allow hut to air thoroughly before occupying; cement fumes are toxic.

WINDOWS: I suggest trying out the hut without windows, then adding as desired. The foam itself passes considerable light at first, but darkens some with age. The best locations for windows depend on the rain-shelter within which the hut is used and the direction it faces. Windows located at the head end will interfere least with rolling (for transporting).

Any transparent, flexible plastic may be used for windows; preferably a material which will produce sunlight.

Make windows small, round and spaced far hut and cause sag. For an 8-inch window, cut the opening 8 inches in diameter on the outside and about 8 ½ inches on the inside by angling the knife. This tapers the cutout piece and allows it to be reinserted easily and snugly from the inside for greater warmth at night. This piece may be left attached to the hut by an uncut flap of foam, and held back by a loop of cord when light is wanted. The plastic washers, which prevent the cord from pulling thru the foam, may be cut from scraps of window-pane material (Figure 13).

Cut a 12-inch diameter piece of plastic for a pane. Cut a collar (doughnut) of foam with 8 and 9 inch inside diameters (tapered) and at least 16 inches outside diameter (Figure 14).

Place the pane over the opening on the outside of the hut and the collar over the pane. Glue the collar to the hut. The glue probably won't adhere to the pane but the collar will hold it in place (Figure 15).

If daytime temperatures are often low, I would add a storm window by gluing on a second pane and collar (Figure 16).

OVER-SHELTER: To keep one warm and dry, the foam must be sheltered from the rain, snow, dew, and wind. A small tent can be rigged out of polyethylene film (see Figure 17, also article this issue). A 24 by 16 foot piece can be formed into a low tent 16 feet long by 7 feet wide – large enough to contain the hut and provide a 6 by 7 foot sheltered area beyond the head end.

Rig the over-shelter at least 6 inches above the surface of the hut so that moisture will evaporate. During wet weather when the hut is occupied for long periods, droplets of water condense on the outside of the upper portion of the hut, however the inside has remained dry.

Shade the foam hut from direct sunlight which disintegrates foam – about one-fourth inch a year. The hut will last longer and stay cleaner if outside is covered with cloth (we haven't). The cloth must be permeable, not waterproof. A dark cloth will also provide black-out (dim-out at least) when a light is used inside at night.

FOUNDATION: Extra padding underneath increases both comfort and warmth – weight compresses foam, reducing insulation effect. A piece of foam 4 by 4 feet by 2 inches is sufficient; 4 inches is better, especially if what the hut sets on is lumpy. Place the pad beneath the hut from shoulders to knees, which is where most of the weight rests. Or use dry moss or leaves or grass with scraps of cloth between it and the foam so that small particles do not work their way into the foam.

If the hut and padding rest directly on a ground plastic, body moisture which diffuses thru the bottom will condense on the cool ground plastic and create damp spots. At a temporary camp during fair weather the bottom may be dried off by rolling the hut onto its side for part of each day. At a more-permanent camp I guild a platform out of recently-dead logs and branches 6 inches or more above the ground. This also keeps the hut dry during heavy rains when water may run along the ground.

I put rocks down first for leveling and stabilizing the logs, then I lay down a piece of plastic. I put down three logs 4 inches in diameter or larger, angled to match the taper of the hut. (Three main logs rather than two allows the use of smaller and curvier cross pieces.) I place cross pieces about 2 inches apart, using 1 ½ to 2 inch diameter pieces (not counting bark) from the head end

to the hip area, smaller pieces at the foot. I do not debark logs but I smooth off sharp branch stubs. On top of the cross pieces go fine branches, dry ferns, leaves, etc., then scrap cloth, then foam pads if any, and then hut (Figure 17).

BEDDING: We have used regular sheets and blankets inside the foam hut. Bed-straightening chores may be reduced by cutting and sewing two sheets together into a tapered envelope (we haven't).

TRANSPORT: I remove the door (if stiff) and anything in the hut, then roll up, starting at the foot. I wrap a tarp around it and tie in several pieces. The bundle is bulky but back packable. After unrolling I put a couple of branches inside as props to speed restoration of shape. Our hut has been transported four times this way without apparent damage.

ARTIFICIAL LIGHT AND HEAT: Foam is highly flammable. Be very careful with flame. We have used a kerosene lantern within ours without trouble; leaving the door partway open for ventilation.

*Our present foam hut differs from this design. The head end is cylindrical rather than conical (maximum width is 4 ½ feet) – not as stiff a shape – and is further weakened by large openings in the sides for door and windows. I added extra pieces around the door and window for stiffening but, even so, the cylindrical portion sags if not braced. To brace it I tie two cords from the top to the ridge rope of the over tent. Other shortcomings: closing the side door snugly is difficult; a side door is not compatible [compatible] with a minimal size over tent; the maximum height (2 feet) is not quite enough for comfortable sitting. The design here is an attempt to correct these problems.

WARMTH WITHOUT FIRE: STEPHENSON'S TENT LINER

Review By: Rayo

"A unique new insulating liner, now being made for the Warmlite tents, eliminates the need for sleeping bags. The unit hangs from the tent and provides a warm insulated compartment for two, equivalent to two down bags with 4.8" of insulation, yet is fully adjustable for warmer weather. Polyether foam pads underneath provide bottom insulation and comfortable padding...The packed bulk is less than a single down bag...The Filmgap insulation consists of 10 layers of aluminized plastic film with ¾ inch airgaps between layers. The unit is constructed like a small wall tent hanging from the tent frames. An oversize end closure at the neck end permits the user to sleep with head outside of the liners, but inside the tent, thus eliminating need for a hood. The neck closure may be regulated for any amount of ventilation for warmer weather use, being tied completely open at about 60°F. When not needed during the day, the liner can be easily detached at the front end and folded into the back end of the tent thus making the full tent space available for use.

"The wind stability of the tent assures only convection free air between the film layers, thus providing efficient insulation."

Weight of liner plus pads is about 6 ¼ pounds; price is \$200 f.o.b. Stephenson's Model 7 tent, needed to support the liner, is \$162 (according to catalog received late 1972).

The above is all the information on Filmgap that is in Stephenson's catalog; several questions asked were not answered, including: Can one breathe within the liner, or MUST one's head be left out?

The inside dimensions of the liner were not stated but, calculating from dimensions of Model 7 tent, it may be about 45 inches wide by 30 inches high.

Based on Stephenson's chart for down insulation, Filmgap provides about 55° of warming with two people and would be sufficient, by itself, down to 20°F.

Apparent advantages compared to a foam hut: makes a much more compact bundle for backpacking; less weight; ready-made. Apparent disadvantages: opaque; expensive.

Stephenson's address is 23206 Hatteras St., Woodland Hills, Calif. 91364.

The catalog gives the impression that Stephenson's equipment (including sleeping backs and pack frame) is well designed for lightweight overnight camping.

BUS REBUILDING

By: Al Fry

Mobile living started for me the day I passed a car lot which had a dilapidated \$150 travel trailer which I couldn't pass up for the price. I pulled it post haste to a friend's secluded orange orchard and decided that this sure might be the way to solve the problem of rent. One thing led to another and we would up pulling that trailer all over sunny Southern California, often sagging from the overload of junk or jetsam.

Pretty soon I got tired of trying to find suitable free spots to leave it while exploring an area or working, so we went on to an ancient U.P.S. truck which should have solved the problem but didn't. What it did do was point out the many mechanical problems one could run into. Sparing the details I hope that what scant bit of experience we later piled up will help someone else going the same path.

Several step-vans later I finally figured I had my ultimate vehicle when fate interceded again and I had a mate with a son and dogs. Well, to shorten the story, I laid out about 1500 bills with trembling fingers and became the hesitant owner of a gigantic 35 foot "48" Crown bus. Vans are one thing but flat-front buses are something else again.

Over the next six months or so we gained a lot of savvy on just how cheap one of these things can go together and still be presentable. The first surprising bit of luck was learning that one can usually get seconds and leftovers from the trailer and camper builders who seem to be scattered all of S. Calif. Paneling for instance never ran us over a dollar a sheet and the more expensive hardware like sliding valve toilet, small water heater, and stove were usually less than a fourth of the new cost. An initial trip to our local dump quickly supplied us with the 2 x 4's and insulation to get things underway. (\$2 a load is average scavenging rate.) Most of the lesser hardware came from swap meets where many trailer factory workers brought a lot of miscellaneous, and persons often unloaded unique gear from the past. Prize possessions on the "unique" list were one brass lever-handle water pump to supplement the electric jobby and various pieces of antique hardware and bric-a-brac.

I have always searched high and low to get my hands on good stainless steel tanks for putting under my vans, but I stumbled across a real winner when I found out about the industrial Teflon-lined barrels now in use. These barrels can be found in 25 or 50 gallon sizes, and for a few dollars you have a rustproof first-class water or holding tank. Any industrial section of a large city will have scads of them around and some of the big buses will have enough room underneath to put the big 50 gallon jobs. I used heavy strap iron cradles to hold them and connected little electric pumps to them although I am about to replace this constant line pressure pump with a constant barrel pressure air pump which will use less to push a given amount of water. They are a little more trouble free as a bonus. We used some surplus transparent hose to hook up all the faucets. I have found that ordinary garden hose is too chintzy and rubber taints all the water that goes through it. Camper supply stores have a good cheap hose. I had given copper some thought but one good accidental freeze would have split it open and who can afford copper. I have insulated pipes and tanks but didn't on the bus in hopes a half-filled round tank wouldn't split and the very flexible clear stuff would give enough.

Generally speaking I have found that the more insulation one can get UNDER *er* rig the better. The sides and top should get insulated but often the factory insulation will suffice IF one puts a layer of something over the metal interior. Wood paneling does the job. Rubber-backed carpet glued down with contact cement is even better and regular carpet is better than nothing. Our bus bedroom is carpeted ceiling to floor in warm carpet that cost next to nothing because it was leftover material – large pieces would need cutting up anyway.

By far, the best thing to have on a floor is rubber backed commercial carpet although it is really hard to find at any reasonable price. Linoleum is okay if it isn't in squares, which soon loosen up. And long shag rug is totally impractical.

Some innovations that are very nice include a clear plastic or glass skylight and light proof window covers all around. The skylight can be incorporated into the ventilation cover if it is fairly large and the savings in lighting fuel will make the effort worthwhile. In cold weather this skylight

should have a double layer of glass as well as the windows if possible, although a plastic film can be put on in a pinch.

Cold weather is really hard to combat in a bus or van and I always try to have sliding heavy curtains to cut off window areas and the front end driver window area from the more insulated section. 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, LP 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 where you are you can always stoke up after dark.

Get a good quality (will have a grate) stove with a five inch 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 five-inch 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 metal catch basin 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. 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 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.

As far as name brand goes, keep in mind that you will probably wind up needing parts sooner or later and off-make vehicles can be a waste of all your loving labor if parts are scarce. Buses are really “bad news” when they start to have mechanical problems.

Dual wheels are desirable even though they need a little more gas to push them along – seems like I just keep collecting the exciting little goodies that civilization fosters and a single-wheeled rig I had got to the point of sinking down in warm parking lot asphalt pavement.

I believe in smaller engines but this is also derived from my penny-pinching approach which in turn comes from my dislike of sweating out my life for some members of the domination class.

Problems can occur with fire and I have parts gleaned from a rig that went up in flames from carelessness. Another friend lost a good converted van when he loaned it out to his good but insolvent friend. Provide for every emergency and take double precautions.

Still and all, considering the good and bad points, van and bus living is about the best money's worth of shelter to be had and, like adding rooms to a house, one can always get another one.

CHOOSING A VAN FOR LIVING ABOARD

By: Rayo

During the past five years two of us have lived in a motor vehicle three-quarters of the time and in various tents one-quarter of the time. The following are based on our experience and that of personal acquaintances.

Don't expect high vonu in a van. Have “acceptable” ID. A four-wheeled vehicle needs/makes trails and so is difficult to hide well. We have really tried, yet even in our most secluded squat spots, we get hassled (asked impertinent questions) once every couple of years or so. Nevertheless a camper or van may be ideal for someone in transition out of that society – ours has served us well this way.

Don't plan to travel much unless you have plenty of money. Don't buy a cheap well-worn van to move across the continent in unless you are already a fairly-skilled mechanic. Overall costs per mile of a “one-ton” vehicle will be about double those of a small imported automobile.

Single-piece vehicles (vans and motorhomes) and pickup campers both have their advantages. A van is lighter, sturdier has a lower center of gravity and is less wind resistant. Campers are mass produced and often cost less for the same comforts, may be more flexible, and cheaper to license in some states.

Buy instead of build, unless you are already experienced. The money you save building your own camper or making major changes in a van will be a very low return on your time. The experience gained is not very useful except for building more campers. If you do build, don't expect to achieve the overall quality of a factory-built until your *second* one.

Have at least a one-ton vehicle (at least 9000 lbs GVW); maybe one-and-one-half or two-ton. But check out the idiosyncrasies of the extorters in the states you expect to license and drive in. In many states vehicles over one-ton rating are supposed to stop at weigh stations and have commercial plates.

Have plenty of traction and a very low-speed bottom gear for getting off the road. Four-wheel drive is often desirable though expensive; next best is dual-rear wheels with most of the weight on them. VW minibuses and most three-speed standard transmission vehicles don't have a low enough low gear.

Avoid vehicles much longer than a big car – 20 feet – and trailers if you will go into cities or off the road much. Two small vans are more expensive than one big bus, but handier. Also beware of campers with long low overhang.

Furnishings recommended for living aboard most of the time: good insulation; furnace with exhaust vented to outside (I like a propane floor furnace with pilot for quickness of heat, simplicity and no smoke; a very small and light wood stove would be nice for backup); good ventilation; screens on all openings; cooking stove, probably propane, at least two burners; sink draining to waste-water can which can be removed for emptying; five gallon water with spigot which can be set over sink for use, taken down for filling and when moving; propane lamp (or possibly Alladin kerosene lamp) for main light with 12 volt bulbs for quick light and backup; dual batteries; dual propane tanks; polyurethane foam pad for mattress – light, fairly cheap, doesn't mildew; black-out shades or drapes over all windows; plenty of cabinets, closets, drawers and work surfaces. Ideally most bulky furnishings – cabinets, sinks, tables, etc. – are firmly mounted yet easily removed for use of vehicle for hauling – this I haven't seen in factory builds.

Furnishings not recommended: any appliances such as refrigerator or air conditioner which use 120 volt electricity in quantities too large to be supplied by an inverter; john hard-mounted on the vehicle (if a flush toilet is wanted, get Portapotti or a similar make which is a portable self-contained unit and can be removed for emptying); vehicle-mounted water system (we have one but leave it drained much of the year so we don't have to worry about freeze-up); shower and hot-water heater (again, we have one but find we'd usually rather jump in a creek, even in January, or take a sponge bath than spend a half-hour removing impedimenta from the shower, filling the tank, turning on the heater, etc.); unvented heater (fumes are harmful).

Minimize windows in a van if it will be in a city much. I'd consider a skylight (but not a bubble top unless it was somehow retractable).

Squatting and permission-parking both have their advantages and drawbacks. If squatting, one pays no rent. And one has a greater choice of spots including more secluded locations and so is less frequently hassled. Parking with permission, one spends less time finding spots, and is less likely to have to move when hassled – which can be important if one is in the middle of a major overhaul. Permission parking doesn't offer greater security – bludg insist on access to all trails and bludg usually first ask for ID. "We have permission to park here; you can check with our landlord" isn't a sufficient answer. Squatting for up to two weeks – sometimes longer – is legal on all land not otherwise posted. Chances of being prosecuted for trespassing are practically zero so long as there is no littering, open fires or vandalism; few land-owners wish to provoke people – too easy to set grudge fires. After several years' experience we find we squat about 80% of the time; permission park about 20% of the time.

A SMALL BOAT FOR LIVE ABOARD

By: Paul Doerr

Soon, maybe by the time you read this, I will be living in a small boat. I came to California from Lake Erie in an 18-foot sloop, but sold it as too cramped even for one, and I hope to leave here with a good companion. So I made a list of what I did and didn't want, designed it all into 25 feet, and built it.

My new boat is turtle deck for water shedding and more headroom below; double end for better sea characteristics; twin keel for shallow water and cross ocean sailing; free standing, stayless but stowable, short mast for no jibing, sail wear, better sailing characteristics and capability to stow ALL gear including the mast in the locked cabin; three compartments, one about 12 feet long to live in and two to store stuff in out of the way; positive, poured in place flotation so I CAN'T sink; diamonded, an ancient Chinese invention; barn door rudder for better control and less turbulence; hand tiller for simplicity – the less fancy the less to break; Chinese junk type sail rig – another ancient Chinese invention – the most efficient, durable, least expensive in the long run, easiest handling sail known; water tanks below and on “floor” to store enough water for some months at sea, also the water adds ballast on the keel while sailing; dry food stored in plastic containers to provide additional “life preserver” flotation; a built-in treadle sewing machine (foot operated) for sail and clothes repair; kerosene lights to end dependence on electricity; a wood-burning, pot-bellied stove so I can cook and heat with driftwood or wood I cut on shore; two heavy posts, one at either end, so I can use the anchor rope, a block and tackle and a buried anchor to drag the boat up onto the shore if I find a place where I want to stay for awhile; ALL fittings thru-bolted so nothing will break out in a storm, etc.; solid mahogany frames and stringers; two layers of 3/8 plywood and one layer of fiberglass over all, on hull and deck for strength; a doghouse, sliding or solid over the cockpit so I can sail in comfort in bad weather.

I'd like to find several boats to sail in company, perhaps all over the world, keeping together during nights and storms by using c.b. radio as a sort of rough distance/direction indicator for communications, of course. By someone always watching the fleet while others are ashore, nothing will be lost or damaged. Foods can be bought in quantity and divided among the fleet. (Reprinted from PIONEER, page 222.)

FREE CITY SHELTER AS A GUEST

By: Lan

Suppose I must go to a city and live there for several months while earning more money. It's winter so I'd rather not live in a tent in the wild part of a park. Either I don't have a vehicle or it's too little and too cold for street squatting. An apartment is expensive and there may be a lease or other complications. Sharing an apartment with just anyone is apt to be unpleasant if it's crowded. If it has room enough to keep out of each other's way it's probably as expensive as separate smaller quarters. A room just for sleeping is no good if I want to keep out of restaurants. I might find a room with kitchen privileges but it may also have a suspicious landlord who is buddy-buddy with the bad guys. A commune will work only with people all on the same trip and not always then. And getting one together takes more time and energies than I could afford. House sitting is nice for somebody who can arrange it, but that's not easy for somebody not around town. So what do I do?

Before heading to the city I make contact with people living there who are living conventionally but interested in things I am interested in. I learn of them through mutual friends, also through specialized little zines like VONULIFE. Better yet I already know people there. I make special note of people with extra room and similar family situations – single if I'm single, couples if I'm a couple, freeks if I look freek, straights if I look straight, etc.

I write to these people two or three times a year, even if it's only a note, so they'll remember me. I probably don't try to arrange a room with them by mail. I just get an invitation to stop by when I'm around.

When I visit I learn their housing situation. I don't have much gear and I'm used to living in small, odd places so I don't need much room. But I like a spot that's out of their sight and way most of the time such as an attic, big closet, corner of garage, etc.

If they and I hit it off well maybe they invite me to stay a few days. Or maybe I inquire if they know a place I can stay a short time.

I probably offer to pay and they probably try to refuse. But that's just one of the rituals of the insincere society which complicate things. If I don't pay them some way I won't be very welcome next time so I must find a way. Maybe I can do chores – baby sit, fix doors, mow lawns, shovel snow, etc. But probably I'm working overtime or holding down two jobs to get back out as

soon as possible. If I'm a woods vonuan I probably can't host them in return. I'm giving fellowship and information, and vonuans are usually interesting people to folks who they might like to try it someday. But it's not wise for me to assume that my words are more valuable than theirs. Maybe I find unusual things in my travels that make nice gifts for them. If not I'm back to money. If they don't want to take it from my face I leave it behind when I go.

I take care to cause them as little expense and inconvenience as possible.

I have my own bedding.

If they eat conventional, expensive food I do not eat with them except on special occasions. I try to be away during their regular meal times to the question doesn't come up. If I can't arrange that I can say I'm experimenting with a special diet. I prepare my foods at times when the kitchen is not in use. When I do eat with them I furnish some of the food.

I use the washroom when they don't. I always clean up my dirt and a little more besides.

I graciously accept when they ask if I'd like to join them in their rooms for socializing. But I hold down my exposure and extend my welcome by being out of the house during most of their waking hours. I read in a library or in my own space rather than in their living room.

I don't urge them to become like me. They have their own knacks and dreams. They and I can gain from each other at points of overlap.

In general I try to be a little vonuan who almost isn't there.

I have other invitations lined up so when conversations get stale I pack my gear, wish them the best and move on.

This way I can not only shelter myself in a city at low cost but live around pleasant and safe people.

TIME SHARE A HOME

By: E.

Quite a few families are swapping houses and apartments on vacation. For example a family in New York who want to live in L.A. for a month gets in touch with a family in L.A. who wants to live in New York during that same month. They live in each other's apartments.

Two vonuan families who each want to live in a city every other year (or month, etc.) and in the woods every other year can rent a single apartment and take turns living in it. This could even be done by three or more families but it would get more complicated. They could also swap dwellings in the woods.

The families might also take care of each other's mail. Their mailing address stays in the city. The family in the city ships the mail to the family in the woods.

Both families could squeeze into one dwelling for a while if they have to, so it's not necessary for them to synchronize their movements exactly.

Each family should have exclusive use of a little space where they can leave things. This might be a big closet or part of one room.

FAR OUT EATING FOR \$10 A MONTH

By: Haelan Hygeia

(This is a condensation of Haelan's forthcoming book, OUT OF SIGHT EATING, for which Haelan is seeking a publisher.)

To everyone who directly/indirectly helped create this book and to all non-coercive people who read it, it is dedicated. Thanks to Rayo for being co-taster, number-one dishwasher, and critic.

Introduction

Hello. This is Haelan. I live with Rayo, in the woods most of the time, out of sight, sound and mind. Out of our life-style has evolved the ECANES diet. That's what this book is all about. I talk mainly about what I/Rayo have actually done, because I think that is more valuable than how I

THINK IT MIGHT be done by somebody else. But hopefully what has worked for us will work for you.

ECANES defined. Rayo and I buy foods with as many of the following characteristics as possible. In that way we are able to remain out of the S* society for longer periods of time.

E is for economy, which is very important to us since the less we spend, the less we have to earn, and the less time and hassle we have within THAT society. Economical foods are also ecologically sound since they are sparing of resources.

C stands for compactness, which makes transporting easier.

A stands for appetizing [which] is what we like all our foods to be.

N stands for the nutrients that help keep us healthy.

E this time is for ease of preparation.

S is for storable without special processing.

Happily, ECANES qualities often go together. Wheat kernels, e.g., are more economical, more compact, more appetizing (I think), more nutritious and more storable than supermarket breads, pastries, and cereals, which are mostly air, additives and advertising.

*S stands for sick, sickening, sadistic, sordid, senseless, etSetera.

N.B. Because prices of different foods may vary from one time to another, what is economical may also vary. If wheat's price goes sky high it is no longer a good ECANES choice. I would substitute a less expensive grain in its place. If the price of honey comes down, I may use it once again. The important thing is to be flexible. One food may be substituted for another because it is NUTRIENTS that are essential, NOT any one particular food.

BUYING. It doesn't pay to try and get small amounts from wholesalers. We buy a lot and store it. People who don't store might consider going in with a number of friends in order to take advantage of wholesale prices.

Where I think the information is up to date and helpful I've included our sources in the text. When locating a new source we have found the yellow pages informative, also the chamber of commerce in one instance. Usually all that's necessary to buy wholesale is to say something like, "I'll take 100 pounds..."

STORAGE

We store large quantities of food for the following reasons: (1) Where we live is usually far away from any place to buy anything and we prefer to be able to stay out there, with as few trips into the S society as possible. (2) It's cheaper to buy in bulk. (3) Buying large amounts in advance [is a] hedge [against] inflation. (4) We want to be prepared as well as possible for such a contingency as nuclear war.

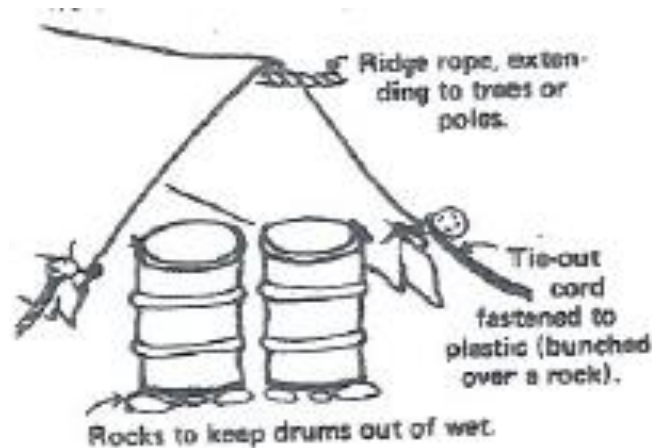
We now store most of our food in 15 gallon steel drums, bought from one of many cooperages (drum and barrel dealers) in the L.A. area. (I suggest checking the yellow pages and phoning to find out what's in stock.)

The drums we got were used but clean. A few were damaged – with holes and bent rims – so check carefully. We still gave them a soap and water washing and lined most of them with plastic bags. Even if there is no surface contaminant, the bags serve as added protection against water and ants.

Sources for plastic bags:

Bradley's Plastic Bag Co., 9130 Firestone Blvd., Downey, CA 90241, sells 24" by 45" (15 gallon drum liner) polyethylene bags for 37¢ each or \$26.50/100. Better Container Mfg. Co., 543 Granville Ave., Hillside (Chicago) IL 60162 sells the same bag but only 3 mils thick instead of 4 mils for \$19.69/100. These bags are heavier and more durable than garbage bags sold in supermarkets, but we used garbage bags before we learned of the above sources.

The drum lid and rubber gasket is held on to the drum by a circular band that tightens with a nut and bolt. This arrangement seals air-tight usually, but not always. As further protection against moisture entering the drums, we now place them under mini "A" shape polyethylene tents or simply a piece of poly directly on top. (Editor's note: See article on plastic tents in this issue.)



I've read that bay leaves inside the drums will repel ants. I put some bay leaves in and time will tell if they are effective.

In addition to water and ants, bears are a threat. We've seen square and round, metal five-gallon friction-top cans torn as if they were aluminum foil. So far our 15 gallon drums have proven to be bear proof.

Perhaps more insidious than bears is oxygen. Food is supposed to store better in an inert atmosphere. We've used carbon dioxide to create one and also kill any vermin and most fungi.

The procedure is quite simple if one has a CO₂ source. In the past we've used dry ice, buying it in the city and taking it to the woods (wrapped in foam, blankets and sleeping bags) where we did our packing.

First we placed a plastic liner bag in a 15 gallon drum. Into the bottom of the bag we placed crushed dry ice, one ounce per gallon of volume (1/3 would be sufficient to displace the air but we use more in hopes of flushing out the oxygen more thoroughly). We wrap the crushed dry ice in paper towel or rag before placing it in the bag so that the food we next pour in won't touch it and perhaps be damaged by the intense cold.

Next we put in the food: grains, kelp, alfalfa, etc. In some drums we mixed foods by first packing them separately in their own porous bags (so that CO₂ would penetrate). Raisins were left in their packing boxes, dividing some by cutting the boxes in half, and closing with plastic.

With unspoilables such as dextrose and limestone flour, we skipped the dry ice.

When the drums are full we loosely tie the plastic liner bags closed and set the lids loosely in place. In the next few hours the dry ice volatilizes and the bottom of the drums are no longer cold to the touch. Now the liner bags and lids are tightly sealed. (Pressure will develop if the drums are sealed before the dry ice volatilizes.)

Some recommend carbon tetrachloride as a fumigant. Rayo has read that it destroys vitamin E. It is very poisonous. We felt CO₂ is a safer alternative. (I don't believe the carbon tet accomplishes oxygen displacement.) When we bought the 15 gallon drums they came with various packing materials inside, including some one and two pound bags of desiccant, made by Filtrol Corp. of L.A. We used these desiccant bags in some of our food drums, after reactivating them by drying in the oven. How advantageous they are I really don't know. They seemed to dry out the raisins and currants, which have kept well for over a year, so far. Perhaps the desiccant's drying effect enhanced the fruit's keeping qualities. Since polyethylene slowly passes moisture, the desiccant was effective both within the poly bags and outside of them (within the drum).

I haven't mentioned storing flour because we don't. We consider it highly perishable and therefore grind it ourselves immediately before use.

We try to keep our food stores in as cool as possible a place through the year: in the shade, buried under ground, or watered by a cold stream.

Sprouting is one simple test of quality. If something sprouted at one time but subsequently loses the ability, something has changed: I would think for the worse.

We've had popcorn pop well after two years storage. (No experience with any stored longer). We've stored unshelled walnuts a year with no apparent deterioration. Ditto for raisins and currants. Shelled sunflower seeds appeared to deteriorate in less than a year's time and we don't plan to buy them again. (Some seeds seem okay but others developed off colors and tastes.)

We've stored brown rice a year with no detectable change. Batchelor (GATEWAY TO SURVIVAL IS STORAGE) says that if brown rice is stored for "excessive periods of time" rancidity is likely. This is contrary to what some advocates of macrobiotics claim, about brown rice keeping indefinitely. I doubt if any food keeps indefinitely in good condition.

White rice, because it has the oil removed I presume, is more stable than brown rice according to Batchelor.

We've stored some powdered milk two years. Tasted okay, but unfortunately, harmfully deteriorated food are not always identifiable by one's senses.

To transport our stores, we do long hauls by truck, and short ones can pack frame, on our backs. The Camp Trails "Freighter" model has so far held up to repeated heavy loads – up to about 120 pounds, the weight of a 15 gallon drum full of food. We added a head strap to it to help handle the heavy loads.

A less-expensive surplus Air Force riveted aluminum frame has served well with equally heavy loads. It was made more comfortable with the addition of a home-made padded waist-belt, shoulder straps and head strap. The main drawback of this frame is that its shelf is only a few inches deep – sufficient for a drum but not so handy for a bag.

We number the 14 gallon drums with an indelible black MiracleInk felt marker.

The 15 gallon drums are not practical for storage of food on hand, in our living quarters. So in the kitchen we generally use one gallon containers, mostly plastic bleach jugs, some plastic wide-mouth mayonnaise-type jars and some glass jars.

We are leery of toxins in plastic but think the jugs probably do not contaminate the contents when used for dry storage. If weight and breakage are no problem I recommend glass, but kept in the dark so that light cannot deteriorate the contents. We will use wide-mouth jars for all dry foods when we get enough. Now we reserve them for raisins, walnuts and beans, and use narrow mouth bleach jugs we salvage from laundromats] and dumps for wheat, popcorn, corn, rice, lentils, and millet. We fill them using a funnel.

Goodies that we have in limited quantity, such as walnuts, sesame seeds and raisins, we divide between us, each getting *er* own jar. That way if one of us eats fast it doesn't penalize the other, and we don't tend to race.

The plastic jugs aren't mouse and rat proof. So we put them in metal drums if we go away from camp for several days.

NUTRITION

FOOD COMBINING. Certain food combinations may lead to digestive distress. E.G. mixing a protein food such as beans, with a sugar such as [as] table sugar, tends to result in flatulence – baked beans are a notorious example. Similarly, Rayo and I find nuts and dried fruit, eaten together in quantity, to be troublesome.

At one time I tried to go by the food combining rules set down by Shelton (FOOD COMBINING MADE EASY and ORTHORDROPHY, Vol. 2) and Munro (MAN ALIVE YOU'RE HALF DEAD) and others, not because I had poor digestion but because the rationale for the rules seemed to make sense.

Since I couldn't usually tell any different in how I felt whether I followed the rules or not, and since I've read some contrary opinions, I'm back to going more or less by what tastes good, so long as it doesn't cause any noticeable problems. If I experience an upset [stomach], I refer to the rules, and try to avoid the offending combination in the future.

PROTEIN. Proteins are made up of amino acids, about ten of which are "essential" to humans, viz the human body cannot make them itself from simpler substances. It must get these ten or so amino acids ready-made in the foods eaten.

Most all unrefined foods contain some amino acids. ALL the essential amino acids are present in a great number of foods: rice, wheat, corn, lentils, walnuts, cabbage, potatoes, carrots,

etc., as well as milk, meat and eggs. However the proportions of amino acids are considered to be better in some foods than in others (by some people).

Sometimes the misleading term “complete protein” is applied to such foods as milk, meat and eggs, when in actuality wheat and rice also contain all the essential amino acids, though perhaps in less optimum proportions.

Some suggest that foods with less than optimum proportions of amino acids be combined in a complementary fashion with one another to come up with a better balanced protein. Thus, according to DIET FOR A SMALL PLANET, one part beans and six parts wheat flour provide a better (more fully utilizable) protein than either one eaten alone. However, other sources suggest yet different ratios for beans and wheat as being optimum. (The discrepancy lies in what is thought to be the optimum proportions of amino acids. I’ve seen recommendations in three different books that all contradict each other, and even themselves.)

In practice we often mix grains and pulses, e.g. wheat and beans, corn and beans, rice and lentils. But we don’t try to achieve exact ratios, just going by taste and cost. In the future, if we get more definitive information on protein mixing we may try to do it more consistently and precisely.

I think the ECANES diet that Rayo and I follow provides sufficient protein, even without milk and occasional small game. But without the inclusion of the latter I think it certainly does (based on the one gram protein per kg. of body weight recommendations of the National Research Council, which some even consider unnecessarily high).

For several years I was a strict vegetarian. But from what I know at the present time I believe it is safest to include some animal foods in the diet. Price, in NUTRITION AND PHYSICAL DEGENERATION, reported finding no “single group of primitive racial stock which was building and maintaining excellent bodies by living entirely on plant food.”

CALORIES. Obtaining sufficient calories is no problem with the ECANES diet. However this is not to say that it is a fattening diet.

If one ingests more calories than one expends, those extra calories will cause one to get fat, whether they come from bread, butter or lean meat. Eat too much of a reducing diet and the consequences will be the opposite of reducing! However on a nutritious diet one may have less of a tendency to overeat than if one eats junk.

A sugared cup of coffee and white flour pastry often prove fattening because they provide calories without furnishing enough of the nutrients the body needs, leaving one with “hidden hunger.” In eating to satisfy “hidden hunger” additional calories are consumed and therefore a surfeit is created. (Anyways, that’s how some nutritionists explain it. Sounds plausible to me.)

Starch has acquired a bad name among battlers of the bulge. The ECANES diet is high on starch. However, it is not refined starch. Along with the ECANES starch comes other nutrients and sufficient bulk and roughage to make it possible to eat a satisfying amount without getting an excess of calories.

From personal experience I know I can either gain or lose weight on the ECANES diet. Controlling my weight has been a problem for many, many years. If anything it has been easier for me on our present ECANES plan: I’ve been able to maintain a lower weight, for a greater percentage of the time than in the past on previous diets (including low-carbohydrate ones). How much of my success is attributable to food (vs. psychological factors), I don’t know. Rayo has no problem with his weight.

For those who are weight conscious, like I, the ECANES way does offer additional advantages over conventional food practices. The number of shopping trips into the seductive society, with its professional tempters, is reduced. I find bakeries, candy stores and restaurants that are out of sight, smell and reach, are on their way to being out of mind. The ECANES diet allows one to live where there isn’t advertising bombarding one from all sides.

Lastly, the sprouts provided in the ECANES diet offer one a relatively low calorie nibbler for treating attacks of the munchies.

OIL. Certain fatty acids are considered essential, i.e. the human body cannot synthesize them from other digested foods but must ingest them already made.

We presently depend on seeds and nuts to supply our essential fatty acids. Until recently we sometimes bought supermarket vegetable oil, margarine and butter. But not I try to stay away from processed oils because I question their healthfulness.

If I could get/make first-day-fresh hydraulically pressed sesame or olive oil and use it immediately I might eat it that way. All other oils are subjected to heat, as high as 475°F during processing. At temperatures above 450°F all oils develop acrolein, which is a highly irritating and perhaps carcinogenic substance.

Some health food stores (such as Organic Merchants) sell crude (unrefined) oils. (See THE OIL STORY.) These are supposedly less subject to rancidity than refined oils. However, I think that oil by any process is highly perishable.

Refined oils, which are most of the oils sold in stores, are generally solvent extracted. The solvents are commonly light petroleum fractions – suspect in producing cancer (Lee Foundation reprint #8).

Oils that are refined are often (perhaps almost always) rancid to begin with. Dr. Royal Lee knows of no commercial manufacturer of peanut oil who uses other than “moldy, spoiled peanuts that cannot be sold for any other purpose...” (Lee Reprint #8). Adelle Davis (LET’S GET WELL) claims that the rancidity cannot be reversed, only masked. The processors do a good job of that, using methods and substances which may be unhealthy.

Cottonseed oil is particularly bad because in addition to the above, it is subject to heavy pesticide contamination; cotton being grown as a non-food crop.

Margarine, in addition to the drawbacks of refined oils, is hydrogenated and therefore not as good a source of essential fatty acids.

Animals tend to store and concentrate DDT in their fat. We’ve never bought lard. We no longer buy commercial meat. The wild meat we’ve gotten so far has had little noticeable fat on it. (I’m not sure what I’d do with a bear’s fat.)

If I had a cow, goat or elephant I might drink its milk. I’d probably even make butter and cheese occasionally. However the pasteurized, salted butter on the market, possibly containing bleach or coloring, is often made from spoiled cream. Furthermore the cream comes from cows that are probably fed stale food (such as hay, especially in the winter) which is likely to be contaminated with insecticide residues. With such foods and crowded conditions the cows tend to be sickly and therefore dosed with antibiotics. They and their surrounds are also sprayed with pesticides and disinfectants.

Not using oils our dishwashing is minimal.

NATURALNESS. Quite naturally, naturalness and wholeness are not naturally wholesome for humans.

Because something is natural it is not necessarily good for one’s health and longevity. Rattlesnakes, Amanita phalloides mushrooms and tornadoes, all very natural, can cause injury and even death.

I used to believe that whole wheat bread (commercial) was better than white bread because it was natural. But commercial whole wheat bread, may, in fact, be more harmful than its white counterpart, because it is more subject to deterioration due to its higher oil content – the oil germ having been retained, unlike white flour which has it removed. Because of its possibility the whole wheat bread is also more likely to have preservatives, which may be harmful not because they are synthetic but because they may be toxic.

I think it is best not to get carried away with the idea that wholeness, per se, is any better than naturalness, per se. Can you imagine eating a whole UNshelled walnut? Especially if the TREE were attached! Even monkeys don’t eat banana peels and whole unthreshed grains might cause problems – unless you happen to be ruminant.

However to get the most nutrients from my food, and thus get the most food value per dollar, I try to eat as much of a food as is palatable and nutritious, and in as fresh a state as possible.

I’ve found watermelon seeds, for example, to be edible and tasty. I chew up the whole seeds and swallow. Cantaloupe seeds, on the other hand, seem to fragment into sharp pieces upon mastication so I spit them out after chewing. I eat the bioflavonoid-rich white rind of citrus fruits; I peel and discard the outermost covering because of sprays and fallout. I eat the seeds from green peppers. Sometimes I dry some on a plate in the warmest part of the shelter, and use for

future seasoning. I eat the seeds of apples, citrus and prunes IF organically grown; plants sprayed with arsenic may contain it in their seeds.

I urge caution with any untried foods. People are individuals, biochemically as well as in other ways. What is nutritious for one may be toxic for another.

FATTY RUBISH is the term used by Robert S. Ford, in his book STALE FOOD VS FRESH FOOD, to refer to the durable, non-food material which results from the deterioration of foods. If the food has first been ground, cooked, exposed to air, sunlight or microbes the deterioration is heightened. Since the no-food material cannot be utilized by cells of the body it builds up on the form of arteriosclerotic deposits.

Considering the food and quantity usually eaten, Ford cites commercial flour products as the big killers. The flour particles are so small that they can actually enter the blood stream very easily. If the flour were coarser, Ford says most of it would be eliminated with little harm. Judging from Ford's book, coarse flour, ground immediately before using, from viable seeds, would be much less harmful than the flour of commerce. Or, perhaps, better still would be sprouted seeds, eaten whole or made into dough.

Preserved meats are next on Ford's list of harmful foods. Also to be avoided are: powdered eggs, milk and anything containing them such as ice cream, mayonnaise and candy; most commercial oils, margarines and shortenings; nuts that are other than fresh from the shell; chocolate; drugs and vitamins; sun-dried fruits such as raisins.

Foods recommended are FRESH: vegetables, fruits, nuts, raw milk and butter, meat, etc.; eaten raw or cooked very little (except for meat) and eaten immediately after cooking.

To a large degree we follow Ford's recommendations, which coincide closely with the recommendations of many other heterodox schools of nutrition and health. We make certain compromises in order to be able to eat out of sight, viz in vonu. Hence we eat some dried fruit, vitamins and powdered milk.

PREPARATION

NOT COOKING. We seldom cook fruit, preferring it raw, for better taste (without the need for sugar) and better nutrition, as well as easier preparation and clean up.

We usually eat vegetables raw too but sometimes like them cooked. If I do cook them I try to serve some of the same vegetable raw, along with the cooked, for nutrition's sake and to cultivate a taste for the raw vegetable.

I'm really not sure how harmful conservative cooking is. Some claim it's an aid to digestion. I've read that only 1% of the carotene is [in] raw carrots is absorbed, while 5 to 19% of it is absorbed from cooking carrots (LET'S EAT RIGHT TO KEEP FIT). But, on the other hand, many nutrients are destroyed by cooking and toxic substances may even be created (as when oils are heated above their flash point). Enzymes, which can aid digestion, are destroyed at temperatures as low as 118°F. Some vitamins are destroyed by heat. With most foods I think that more is lost by cooking than is gained. So I try to do minimal cooking and cook minimally.

I also try to do minimal mixing, mincing and mashing of foods. Contact with metal and exposure to air destroys a surprising amount of nutrients. If I cut up some fruit or vegetables for a salad, I try to leave some big pieces and eat them with my fingers – sections of orange, a big piece of carrot, lettuce leaves. Often I don't make a salad at all and we eat the food whole – an apple, orange, banana, cucumber, sprouts and wild greens. I have a grater but I use it sparingly.

STEAM COOKING avoids high temperatures and any browned, crusted or burnt material (fatty rubbish). (Steam, or vapor cooking is not pressure cooking, where a special pot with tightly-secured lid allows high temperatures to develop.)

What is needed for steam cooking is a means to hold the food over the boiling water in a covered pot. (A domed lid may encourage condensation to go down the sides and drip into the food.) From materials on hand I've improvised two methods.

(1) A strainer holds the food. Mine tends to discolor what contacts it so I line it with cloth or aluminum foil.



(2) The food may be placed on a platform, such as the cut-off top of a coffee can with holes punched in it.



If condensation drips are a problem, or if the foods are ones that will drip their own valuable juice, it's a good idea to place something (a plate, bowl, foil dish or absorbent food such as corn meal) under them to catch the drippings, which may then be eaten.

Vegetables cooked this way are detectable. So are tamales and other corn meal products. Wheat balls are nice too. Some meats taste rather bland after steaming. One can get used to the taste or lightly brown the meat after it's steamed. I haven't done much bread cooking this way – yet.

I serve cooked vegetables while they are still crisp and brightly colored, not mushy and dull. For leafy vegetables I often bring the water in the steaming pot to a boil, put in the vegetables, turn off the flame, and let the residual heat do the cooking. In ten minutes or so the food is tender and succulent and ready to serve.

SCALDING. Pour boiling water over the food, cover, and let stand. I like to do it with corn meal, ground fine, with a little sesame meal and a few raisins added. It's ready after only 5 to 10 minutes.

INSULATED COOKING. For things that require longer cooking, the food may first be cooked over a flame for a few minutes, then removed and insulated for the remainder of cooking time. E.g. I cooked rice for about 15 minutes over the burner, then in bedding I bundled the covered pot – under sleeping bag, blankets, foam, etc.

After a few hours I unwrapped the rice and found it still hot, with all the water absorbed, the grains individual and tender. However, the taste was much like that of raw rice, which though not bad, is different from cooked rice, which I prefer for the most part. I'll either get used to the different taste or increase the flame cooking time in proportion to the insulated, flameless cooking time.

TSUBAKING. Baking without an oven – no sticking without fat. Tsu stand for Top (of) Stove Uncovered. I find it a lot easier to say “tsubaking” than “baking in an uncovered pan on top of the stove.” I don't claim to have invented the activity of tsubaking. Bannock must have been cooked this way before I was conceived. The same holds for tortillas, chapatis, some cookies and probably numerous other things that I don't even know about.

I've found that covering such things as bread, while they're baking, causes them to taste more like cereal than bread, hence the uncovered part of tsubaking.

Since I no longer use bottled oil, or any regular shortening, in order to keep things from sticking I use flogree (which stands for FLOur GREase) – a layer of flour, usually from wheat or

corn, on the bottom of the pan. The moister the food the thicker the layer of flogree: cornbread takes a thicker layer than wheat bread; pancakes take a thicker layer than cornbread, the second side taking less than the first, moister side.

GRINDING. Grinding isn't a grind – it's good exercise!

For my custom milling operation I have 36 grinders. Number one star of them all is the "Estrella". It is made by Talleras Industriales, Apdo No 31, Monterrey, N.L. Mexico. I got mine at the Mercado El Centro on 200 something Calle Ruiz in Ensenada. It cost only \$5 U.S. Later in a hardware store I saw another grinder of similar design, but selling for \$6. I guess they're common in Mexico.

The molino Estrella looks almost identical to the Corona, though perhaps with a rougher finish and lacking the shield over the grinding plates. However I find neither inconveniencing since I don't much care what it looks like and because I use a plastic bag to catch flour (and save me from breathing it). The bag is held on with a big rubber band which stays on the grinder. I find no bag necessary for moist things – they just fall into a bowl.

The Estrella excels at grinding moist/oily foods. After one grinding: sprouted wheat comes out ready to knead into bread; raisins and dates like caramel (or jam if a little water is mixed in after grinding); sunflower and sesame seeds like meal (or paste, if water is mixed in afterwards; or butter, if ground about five times). Nothing has gummed it up so far. I've even ground cooked liver with it.

Usually, I grind dry grains and pulses, each one separately, two times. I tighten the adjustment screw the second time thru. This does NOT yield super fine flour like Pillsberry's Best XXXX. Some of it is fine and some is still somewhat coarse. If I want a uniformly fine flour I sift out the coarse pieces with a strainer, regrind them, sift again and repeat the process as many times as necessary. But I seldom do that. We've become accustomed to the coarser textures. They're very sensual! (Lewd food?)

Often a few kernels of wheat still have their husks on. I grind them, husks and all. A FEW husks don't seem to bother our guts. Sometimes wheat from the bottom of the jar includes some cracked pieces; I sift before grinding to get rid of them (fatty rubbish).

For unhulled buckwheat I grind once and then sift to separate the hulls from the flour. It doesn't seem possible to get groats (WHOLE hulled seeds) from the grinder – only flour.

With unhulled sunflower seeds we haven't found any way to separate either whole kernels OR flour from the hulls, using a grinder. Unfortunately Euell Gibbons hull flotation separation method (STALKING THE WILD ASPARAGUS) hasn't worked for us. Any hints, Euell?

After grinding dry things (e.g. wheat, corn) I don't wash the grinder. I loosen the adjustment screw, tilt, grind, blow and brush (with an old toothbrush) to get rid of the residue. I put the grinder into a bag and put it away. (Or if there's room to keep it up permanently I try to mount it tilted to begin with (easy if mounted on a bench) and cover with a bag after blowing and brushing.)

After grinding some sesame or sunflower seeds (once) I grind corn or wheat to clean out the residue from the oilier seeds. But if I make seed butter (multiple grindings) I wash the grinder, as I do after grinding dried fruit or sprouted seeds. I seldom grind anything that involves washing the grinder, since I find it a nuisance.

Usually I grind only as much as I will use immediately. I.e., like the Hunzas I grind one day at a time. I do not store flour.

When grinding grains and pulses I adjust the grinding plates loosely for the first grinding and tighten up for the second pass thru, but not so tight that metal grinds metal. Having the adjustment very tight for the first grinding just makes cranking very difficult and does not result in flour as fine as if ground twice. I grind oily seeds and dried fruit once, starting loose and tightening up just enough to do the job. I find that forcing myself to grind with few rests helps me to build strength and endurance.

I've only used a Corona for a few minutes and I've only looked at a Quaker City mill, so I don't feel qualified to compare them with the Estrella. But I assume they all perform similarly.

Although for myself I consider super fine flour unnecessary and possibly unhealthy (according to Ford's findings) if you want it there is a "stone Corona" (I think it's actually a

synthetic stone). I saw one at the Whole Earth Access Co., 2466 Shattuck, Berkeley, CA 94704 for about \$30.

I've no experience with R&R Hardware, 175 West Main, Tremonton, Utah 84377, but they advertise the Corona Stone Mill for \$34.95 post paid. They sell the regular Corona for \$14.95 post paid.

My Number Two grinder is the oldest of my four metal grinders. It has survived perilous journeys and even a flood! After the rust was removed it was almost as good as new.

It turns out quite a fine flour from wheat, corn, rice and other grains with only one grinding (perhaps even finer than twice-ground Estrella flour) but the crank is harder to turn and more revolutions are required. Furthermore it gets completely gummed up with moist or oily things. (That was the case before the flood as well as after.) This Deseret grinder sells for about \$12 fob Deseret Supply Co., 410 N. 5th St., Redlands, CA 92373 or Perma-Pac, 40 East 2430 South, Salt Lake City, Utah 84115. They also sell other mills, perhaps Coronas, and more expensive heavier duty models.

Number Three is a pepper mill that I picked up second hand for 15¢. Sometimes I use it to grind kelp flakes fine. But it gets gummed up fast and is not easy to clean. I've ground fennel and cumin seeds but they seem just as flavorful if left whole. I've read that black pepper is an irritant – I don't use it.

I've also used a Universal Food and Mat Chopper #2. I don't find it suitable for hard things like dry wheat but it will grind sprouted wheat and other soft things such as sunflower seeds and dried fruit. However I don't find that it does any better than the Estrella, and it seems to grind up metal, as evidenced by the color of the food that collects around the cutter.

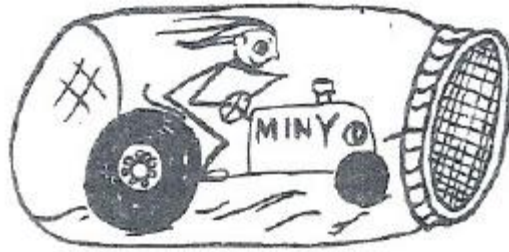
My remaining 32 grinders are in my mouth, and with good nutrition that's where I plan to keep them for the rest of my life, without any new cavities. In OPEN DOOR TO HEALTH, dentist Fred Miller claims that patients who adopt the diet he recommends develop no new cavities. The diet is similar to Ford's but lighter on meat and includes home-ground bread.

I hope you don't need any dental work, but if you do, you may be pleased to know that a gold crown that would cost \$100 in the U.S. costs \$20 in Mexico (in 1972). (That was at a private dentist: the clinic on 1520 Ave. Juarez in Ensenada advertises \$10!) The greatest savings seem to be on work that involves a lab – like caps and crowns. Regular silver fillings are about \$6; not spectacularly cheaper than in the States. Some of the dentists in Ensenada (including the clinic) don't even charge for an examination. One may get quotes from a few and then have the work done by the one that gives on the best all-around vibes.

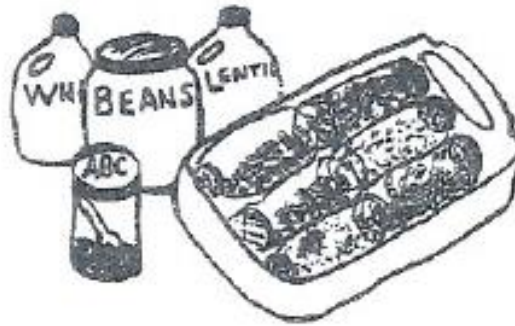
When buying any grinder one might do well to consider the following: Do all the parts go together properly? (Assemble it.) Is there a way to attach the grinder securely to the working surface temporarily? Permanently? Will the grinder work well without oiling? (If oiling is required will it contaminate the food?) Is the hopper big? The more it holds the fewer fillings are necessary. Does the hopper extension (if there is one) fit so that flour (on the second grinding) won't leak thru? (I must tape the crack where the Estrella's extension fits on.) Is grinding even? Viz the plates don't rub against themselves in places, grinding metal into the food. One may get an idea of this by turning the crank, with adjustment very loose, and looking at how the grinding plates mesh. However don't grind without food unless the adjustment is very loose and one is gingerly checking things out, otherwise the plates have no alternative but to grind themselves. Is disassembly for transport/washing/storage possible? Convenient?

SPROUTING

Mini-Farming a Glass Garden, or a Seed's Eye View of Sprouting



Here's what my sprout farm really looks like:



When I first started sprouting in our wheeled home I simply kept the jars on a kitchen counter. But the farm grew, and GREW, and G R E W. So I cut some damaged plastic five-gallon water cans (they leaked at the seams) in half to make trays to hold all the sprout jars.

WHY DO I SPROUT? Sprouting increases the nutritional value of foods. As the dormant embryo (seed) begins to grow, vitamin and enzyme content soars. E.g., vitamin C appears, like magic, where there wasn't any before. Starches are converted to sugars, which are more easily digested. Taste is often given a boost too. Sprouting renders some seed more edible and palatable in the raw state (e.g. wheat, peas, soy beans, mung beans), therefore eliminating the need to cook them. If they are cooked, sprouted grains and pulses require a fraction of the time required by the same foods unsprouted. On the other hand, in DIET FOR A SMALL PLANET I read the "net protein utilization decreases slightly when mung and soybeans are sprouted", so I try to prepare foods in a variety of ways.

ABC (Alfalfa, Buckwheat, and sub-Clover) sprouts furnish our main salad green, adding super fresh tasty variety and healthful nutrients to our otherwise heavily-staple diet of stored foods. And these salad greens are grown without pesticides and other poisons.

WHAT DO I SPROUT? From soup to nuts. If you visit my Happy Days Wide Mouth Sprout Farm you will find about eight jars (1 to 1 ½ quart) of ABC sprouts, two or three of wheat, one or two of pink beans, and a couple of lentils. That supplies the daily ingredients for Rayo's Breakfast of Vonuans, snacks, soups and dinner salad for us both with enough for company too.

I've tried sprouting just about every seed I've come across. Some don't germinate well. Others don't taste good or have sharp hulls which don't separate. Some are too expensive. At present I'm sprouting regularly the foods above.

N.B. Some seeds have been treated with virulent substances. There are even "systematic" poisons which actually become part of the growing plant. Whenever I buy seeds I make as sure as possible that what I'm getting is not treated.

In feed stores when I'm buying non-feed seeds, such as alfalfa, I tell the salesperson that I'm going to sprout and eat the stuff. In some instances they are sure the seed is treated, because it says so all over the packing material and they are even instructed to wear masks when handling it. In other instances I've been assured the seeds is not treated and that other people buy it to eat too. (It seems to be a popular folk-remedy tea for arthritis and rheumatism.) I try to check the packing tag myself, looking for information regarding any poisons, and at the same time I

check the percentage germination, viz how many seeds out of a given number sprout. In addition I smell the seed for any strange odors. And I consider the price; treated seeds are usually more expensive – somebody has to pay for the poison.

With feed grains like wheat and corn I feel a LITTLE safer. Stockmen can't feed their cows, pigs and race horses highly toxic seeds, at least not for long. But make sure the grain IS for feeding, not for seeding.

When buying feeds I pretend that I'm buying it for "my horses." Many people, including some salespeople in feed stores, think that food for humans must come from grocery stores. I don't try to reeducate them.

Even with feeds, I check labels carefully. All the dry milk I've seen in food stores is medicated. Say grits and linseed meal are boldly labeled "Hexane extracted."

HOW DO I SPROUT? I've tried several methods but my favorite, which I've used for a number of years, is the jar method. A wide-mouth canning jar (e.g. Mason, Ball, Kerr) is ideal, with its metal rim to hold on the screen and an opening large enough to get my hand in for washing and emptying. But they don't turn up very often where I shop – at the dump – so most of my sprout jars are serendipity; pickle jars, mayonnaise and peanut-butter jars, etc. I just affix the screening with a rubber band. Or I cut out the center of the lid with a punch-type can-opener or knife, round off the cut edge with a file so it isn't sharp, and use it just like the canning jar rims. I've even used cut-off bleach jugs (both quart and gallon) but I prefer not to use plastic: dirt is hard to clean off and frighteningly, some plastics have toxic substances in them. (I don't know if bleach jug plastic does or not.)

Fiberglass screen does not unravel. Nor does it rust. I had difficulty finding it but finally located some at a lumber yard/building supply store.

Plain old nylon stocking sufficed for a long time before I got the fiberglass and it could have kept sufficing. It's certainly cheap enough, if you know anybody who wears the things. Its main disadvantage is that water is slow pouring in and out. More times than not I'd have to tug on the nylon or put my mouth to it and blow before water would enter or empty. Or I use any material that will pass water while holding in the seeds, simply attached with a rubber band.

With fiberglass or other relatively stiff screening I cut a disc the same size as the outside diameter of the mouth of the jar. I've discovered this is easiest if I hold the screen over the rim, using the rim as a template. I angle the scissors toward the center of the disc so that the cut screen will fit the inside diameter of the rim.

To put the growth process into motion I place the seeds in a jar. I use about: one heaping tablespoon of alfalfa per quart jar; 1 ½ tablespoons of ABC per quart; 1 ½ cups wheat per quart; ½ cup lentils per quart; ¼ cup beans per pint. ABC consists of three parts alfalfa, one part buckwheat, one part sub clover. The subclover sprouts are much like alfalfa but somewhat larger and tougher. Buckwheat sprouts are larger still.

With everything but wheat I next affix the screen top, pour in water, swish it around and pour it out. That's the washing. When pouring the wash water off alfalfa (or ABC) seeds I must be careful; if I pour vigorously some seeds escape.

With wheat that contains chafe, I leave the top off, add water until the jar is almost full, and stir. This brings the chafe to the top. Then I gently add more water until the jar is full. Into the full jar I immerse my hand and the chafe spills out with the displaced water. I repeat the stirring, filling, and displacing until all the chafe is gone. Or alternately I skim off the chafe with a spoon. (Some wheat we bought from a grain dealer recommended by Mormons was free of chafe, but what we get at feed stores usually has chafe, though not a tremendous amount.) Next I affix the top and pour out the rest of the water.

After discarding the wash water I add the water that the seeds will soak in. Amount doesn't seem critical, though a tremendous amount of water might leach more from the seeds than a lesser quantity. With alfalfa I add maybe a cup of water. With wheat, enough to show a couple of inches above the wheat. Beans and lentils take more water because they imbibe greatly; water on top of them is at least equal to their own depth. In summer I use water of room temperature. In winter sometimes I heat the water to lukewarm. Although I haven't tried it, I've read that a drop of lemon juice in the water will hasten sprouting.

I let the seeds soak until they fully imbibed. In summer this takes less than 12 hours; in winter, longer – maybe 24 [hours]. (We don't always have heating.) Wheat and pulses seem to do okay down to somewhat below 40°F. ABC sprouts anywhere about 40°. At lower temperatures there seems to be some growth but rotting too.

After the seeds have imbibed I pour off the soak water. If the seeds are organically grown ones I use what comes from wheat for drinking and what comes from the others for cooking. I invert the jars and let them drain for a few minutes. Then I shake them and slap them on my hand to distribute the seeds. Some will cling to all surfaces of the jar. But I try not to get any on the screen, where I think they'd dry out too fast. I place the jars on their sides in one of my plastic trays, or just on a counter. One summer I kept them on the ground but at night I had to defend them against mice by covering them with metal screen.

While the sprouts are growing I water them two or three times a day, depending on temperature and humidity; once a day may be enough in cool, humid weather. I fill the jars with water, swish it around, pour it out, and set inverted jars to drain for a few minutes. Then back on their sides.

Since excess water stagnating in the bottom of the jar can cause souring, one may place the jars on an angle. However, allowing a few minutes for draining, I haven't found it necessary to angle the jars.

Some directions say to keep the sprouts in the dark for the first few days, simulating the conditions under the ground. Since I don't have a convenient place to do this, I don't. Doesn't seem to make any noticeable difference in the final product.

WHEN ARE SPROUTS READY TO EAT? Wheat is ready in perhaps a day if it's warm weather. I suggest tasting a sample every 12 hours in order to determine the most palatable stage for you. I've read that the starch is converted to sugar in three to four days, but the info didn't say what kind of seeds. With wheat, if sprouted over a few days it develops a taste objectionable to most people, especially when raw.

Red, kidney, pinto and pink beans I sprout only 12 to 24 hours (in addition to soak time). If sprouted longer they don't seem as tasty. I also figure that in this short time any beans which aren't viable won't have a chance to decompose much.

Soybeans seem to be tastier if sprouted a number of days. Again, tasting at various stages will inform one of the most delectable harvest time.

Lentils are very versatile. They are good from 12 hours beyond soak time on up to about a week when they are especially nice raw in spralads ["sprout salad(s)"] or momentarily steamed as a vegetable.

Alfalfa and ABC are also ready any time, but we usually let them reach maximum sprouting growth (after which they tend to spoil). Takes about a week, less in hot weather, longer in cold. If exposed to sunlight (even indirectly) during the last few days of sprouting, lots of chlorophyll will develop and the sprouts will be a robust green.

I've read that the amount of a certain vitamin contained in the sprouts is not necessarily directly proportional to the length of the growing time – a particular vitamin may be found in higher concentration on the second day than on the seventh! This is a good reason to vary harvest time.

I rinse the ABC sprouts in a big bowl of water before serving, in order to get rid of the loose hulls. (In extremely warm weather I try to get rid of the hulls as the sprouts are growing, since on accumulation of hulls may encourage souring.)

HOW DO I USE SPROUTS? Instant Breakfast of Vonuans. Rayo has this practically every morning: about five parts sprouted wheat and one part sprouted beans. He eats a few tablespoons of the wheat raw and cooks the rest, with the beans, using just enough water to keep things from scorching. He eats some after about 10 minutes cooking and the rest after about 15 minutes. (I usually don't eat until after noon.)

Sproucks [sprout snacks]. A handful of sprouts uncooked make a nice snack any time.

Spralads. They can be as varied as one's imagination, and stores permit. Rayo likes just plain ABC sprouts and cut up wheat grass (plus other raw vegetables if we have them, such as cabbage, carrots, parsley). But for myself I often like other things added such as wheat sprouts, lentil sprouts, garlic (fresh minced, or powder), raisins (dry or plumped with water), nuts (broken

up pieces of walnuts), sunflower or sesame seeds (raw or toasted, whole or meal), and various seasonings such as kelp, oregano, paprika, thyme, cinnamon and allspice.

Sproup. I add different kinds of sprouts to whatever soup I may have made. I add ABC sprouts after the soup has finished cooking. I may add wheat and lentil sprouts sometime before cooking is completed. Beans I add near the start of cooking. Soup is just about anything (wheat/beans/corn/rice) cooked with a generous amount of water and usually some seasoning, such as kelp. Add sprouts and you have a sproup.

Sprandwiches. I just cut some slices of home-made bread and fill. ABC and mature lentil sprouts lend themselves well to sprandwiches because they are very tender and hold together well. Sprandwiches may also contain sesame paste or butter, raisins, nuts, cheese.

Miscellaneous. Bean sprouts may be used in dishes that call for beans. However, sprouted beans cook up in a fraction of the time it takes for unsprouted. Wheat sprouts may be added to casseroles, such as tamale pie. Their chewiness can give a meaty effect.

Storage of sprouts isn't an issue with us because we eat the sprouts as soon as they are harvested. But Catharyn, Elwood, in *FEEL LIKE A MILLION*, says sprouts will keep for eight days in a refrigerator if initially chilled at 35° for 18 to 24 hours; otherwise two to four days.

WHAT PROBLEMS HAVE I ENCOUNTERED? We depend a lot on sprouts to round out our diet and keep us healthy. I have had very few complications during all the years I've been sprouting.

Some people say chlorine and fluorine can inhibit or stop sprout growth. I usually use fresh mountain stream water but when I've used city water I've had no problems. I don't think it was fluoridated though.

A few times I have had sprouts sour and rot. I think it was because they had gotten too hot. I don't think it was due to any fungal infection since I purposely replanted in the same jars without sterilizing them: I merely rinsed them out [out] with room-temperature water. The second planting did not go bad, as had the first. "Too hot" was being exposed to direct sunlight for a few hours during hot summer days, or being constantly in a hot tent.

Between sproutings I merely wash the jars with plain water (luke if handy). I scrub the screens and rims with a toothbrush. I use soap and bleach only on newly acquired jars or ones that mice have been playing in.

Sometimes, especially in warm weather, souring results from an accumulation of water in the bottom of the jars. This can be avoided by insuring adequate drainage. Keep the jars inverted long enough after watering or keep them on a slant when on their sides.

I've found wheat sprouts will sometimes taste a little fermented after sprouting for a while. But with continued sprouting the fermented taste usually has disappeared. Or it disappears upon cooking. (I've read that all seeds ferment slightly to sprout.)

If one has problems it could be that one's seeds are not viable, in which case all the king's horses and all the king's men couldn't make that seed viable again!

But with good seed, good water, frequent wetting (err on the side of doing it too frequently), good drainage and good temperature, thou art God! Or Goddess!! So go to it. Soak your seeds, sprout your soaks, and eat your sprouts. Do it now. If not now, when?



WHEAT

The authority on ECANES wheating is none other than the fabulous WHEATER EATER, World's Number One Wheat Feeder and Eater. So take over Wheeler!

Thank you Haelan. Hi, all you eager wheaters. I hear there was some disappointment after my last interview when some people purchased their first 100 pounds of wheat kernels, only to find NO PRIZE in the bottom of the sack! Not even anything to send away for. Why, there wasn't even anything to read on the package – an unadorned, colorless piece of burlap. But don't despair, take wheat! my hearties. Here follows everything anybody always wanted to know about wheat, but I didn't know who to ask. Complete with brand names. So whead THIS when eating the next bowl of Wheat Troasties – with Crack, Crinkle and Crunch! (The foregoing a paid advertisement by Greater North American Wheaters – GNAW. No discrimination against South Americans intended. It's just that they mostly prefer corn and are represented by SAC – South American Corners.

Wheater, please cut out the corn, stop feeling your oats and get back to wheat!

Haelan, you know GNAW doesn't oppose a little corn, or even whole oats. It's the overly processed, stale wheat products that W.E. shuns. I seldom use any wheat that lost the ability to sprout more than a few hours before I eat it. This means when I use flour I grind it myself from wheat that would germinate if I planted it (which I do also, as a matter of wheat, to get wheat grass). Then I eat the flour the same day it's ground. (Though with bread I usually have some left for the next day.)

THE WHEAT I BUY. In GATEWAY TO SURVIVAL IS STORAGE, Batchelor recommends that the wheat one stores to be above 11.5% protein and less than 10% moisture. In THE MOLDS AND MAN, p. 134, Christensen says, "If grain or seeds of any kind contains, when it is stored, enough water to maintain a relative humidity of 75 percent in the air spaces between the seeds, fungi will grow on and in the seed. The seed has to have a water content low enough so that the relative humidity of the air in the bulk is below 70% for long-time storage, preferably below 60%." There is sometimes an analysis on a tag attached to the 100 pound sacks of wheat.

According to COMPOSITION OF FOODS, hard red spring wheat has the highest protein content, next comes durum, then hard red winter, then soft red winter, and last white. However, Adelle (LET'S EAT RIGHT TO KEEP FIT) points out that wheat's protein content can vary from 3 to 22%, depending on the humus content of the soil.

Most of my wheat has been whatever hard red wheat I could get at a feed store. In Siskiyou the feed stores I know of don't carry hard red wheat. (One time I bought 100 pounds of the soft white wheat they do stock – about 8% protein. It was good tasting, though blander than the hard red wheat which I prefer both for taste and higher protein content.) In the L.A. area I've been able to get hard red wheat, at \$4.50 per hundred pounds in '72, from O.H. Kruse Grain and Milling, 1459 Santa Anita, South El Monte. When hunting for a source of hard red wheat, one might do well to call the Church of the Latter Day Saints (Mormons) for advice, since they advocate storing it.

Making a sprout test before purchasing a large quantity is a good idea. Ann Wigmore says nine out of ten kernels should sprout if it's good wheat.

Wheater Eater's Eating Directory (WEED): Except where noted, all recipes have been tested in GWA TEK – Greater North American Wheaters Test Kitchen.

I've grouped the recipes according to advance preparation needed. (1) DRY KERNELS (no advance preparation), (2) SOAKED, (3) SPROUTED, (4) GRASS, (5) GROUND, (6) UNLEAVENED DOUGH, (7) LEAVENED DOUGH, (8) TEMPH.

DRY KERNELS. Raw kernels. Sometimes I eat a few kernels raw. Because some people have reported cracking their teeth I suggest chewing gingerly.

Wheat chicle. If raw wheat is chewed long enough, with attention given to retaining the solids in the mouth, while the dissolved starch is swallowed, a chewy wad of gluten remains.

Boiled wheat. The whole, dry berries are washed. Then water is added to cover and the wheat is first boiled a few minutes, then simmered until done – about 50 minutes. The texture remains somewhat "rubbery" and may take getting used to. If the wheat is first soaked, or better still,

sprouted, it's less rubbery and cooks much faster. A handful of whole dry berries also add on interesting textures to stews.

Troasted (or popped) – the mini wheat cracker within a kernel. I toast (toast-roast) the kernels by tsubaking them until tender. Some kernels pop! though they don't expand as much as popcorn. Troasting takes only a few minutes: I try to brown the kernels as little as possible. In each batch I cook just enough to cover the bottom of the pan, shaking frequently over medium heat. If troasting a large quantity I use a second pan set in simmering water for preheating. (See procedure under popcorn.) Troasted wheat may be eaten as is (crunchy), or with milk and sugar (taste clearly resembles prepared breakfast cereals – call it Wheat Troasties, with Crack, Crinkle and Crunch), or further cooked in water (chewy). Troasted wheat, whole or ground, may also be used as a nut-like topping on such things as yogurt and ice cream. Rice may also be troasted, as may regular dried corn and other grains.

SOAKED WHEAT. Wheat kernels are washed and then soaked in water for 12 hours or until maximally imbibed (viz plumped with water). I initially cover the kernels with an excess of water (water on top of the wheat about one-third the depth of the wheat) so they stay submerged as they imbibe.

Raw soaked wheat – may be eaten as is.

Boiled soaked wheat. I often cook with the soak water. Or I may use fresh water if I fear the wheat contained water-soluble pesticides. Bring to a boil. Then simmer about 30 minutes, longer if a softer texture is desired.

Raw foods contain more of some nutrients than cooked ones. However I have read (NUTRITION HANDBOOK?) "...it has been shown that cooking with water increases the digestibility and improves the nutrition value of wheat protein, possibly by altering the protein structure. As a result methionine and other amino acids are liberated more rapidly, providing a better over-all pattern for absorption." So I eat wheat both ways. Raw, I prefer it sprouted a day or two.

Steweat. Wheater's stew for two. I soak ½ cup corn, ½ cup wheat, 1/8 cup rice, ¼ cup beans, ¼ cup lentils (and a few of some or all of those ingredients ground, if I want a thick stew, but then I must stir to avoid scorching), plus maybe ¼ teaspoon wild carrot seed. After 12 hours (or longer if the weather is cold – not a factor if your quarters are heated, but sometimes mine aren't) I add a bay leaf and bring to a boil. Then I simmer for about one hour. I may add some fresh vegetables or sprouts toward the end. After turning off the heat I sometimes add herbs such as oregano, thyme, sweet basil, paprika, garlic powder, kelp and perhaps some chopped wheat grass. (Rice and any ground ingredients needn't soak as long as the whole wheat, corn, beans and lentils.) Before eating the stew I use some of the liquid separately for taking my limestone ration, in the form of a tasty soup: about ½ cup liquid plus a few teaspoons limestone flour, nutritional yeast, and some sesame seeds/paste, or a couple of walnuts.

Soaked-wheat bread. If one's only grinder is a Universal-type food chopper, one may find soaking (and/or sprouting) makes the wheat easier to grind. Paul Doerr (PIONEER newsletter, p. 269) makes a bread from wheat soaked one to two days. He adds salt, yeast, honey and grinds twice. Lets rise and bakes. Water or flour may be added if necessary to get the desired consistency – I prefer that of putty. Such dough holds together, does not stick to bowl or hands, and cracks only slightly when folded.

"Rejuvelac" is what Ann Wigmore calls water after wheat has soaked in it about 12 hours. I often have a cupful with one tablespoon molasses. (I'd drink more if my wheat were organically grown – known to be free of pesticides – or if I knew the water doesn't leach any pesticides.)

SPROUTED WHEAT. Sprawties. I eat uncooked wheat sprouts as a breakfast, lunch, snack, appetizer or mixed in spralads or fruit salads.

Fermented sprouts. Cover sprouts (or unsprouted wheat) with lukewarm water (nothing hot enough to kill the seeds) and keep in a warm spot (around 70° would probably be ideal) for a day or until they taste fermented (sour). I read of someone doing this regularly in plates, using various grains, and fruit juice instead of water. Ford is down on sour food; Bulgarians seem up on it; I'm in between. I like sour bread but otherwise I usually don't sour wheat.

Wheat cheese. This is a white mold formed on wheat sprouts that are covered with water and set in a warm place for a few days. It is part of Dr. Jamison's restorative diet for cancer patients. I haven't tried it yet.

Troasted sprouts. Some as for dry kernels.

Instant Breakfast of Vonuans – wheat with a lively beat. This is sprouted wheat, in combination with a sprouted pulse such as beans, lentils, peas. Sprouting is what makes it "instant." Add enough water to wheat and pulse to prevent burning (about an inch in the bottom of the pan suffices, since what isn't covered with water gets steamed). In covered pan bring to a boil and simmer for 10 to 15 minutes. For "regular" Breakfast of Vonuans use soaked wheat and pulse, and double cooking time.

Sprouted-wheat bread. I think the most delicious bread, and probably the most nutritious too, is made from slightly sprouted wheat. Sprouting may also get rid of some dirt, thru soaking and rinsings, that is not removed from dry ground wheat. The reason I don't make it more is because I must wash the mill after grinding sprouted wheat, and attend to an exceptionally large quantity of extra sprouts.

I soak the wheat 12 hours, drain, and let it sprout for 24 hours (or longer if it's cold). In his SPROUT HANDBOOK, A. Stuart Wheelwright cautions not to sprout longer than 24 hours because the sprouts develop many enzymes, which can digest yeast and therefore inhibit the dough's rising. I don't usually use yeast but I still keep the sprouting time short because that seems to give the best tasting loaf. (If the wheat sprouts too long the bread remains very moist, even though cooked long.)

For sprouting the larger quantity necessary for bread, one may use a tray, pan, or anything with a lot of flat surface area. Spread the soaked, drained wheat out (Wheelwright recommends a 1 to 1 ½ inch depth), cover with damp cloth, kept moist by periodic sprinklings with water. If the wheat is more than one layer thick it should be stirred occasionally so that it remains evenly moistened.

I've used a Universal Food Chopper but prefer an Estrella grinder. (See section on grinding.) After grinding I proceed as for unsprouted dough (section further on). It's not usually necessary to add any water to the sprouted dough. In fact, if it is too moist it may be desirable to add some flour. One may mix in sour dough starter or yeast. Since contact with metal reportedly harms yeast, it may be best to add it after grinding.

As with unsprouted dough, sprouted dough may be made into chapatis, pancakes, pie crust, etc., as well as bread.

WHEAT GRASS. If soaked or sprouted wheat is placed one layer thick on some moist earth, on the ground or in a container (I use a cut down one gallon bleach jug with holes in the bottom, placed inside a cut down 1 ½ gallon bleach jug) it will grow into wheat grass. Cover the seeds with paper or cloth which is kept moist, or a thin layer of dirt. When the grass pushes up the paper or cloth cover, remove it and water directly. When about 6 inches high I harvest it with a scissors. I cut it up into spralads, sproups, candy or chew it plain or with a little kelp. (If I'm chewing a lot, after thoroughly masticating I spit out the pulp which remains.)

GROUND WHEAT may be used in largely the same ways a plain and soaked wheat, and requires less cooking time. However, when boiled, ground wheat becomes sticky, unlike whole kernels, and leaves the pot hard to clean, especially if it scorches, which it has a tendency to do if not constantly stirred. (The finer the grind, the stickier.)

Raweal. Sometimes I eat whole wheat flour straight from the grinder. (No, it's not like white flour.) Dr. Shelton (ORTHOTROPHY, Vol. 2) claims cereals are most readily digested when eaten dry because starch is not water soluble and wetness inhibits secretion of sufficient saliva. But one may wish to add water, milk or cream, hot or cold.

Raweal Plus (Swiss Muesli or Familia). Such things as almonds, walnuts, sunflower seeds, sesame seeds, wheat sprouts, raisins, figs, and berries are added. Water or milk may be added to soften.

Cerweal and Cerweal Plus. Like Raweal but "scalded" or otherwise cooked as desired. Cerweal is rather bland after cooking.

Cerwealt (Toasted Cerweal or "Wheat Cream") tastes more like the commercial cereals of this type. The cracked wheat or flour is toasted by tsubaking on medium to low heat, stirring often,

until evenly lightly browned. It is then cooked in a pot with twice or more its own volume of water: bring to boil, simmer, stir often. The toasted wheat may be mixed with untoasted wheat (about 2 ½ to 1) before adding water for what I think is a sweeter Cerwealt. Rice, corn and other grains may also be prepared this way.

Crunchy Cerwealt is Wheater's answer to that Other Brand. W.E. tries harder and tastes better! Crunchy Cerwealt is guaranteed to contain less fatty rubbish than any other brand, since it is: ground fresh! Immediately before eating; contains no refined oil; contains no hexane extracted grits; sugar is optional. Perhaps this sample recipe will be helpful: Grains, ground as fine as desired (to avoid grittiness) and lightly toasted – one or a variety, e.g., 1 part wheat, 1 part corn, ½ part millet, ½ part rice. 1 part toasted wheat. A little kelp. 1 part sesame meal. 1 part sunflower meal. A handful of raisins. A few walnuts, broken up. Fresh berries if available. Molasses, honey, sugar to suit. (One part carob powder may also be added, but technically, it's not usually ground fresh at home, and therefore GNAW TEK does not endorse it as an official ingredient of genuine Crunchy Cerwealt.) Mix it all up, add your favorite thing that this recipe leaves out (nut/seed butters, toasted whole sunflower seeds, powdered milk, apricots, peaches, etc.) and there you are. Remember, with Crunchy Cerwealt* Taste Tells. (*The ONLY crunchy cereal certified by GNAW TEK. Beware of fatty rubbish if a substitute is accepted.)

Couscous. ("koos' koos – a N. African dish made with crushed grain, usually steamed..." Webster's. I put cracked unmoistened wheat in a squarish piece of cloth, gathered together at the top and fastened with a clothes pin. I steamed it for over an hour and it still wasn't very soft. But I was impatient so I went ahead and ate it. It will still sort of crunchy but had a very nice distinctive flavor. For the fuel conscious, cooking time may be reduced to about 40 minutes if the wheat is thoroughly moistened with water prior to steaming. No doubt the end product is somewhat different though.

Sauces. In a pot I mix flour with cold water. (If the water is hot initially, lumps will form.) Very little flour is needed in relation to water, otherwise the result is too thick. So I start with only a few teaspoon-fulls flour per cup water. It thickens as it cooks. Flour or water may be added to achieve the desired consistency. I start off with rather high heat but turn it down to low-low as the water boils. I stir almost constantly and cook it maybe 10 to 15 minutes; longer if I want to thicken it without having to grind and add more flour. The basic sauce/dressing/dip is bland, especially if untoasted wheat is used. So after I turn off the heat I may add such seasonings as strike my fancy: kelp, garlic (fresh grated or dry powder), rosemary, oregano, sweet basil, paprika, cayenne pepper (if a hot sauce is wanted), etc. To make a mushroom sauce I add mushrooms while the sauce is cooking. Sesame meal adds to the sauce's richness.

Coffee. Happily I don't crave coffee, or a substitute. But this is one. Toast coarse ground wheat on burner or in oven until very darkly browned. Boil about ½ teaspoonful per cup of water until desired strength is obtained. Strain and drink. At least it doesn't have caffeine. Other grains may be prepared in the same manner. They all taste similar to coffee, perhaps because like coffee they're all charred, which isn't much to recommend any of them.

Gluten. This is what's used in some imitation meat products. It's high in protein but lacks a well-balanced amino acid pattern (DIET FOR A SMALL PLANET, p. 83). I placed a ball of dough in a nylon stocking and submerged it in water overnight. Then I kneaded it (thru the stocking) in a stream. After I got tired kneading I left it in the stream, returning in a few hours to knead some more. The starch washed away and I was left with the gluten and bran in the stocking. I washed away as much of the bran as possible. I made patties, breaded them in flour and fried them a little in oil. They were chewy and tasty (probably due to the frying – it's pretty bland stuff otherwise) but it was a lot of work for vanishingly little gluten. And why throw away the starch and bran? So I haven't repeated this experiment (after Ann Liston, THE WHOLE EARTH CATALOG, July 70).

UNLEAVENED DOUGH. Here's what dough and batters bake down to: 2 basic kinds – unleavened and leavened; 2 basic leavening agents – yeast (including sour dough starters) and chemicals (including baking soda/powder) – I don't use the latter category); 2 basic cooking methods – dry heat (including oven, tsubaking, campfire, and sun baking) and wet heat (including boiling and steaming); 2 basic thicknesses – thick and thin; 2 basic consistencies – thick and thin; 2 basic textures – soft and crisp; 2 basic ingredients – flour and water. Variations

on the basics are as infinite as imagination. Here from GNAW TEK are some basic recipes and some elaborated ones. I hope they satisfy your appetites and stimulate your own imagination as well.

GNAW TEK considers its dough the best in the world, but there's no patent on it: even in the distant Himalayas the healthy Hunzas make it. Anyone else may also. The secret, which seems lost over most of the globe, is this flour from viable seeds, used immediately after grinding, eaten immediately or soon after baking. In one word, real FRESHNESS.

Sincere loaf. I grind about 6 cups of wheat for a medium size loaf (8 to 10 cups for a larger loaf), once thru a Deseret type grinder or twice thru an Estrella. I'm not sure just how coarse the wheat can be and still stick together to form dough. I have made dough from wheat ground only once thru the Estrella: it had to soak an hour or more before it would stick together when I kneaded it, but after that I used it in the same way as dough made from finer ground wheat. The resultant loaf had an extra coarse texture but was tender and good.

After grinding I flogree [flour grease] my 8 inch fry pan with enough flour so that the bottom of the pan doesn't show.

Except for a couple of cup-fulls I put the rest of the flour into a LARGE bowl. (My 15 inch diameter plastic basin – from the dump of course – works splendidly, but I've also used a mere 1 gallon bleach just with the top cut off.)

I add kelp flakes to the flour and mix – ½ tablespoon per cup of wheat (my measurements refer to the wheat before it's ground).

Warm water is added next, a little at a time, very cautiously, since it's easy to add too much. Total water will eventually be about ¼ to 1/3 the amount of wheat used, depending partly on the fineness of the flour, humidity, and time kneaded.

I mix with my hands. First I clean my nails and wash my hands so they're as hygienic as any other utensil. You may stir with a spoon at first but I defy you to knead with one!

After all the flour in the bowl is moistened I add those two cups I had saved out at the beginning. They are my "insurance" in case I added too much water. But I mix them in now even if I didn't get goof on water.

I may have to add a little more water at this point but I do it only by the spoonful. A lot of mixing and squeezing gives the correct consistency to the dough without too much water being added. If the dough continues to stick to my hands I know I've added too much water. With the right amount of water the dough doesn't stick. (But if it does I can always grind more flour.)

If you've never made dough before, I suggest you get your hand(s) into it and now worry about the water business. You'll get the feel of it in no time.

At this point I've mixed the flour and water enough so that I have a lump of dough. I let it stand 5 to 15 minutes (more if the flour is very coarse) while things soften up. (If the dough is allowed to stand a long time – say an hour or more in a warm place, it may sour. Which is no catastrophe unless you don't like sour dough, in which case make sure the place where you set the dough is not above 50 to 60 degrees.

If the dough is somewhat sticky when set aside to soften, it's okay. As the dough stands, and later gets kneaded, it soaks up some excess moisture, and may even require a few additional teaspoonfuls of water.

After softening time it's kneading time. If I want a cake-like texture (sort of tender and crumbly) I knead minimally (maybe 3 minutes or less). If I want a more bread-like texture (chewy and holding together better) I knead about 10 minutes or more.

I enjoy kneading exercise. I do it in the big basin. I smash the dough down with my fists (how aggressive!) and then fold it up. Then I push down with my palms, fold it again and repeat. I may take a rest half-way thru.

I add water if necessary, viz if the dough is extremely stiff and cracks when folded (versus being softer – more easily worked – and bending when folded). But if the flour was pretty coarse, the dough may never get real soft; it continues to crack a little when folded.

The dryer the loaf the less tendency it has to stick to the pan. However, a certain amount of water is necessary if bread is to bake and not just be toasted wheat. So I suggest you make loafs dry and some moister and see which you like best. (The moister the loaf the more flogree needed.)

Sufficiently kneaded dough is sometimes described as being of earlobe consistency. Some directions say to knead until the dough is no longer sticky. Problem is, it's like trying to describe how a banana tastes to someone who's never even seen one; or how blackberries smell or what it feels like to swim nude for the first time or hold a purring kitten against one's nakedness. You just have to experience them. Then you know, and your life is that much richer. So if you would know bread dough, make some. Do it now. What are you waiting for?

After kneading I shape the dough into a ball, then squish it down and make it into a big thick pancake. (Sometimes I shape it by pushing it into a pie pan.) Then I put it into the flogreed pan. I flatten it out some more if it needs it, so that it has the same diameter as the smallest diameter of the pan, and the bread will fit okay even after it's turned over (the sides of the bread mustn't slant out like the sides of the pan).

Now I may score the bread into sections with a metal spoon handle, making vertical incisions which don't quite sever the various pieces. This makes the bread easy to break into pieces after baking.

If there's time I now put the bread aside. Cathryn E. says that bran is water repellant and should stand for at least three hours. I don't always wait three hours. Sometimes I don't wait at all. But often I grind and mix in the morning, and bake and eat in the evening. (Remember the caution about souring.)

I tsubake 35 to 40 minutes on a side. (A ten cup loaf takes 45 to 50 minutes on a side or longer if one desires a drier loaf.) When turning the loaf I stand it up on end and brush excess flogree back into the pan. I just use my hands. (Use a pot holder if you find it too hot.) I don't cover the baking bread because doing so results in a more cereal than bread-like taste.

For a soft crust I bake at medium-low heat all along – the lower the heat the softer the crust, to a point. For a crisp, hard crust I use a higher heat for the first five to ten minutes on each side.

After baking the flogree may be used for Cerwealt. However it is usually excessively browned, and therefore in Ford's fatty rubbish category. I reserve it for use as a dry shampoo or add it to the compost heap.

Sincereloaf is delicious right after baking but for slicing it holds together better than thoroughly cooled. It also becomes less moist.

To experience Sincereloaf you'll probably have to make it yourself. I think you'll like it, more and more each time. After all, it's sincere. It's not made of air. Not light, not white – when you take a bite, you get a flavorful hunk, not a bunch of bunk!

Multi-grain and seed doughs. When I make sincere-loaf I often use a mixture of wheat and corn. (See corn section.) I like the taste and feel the variety may improve my diet. Rice, millet, beans, lentils, sesame and sunflower seeds, and buckwheat may be ground into flour, made into dough and baked as bread. Some wheat flour may be necessary for binding some non-glutinous [glutinous] flours together, but most flours can usually be molded and baked into bread, even though it may be crumbly. I suggest experimenting.

Garlic bread. Sometimes I add grated fresh or powdered garlic to Sincereloaf. If I have butter I may melt it, add garlic to it, let it stand for a while, then put it on the bread.

That doughy kid stuff. From pieces of basic unleavened dough (BUD) the kids at GNAW TEK made all the different shapes they could think of and we baked them in the oven in flogreed pans. The shapes were smaller than bread loaves and therefore took less cooking time. (Tsu-baking may be used instead of oven baking, of course.) The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves (especially Wheater).

Bread sticks. Of course. Just roll out lengths of BUD and bake.

Toughies (dumpling, matzo balls). From minimally kneaded BUD that stood for about ½ hour after it was mixed, I broke off small pieces and rolled balls between the palms of my hands. I cooked the balls for about ½ hour in a simmering soup. Spices such as garlic, paprika and Italian seasoning, in addition to kelp, will make the Toughies more flavorful.

Wheat balls. I find these more tender than Toughies. They are made the same way except steamed instead of boiled.

Dozers (dough circles). Add a new shape to your life: let the Dozer do it. These are somewhat like bagels. I make them from thoroughly kneaded BUD. I rolled out lengths of dough between

my hands, and on a board bent them into circles, lapping and pressing the ends together. I made them regular bagel/donut size. Then I boiled them in plain water for 30 minutes after which I broiled them for 10 minutes on each side (though I don't see why tsubaking couldn't substitute for broiling). I sliced (to end up with two circles) and ate. They weren't much different from bread but the shape was fun.

Chapatis. They are like tortillas except made with wheat instead of corn, and common to India instead of Mexico. They are the daily bread of the Hunzas. I make them from basic unleavened dough (BUD), or BUD with a little bean flour and spices added. Kneading time doesn't appear critical – the more kneading the chewier the chapatti. After the BUD has stood about ½ hour, I break off golf-ball-size pieces and roll between my palms to form balls. These I place between two plastic bags and roll flat and thin with a jar, which is my substitute for a rolling pin. I roll from the center out. The circles are usually somewhat irregular; I don't take pains to make them perfectly round.

When I first starting making chapatis I used flogree under and on top of the dough to prevent sticking to the plastic. But recently I've found that if the dough is dry enough and if I don't roll too thin and if I peel the plastic off carefully, back against itself, I need no flogree.



I peel the top plastic off first, then I drape the chapatti over one palm, bottom plastic now facing up. I gingerly peel it off and slap or slide chapati into a hot pan. No oil. Sticking is usually not a problem but if it is flogree may be used on the pan. After two minutes the chapati has dried some and no longer sticks. I turn it with my fingers (or a spatula) and cook two minutes on the second side. Longer cooking makes the chapati crisp – more like a “tostada.” I keep the done chapatis warm between two pie plates (top one inverted while I'm cooking more).

Chapatis may be eaten like tortillas or bread: plain or buttered; filled and folded into a taco or rolled into an enchilada; or sandwiched; made into a pizza; etc.

Crackers. Make a mini-bread and you have a cracker. One may use BUD: break off small pieces and make like chapatis, only smaller, thick or thin. The longer the tsubaking the crisper.

Instead of rolling one may place the dough between plastic and flatten with the bottom of a jar. Or one may shape BUD into a log, chill (the outdoor works fine in winter) and then cut slices with a knife and tsubake.

Some possible variations are adding sunflower/sesame seed meal or butter, or whole seeds, mixed into the dough, or the seeds may be pressed into the cracker as it is rolled out. Different spices may be used: one may check the ingredients in one's favorite store bought cracker and duplicate.

Cookies. Sweeten a cracker and you have a cookie. For sweetening, one part sugar (or carob, or ground dry fruit); for added sweetening and richness, one part powdered milk (but the milk is optional); and 4 to 8 parts wheat, measured before grinding as usual. The more wheat the less sweet the cookie. (Of course honey may be used for sweetening but I haven't been using it lately because of price and I don't recall the proper proportions. As I recall it has a tendency to burn so use it sparingly and keep the heat low.) One may add such spices as allspice, cinnamon, ginger and grated vanilla bean, as well as kelp; ¼ tablespoon per cup or two of wheat. Ascorbic acid (vitamin C) will give a lemony flavor.

Sandwich cookies may be created with carob fudge, raisin caramel, seed butter, etc. as fillings. Powdered milk, sugar and a pinch of ascorbic acid make a citrusy icing.

Carob n' Molasses Cookies. Mix together in a large bowl: ½ cup sesame seeds (ground once); ¼ cup corn (ground twice); 1 ¼ cups wheat (ground twice); 1 cup untoasted carob powder; 2 ½ teaspoons cinnamon; ½ teaspoon allspice; 1 to 2 inches grated vanilla bean; some kelp (I use it instead of salt). (If you don't have the spices, no sweat – just don't use any.) Add ½ cup molasses (I just black-strap) and ½ cup water. Mix with magic mixing manus, i.e. your hand. Add more water if necessary to form a smooth, soft dough. Let rest about ½ hour and roll out like little

chapatis, or press with a jar, or form into a log, chill (like ice box cookies) and cut into slices. Tsubake. The carob and molasses make this cookie very sweet and chocolatey.

Seed butter cookies – very rich. Cream together until smooth (viz use the back of a spoon to sort of press the ingredients against the side of the bowl as you mix): one part sunflower (or sesame, peanut, or other) seeds, ground into meal; one tablespoon molasses for each cup sunflower seeds; 1/3 part carob powder (raw/toasted); 1/6 cup powdered milk; and a little water to moisten. In a separate bowl mix together one part wheat, ground, and cinnamon, allspice and kelp – about one teaspoon for each cup of wheat. Add one-half of the flour mixture to the creamed mixture and mix. Add the rest, mix. Add water as necessary to form a stiff dough. Proceed as for Carob n' Molasses cookies.

Pie crust. For a meat/vegetable pie, a cracker dough, rolled out like a giant chapati should do. Baking the crust before filling might make it crisper. I've only made sweet pies, not prebaking them and using cookie dough or just plain BUD with some shortening added – I use ground oily seeds such as sunflower or sesame.

Semis (semi-circles – like turnovers but tsubaked, not fried). I usually make semis instead of pies because they are smaller and may be eaten up fresh. Into chapati-like circles I roll out BUD (made rich with one part sunflower/sesame seed meal for each part wheat). I place filling on one half, fold over the other half and seal the edges with a fork.



For filling I use berries, seed paste or butter, ground dry fruit, or whatever else I think of.

I tsubake perhaps five minutes on a side. I haven't found sticking a problem but one may always use some flogree if it is. Uncooked these are also delicious.

LEAVENED DOUGHS. Baker's yeast or sour dough started may be added to BUD to make leavened bread. Don't expect the result to be like Blunder Bread. Because of the extra complications, and because I've learned to like unleavened textures, I make sour-dough and yeast bread only a few times a year as novelties. Like Thoreau, I found I could simplify.

The unabridged edition of Haelan's book contains a whole section of leavened pastries. Another source for sour-dough baking is [Bradford] Angier's HOW TO GO LIVE IN THE WOODS ON \$10 A WEEK. However he used baking soda; I omit it.

TEMPEH, I learned, is a popular traditional Indonesian fermented food, sold in the markets in banana leaves by the people who make it. Commonly it is made with soybeans which have been inoculated with a fungus. But wheat may be substituted for soybeans. The unabridged edition of Haelan's book will include my tempeh tales including: "Wheater Goes to Bed with Rhizopus" – a very sexy story.

TELLING IT LIKE I SEE IT. I try to keep my eyes and mind wide open, as well as my mouth, when wheat is concerned. I do not claim that wheat is a perfect food. W.E. does not live on wheat alone. (Not even on wheat and love alone.)

Eaten in large quantities, or exclusively, ANY single food may have undesirable effects on the body. From what I know, the damage may result from small amounts of a toxin (insignificant if a food is only one of many foods eaten, but harmful if it constitutes most of the diet) or because that food may not supply all nutrients. Eating only lean meat, such as rabbit, will cause death. Eating only unsprouted wheat/beans/rice will also lead to death, since, for one thing, they don't supply vitamin C.

Some people may be allergic to whole wheat. If one thinks this might be one's problem, substitute another grain in its place, such as corn or rice, is a possibility.

Some argue that wheat is too acidic. However, "It is characteristic of the burning of all food-stuffs that the end products are more or less acid. The body is well equipped to cope with this situation." (Nasset, YOUR DIET DIGESTION AND HEALTH). But even if acidity is a problem, I suspect wheat can be counter-balanced with limestone flour or with foods which have an alkaline ash such as kelp, millet, and most fresh fruits and vegetables.

Some point out that wheat (and other cereals, especially oats) contain phytic acid, which is bound so firmly with some of the grain's calcium that it is unavailable to the body. In addition, Bernard claims that wheat contains toxamin, a substance which interferes with calcium deposited in the bones. I think it is probably well for anyone eating wheat to be sure and get adequate calcium from other sources. I eat limestone flour, UNhulled sesame seeds, kelp, and blackstrap molasses – all exceptionally rich in calcium.

Another point against wheat, presented by Bernard, is that bran is a rasping and irritating roughage. Whole sprouted/boiled wheat, where the bran is whole and soft, is less apt to be a problem than ground wheat, where the bran is broken up and has many edges.

Ford claims that toxic substances in the bran are irritating. (He says the toxic substances ward off soil microbes. I just wonder if ALL seeds are so protected and therefore toxic to some extent.)

At times I've noticed irritation of my rectum when defecating, but this has only been when I've overeaten and whether the cause of discomfort was wheat or gluttony I'm not sure.

Ford reports that the groove in the wheat kernels contains dirt and microbes. Perhaps during sprouting some of this contamination is removed, by the soaking and repeated rinsings. (One reason not to drink the soak water.)

The possibility of crop failure and price increases of any grain is yet another reason to be conversant with many different ECANES possibilities.

On the plus side: Wheat has been inexpensive – half the price of rice. Wheat stores better than any other grain I know of. Wheat sprouts well – valuable for nutrition, taste variety, and as a test of condition. Wheat contains more protein than rice or corn. Wheat is glutinous – holds together for things like chapatis.

I hear that kids who bring whole wheat sandwiches to school are still being made fun of. If Sincere loaf can't go to school with you without ridicule I'd say you're definitely in the wrong school. What are you going there for anyway?

It was a pleasure, Haelan. Feel free to call anytime. The cupboard of GNAW TEK are never locked.

OTHER GRAINS

For the sake of variety, taste and nutrients, we use corn, popcorn, rice, millet and buckwheat in addition to wheat.

CORN. Thanks to Jim, who, coming from Mexico, said, "Why don't you use corn?" I answered him by saying that when I had tried it in the past it had been tough and rather tasteless, and hard to grind. Some had been weevily. But I was inspired to try it again, since here was an inexpensive, readily available item. And I'm glad I did.

I buy only whole-kernel feed corn, about \$4 per 80 pound sack in 1972. The feed stores also sell cracked corn and corn meal, but I buy the whole kernel corn because it has the best keeping qualities and has been deteriorated least from oxidation (though there's often quite a few pieces in with the whole kernels which cause us concern).

Corn-wheat bread. I grind separately four cups of corn and three cups of wheat twice thru the Estrella (or once thru the Deseret). I mix together dry along with four tablespoons of kelp. Then I add hot water (causes more stick-togetherness than cold water), about 3 ½ cups. I mix-knead with my hands. The dough doesn't ever hold together like all wheat dough so I sort of mold it into an unflogged pie pan, let stand a few hours and then transfer to a generously flogged fry pan and tsubake about 45 minutes on each side.

I've also used other proportions, from pure corn to mostly wheat; also some with rice or milo. The greater the proportion of corn the longer it takes to cook and the crumblier it is.

Torpatillas. This is a cross between chapati and tortilla. With the corn I have, my experience has been that all corn "dough" just won't hold together for tortilla making. But with ½ corn and ½ wheat I was able to roll out torpatillas. I suggest one practice with all wheat chapatis first. Then try mixes with more wheat than corn.

Tamales. Bread is nice but one day I started dreaming about tamales. I even had saved some dried corn husks. Sure, why not? Out came the Estrella. Twice I ground the corn. I soaked the corn husks in hot water. I added kelp to the corn meal and about ¾ as much water as corn

(when unground). I mixed with my trusty wooden spoon. I shingled the corn husks to form mats and spooned on some moistened corn meal. I patted it out flat into a rectangle about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch thick. In the center I placed the filling of precooked beans, lentils, wheat, and mushrooms, seasoned with kelp, garlic, oregano, paprika, a bay leaf, and cumin. (Those who like it hot may use cayenne.) The filling needn't be completely cooked since it will cook further inside the tamales. After spooning on the filling I spooned on another portion of corn meal, patting it flattish with my hands. I added more moistened corn meal here and there so what the filling was completely covered. Then I shingled on more corn husks to cover the whole thing. Rayo tied off the ends as I held them and the tamales were ready to cook. Into the steamer they went. After 30 minutes the half-hour of decision had arrived! Would they be like tamales? Would they be good whatever they were even if not tamales? They smelled like tamales. Off came the husks. They looked like tamales. Oh, I was excited. They felt like tamales. And lo! They tasted like tamales! Wow! Our own tamales. I no longer was dependent on frozen T.V. dinners for a Mexican food treat.

Since my supply of corn husks is long gone I have found that pieces of white cloth (e.g. old sheet) can be used instead. (I'd be leery of colored fabrics because of possibly toxic dyes.) And it isn't necessary to tie off the ends – I just fold them under. I've also found that the taste of the tamales may be varied by adding garlic, oregano, Italian seasoning, and paprika, as well as kelp to the corn meal (before adding water).

When I don't want to bother making individual tamales I make tamale layer cake. Into my strainer-steamer (lined with cloth) I alternate layers of moistened, seasoned corn meal with layers of filling. Tamale cake, depending on thickness, takes longer to cook than individual tamales. I allow 40 minutes to an hour.

Pinole. Kephart's CAMPING AND WOODCRAFT suggested this. Whole kernel corn is troasted until lightly brown (may burst). Then grind.

I've also made corn cereals, corn balls and chowder, following basically the same recipes as for wheat.

POPCORN. We buy it at wholesale grocers of institutional foods, e.g. Northwest Grocery Co., Madison and W. 4th Ave., Eugene, Ore. Price was about \$11.50 per hundred pounds in 1972. ("Institutional" is the key word when checking yellow pages, since wholesale grocers who cater to markets sell in case lots of small packages.) Confectionary suppliers carry it too, as do outfits that sell only popcorn and accessories to theatres, etc.

Before buying a lot of popcorn I recommend testing it. Some popcorn we bought at a regular grocery at a good price had some off-taste kernels (old?). And some we bought from a food co-op (the dealer they bought it from sold it as pigeon feed) didn't pop as well or taste as good.

Popcorn is dandy. It's much better than candy. And there's no need to fry, if you give shaking a try. We don't use an oil in popping corn – and it tastes delicious. However the method is not fool proof and even we burn an occasional kernel, and when cooking on wood even an occasional pan.

Rayo, the champ popper, recommends a separate preheating pan for fastest and easiest popping. The bottom of the preheat pan should be the same size or slightly smaller than the bottom of the popping pan for ease of measuring out the batches. The preheat pan sets in a pot of water which is kept simmering (or use a double boiler if you have one).

We have found the best popping pot to be a common thin aluminum one; stainless steel seems to burn the corn more flame – some experimentation may be necessary to find the best adjustment of your burner.

Place the kernels in the preheat pot. After about ten minutes dump them into the already warmed popping pot. The kernels should be not more than one layer thick on the bottom of each pot. Then start a new batch warming in the preheating pot while the first batch is popping. Both pots should be covered.

The popping pot is shaken occasionally. Pretty soon, after two or three minutes, a few kernels will pop. (If none have popped after five minutes turn the flame up a little.) When the kernels start popping shake every few seconds, vigorously enough to keep any puffs from sticking to the pot bottom. If the heat is set correctly, it will soon sound as if there's a western movie in that pot. Then toward the end only a few kernels will pop, as if everybody killed off each other.

Especially when first learning I say don't try to pop the very last popable kernel. This is a critical time for burning and better to have a few unpopped kernels than a few burnt ones.

Dump the popped kernels into a metal or glass container (they are hot enough to melt plastic) then put the second batch from the pre-heating pan.

I don't find it necessary to wash the popping pan between poppings unless I burn some, in which case I scour off all traces of the burnt corn since there seems to be a greater tendency to burn if there is charred residue on the pot bottom.

If one uses oil or melted butter I recommend dry popping and adding the oil afterwards, since heating oil to high temperatures deteriorates it, forming carcinogens. (The low heat needed to melt butter may not cause deterioration.)

I've come to enjoy popcorn plain, without butter or salt. Sometimes we make a meal of popcorn, eating a few quarts (popped) a piece. May there always be golden sunny days and may there always be popcorn and Rayo to celebrate them with. POP, POP, PURRAY!

RICE. As Wheater says, "A little rice is always nice." In terms of quantities we use, rice usually is second to wheat. It has the advantage over corn that it requires no soaking or grinding. In fact we prefer it not soaked or ground. It seems to fall apart when cooked if it has been soaked, and if ground it loses flavor. Rice also has a better balanced protein than corn.

We use brown rice because we feel it offers the highest nutritional value of any of the rices processed for eating, and we find it more flavorful than white rice. Brown rice has the tough, outer hull removed – I was told that it won't sprout for this reason. White rice has further layers of the grain removed. There's disagreement as to which stores better.

There is long grain and short grain rice. At one of the mills I was told that long grain is grown in some southern states and short grain in the Central Valley of Calif. In a blind-folded taste test I couldn't tell the difference. Short grain is less expensive here so that is what we buy. There is also glutinous, sweet brown rice, called Mochi Gome in Japanese. Its scientific name is ORYZA GLUTINOSA. I've tried small quantities and liked it.

We have compared samples of some organically grown brown rice (Chico-San) to other brown rice (Farmers' Rice Co-op and Koda Bros.) and could tell no difference in taste, texture or appearance. Of course there might be differences in nutritive content and freedom from poisons which aren't detectable by tasting. But the non-organically grown presently sells for about half the price of the organically grown, so we have been buying the former.

Some brown rice we bought from Rice Growers Association in West Sacramento had a chalky appearance due to being hulled with abrasive stone rollers which scuffs and ruptures the bran layer. RGA rice cooked faster and had a blander taste – more like white rice. I don't think it will store as well since the bran layer is no longer intact. Koda Bros. and FRC use rubber rollers. We have bought in quantity – 100 pounds or more from Koda Bros. and from Farmers Rice Co-op in South Dos Palos, and from FRC in West Sacramento. Price in 1972 was \$10 a hundred pounds. We ran into a case of bureaucratitis at FRC's West Sacramento mill. The other places were easy to do business with. They are usually open weekdays only and aren't mail-order. Organically-grown Chico-San rice can be purchased wholesale thru Spiral Foods, 1017 Willow St., Chico, CA 95926; \$20 per 100 pounds in 1972.

Plain boiled brown rice. (I will assume rubber-shelled rice. If stone-shelled (powdery-looking) rice is used, use half as much water and lessen cooking time.) I measure rice into cooking pot. I pour in plenty of water and stir. Keeping rice in the pot (by holding on the lid loosely, or using a piece of screening) I pour off this wash water. Now I measure in slightly less than two cups of water for each cup of rice. How much water one uses will vary with the type of utensil, heat source and personal taste. I stir or jiggle the pot so the rice lays flat, not piled up on one side.

I turn the burner on high and bring the water to a boil. After it boils I turn down the flame so that water and rice don't boil out but I let things boil rather vigorously for about five minutes. Then I turn the flame down and let the rice boil gently. I do not stir, it isn't necessary. The rice takes about an hour to cook. I cook until the water is almost all absorbed (none visible when the pot is tilted, then turn off the flame and let the pot set for 15 minutes.

At the table Rayo adds salt and sometimes raw sesame seeds or walnuts. Sometimes I add sesame or sunflower seeds – raw or toasted.

This cooking method is simplicity itself. I've found no way to improve upon it. Other recipes call for toasting the rice before boiling it. I've tried that and found it added work and only detracted from the taste.

Plain brown rice with lentils. I use three parts brown rice to one part lentils. I count the lentils like rice in determining how much water to use. I cook the same way as rice along. The rice and lentils seem to compliment [complement] each other in a most palate-pleasing manner, furnishing a rich, highly-flavorful dish. One can vary the proportions of rice to lentils. I like to throw in a few garlic cloves and maybe some kelp.

Rice cream. This is like the commercial cereal of similar name. Rice grains are ground to desired fineness and then toasted in a pan. Or they are first troasted and then ground. The flour is cooked with water, the less water the thicker the cream.

MILLET. For a while we used some Camation Wild Bird Seed, bought at an Albers feed store. We ate it mostly ground and boiled (we didn't care for it whole). Eventually we decided the hulls were too sharp for our innards – evidenced by blood in our feces. We have not yet found an inexpensive source for hulled millet, which we like very much. (One feed store said they could get it for us but, with special shipping charges, the price was about \$16 per 100 pounds.) Min-Kota, around Fargo, N.D., sold organically-grown for \$20 per 100 in 1972 (including shipping if shipment totals over 300 pounds). My comments about rice preparation hold true for millet, though more water is used, three or four to one (versus two to one).

BUCKWHEAT. It isn't wheat at all. It's a completely different genus: *Fagopyrum esculentum*. It's not even a grass. Buckwheat seeds are tetrahedral! We bought 25 pounds of some organically grown, sold especially for sprouting by Min-Kota (about 20¢ a pound in 1972). The little we have left I'm saving for sprouting but formerly I made flour out of some of it. After grinding I separated the hulls from the flour simply by sifting thru a strainer. I made some bread using solely buckwheat flour but we preferred a mixture with more wheat than buckwheat. Buckwheat pancakes are delicious.

MILO. We recently bought some at a feed store. It is inexpensive, about 5¢ a pound by the hundred pounds. Milo is a sorghum (according to the dictionary) and 11% protein; according to COMPOSITION OF FOODS. So far I've only had a chance to use it for a cereal and in corn bread (ground twice thru the Estrella). Seems good. They sprouted fairly completely though slowly.

OATS, BARLEY, RYE. The usual forms sold in feed stores are not hulled. I haven't discovered a convenient way to hull. Groats (already hulled seeds) I've found for sale were expensive and wouldn't sprout – an ominous indication. We don't buy oatmeal – oats are high in oil and thus especially susceptible to deterioration after rolling. If we find groats at a good price which sprout I imagine we'll use them.

PULSES

Pulses are the edible seeds of peas, beans, lentils, and similar plants having pods.

BEANS. At present we are using pink beans which we got for \$11 per 100 pounds in 1972 at a bean warehouse in West Sacramento. They sprout fairly well, cook up tender, and have a pleasant, mild flavor. In the past we've also used red, pinto and kidney beans. They all seemed to have similar sprouting and cooking characteristics, though the pinks are a little smaller and milder tasting than the others.

We usually sprout our beans for a short time (only 12 to 24 hours, in addition to the soak time) to minimize any spoilage of those beans which won't sprout and also because they taste best if not sprouted longer. Or we at least soak them 12 to 24 hours (the colder the temperature the longer they take to imbibe).

We make bean flour by simply running the beans thru the Estrella a couple of times. This flour can be cooked alone in soup, sauces, patties or dressings, or added to grain flours in chapatis, gruel, bread.

Bean chapatis. Measured before grinding: 2 parts wheat to 2/3 parts beans. Or 1 part wheat, 1 part corn to 2/3 parts beans. Proceed as with regular chapatis (wheat section). I cook the bean chapatis a little longer than all-grain chapatis.

Bean paste. Plenty of water is mixed with the bean flour, plus desired seasonings – kelp, oregano, cumin, garlic and cayenne (with allspice optional) will give a chili powder flavor. The

mixture is cooked gently with much stirring to prevent burning. Bean paste may be eaten as is, spread on chapatis, used as sprandwich filling, or shaped into bean burger patties and fired on flogree. Made thinner the paste becomes a sauce or dressing; thinner still and one has a smooth bean soup.

Boiled beans. Cook in barely enough water to cover until tender; about 15 minutes if sprouted, ½ hour if only soaked. Season to taste.

SOY BEANS. We bought some that didn't sprout well at all. Another time we got some that sprouted well. Those we cooked in a little water, after sprouting a few days. The ones that didn't sprout we usually soaked (changing the water every few hours) until plump and then boiled or baked spread on sheets of foil in a 300° oven. Baked this way the beans are somewhat nutty. (I think the ones sold in stores as a snack food are thus baked AND subsequently French fried in oil and salted.)

At one time we used soy grits (which we bought at a health food store, along with the beans that didn't sprout.) They are precooked. All we had to do was add boiling water and let stand and imbibe. Some time after using these soy grits I saw for sale at a feed store what I think was called "soy bean mili feed HEXANE EXTRACTED." I took home a sample and as far as I could tell it was the same asgrils. We no longer use the product since it is ground, precooked, and subject to contamination with the solvent.

LENTILS. We find lentils very tasty, with a rich, meaty flavor, especially if unsprouted – and with a nice, fresh vegetable quality when sprouted long. The ones we're using presently were purchased from a wholesale institutional grocer for \$4.25 per 25 pounds (17¢ a pound). Since they cost 50% more than pink beans we eat less lentils than beans. We'd like to find a cheaper source. We use them in basically the same ways as beans, except: lentils will cook up tender without looking; we often sprout lentils much longer than beans; I enjoy lentils raw in a spralad, after sprouting. Lentils may be ground into flour, just as beans.

Lentil soup. Put a cup of lentils and 1/8 cup of rice in a pot. Wash and drain. Add 6 cups of water. I may add some spices now: garlic powder, soy sauce, paprika, and a few whole garlic cloves. Lentil soup is also tasty unseasoned. I bring the water to a boil, then reduce to a simmer and cook until tender, adding water if necessary to thin (about ¾ hour cooking time). I turn off the heat, add a handful of kelp flakes, some Italian seasoning, and let stand a few minutes.

AUSTRIAN PEAS are inexpensive, about \$5 per hundred pounds. They sprout well and taste okay after sprouting and brief boiling. But a salesman at a feed store said that Austrian peas are sprayed with a defoliant before harvesting. I gather they are used as a cover crop, not directly for animal food. We've discontinued buying them.

SPLIT PEAS. We don't use them because they are split (and thus more easily oxidized) and because they don't sprout. We like to be able to sprout, both to get more nutrients and to test the condition of the seed.

N.B. There are occasionally small pebbles in pulses, regardless of where bought. I keep a lookout for them when I wash and sprout but I don't always find all of them. All I can say is watch out when eating. And make sure your teeth are strong, by getting plenty of calcium and other nutrients.

About gas: If one really wants some rip-roaring flatus, try beans and sweets, eaten together (most baked-bean recipes). We almost had our own private moon launching one summer after lunching on baked soybeans and fresh Juneberries. WOW! I experience little or no gas problems if I eat only a small quantity of beans at a time and don't combine them with sweets. Cooking the beans until tender seems to help too, as does sprouting them previous to cooking. Lentils seem less gas producing than beans, and, if sprouted long, not gas producing at all.

OILY SEEDS

ENGLISH WALNUTS. We have been using these as our principal nut the last two years because we like them and they have been the least expensive nut we have been able to purchase. We've bought them direct from growers (usually small, family operations), from a feed store, and at roadside stands. We've paid from 20 to 35 cents a pound; the lowest price was in Fresno. We've seen them from So. Cal. on up thru Oregon.

Walnuts are a good source of fat: in 100 grams of walnuts (after shelling) there are 64 grams of fat – almost two-thirds the weight. Walnuts also contain some protein, though it's not optimally balanced.

We keep our walnuts in the shells until right before eating. We always eat walnuts raw: alone; with raisins in spralads or fruit salads; as a topping for rice or rice-and-lentils. We sometimes eat walnuts with non-fat dry milk to supply oil and facilitate calcium absorption. Occasionally we make candy with walnuts. I usually eat about ten at a time.

BLACK WALNUTS. These grow wild, along many roadsides in Calif. We've gathered in small quantity. We pick them from the ground and let them dry, husks and all. They are too hard for any ordinary nut cracker: I use a hammer, a good heavy one. The more the nuts dry the easier they seem to crack. In addition to the meats being delicious, I've made a dark brown husks, by cooking them in water, straining and saving the liquid. I've used it for artsy-craftsy projects.

SESAME SEEDS. As far as I know there are brown ones, black ones and white ones; the latter having been hulled. I've tried sprouting both brown and white ones – no sprouting occurred.

Strangely, the hulled seeds are usually cheaper than the unhulled ones! I don't know the reason for this. But we try to get only unhulled sesame seeds. They are a good calcium source, containing over ten times as much calcium as the hulled ones, in a ratio of two parts calcium to one part phosphorous. Unhulled sesame seeds also contain about as much iron as does liver.

The hulled seeds contain more phosphorus than the little calcium left in them, and are robbed of all their potassium, sodium and vitamin A as well as 75% of their iron.

We eat most of our sesame seeds whole and raw, either straight or sprinkled on rice. We also make sesame paste which we use like butter on bread. In addition I like sesame seeds toasted; Rayo doesn't.

Sesame meal. Raw or toasted seeds are ground once (I use on Estrella). The resultant meal may be used to add flavor or oil to candy, baked goods, cereals and milk drinks.

Sesame paste. I simply add a little water to the meal and mix with a spoon. I use as a spread.

Toasted sesame seeds. I use a frying pan on medium-low heat, covered to keep popping seeds from escaping. I suggest tasting as toasting proceeds.

Sesame dressing. Add more liquid to the past and it becomes a dressing. I like it on vegetable and fruit salads.

SUNFLOWER SEEDS. We are now eating the last few pounds of 125 pounds we bought a year ago, shelled. We don't plan to buy any more shelled ones to store because a substantial percentage noticeably deteriorated even though they were stored at under 60°F, much of the time in a CO₂ atmosphere. Until we figure out an acceptable way to do our own shelling we won't be eating any more. (Shelling with teeth or fingers is too time consuming.)

Toasted they taste somewhat like bacon to Rayo; like peanuts to me.

WILD PLANTS

I enjoy learning about, gathering and using wild plants. The berries we've gathered we've eaten ourselves. But I've gathered enough of some herbs to give away, trade and sell on a small scale as well as fill our own needs.

Learning to identify plants has been slow. Having a teacher to point them out, in their natural habitat, seems to be the fastest way to learn, but we've only been so fortunate on a couple of occasions.

I've learned some plants from books such as Kirk's, Sweets, and Gibbons', by reading descriptions of the plants that are supposed to occur in the type [of] area I'm in, studying the pictures, and then keeping my eyes open when in the field. If a plant I see looks familiar, I try to find it in the books. Or if I have a plant I want to identify I may thumb thru the books in hopes of finding a picture that fits – "picture keying."

I've also sent a few specimens to university botany departments who identified them by return mail! – the names of the plants opposite line drawings of them which I had provided. I tried to include the flowers as well as the leaves, intact on the stems, enclosing three or four plants in a one ounce letter. I suggest choosing a college nearby that has a botany department and giving them a try.

Most of my wild friends have some very distinctive characteristics – else I wouldn't have learned them, beginner that I am, so I think other neophyte botanists who are in the Pacific Northwest will find them easy to get acquainted with.

With a little exploration and a book such as Kirk's, I think one will soon know any edible berries in the area, at least those that occur in quantity; they're just too conspicuous to miss if one tries looking.

BLACKBERRIES (*Rubus* sp.) unfortunately seem to like the same areas that most people do – rich bottom lands in the larger river valleys. They ripen from mid-summer to mid-fall. We've sometimes gathered them in great quantities when traveling, but not when camped in the wilds.

HUCKLEBERRIES (*Vaccinium* sp.), on the other hand, we've found in some profusion in the forest. Red huckleberries (*Vaccinium parvifolium*?) grow sparsely but widely in rather open woods and brushy areas; they are ripe during most of the summer. Evergreen huckleberries (*Vaccinium ovatum*) grow in more densely forested areas but bear profusely in openings. The berries are small and black to purple. They start ripening in summer and often remain on the bushes and tasty until mid-winter. The shapes of huckleberries are similar to the shape of blueberries. Most of them are small and laborious to gather in large quantities; also not as sweet as many other berries. We have gathered only when we didn't have other fruits.

RASPBERRIES. We have found black raspberries in cut-over areas, sometimes in great quantity. They ripen mostly in July. Thimbleberry, another *Rubus* which resembles a red raspberry, grows along many creeks.

JUNE BERRIES (*Amelanchier* sp.) resemble black huckleberries or blueberries in appearance but are larger and sweeter. Bushes growing near creeks bear most profusely. The berries are often infected with some kind of a blight. They ripen in late June and July.

SALAL (*Gaultheria* sp.) is a common undergrowth in densely wooded areas but bears heaviest along logging trails and other openings. The berries are black to navy blue, hairy, and have a bell-like shape. The berries on some plants are very tasty – almost like maple sugar; on other plants they taste weedy.

MADRONE (*Arbutus* sp.) is a tree with smooth reddish bark and dark green evergreen oval leaves (distinctive looking). It bears pea-size orange fruit in late fall which fall to the ground. We've only eaten a few but they were pleasant tasting.

MANZANITA (*Arctostaphylos* sp.) also has smooth red bark but is a shrub with thick leaves and a driftwood-like shape to it. It is the most common shrub in many areas, especially in dry, rocky areas and bears profusely. Furthermore the berries are edible from late spring until mid-autumn. At first the berries are green and red, like diminutive apples, and taste somewhat like tart apples. We eat them right off the bushes. Once we ground some in the Estrella and got a nice sauce. As the berries mature the seeds become bigger and harder. We still eat the berries as snacks but spit out the seeds. By fall the berries have dried on the bushes, and are powdery inside and sweet, in a tart sort of way. The seeds, if ground and brewed as tea, give a beverage much like regular tea – rather astringent. We don't like it. The powder is what we use. We crush up the berries with our hands or put them in a bag (cloth holds up best but I've used paper and plastic), pad it with newspaper or whatever, and hammer the berries to break them up. The crushed/pounded berries are next sifted thru a regular strainer. We've eaten the powder plain and in fruit salads. More often I've made "monzaide" by mixing some powder in water and letting the solids settle to the bottom (takes about 15 minutes) and drinking the flavorful liquid – sweet enough not to need sugar.

ROSE HIPS. This is the fruit of the rose. Very rich in vitamin C. The hips are ripe in the fall – many stay on the bushes well into winter by which time they're mostly fermented – instant wine. The plants can be recognized by the bright orange-red fruit – and the thorns! We've seen many along country roads and a few in wild places, where the hips seem to be smaller. Once I made some jam, using honey. Some recommend cooking and straining them down into a liquid, supposedly rich in vitamin C. I tried that too. Tasted good. But I don't understand how the vitamin C can survive heat. Nor do I see how tea, made from dried hips can have much vitamin C, both because of the drying and the boiling water. It's a tasty drink, though. Unfortunately, when the hips are ripe there isn't much sunny weather to dry them. I had some under shelter that molded before they dried.

ACORNS. So far we've just gathered a few, from various oaks (*Quercus* sp.) and tanbark oaks (*Lithocarpus* sp.). The only way we've found so-far to make them palatable is to shell, grind into flour, and boil for several hours! with many changes in water. Once we placed ground acorns, within a nylon stocking, in a stream for a day but considerable astringency remained. Next time I'll try leaching for several days, as Kirk suggests. After all the processing I wonder how much food value, other than calories, is left. But reportedly acorns were a staple Indian food.

BAY, Calif. Laurel, Oregon Myrtle (*Umbellularia californica*). The plants I've seen are usually bushy, about 8 feet high, with rich green, shiny, leathery leaves which have the characteristic bay smell, especially when crushed. If one crushes and smells any promising leaves I think one will have no trouble finding bay, if it grows in one's area (S.W. Ore. to So. Cal.) I pick the leaves any time of the year when they're not wet, and dehydrate them in any convenient dry place (removed from branches). Bay nuts are ripe in fall. They seem to retain their astringency even after cooking with repeated changes of water. (I'll have to try leaching them like acorns.) Bay wood has a beautiful close grain, and takes on a high polish. So far I've used it to make some buttons, using round slices from limbs of the desired size, that had been seasoned a year. (By the way, twenty Spice Island's bay leaves sell for \$1.06!)

BRACKEN FERN, *Pteridium aquilinum* (illustration below, left). I've found it in great quantity, usually by the side of logging roads, throughout the Siskiyou. In the summer the new fronds make their appearance and we use them as a nibbler. I pick not just "fiddle heads" (the newly sprouted shoots) but also the tops of older shoots, as long as they are tender. It takes some looking around to find the fiddle heads – I bend over and even crawl around.



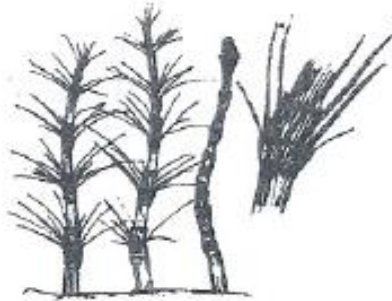
YARROW, *Achillea* sp. (illustration above, right). The flowers resemble wild carrot but the feather-like leaves of yarrow distinguish it. The flowers are white. I dry bundles of the whole plant (cut above the ground), upside down, in shady places. Flowers and leaves may be used for tea. Supposed to be good for what ails ya. One time I made some which was delicious but every other time it has been bitter. Crushed leaves may be applied to wounds to promote healing, and as a local anesthetic, especially for tooth ache. I've made I Ching sticks from the straight stalks (10 inches long, 50 or more per bundle) and sold them. Yarrow seems to be common along many roadsides.

WILD CARROT, *Daucus carota*. The frilly white flower gives it one of its other names – Queen Anne's Lace. After flowering the flower head closes upward, becoming cup like, hence the name Bird's Nest. The stems and leaves are covered with minute hairs. Poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), which closely resembles *Daucus*, does not have these hairs and that is the way to distinguish the one from the other. I gather the wild carrot's seeds in the summer

Along old country roads and bridle paths, rubbing them from the plants with my fingers, into a wide-mouth gallon jug strung around my neck. I use them for seasoning such dishes as stews and beans. I've sold them to health food stores. In *STALKING THE HEALTHFUL HERBS*, Gibbons has a whole chapter devoted to wild carrot.

FENNEL, anise, sweet fennel, *Foeniculum vulgare*. I haven't found it in the wild yet, only in vacant lots. It's the stuff that smells like anise, also like licorice. May be two to seven feet high,

finely-divided thin grey-green leaves, small yellow flowers in umbels. I gathered the seeds, rubbing them with my hands into a plastic bag (I try to have a few in my pockets always). They may be steeped for tea or used as flavoring in baked goods or candy. The seeds may be ground in a pepper mill. Or the whole seeds may be steeped in hot water and the water used instead of the seeds. Kirk says the leaf stalks are edible raw or cooked. Haven't tried them yet. They are even listed in COMPOSITION OF FOODS – rich in vitamin A.



HORSETAIL, scouring rush, *Equisetum* sp. (illustration above). Looks like something out of prehistoric times. It's said to have flourished in the Paleozoic, when it grew much larger than in this age. It still appears to flourish, in moist soil in the forest, near creeks. Some of the plants resemble asparagus, while others look more like bottle brushes. They feel somewhat like fine sandpaper from the high silica content. In fact I've used them (just wadded up) for scouring pots. Ebba Waerland, in *REBUILDING HEALTH*, recommends harvesting from June to Sept. and drying in the sun (unlike other medicinal herbs which are dried in the shade). I followed her directions. We now have plenty of dried horsetail for tea. It's somewhat like tea-tea in color and taste – maybe better. Ebba says it's a strong diuretic, and excellent for rheumatism, kidney and bladder ailments, and for soaking festering sores. Kirk and Sweet also give information about this plant.

MULLEIN, *Verbascum* sp. May be recognized by its majestic yellow flowered spike, or when it's not in bloom, by the thick velvety leaves. (one of its names is campers' toilet paper.) Common along highways but I've also found it in the forest on cut-over land, along with raspberries. I've dried the leaves and steeped them for tea. The taste was not anything special. Some use it in smoking mixtures.

NETTLES, *Urtica* sp. Touch them and you'll know it! We pick them with rubber gloves or some other protection against the stinging oil that the hypodermic needled-like hairs inject. Grows in moist places. We found some in So. Cal. Mountains but none in Siskiyou so far. Cooking destroys the stinging property. We eat as a green vegetable.

CONIFER NEEDLES, including pine, spruces, douglas-fir, incense-cedar, arborvitae, fir, hemlock. We nibble on them when we're hiking. Angier (*HOW TO STAY ALIVE IN THE WOODS*) says spruce tea is as potent in vitamin C as orange juice! and that the vitamin may be gotten more directly by chewing the tender new needles.

SOURGRASS, Redwood Sorrel, *Oxalis oregana*. Looks somewhat like a three-leaf clover. The taste is pleasantly sour. In redwood country one couldn't avoid this plant. We've found it in mixed conifer-broad leaf forests too. A nice salad green.

WILD GREEN, *Allium* sp. It seems to play hide and seek – it's very inconspicuous but teases with its aroma. Usually the bulbs we've found have been small and tough but they made a nice seasoning, along with flowers.

YERBA BUENA, *Satureja douglasii*. Grows vine-like along the ground. Ya gotta look close to find it. (I looked so close I found a good case of poison oak the first time I gathered it.) The leaves are often maroonish in color on the underside. The mint/camphor smell is strong from crushed leaves, the easiest way to distinguish it from other low vines. We let the leaves dry on the stem in a shaded place, then strip them off (the stems are flavorless, and store them in jars for future tea making. Of course tea may be made from the fresh leaves too.

GRASS. New blades of grass make a so-so salad at time when no other greens are available (or identifiable). Supposedly no species of grass is poisonous. But some other plants resemble grass so first taste a very small piece.

Rayo and I have discovered a number of so-far-unionized plants which make good salad greens. Lasting small supplies, of anything that looks promising. Procedure: Gingerly chew up a very small piece. If there is any unpleasant taste or irritation, spit out and keep spitting (or rinsing with water) until the taste goes away. If it still tastes okay, swallow. Wait at least a day. If no bad effects try a somewhat larger piece. Etc. Sample only one new plant at a time.

But DON'T try this with mushrooms. Some deadly mushrooms reportedly taste delicious, and are poisonous in very small amount. It is safest, of course, to always make a positive identification of a plant before tasting.

SWEETS

When we first started living in the woods I would look forward to trips into the big city where there was ice cream, cake and cookies. Tastes have changed, but not overnight. It has taken months, even years. We still enjoy sweets occasionally. But we have come to prefer kinds we can make ourselves out of simple ingredients. One trip into that society buys us all the goodie-makings we want for a year or more. By having stores of sweet-treats we lessen any attraction the sickly-sweet society might have for us. Our selection of sweets is a compromise between what's best for health, what we can store, what's cheap, and what we enjoy.

DRIED FRUIT. Probably the healthiest sweet is fresh, ripe fruit. And we eat large amounts of wild berries in season as well as buying fresh fruit on our rare trips to town. But storage and weight are problems. So we use some dried fruit, so far mostly raisins and currants, purchased in Fresno where they are grown from Bonner Packing Co., 568 So. Temperance. In 1972 we paid \$6.90 per 30 pound box (23¢ a pound).

Most of our raisins and currants are eaten without any elaborate preparation. We eat them out of hand, alone or with nuts; or add them to spralads and fruit salads. We don't care for them cooked on the stove, but occasionally sun-stew them, by placing a jar of them, covered with water, to soak in a sunny place for a few hours.

VonuWay candy bars. They may be made using a grinder, or more simply by chopping the ingredients with a knife and kneading together. I use raisins/currants and walnuts/sunflower/sesame seeds. After chopping these I add powdered milk, carob powder, dextrose, and perhaps cinnamon, allspice, grated vanilla bean and molasses. Vitamin C gives a citrusy tang. I knead everything together, adding water if necessary to get things to stick. After shaping bars I may coat them with some powdered milk, sugar, seed meal, or flour. To help the coating stick to the bars (or balls if you prefer) they may first be dampened with a little water. Most of the ingredients are optional; use what you have, forget the rest.

VonuWay Wheat Chews. Add wheat sprouts/flour to the above. The sprouts may be whole, chopped or ground. Kneading helps everything to adhere. Please don't be discouraged because I haven't given quantities. Any proportion of raisins and nuts seem to taste good. I just add the other ingredients gradually, to taste, especially the spices.

NONFAT DRY MILK. People are the only animals that I can think of besides some animals they domesticate that drink milk beyond the suckling stag [?]. And I understand there are many adults who are allergic to any and all animals' milk. (No, everybody doesn't need milk.) I'm really not sure how good a cow's milk is for animals other than calves. And nonfat dry (NFD) milk is definitely objectionable because it is stored in a finely-divided state. However, until we get more wild game, we feel that milk may be desirable as a protein supplement. And we use it to make some sweet things. In other words, at present we [think?] the benefits we get from NFD milk outweigh the possible disadvantages.

I understand the spray process of drying milk is the most conservative of nutrients. I don't usually cook with NFD milk because I think that destroys nutritional factors. When eating NFD milk I try to get some fat and some raw wheat along with it, usually in the form of a few walnuts and spoonfuls of wheat sprouts. Adelle Davis (p. 183, LET'S EAT RIGHT TO KEEP FIT) claims that fresh or powdered skim milk, without fat being taken simultaneously, causes loss of calcium and an increased need for Vitamin B₂. The reason for the wheat is to supply phosphatase, an

enzyme destroyed by pasteurization but necessary if calcium and phosphorous are to be absorbed from the milk, according to Catharyn Elwood, who in *FEEL LIKE A MILLION*, recommends one tablespoon fresh ground wheat per quart of milk.

Plain NFD milk. To prepare milk, whether instant or not (what we buy in bulk is usually not instant) we first add the desired amount of water to a quart canning jar. Then we add what looks like the right amount of NFD milk. (If the jar is more than 2/3 full the milk doesn't mix well.) Next we put on a lid and rim, which gives a good seal. (Packages of just lids are sold in supermarkets.) Now we make like a milk-shake machine, holding the jar securely with both hands and shaking enthusiastically for a couple of minutes. Milk or water may be added if the initial measuring doesn't suit one's taste.

Candy/icing. Rayo makes, using NFD milk, dextrose, and a touch of vitamin C powder, with just enough water to mix into a thick paste. Tastes like lemon icing.

CAROB powder is the ground pod of the carob tree, also called St. John's Bread or Locust bean. The tree grows in the Mediterranean, and since the climate is similar it does well in Los Angeles, where I've seen the long, leathery, chocolate-brown pads littering sidewalks. I've tried chewing on some of these pods; they taste sweet – but the pod was very tough. At the time I didn't think of trying to grind then, but I will give it a whirl next time I'm able to get some pods.

We have bought both toasted and raw carob powder. Toasted, it's darker in color and more coco-like tasting than the raw form, which looks like whole-wheat flour and is perhaps sweeter tasting. I'm sure Ford would label carob powder fatty rubbish, par excellence. But it's not as harmful as chocolate, which contains alkaloids, interferes with calcium absorption and ruins my complexion. Carob powder can be substituted for cocoa in conventional recipes, e.g. in hot cocoa and brownies.

Carob shakes. We add a few tablespoons of carob powder to NFD milk and water and shake up. Optional additions are cinnamon, allspice and vanilla. (If there are any lumps in the carob powder we first sift and crush the lumps against the strainer.)

Carob fudge. Carob powder (raw/toasted) is added to ground dry fruit and mixed in well. Nuts, seeds, seed meal, powdered milk, sugar or honey, and spices may be added.

DEXTROSE. We used to eat honey – like it was going out of style. Little did we realize it literally was. Anyway, the price skyrocketed and it's now out of OUR style. We've replaced it with dextrose, which is a type of glucose made from corn starch. Dextrose stores well and is relatively inexpensive. Because we consider dextrose unhealthy we go easy on it. We eat much less of it than we did of honey, which has the image of being a healthy food but is in fact a highly-refined sweet – refined by the bees. A little honey may be better than a little dextrose. But we didn't limit ourselves to a little honey. We are regular Poohs!

Dextrose is a monosaccharide and is supposedly easier to digest than sucrose (common table sugar), which is a disaccharide and must first be broken down into monosaccharide by the digestive system before it can be absorbed.

Jam. I mixed fresh berries and dextrose, about twice as much dextrose as berries by volume (dextrose is fluffier than granulated sugar), and soaked gently. It melted down and became syrupy. The longer it cooked, the thicker and harder it got. I tested it by dripping some into cold water or onto a cold metal plate. That gives an idea of what it will be like upon cooling.

BLACKSTRAP MOLASSAS [MOLASSES]. Adelle Davis mentions blackstrap as a good source of B vitamins and iron. So does Linda Clark. In *LIVING THE GOOD LIFE*, Helen and Scott Nearing mention using it in their diet. On the other hand in the *SUGAR STORY*, Fred Rohe says he doesn't much like molasses, because of unsound agricultural practices in raising cane, and because the molasses comes out of mammoth filtration units which are filled with charred beef bones.

In hopes that the good outweighs the bad, I use blackstrap molasses. I usually consider it more as a food supplement than as a sweet but I am getting more and more accustomed to its strong taste and enjoying my molasses cocktails. I take a tablespoon or two in a cup of water, hot or cold, once a day. We buy our blackstrap at feed stores, bringing our own containers – clean, white (so no possibly-toxic dye) bleach jugs. Price is about 6¢ a pound.

N.B. Dr. Fred Miller cautions that even such "natural" sweets as raisins can cause cavities if not cleaned from the teeth after eating. He recommends eating a natural dentifrice last, e.g. apples or raw carrots.

DAILY DIET

In case you wonder what Rayo and I eat from day to day.

Rayo cooks up Instant Breakfast of Vonuans maybe 80% of the time. Other times, as when the sprout farm is closed, he may have toasted wheat (usually plain), or just milk, or plain boiled rice. I fast until noon or dinner, doing well on just one meal a day. Once a week I may fast all day, ingesting only water, and sometimes I fast for a number of days consecutively. I think it's rejuvenating – anyway it makes me feel good and helps me control my weight.

Rayo usually has a few snacks during the day, as opposed to one noon meal. He spaces them out to avoid bad combinations. Raisins. Nuts. Sesame seeds. Milk. Fresh berries or other fruit. Popcorn. On the other hand if I eat lunch I find one meal more satisfactory than snacking, which leads me to overeat. I may eat a meal of wheat sprouts, raisins and nuts; mixed. Or mix up an apple, orange, raisins, nuts and manzanita flour. Or the rest of yesterday's bread and sesame paste. Or popcorn, perhaps with an oily seed. Or a couple of sliced bananas filled with seed paste.

At dinner we take our vitamins (usually C and E, sometimes A and D), any limestone flour, and yeast. We share about a quart of ABC sprouts whenever Happy Days is operating, which is maybe 80% of the time. I add lentil and wheat sprouts to my portion, and perhaps seasoning/dressing. If I eat lunch I proceed it with a tablespoon or two of molasses in a cup of water; otherwise I have my cocktail before dinner. Some typical dinner menus:

Rice, or rice and lentils; sometimes completely alone; more often topped with walnuts, sunflower, or sesame seeds. Or rice and beans, with no topping. Kelp may be used for seasoning. Rayo often adds salt.

Bread, usually wheat and corn. With sesame paste. We may have beans also. If no beans, I may have milk.

Stew of corn, beans, lentils, wheat and rice. Plain or seasoned. Alone or with popcorn.

Lentil-rice soup, with yeast, kelp, garlic and other spices. Popcorn too, perhaps.

Tamales, or tamale cake – corn meal with bean lentil filling.

Popcorn, alone or with oily seeds.

Chapatis and beans. I find chapatis less enjoyable to make than bread, therefore we have them less often.

Sometimes we have fresh vegetables such as carrots, cabbage, cukes, onions, peppers, to add to our dinners.

Sometimes we have small game. A squirrel makes one dinner for the two of us. With a porcupine, the first day we have organs for dinner – heart, liver, brain, pancreas, kidneys, spleen and lungs – ground into a paste and perhaps steamed with corn meal on top and bottom to make a “pie”. The muscle meat is dinner for the next few days. We usually have a spralad first. We may have rice later.

We usually do not drink during or immediately after a meal, to avoid diluting digestive juices. We drink not less than 15 minutes before eating nor two hours after. I think it's best not to have tea, because of the sugar and excess water. But on some rainy days we've sat around and drank cup after cup.

We no longer buy supermarket meat (we haven't for ten months): the animals may be unhealthy; the meat may contain hormones, tranquilizers, antibiotics, growth stimulants (e.g. arsenic), preservatives, dyes and deodorants (quite a mouthful, eh?); not to mention the high price and cruel treatment the animals may receive; and we have no good, easy way to preserve meat. We do occasionally kill and eat small animals; we prefer them to big game because we can eat the meat fresh. We don't like killing but what we presently know, the animal food may be a good addition to our diet.

But don't we ever buy Milky Ways, cupcakes, chocolate chip cookies, ice cream and sherbet? We haven't in months. Occasionally, on trips into that society, we meet friends who serve us such things. But we eat them even less frequently than ECANES zuzuz.

Yes, Virginia, we are for real. We have come to enjoy our ECANES food and don't feel we're denying ourselves any pleasures. We just no longer have any special desire for such foods as orange sherbet and German chocolate cake.

FOOD COSTS (by Rayo). From Feb. to Aug. 1972 we kept records of food consumed. Quantities are pounds per person per month. Costs are calculated from most recent bulk prices paid.

[Transcriptionist's Note: “#” denotes “pounds”.]

Stored staples: wheat 15.8# 67¢; brown rice 6.9# 69¢; shelled sunflower seeds 5.8# 227¢; raisins 4.8# 113¢; popcorn 4.5# 52¢; red beans 4.4# 48¢; walnuts in shells 3.7# 74¢; millet 1.6# 32¢; dry milk 1.6# 69¢; buckwheat 0.8# 16¢; soybeans 0.8# 12¢; blackstrap molasses 0.7# 4¢; sugar 0.6# 7¢; alfalfa and subclover seed 0.6# 26¢; dry yeast 0.2# 16¢; dry kelp 0.4# 4¢; seasonings and vitamins 40¢. Total, 52.4# \$8.76. We ate generously of sunflower seeds because we had a large store (someone with whom we had pooled purchase didn't take delivery) and we had doubts about their keeping qualities.

Other foods bought during rare trips to towns (averaged over the five months); fresh fruit 14# 150¢; fresh vegetables 1.8# 23¢; dairy products and meat 3.7# 142¢; pastries 0.2# 12¢; restaurant meals 37¢. Total, \$3.63. Scavenged fruits and vegetables (supermarket trash bins) about 8# 0.0¢.

Forged wild foods, rough estimate: meat (cleaned but including bones) 1#; berries 0.4# (ripe during only one month of the period); greens 0.4#.

Since then we have discontinued buying meat and most junk foods. We are no longer buying sunflower seeds. And we have substituted corn and now milo for the higher-priced grains. We have found a less expensive source for vitamins. Our present food costs are approximately 9\$ per person per month, total.

WHO “COOKS”? I usually enjoy food preparation so I do it. Dish washing, on the other hand, doesn't thrill me, and since Rayo would rather do it than prepare food, he does. We try to divide tasks according to who likes what, not according to sex roles.

SUPPLEMENTS

KELP. Supplies calcium, iodine and trace minerals. We are presently using “Pacific Coast Kelp Meal”, distributed by Ocean Pak Kelp Co., 9381 Pine Ave., Chino, Cal. and sold in 50 pound sacks for \$5 by O.H. Kruse feed store in So. El Monte, Calif.

LIMESTONE FLOUR. Calcium. Probably less radioactivity than bone meal. Kruse.

VITAMINS. Hoffman-LaRoche, Nutley, N.J. 07110 sells (e.g.) one kilo (one million I.U.) E for \$40; 5 kilos C for \$26.75.

THE REST...will come as life and learning go on. In the meantime, may the earth's foods nourish you and me, may the sun guild our days, and may we peacefully live the lives we envision.

Enjoy, *Haalan* 

NUDE DANCING MONEymaking OPPORTUNITY

By: Darby Anderson

Los Angeles is a little more liberal in some ways than other cities. One of these is an area which offers for girls a substantial moneymaking opportunity; namely, nude dancing. All that is required is that the girls have a reasonably attractive body and a moderate ability to dance to Top-40 type music.

The establishments featuring nude dancing are mainly beer bars (most don't serve hard liquor) with a very nominal cover charge (typically, a dollar). The Los Angeles area bars have had to fight very hard to keep nude entertainment as the “authorities” have been trying to shut them down (or at least put bikinis on their dancers) for as long as the bars have put on this kind of entertainment.

Girls needn't fear physical mauling or attack in these places as the bars don't allow this type of thing (they wouldn't be able to find any dancers willing to work there if they did). Tough

“bouncers” are employed to prevent any kind of trouble. The character of the clientele depends upon the area in which the bar is located and the quality of the bar’s management. It is not difficult to obtain employment at bars where the customers are well-mannered and pleasant to deal with.

Increasing numbers of girls entering the competition for jobs, plus the general decline in economic conditions has resulted in hourly wage rates lower than a few years ago. The usual rate now is \$3 in the Los Angeles area, but can vary from \$2 to \$5. I understand that San Bernardino has just begun to permit nude dancing and wage rates there are supposedly very high – I was told \$12 an hour.

Remember, though, that the wage is just part of remuneration. Girls who work as combination dancers/waitresses get tips, which constitute a potentially larger part of pay than the hourly wages. I generally earn between \$2 and \$3 per hour from tips – you do NOT have to report these to your employer. Such income is easily kept from various types of tax thieves. I am presently (Oct. 1972) working as a nude dancer and, since I recently changed jobs, I did some looking around as well, so my knowledge of the wages paid and the conditions are current.

Another advantage of this work is that your employer does not pry into your private affairs as is customary in regular corporate institutional employment. What you do on your own time is strictly your own affair.

I have found that it is quite easy to get a job as a nude dancer without providing ANY identification at all to the employer. Unless you look so young that you might be under 21 there is no problem.

In the early days most places paid in cash, so there was no problem of needing ID to cash checks. Also there was no withholding. Now, however, most places pay by check, including withholding. In order to minimize withholding, you should have many dependents, but not a suspiciously large number. Claiming four keeps withholding down to about 10%. No proof is required.

If the bar doesn’t normally pay in cash, you can forget subcontracting. In my experience, it is not easy to bargain with the bars. For one thing, they do not seem to like to see any evidence of intelligence such as would be displayed in bargaining.

Combination work involves dancing part of the time and waiting on customers the rest of the time. Drinks are sold to the waitress and she then sells them to the customers; anything over the price charged her by the bar that she can obtain from the customer she may keep (and the bar does not ask her about this).

The girl must be pleasant and cheerful with the customers and to accept extravagant compliments. She will receive many offers for dates and even outright offers of money for a couple of hours in a night. It is expected that these offers will usually be turned down; there need be no embarrassment in doing so. There is rarely any trouble and when there is the bouncer stands ready to handle it.

Most dancers are in their mid and late 20’s, many in their early 30’s. Few girls are very young or old, although I have seen women in their mid-40’s in the business. There is a vast range of appearances among nude dancers. A surprisingly large number are not what I consider attractive at all – e.g., they are flappy, have droopy breasts, have had children and show stretch marks, etc. You find that different men like different features in appearance. There are always ads in the papers for dancers and there does not appear to be a superabundance of them. You do not have to be “beautiful” to earn a very satisfying income. Naturally, there are girls in this field with great beauty and dancing technique developed through years of activity in this business. However, most of the girls do not fit into this category. Personality counts for a great deal. It takes a little while to develop a style; a girl should not expect to be able to perform like a “pro” immediately.

Apply for a job wearing a bikini. You will be asked to dance for the customers present (if you feel somewhat embarrassed, show up around dinner time when there will be only a few customers around). If you perform reasonably well, that is all there is to it.

A beginner can obtain a job where she dances 15 minutes out of an hour and waits on customers for the other 45 minutes. The combination girl, as she is called, has an advantage over the straight nude dancer in that the customers enjoy being waited on by a girl who dances

in the nude (the size of the tips reflect this). Want ads in [the] Los Angeles metropolitan area papers under bar waitress and dancers contain several for combo work. You can work as few as 20 hours a week on up to as many as you wish. Nude dancing as a part-time job can earn you as much or more than a 40 hour a week corporate job. Business is generally best at the end of the week – e.g., Thursday through Sunday. Also, night work is supposed to be much more profitable, although I prefer to work days for personal reasons.

It would be possible for a girl who lives in a remote place, to come to Los Angeles and work one month out of the year. Since the bar would not hire a girl they knew would be leaving in a month, it would be unwise to so inform them. It would be possible to find a job within a few days by using the local want ads. I don't know of any special time of the year when the pickings are best.

In Los Angeles, there is a fairly low risk of being arrested for nude dancing. In many cities within the area, there is grossly suggestive dancing tolerated by the local police – I would guess that this is almost certainly because of payoffs; the degree of tolerance varies from community to community. One of the reasons for the decline in the hourly wage rate is because of this decrease in risk of arrest.

For your protection: Work at a place with a video tape system. The better bars in the Los Angeles area have video tapes with which they tape every performance each day. This way you cannot be accused of having done something you did not do, a practice most beloved by the police when they can get away with it.

Do not trust anyone at the bar and confide in them. Don't jump to the conclusion that the other girls are "okay." In my experience, many of them are thieves, liars, whores, etc. Most of them are drinkers and quite unreliable because of this.

Keep your money (tips) with you at all times, as it will likely be stolen if you do not.

Make sure that the doorman at the bar sees you to your car when you leave work. Girls have been known to get robbed, kidnapped, or raped after hours, but not when the bar does a good job of protecting them.

The reason that wages are fairly high in this field is that most girls are simply too uptight to handle the work. Despite initial fears on my part, I've found the work to be physically demanding but not otherwise difficult. I could obtain a technical job but frankly I'd rather earn my money dancing and spend the rest of my time on technical and other projects of my own choice. And as the WALL STREET JOURNAL remarked in an article, "tax evasion is a fun crime."

This business is a much more laissez faire one than most others; the only thing the State has to do with nude dancing is their attempts to eliminate it. The bar owners do not love the State; on the contrary they are always on the lookout for agents and they have to employ costly lawyers to protect themselves from the State.

I freed myself from regular institutional employment in just a few days of job-shopping. So can you.

(Updated from LIBERTARIAN CONNECTION #13)

MOBILE MONEY MAKING

By: Al Fry

Many people on the road in vans and buses miss picking up extra loot because they don't want to get involved in the red tape of selling. I haven't found it that bad and used to "do my thing" weekends when the county inspectors were off duty. Pick your fruit and get it on a busy corner. Sell your paintings, or your accumulation of scrounged junk, or your jewelry, or your estate sale goods, or whatever, and either do it on weekends or get the state tax permit and such.

I have known leather works and arts-and-crafts people to make the whole national park thing by selling as they went.

I have made mistakes (like a whole trailer of avocados that were prematurely picked) but usually the worst that happens is a reprimand from some official.

"Junkie" friends can make the whole circuit of West Coast "swap meets" and pick up good money knowing what sells where.

TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT IN VANCOUVER

By: C.

It is possible to hang around the clubhouse of local golf courses and tell the people in charge that you want to caddy. What you make is extremely variable: \$0 to \$20 a day depending on your luck and the weather. Naturally this is primarily restricted to summer and at that time competition from public school kids can be a problem, but at least there is no social insurance number required and no life history.

Another good casual job is delivering flyers, but whether or not you must give social security, etc., depends a great deal on whom you work for. (Theoretically, with a little capital you could solicit your own business for canvassing neighborhoods.) This will usually pay \$1 an hour or more.

Strawberry and cucumber picking is also very casual and open to anyone, but you are paid by check and it's hard to make more than \$5 per day.

Once a year GM takes inventory and will hire anyone for the one day only to do the work – and they pay in cash.

Naturally you can also do the old “neighborhood boy” bit and knock on doors to mow lawns, shovel snow, do odd jobs, etc. Just be careful if one of your refusers looks like the type to call the cops – time to find a new neighborhood!

I frankly recommend getting a “social insurance” number though (see “Alternate ID”). With even a “phony” social insurance card you can try many more things: professional writing, other mail endeavors, or almost any unskilled or semi-skilled job. Simply apply for a job you think you can do and give a phony list of work experiences, references, etc. – a very large proportion of employers never check up on this data, especially if reference is made to other cities. A sheer mass of applications for jobs is likely to secure employment.

Here in Vancouver there is also a Casual Labor Employment office where you can sit and wait for a job on a daily basis with nothing other than your social insurance card.

A better prospect is the Longshoreman's Hall. If you go there every morning at 7:30 a.m. and crowd up to the dispatcher's window with your S.I. card, eventually you'll get work. And once you've worked it gets easier and easier to get more work, so that you could potentially find yourself working only when you want to (since dispatch is on a day-to-day basis) for something like \$5 to \$6 per hour (or time-and-a-half for night shift).

Jobs as door-to-door salesmen are also pretty easy to come by (especially of the Fuller Brush variety) without much hassle, and can net \$3 an hour or so if you can stand the personality requirements.

Student Placement Offices of Universities are frequently a good source of casual employment, and often no proof of being a student is required.

Getting jobs from a newspaper can be a big chore but it can also be nearly a sure thing if you wait at the press office for the paper to come out and don't try to be overly ambitious. Have a cultured eye for a good prospect and act immediately to contact your potential employer.

INTERNATIONAL EMPLOYMENT

By: Pierre

I've just signed on for a job in Alaska with the same company I was working for before, but at about three times the pay. With the money, I'll be able to save, I'll be in good financial condition for a major project in a year or 18 months.

Four outfits which offer information are: Gateway Overseas, New York 10036; Employment International, Box 29217, Indianapolis, IN 46629; Global Employment, Box 706, Orinda, CA 94563; Overseas Jobs, International Airport, Box 536, Miami, FL 33148. I can't vouch for any of these outfits; I got my job by direct offer from the company. The company passed an intra-company resume around, whereas someone on the outside would have had to do the passing around *erself*.

The pay scales are similar in Alaska and at foreign sites. But the other sites offer advantages – if you stay 18 months, there is no tax on the first \$20,000 or less earned. For this reason the minimum tour there is 18 months, versus one year here.

HOW TO AVOID INCOME TAXES

The best way is to work for vonuans or other good people who pay in cash or merchandise, file no reports, and conduct their business the same way. This is legal, so far as I know, so long as income is under \$2050. Or else have a little business of one's own.

The second best way is to work as a "sub-contractor" or "consultant" for anyone. No taxes are withheld but your customer keeps records which might be checked.

The third best way is to work as a regular employee but have plenty of dependents so that no income tax is withheld. S.S. tax is still withheld however.

The following article deals with the last two approaches.

STOP WITHHOLDING TAXES

By: John Egnal

There are two alternative forms that the wage earner can use. One is the new W-4 and the other is the W-4E.

The new W-4 has only one line for stating the total number of withholding allowances to which you are entitled. A worksheet, to be retained by the wage earner, is provided to help you figure out how many allowances to claim. Instead of using the worksheet, the person who wants no tax withheld can figure the total allowances needed by dividing the projected annual salary by \$750. Count any fraction as an extra allowance needed. (This formula works if your salary is evenly divided over the 52 weeks of the year. If your wage income is concentrated in shorter periods of the year, it would be necessary to multiply your weekly wage by 52 weeks in order to project an annual rate that would work in this formula.)

Enter your total on Line 1 of the W-4 and sign the statement, which now reads, "I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the number of withholding allowances claimed on this certificate does not exceed the number to which I am entitled."

The resister's legal rationale for signing this statement is his/her sincere belief that he/she is entitled to a complete exemption from paying war taxes to the federal government because their collection violates the U.S. Constitution and principles of international law.

The W-4 is retained by the employer. It is the only statement available to IRS bearing on the resister's claim to exemption from withholding. Any explanation of the basis for this claim would have to be volunteered by the tax resister, whether by letter, tax return or personal interview. It is a matter for individual judgement and conscience whether it would be wise to volunteer any explanation.

The maximum penalty (Section 7205 of the Internal Revenue Code) for one who "willfully supplies false or fraudulent information" on a W-4 or W-4E is one year in jail and/or a \$500 fine.

The W-4E is an alternative form for people who had no tax liability for the previous year and do not expect to have any for the present year. It would normally be used by individuals who do not expect an annual income of more than \$2050 (the amount that is now exempt for a single person), or by heads of households in which the income will be less than the sum of \$750 for each family dependent plus the \$1300 low income allowance.

By simply signing the W-4E statement, "...I incurred no liability for federal income tax for 1972 and...I anticipate that I will incur no liability for federal income for 1973" the wage earner can prevent withholding of any income tax for 1973. The W-4E expires at the end of each year and must be renewed annually. Since use of the W-4E is legally contingent on the previous year, as well as the present year, it is important that this claim be asserted for the prior as well as the present.

IRS regulations clearly make the wage earner, NOT THE EMPLOYER, responsible for the allowance claimed on the W-4. The employer is not authorized to alter or reject these claims.

Neither is the IRS. If your employer doesn't have the right form, or won't give it to you, you can get it just by asking at any IRS office or your local War Tax Resistance Center.

(Condensed from TAX TALK, December 1972.)

BRING IT HOME FREE

By: T.

As a general rule: be a "consultant," not an "employee." The direct employee is the most victimized by the tax thieves. All money paid to him is considered taxable income; almost no occupational expenses are deductible. Furthermore taxes are deducted before the employee even sees his pay; this gives the tax thieves the upper hand. The employee must go to THEM for a refund, and a substantial refund may arouse suspicion. And filing for a refund makes him vulnerable to "tax fraud" charges. Finally, social insecurity taxes are unrecoverable.

So, clearly, don't be an employee. Instead become a consultant or services company. If you are presently a hired mathematician, become a Mathematical Consultant. If you are presently a clerk-typist, become a Clerical Services Company. Instead of employers you now have customers. Instead of turning in a time card you invoice weekly or monthly, perhaps on the basis of hours worked, perhaps per job. You receive FULL PAY with no taxes deducted. YOU decide how much taxes to pay. All business expenses such as transportation, rent, telephone and supplies are deductible. And if your gross yearly income is less than \$10,000, your chance of being audited is very small so you can let your conscience be your guide in figuring business expenses. Even if you are audited and cannot substantiate expenses to the tax thieves' satisfaction, you have not committed "tax fraud" – you are liable only for taxes they believe you owe plus interest. And since you, not they, possess the money in question, YOU have the upper hand. If you want, you can appeal to the tax court where cases often drag on for years.

Now the IRS is not unaware of this loophole, since it is enormous and growing. And in a few instances where a vendor has not paid they have gone back at his customer, alleging that the vendor was actually an EMPLOYEE. (There is that dirty eight-letter word again.) Obviously the IRS cannot be consistent in this; if for example a store failed to pay, the IRS could hardly collect from everyone who had shopped there. When such cases have gone to court considerations have been: Did the person work without direct supervision? Did the person hold himself out to the public as an independent proprietor? One can minimize the risks for customers by conducting himself accordingly. I suggest:

Get business cards printed in the name of your service.

Prepare a brochure, not just a resume, with main emphasis on services performed; especially any services performed at your place of business.

Advertise at least once in a trade journal. Quote the ad in your brochure or otherwise distribute copies to prospects.

During interviews state clearly that you sell ONLY as a consultant or vendor. If you say you would rather work as a consultant but will consider "direct employment," you are apt to frighten your prospect who will then offer you nothing.

Sell to two or more customers per year. If necessary find a friend who will buy some of yours and sell you some of his.

The savings for a customer, compared to "direct employment" include: no social insecurity payments; no unemployment "insurance" taxes; no company-paid "fringe benefits" (which would probably be of little value anyway); less accounting; fewer government forms to prepare; greater flexibility in work arrangements (for example a nomad or remote homesteader who wants to minimize time spent in the city might offer an inverse overtime rate – the more hours per week he works the cheaper per-hour he gets, which is forbidden "employees"); less supervision; no union problems; easier termination.

In general the smaller the company the better your chances since the fewer the levels of management involved.

Avoid initial contact with personnel departments if possible. Try to meet relevant working-level supervisors.

Develop a network of finders – individuals in similar work who for a fee will let you know of openings and put you in touch with the right people. Let your finder establish the prospect's interest in you as an independent so you don't waste time interviewing people with direct-employment syndromes.

As a guide to rate, remembering that you will save a company 30 to 50 percent in employment-related overhead expenses, try asking 10 to 20 percent over your last direct rate. If you don't find work readily, don't accept "employment," cut rate!

If your vocation is not one you can continue after you opt out, be short range. Recognize that anything you build is built on quicksand. Don't start a business requiring substantial capital or slow growth of clientele. Don't enter any trade which will tie you down for long. Earn free.

(Condensed from INNOVATOR, Winter 1969)

SECURE BANKING

By: Lysander

If you are looking for a means of payment other than cash that most people will accept, you are just about limited to personal checks, postal money orders, bank money orders, or cashier's checks. Virtually every bank keeps microfilm records of all transactions that go thru someone's checking account (I have seen IRS bludg check). However, it is not possible to find more than a few of a person's money order payments. The records exist, but they are buried in such a mass of irrelevant data, from which there is no easy way to sort them out, that a record of any one person's transactions cannot be compiled.

If one knows the date of payment (at the issuing bank) and the amount of a money order, it is possible to find that one money order on film. But it isn't possible to find all money orders bought by "John Doe" written as a payer. And if "John Doe" chooses to write a different name, and to buy money orders at several different banks, you see how the records can be dispersed and hidden. The number of money orders issued by even a small bank (with which I have personal experience) is simply vast; at a large bank the number must be enormous. When a person buys a money order from a bank, *e* reveals only the amount to the teller, then *e* writes in the name of the payee and the name and address of the payer later. There is nothing to prevent *e* from writing a phony name and address for the payer, and so doing won't make it any harder for the intended payee to cash, but if the money order is lost, the payer would probably need to create ID in that name to get his money back. That is the price *e* would have to pay in order to create an untraceable record.

The bank I use issues money orders for amounts less than \$500, and cashier's checks for amounts \$500 or more. Cashier's checks are a less secure medium because the buyer has to fill out a form giving name of payee, as well as name and address of payer in addition to the amount. Cashier's checks cost nothing while money orders cost 15¢ each, the same as most personal checks. But if anonymity is a concern, it is better practice to buy several money orders to send a large sum rather than one cashier's check. But what I said above about the bank's microfilm records for money orders applies equally to cashier's checks; compiling a record of transactions for any one buyer is impossible.

Postal money orders may work the same as bank money orders, but I have no information about them, and I have an aversion to dealing with or paying money to government agencies.

In my opinion, the preferred, secure way to make a small number of payments is with bank money orders, especially those bought in savings banks or savings and loans, which don't even clear thru the institution thru which they are purchased.

It may be useful to know that it is fairly easy to open a bank account, either check or savings, under an alias. One could open an account at a local bank this way, but it would take considerable boldness to do it in person, and it would look suspicious to open a local account by mail. An additional disadvantage of a local account is that the local bludg can find it more easily. If they are looking for assets held in a certain name, they routinely ask all hometown banks if this person has any funds there and how much. Banks readily supply this information. But if your account is out of town and out of state, the bludg obviously can't query every bank in the country to find it, and they would never try.

Opening an account out of town by mail is not at all unusual. And any bank will be eager to accept your money, especially if it's a large amount. They will not ask for proof of identity, so you can use any name you like. You will need a mailing address, and if you provide a P.O. Box address, the bank might also want a residential address for their records. If you have a P.O. Box in your real name (preferably one that you can't be traced thru), you might give the bank a mailing address of this form: alias, c/o your name, P.O. Box so and so, etc. Another option is to use a mail forwarding service as your mailing address.

The bank will also ask you to provide them with a social security number. You might be able to get a number under your alias. Or you could just make one up using the format: xxx-xx-xxxx. If you open a checking account, to the best of my knowledge, the social security number will not be checked, it will languish forever on a signature card in a file in the bank.

Interest on a savings account is reported to the IRS on a Form 1099 only if it totals \$10 or more. So if one doesn't want his social security number looked at too closely, and thus doesn't want a Form 1099 to be submitted, *e* should see the *er* interest is less than \$10. This means *e* should maintain an average balance below \$200. Of course, one could have a much higher balance for a limited period, so *e* could use such an account to clear large payments, but *e* shouldn't leave large sums in the account for a long time.

To open an account out of town all you need to know is the address of an appropriate bank. Send away to an obscure out of state commercial bank (for a checking account), asking for information about opening an account. They will send back forms which you fill out and return with money and they will send you your checkbook or passbook. Once the account is open, have all check and money order payments to you made payable to your alias and deposit by mail in this account. You could add an extra measure of security by having payments made out to another alias, then you endorse them over to your account alias. Thus your account alias wouldn't become general knowledge. You will need to be able to write a number of different signatures, fairly distinct looking, one for each alias. But all your signing can take place in private, and signatures don't have to be too legible, so you don't have to be proficient at it.

You can make check payments from such alias accounts easily. You could make occasional large payments by making withdrawals from a savings account in the exact amounts of the payments, made payable to your alias, then endorse them over to your intended payee. More frequent or smaller payments could better be done thru a checking account. Getting cash out of such an account would be trickier. One way to do it is to get identification in the name of your alias, then you could cash checks made payable to your alias. A better plan, if you can manage it, would be to make a withdrawal payable to your alias, the endorse the check over to a trusted person who will give you cash for it, then *e* can deposit it to *er* account somewhere.

Some of the ideas presented here have not been tested in practice. I am interested in correspondence concerning the topics raised here. I would especially like to hear about any relevant personal experiences, either good or bad. I'll willingly provide further details, some bank addresses, and suggestions tailored to anyone who writes me. (See p. 120, par. 3.)

ALTERNATE ID

CAUTION. Some of the techniques discussed here may be unlawful in some countries and states. Check "your" laws carefully before attempting to create or use an alias. VONULIFE does not recommend that anyone do anything that is illegal.

Some uses of aliases are traditional and quite legal: e.g., by authors as "pen names" and by prisoners of war attempting to escape from enemy countries. America might someday be occupied by Communists or Nazis or somebody who would seize government records. Some day that every patriotic citizen should have alternate id as part of civil defense.

GENERAL SUGGESTIONS: The time to get identification is BEFORE you need it – when you have plenty of time to explore alternatives, think through procedures, and obtain documents by mail; and when an "accident" won't be disastrous.

Carefully think before your own procedure step by step before doing anything. Get all the information you can, of course, but don't simply follow the procedure used by someone else.

Opportunities change; what may have worked five years ago may be unworkable and dangerous today.

Do it yourself or have a very good friend do it. Don't try to contact "the underworld" – many people "on the edge of the law" are informers.

Don't use stolen or counterfeit government-issued id such as a driver's license or passport. Such id will not withstand a check, such as by a policeman when one is stopped for a routine traffic violation. And possession is invariably illegal. The best id is genuine id issued by government agencies. The second best is id you create yourself, such as a company id card for "your own" company.

Make sure that your procedures are relatively "fail-safe." For example, use a mailing address other than your usual residential address when writing away for documents, in case you accidentally trigger an investigation.

Never have more than one set of id on your person at a time, in case you get frisked. Keep alternate sets safely cached until you need them, in places you can always get to.

Maintain a clean, neat, middle-class appearance while id is being procured or first used. Don't live at cheap boarding houses or wear ragged jeans. Have several hundred dollars in savings, in currency no larger than \$20, reserved for emergencies so that money is not an immediate problem. Some money might be with the id.

The most likely order for acquiring id is: (first) mailing address; (second) information on how to do it; (third) birth certificate or substitute; (fourth) "social security" (US) or "social insurance" (Canada) cards; supporting paper such as company id card; (fifth) driver's license or non-driver id card; bank account (if necessary); (sixth) passport (if necessary); credit cards (if necessary).

BIRTH CERTIFICATE. There seem to be two general procedures: (1) take over the identity of someone who died as a young child; (2) create a new identity.

THE PAPER TRIP (see bibliography at end of issue) suggests the first. "Go to the main library of any large city, university or college, or a newspaper's principal office and take a look at the old newspapers recorded there on microfilm. Choose a year in which you would have been no older than ten and begin looking for articles in which a young child of your sex, race, and age then was killed in some kind of accident like fire, auto, or drowning. The best possibilities would be those in which the entire family was wiped out, as there would be little remembered of them by now."

By checking birth announcements in still earlier papers one can probably learn the date and place of birth of these children. "While you're poring over the microfilm it would be a good idea to compile a list of at least half a dozen good possibilities. A few might understandably prove useless for you (wrong race, for example), or you might want to construct multiple id's."

Or, at a county recorder's office, "go to the files open to public viewing (photo copies of the actual documents in bound volumes, or on microfilm), and check a book that has death certificates for a year in which you were under five...The death certificate will list the birthdate, place of birth, race, parents' names, and a host of other interesting facts, all the facts you need to send for the birth certificate..."

"Three facts that should be of considerable benefit are that (1) birth and death certificates are completely separate documents – they are never cross-referenced. They are made in different places and filed in different places. Also (2) by using the birth certificate of someone who was born in one county but died in another county, or state, you have assured yourself of undetectability. It would take thousands of man hours to track down the death certificate, and no agency is going to bother. (3) So far there is no computerization of birth and death records, and very little prospect that this will ever be done, either..."

"WHERE TO WRITE FOR BIRTH AND DEATH RECORDS, available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington D.C. 20402. Cost is 15¢. This is Public Health Service Publication No. 630A-1, revised July 1970."

Creating a brand new identity is easier and less likely to run afoul of a check, but getting a genuine birth certificate would be difficult if not impossible. However many babies are born at home – especially in poor rural or ghetto areas, and many of these births are never recorded.

Blank baptismal certificates can be purchased at [a] religious supply store or obtained from a friend who is a minister. Official looking seals and notarization improve appearance. Perhaps

one was baptized at a church which burnt down or was demolished for freeway construction, by a minister since deceased, in a city far away. THE PAPER TRIP recommends against using birth registration certificates sold by mail-order id places. But these have sometimes been used successfully, especially when supported with other paper.

MAILING ADDRESS. (BEST) The residential address of a very good and reliable friend who is in no personal danger. If ever questioned e says you moved away or are on a trip. (SECOND BEST) Commercial mail forwarding service. Check around – try to find one that's reliable. (NEXT BEST) Motel room at which you live only infrequently. You might say you are a traveling salesman and want a place you can leave things. Rent it, of course, without giving vehicle license or any old id. Absence of vehicle is not likely suspicious if the motel is near an airport. NOT RECOMMENDED for getting documents, though may be good for other purposes: P.O. Box or general delivery (not sufficient for driver's license, also more apt to arouse suspicion); cheap rooming house catering to transients (often checked by bludg).

Order catalogs or other innocuous mail at that address, to check it out and get postman and others accustomed to handling your mail, before important mail comes. Have mail left where you can pick it up at any time. Do not supply actual residential address to person receiving mail.

INFORMATION. THE PAPER TRIP is all I have seen in writing. Some of the suggestions may be out of date. Talk to any good friends who have recently been in jail. ID is often a popular subject of conversation there. Some of the prisoners will be experts but their information may be dated. Always try to find out when and where something worked as well as how.

SOCIAL SECURITY. The easiest way to get, last I heard: Pick up an application blank at any post office. (The application might be for your wife or daughter if the clerk asks.) Fill out at your leisure in private. Mail it in. No id is required; there isn't even any check on age or sex of applicant if application is done by mail. There may be a several week delay while agency checks to find out if "you" already have a number; they will check against name and place and date of birth.

There is talk about tightening procedures for obtaining SS numbers, such as requiring fingerprinting of persons over a certain age. So SS cards may not be so easily obtained in the future. If and when procedures are tightened, there will probably be a lively black market in "clean" numbers and cards.

SUPPORTING ID. This can be acquired while waiting for a social security card. These items are seldom adequate alone but help to substantiate other paper in the eyes of the viewer. They include company ID cards, club membership cards, library card, ministerial license, solicitor permit, hunting or fishing license, business card.

Several outfits sell blank company id and club membership cards. THE PAPER TRIP suggests: Headlines Corp., Box 202, Cormack, NY 11725; ECPS, Box 12101, Las Vegas, Nevada 89112; Denobile Service Corp., Drawer B, Shirley, Long Island, NY 11967; Form Distributors, Box 712, League City, Texas 77573; Universal Life Church (ministerial), 601 Third St., Modesto, CA 95351. Send each a stamped, self-addressed envelope for catalogs.

For company id it may be best to create one's own company and get ID cards, business cards and stationary printed up. A company id card generally includes physical description and a small photo. The appearance can be improved by sealing in plastic. There are automatic vending machines for this in some stores. Also stationary stores sell adhesive plastic which sheets stick on.

Many national organizations issue membership cards by mail. Check magazines for ads.

For enhancing the appearance of a certificate one may be able to purchase a notary embosser from a place which sells them. If not an adequate facsimile can be made in any of various ways by someone skilled at metal working or photo engraving. Blank, gummed sales can be obtained from stationary stores.

Stationary stores also sell books of rent receipts.

The id material which the average person carries on er body is usually dated over a long period of time and often includes items which have expired, are worn looking, etc. Few people ordinarily carry their birth certificate, marriage license or draft registration on their persons. (Last I heard, having a draft card in storage at one's permanent address was sufficient.)

DRIVERS LICENSE. Requirements vary from state to state. In California a few years ago a social security card plus a company id card and a few other pieces of supporting id were sufficient

for someone who did not appear to be under age. Oregon, according to their manual, requires that an applicant provide “written evidence of age and identification” which may consist of “an original or certified copy of a birth certificate; baptismal certificate; official papers issued by a court of record such as adoption papers; Armed Forces identification card; alien registration card; a life insurance policy; certified copy of an application for a professional or occupational license; certified copy of school attendance record; Selective Service registration card; or an out-of-state driver’s license.”

“Your Social Security number is used on the license (only) in Alas., Ind., Iowa, Mass., and Miss.” As of 1971 your photo is on the license in “Alas., Ariz., Calif., Colo., Del., D.C., Geo., Ida., Louis., Mass., Mont., N.M., N.C., R.I., S.C., Mich., Texas, Utah, Vir., Wash., and Wyo. An excellent book which provides basic information on each state’s driver’s license, including color reproductions of samples, is the DRIVERS LICENSE GUIDE, \$3.95, which can be purchased by mail from: Driver’s License Guide Co., 1492 Oddstad Drive. Redwood City, Calif. 94063...This book is used as a basic tool by law enforcement and businessmen in combating criminal deception.” (THE PAPER TRIP)

PASSPORT. “Basically, with a valid U.S. birth certificate (to prove citizenship), one good physical id (for personal identification) and a loose \$12.00 bill, you can get a passport, good for 5 years. Here is the list of documents accepted as proof of identity: previous U.S. passport; a certification of naturalization or of derivative citizenship; driver’s license; a government (federal, state, local) identification card or pass; an industrial or business identification or pass.” (THE PAPER TRIP)

As of a few years ago a certified baptismal certificate was accepted in lieu of a birth certificate, if accompanied by a letter from state of birth stating that no birth certificate could found for that person. Getting such a letter is routine if someone never had their birth recorded.

SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS. To get a social insurance number “all you need to do is look thru an underground newspaper for a commune or co-op (or co-op information center). Move into the commune under the proper name. Write for a social insurance card under than name, giving as birthplace somewhere in Quebec, where births were not registered, or some small town in B.C. with no hospital nearby. When your card arrives move out of the commune without a forwarding address. A bank account can be opened with only the card and checks from employment can be cashed there.” (Vancouver, B.C.)

“Get a social security card – you don’t need id to get one and you can pick it up or have it sent to a temporary address (from which you give NO forwarding address). Get a savings account (a checking account will probably be more difficult to get with a small amount of id, since it is easier for the bank to get ripped off) in the same name. If you can’t find a bank that will let you have one for the id you have (social security card and possibly a birth certificate you bought somewhere – see LA FREE PRESS for ads) then you’ll have to go to the trouble of getting a non-drivers id card from the Department of Motor Vehicles. They will give you one without requiring any more id than your phony birth certificate and your social security card.” (Los Angeles)

“I heard (at least third hand) that the Mississippi state capital building burn in 1929, destroying all birth records.”

About finger prints, THE PAPER TRIP suggests: “Find a surgeon who can do a skin graft on your finger (from your foot?) and thus eliminate your old prints...A physician will charge anywhere from \$1,000 to \$3,000.” According to THE PAPER TRIP the FBI often fails to identify prints even when no effort has been made to alter prints. According to another source: “At least as of sometime ago it was necessary only to change one or two finger tips to a new but natural looking pattern to fail identification in cases where identity was not suspected, because the major features of all ten finger prints are used to generate the identifying number (except for “most wanted criminals”).” “The best solution to this problem, of course, is never to get busted.”

Thanks to several people for the information in this article. I don’t guarantee that it is accurate. I would like more information for future issues, including warnings about procedures which no longer work or are dangerous.

SECURE MAILING ADDRESS

Here are some suggestions from several people for getting mailing addresses for general use (not for id creation).

"I rented a box here in town to see how their system worked. I was surprised at the amount of bludg paranoia I ran into, requiring a residential address (verified by the carrier that one has received mail there); id, and all sorts of restrictions on the use of the box."

Suggestions for getting a P.O. Box: "Take over the box of someone who no longer wants it. Add your name to the names authorized to receive mail at box (takes only a post card from the original box holder) but the post office may object if the list of names gets too long. Or get mail addressed c/o to the original box holder. Usually after doing the later for a while the P.O. clerks will learn that you "belong" and the c/o may then be deleted. Pay the rent by money order and illegibly scribble the name of original box holder (though clerks presently don't seem to care who pays the rent). Alternately, get a friend who is moving away to rent a box for you."

If you have id you don't mind sharing with the P.O. people "a completely no hassle way to get a secure P.O. Box is to move into a furnished apartment, rent box giving apartment as home address, then move. As long as you pay box rent on time, P.O. won't ask about your actual residence. Of course don't file change of address with P.O. Inform your correspondents individually of new mailing address. If you open a box this way, the only way anyone can find you thru it is by staking out the box to see who picks up the mail."

"The paranoia we have encountered has been almost entirely at the time of initially renting the box. P.O. clerks give little trouble thereafter, so long as nothing is done which causes them extra work."

"Arrange with someone trustworthy a 'residential' mailing address. Either e tells the postman you are visiting, or you use c/o for a while to 'train' the postman. If anyone checks your 'landlord' says you are away on a trip. Your landlord can leave mail in a drop for you which should be outside any dwelling, accessible 24 hours a day, and so located that it cannot be easily kept under surveillance – also so that neighbors won't get suspicious. The 'landlord' doesn't need to see you each time you pick up."

SECRET RADIO NETWORKS

By: Pierre

It looks like there will soon be authorized a new Citizens Band radio service, called "Class E" (vs. the present "Class D"), at a much higher frequency (not that vonuans would worry about 'authorization'; it's just that that would cause the market to be flooded with a large assortment of cheap gear for this band). This frequency would carry a lot less far than the old Class D (making overhearing by the bludg much less likely), and could be directionally beamed by hand-held devices (instead of a roof full of plumbing, as now required). In an area, cheap transponders that would rebroadcast any received signal could be placed in various places with commanding views (e.g., hidden in the tops of trees). Monitors could keep directional receiver antennas pointed towards these (solar cell powered?) relays. Callers would just point their directional antennas, and call. As bludg located one relay, another could be used, placing new ones from time to time so there would always be plenty. To get fancy, they could be equipped with selective-call systems, like car phones are now, so that they would only respond when the correct sequence of tones were transmitted. A few strategically-placed banks of relays within range of each other around the upper slopes of a peak (the peak itself would be best, but of course it would be very vulnerable to detection) could cover hundreds of square miles, with only one or two trips a year needed to replace broken and discovered stations. Peak-to-peak relays could tie as much territory as you wanted into a net. With different tone sequences, or maybe just by pointing your antenna at a different spot, you could key into whatever locality you want to reach. Sort of like Direct Distance Dialing. Or maybe each area could have its own frequency, with relays in all areas on that frequency to relay calls to (or from) that area from (or to) all the others. The Class E band has room for dozens of channels, and of course you could use the same gear for frequencies lying some distance outside the "official" band. Perhaps some single channel or group of channels would be set aside for communications from individuals to relays in all areas, since the areas would be out of radio range of each other.

An ambitious project, but maybe eventually there will be enough vonuans to make it economically feasible.

WHAT IS BIG BROTHER WATCHING?

By: Rayo

“There is no way to hide. They’ll soon have satellites in orbit which can count the hairs on a fly’s behind. So you might as well give up and become one of the sheep – like me.” Etc.

I have little inside information on Big Brother’s latest sky spies, but I discover that people who seem to delight in warning about them usually know less than I do. Here is what I’ve been able to learn.

The devices which PRESENTLY exist are costly and easily “faked out.” They are not in wide use.

Item: There are few things easier to detect with a heat sensor than a forest fire. It is much hotter than anything else in the woods. Yet, last I heard, the Forest “Service” is still depending on human observers, some in watch towers, some in aircraft, to spot smoke. They experiment with heat sensors and put out press releases now and then, but such devices are not in common use.

Item: Aerial photographs have been routinely used for map making since the 1940’s. And such photos are reportedly used by local property-tax accessors [assessors]. Quite likely large buildings and fields are being spotted. Small cabins in wooded areas are rarely spotted, even when no effort is made to hide them, according to property-owners I know.

Item: Squatters who have been discovered were first seen by persons (most often hunters) walking thru the woods. The one exception I’ve heard of had an open camp fire and was spotted from the air by the smoke.

Nevertheless surveillance devices will probably be improved and come down in price. Some may be widely used in 20 or 30 years. So it’s well to start learning what they can and can’t do.

One kind, which has been used in Vietnam, essentially consists of a microphone and a small radio transmitter. It is distributed on the ground, picks up sounds and radios them to processors which “listen” for human voices, internal combustion engines, clang of metal on metal, or other “unnatural” sounds. Although the individual devices are cheap, covering a large area with them is costly. And they are easily detected.

Another category of detectors, which may be carried by aircraft or satellites, make use of radiation below the frequency of visible light. Such frequencies do not respond to as fine detail as visual light does, which is one of the reasons eyes sense the frequencies as they do. But these frequencies behave differently than visual light and the difference can be made use of. Examples: clouds are invisible at some radar frequencies. Metal shows up “white” regardless of its visual color, unless coated with a radar-absorbing substance. A hot, black stove shows “bright” to infrared. These frequencies can be thought of as additional colors.

For analogy, imagine a land where people see everything as shades of grey, as does black-and-white photography. In this land mottled orange-and-purple coveralls might be good camouflage – until someone invents color detectors. Then a vonuan must switch to a mottled green-and-brown. Similarly, an aluminum roof painted drab colors may be sufficient today. But if and when metal-sensing frequencies are in wide use, the aluminum must be covered with a substance that is also “drab” at those frequencies, or replaced with a non-metallic material.

Photographs can be taken with infrared and radar as well as visual light, and compared with photographs taken earlier to identify changes. Alteration of a small area is not easily spotted this way. Appearance will vary depending on time of day (shadows), day of the year, brightness of the sun, recent precipitation, and position of the aircraft. And changes caused by animals and weather must be distinguished by the work of humans. Of the latter, changes caused by “authorized personnel” (loggers, tourists, etc.) must be identified. Those remaining must be individually checked out by men on foot or let down on a rope from a helicopter. (There are few places in wooded, mountainous country a chopper can land.) This is time-consuming, potentially dangerous work. Aerial detection and data processing can be automated to a large degree to

reduce costs. But investigation can't. So Big Brother can't afford a high percentage of "false alarms."

In Vietnam there wasn't much investigating. They simply bombed anything at all suspicious. The result? They tore up much of the land and killed many innocent bystanders at a cost of billions of dollars – without defeating their enemy. How likely are the bludg to destroy all the forests of North America as they have parts of Vietnam (which is a small country) just to "get" some people who only want to be left alone?

The Superstate may not survive in its present form for another 30 years. Even if it does the bludg are apt to be too occupied with day-to-day problems of staying in power to devote much of their resources to people who are not a direct and immediate threat. But assuming the worst, what might vonuans of the future do?

(1) Move now and then. If a spot is investigated in 1984 because it looks different than it did in '82, this is no concern of someone who moved on in '83.

(2) Create diversions. For example, it takes only a few minutes to arrange some branches to form a crude dwelling, drape light plastic over it (to provide solar heating for the benefit of heat detection), lay a little aluminum foil on the roof, and hang up a couple of tin cans so they bang together in the wind at irregular intervals. One person in one day can improvise enough decoys to occupy a crew of investigators for a year.

(3) Blend in. Millions of animals – bear, deer, porcupines, coyotes, packrats, elk, squirrels, birds, insects – are busy day and night altering the landscape in their quest for food – cutting, gnawing, prying, ripping digging, moving. Trees die, blow down, knock down other trees and bushes. A rock washes loose and rolls downhill, crushing vegetation and loosening dirt. If one disturbs the environment no differently than do other creatures, there is little to worry about.

More sensitive and discriminating detectors will be developed. But concealment and deception techniques will also improve. And technology favors the hider in a prolonged contest. A hider can always disguise, cover or randomize some more. Whereas the "noise level" of the natural environment is a limit beyond which the seeker's detectors cannot economically go. Occasionally people will be found – concealment has its costs so one rationally employs just enough to reduce probability of discovery to a low level, not to zero.

In the immediate future I don't believe "science fiction gadgets" will pose much of a threat. A human is a highly-sophisticated system of sensors and information processors, honed by hundreds of millions of years of evolution. An object or process which can't be seen, heard or smelled by someone walking 100 yards away is not likely to be found. But artificial detection capabilities should be considered when developing new structures. My own guidelines:

Keep structures small, low and dispersed.

Use irregular shapes which blend with the terrain.

Build among trees and bushes when possible.

Do not use artificial heat. Build super-insulated dwellings which body heat will keep warm. Or build dwellings well insulated from the outside but not from the ground, for warming to ground temperature.

Build mostly of natural materials.

Minimize tree cutting. Cut only trees which are amongst other trees and away from the site.

Minimize use of metal. And use metal in small pieces. A plastic sheet covered with flakes of aluminum (electrically insulated from each other) is less detectable than a sheet of foil.

Use internal combustion engines little or not at all.

No open fires.

When digging, dispose of surplus dirt under dense bushes or in slide areas. Don't dump in a creek or sprinkle over a wide area.

Keep flexible and fairly mobile. Don't try to build a building or life-style to last a hundred years.

CHOOSING A MOTORCYCLE

By: Al Fry

Here are a few more opinions:

Firstly there is a sort of law that the faster the piston thumps the faster the motor wears out. Harley's and BMW's have thumped out a hundred thousand in scads of cases just because of this. A typical Honda with its faster revs may get over 20 thousand without trouble and even the little four-cycle 100 cc jobs will rev out 15 thousand if you keep good oil in them. But the typical two-cycle ear annoyer is not a very long lasting engine despite its simplicity and only by using inconceivably expensive 60¢ quart oil with the gas mix can you hope to push the miles much above ten thousand without new rings. Biased? Well I've had the best of the two-cycles and don't think they give the value that a four-cycle will.

The English with the exception of Norton and couple of lesser knowns have also begun to put out pretty sad machines. Beware unless you get a deal.

Honda still makes a tolerably fair bike with a slightly weak transmission for hard kicking clods. And Jawa made a two-cycle that was A okay until a few years ago – even an old 1950 would go 20,000. But things constantly change and I'm certainly not covering the big bikes in this rundown.

I think that a great little bike is the Honda 90 with the instant gear down mechanism. I have ten thousand on one and can't complain. Parts, even used and swap-meet parts, are easily accessible all over and this certainly is a favorable point when in distant and unfamiliar territory. As stated, the little bikes are the most economical but it takes about a hundred cc's to pack around another body reliably.

After acquiring a bike I immediately get enough tools for the thing to take everything apart and that includes a small tire pump. And then I proceed to get some very large saddle bags – last ones I made up from military duffel bags. With a sheet of something to stiffen the inner wall and sewn with nylon thread, I'm ready to go to the corner store or start for New York.

The freeway ban is a pain but can usually be circumvented by grey matter and a map. The only problem I've found is slight harassment as in Arizona and I hear on East Coast. In any event it is safer than thumbing for me at least – get stuck in Burns, Oregon without transportation sometime and you'll find your thumb getting rested in a nice cell for a couple of days – in fact it's getting so you've got to get a guide to safe hitching.

To answer a question, yes, we carry a little equalizer most of the time and it is carried in a battery radio case to allay hassle. I also carry a very waterproof rain outfit in wet weather country since driving rain can soak you through a small leak. Nasty and cold weather can make cycling really miserable unless a person is prepared.

But cycles are fun and have gotten me into a lot of breathtaking back country on a bare budget.

LUBRICATING OIL

By: Al Fry

Since just about everybody now, regardless of their life-style, is dependent to a degree on wheels, let's give our two-cents worth on oil.

Firstly, if you have an air-cooled car, you are MURDERING it unless you use the VERY BEST oil you can get. The crank regrinding shops in every city are full of chewed up cranks from guys who tried second-rate stuff and infrequent oil changes. The extra heat will break down a cheaper oil in jig time.

For an ordinary water-cooled engine the main thing is to keep the detergent action active even if you have to add a little dash of detergent to the really dark and old oil. (DuPont and several others put detergent out in little cans.)

Gasoline dilutes the oil to some degree and it's good to check for oil that doesn't quite look or act right on the dip stick in well-worn engines. The carbon or black won't hurt a thing and shouldn't mean too much.

The bus lines and such use a GOOD QUALITY re-refined oil which gets them 10,000 miles between changes and is really better than regular oil (heat-wise). But it's a little hard to get, and the best method is to head to your nearest oil supplier (dealer) and take enough cans to get 10 or 15 gallons to get a good discount. You can get the best 60¢ oil for 25¢ or so.

I use “heavy equipment” oil which is very heavy duty and made to take a beating in “cats”, etc. – a littler cheaper and better. Never use non-detergent in anything but an antique or something without an oil pump. Such “grocery store” oil helps keep the mechanics very busy and is a poor value at any price. STP may get you through a smoking car inspection but does little else except make a 40-weight oil out of 20 or 30 weight. Warm up you’re engine a little longer if you use it much.

FALLOUT DETECTOR

Review By: Rayo

The Henry Richter Corp., Box 516, San Gabriel, CA 91776 sells a simple passive (no electronics) radiation detector. It consists of small beads within two concentric transparent tubes. Gently shaking it causes the beads to take on electrostatic charges, repel each other, and float along the sides of the inner tube. Radiation discharges the charges and the beads sink to the bottom. The greater the intensity of radiation, the more quickly the beads settle (120 roentgens/hour, 15 to 25 seconds; 10 roentgens/hour, 5 to 7 minutes; 3 roentgens/hour, 15 to 20 minutes). It is supposedly sensitive to as little as $\frac{3}{4}$ roentgens/hour. (The beads in ours remain suspended for days if the only radiation present is natural cosmic rays, etc.). It’s about three by four inches and weighs 5 ounces. Prices postpaid are \$7.95 each; 12 to 95 for \$4 each. (A “distributor film” can buy a single sample for \$4.75.) Richter also sells models for industrial/dental x-rays and color TV. Thanks to Paul Doerr for [the] tip. We have only had ours a few weeks, but it seems inherently more reliable than the surplus CD units.

TEACH READING AT HOME A SIMPLE, UNIQUE WAY

By: Rayo

Conventional written English is difficult to learn because most words are not spelled like they sound. Examples: the same letter “a”, stands for different sounds in “father,” “baby”, “cat”, “what”, and “all”. And the same sound is spelled differently in ski, be, beet, beast, money, baby, either, and piece.

Chaotic spelling may be only a nuisance for an adult who recognizes most words by overall shapes, but it’s a cruel handicap for a young child trying to sound out words. A six-year-old recognizes several thousand spoken words. If words were spelled like they sound, *e* could read and write *er* entire vocabulary as soon as *e* learned the alphabet. As it is, learning by “phonetic” methods a child must memorize hundreds of rules and myriad exceptions; learning by “look and say” *e* must learn every word separately. It’s not surprising that long, dreary years are spent learning to read and that most people never read easily or well.

One way to reduce the drudgery is to first learn in a special phonetic alphabet, using books printed in that alphabet.* Transition to the regular alphabet occurs only after a child is able to recognize most words by their overall shapes.

Another way – the inverse: retain traditional spelling but at first pronounce each word as written. I call this “visionetic pronunciation” (v.p.). V.p. requires no special books, as does phonetic spelling. And v.p. makes early communication more vonu (discussed further on).

Here is my v.p. alphabet. “Ch”, “sh”, etc. are considered single letters even though they are typed as two separate marks; I connect them together when hand lettering. In [the] following description, letters and words underlined are pronounced visionetically; words within “quote” marks are pronounced traditionally. Reasons for choosing these pronunciations and some options are discussed at the end of this article.

- a** father, far, what, or at (but NOT “baby” or “ball”)
- b** bus
- c** cup (NOT “cell” or “ocean”)
- ch** chuck (not “chemical”)
- d** duck

- dh** “the”
e best, bell, berry, or peso (Spanish), (NOT “be”)
f fun, if (NOT “of”)
g gum (NOT “gal”)
gh form mouth as if to say g but instead of popping tongue, force air past it to make a growling noise, similar to kh
h hut, if not part of another letter such as ch or sh
i ski, is, bill, irritate (NOT “light”)
j jeu (French), “measure”, “azure”, “rouge”, “vision” (NOT “jump, “jabon”[?])
k kitten
kh khaf, “loch”, “Bech”, “jabon”
l luck, belt, or girl
m mug, am
n nut, in
ñ cañon (“canyon”)
ng singing
o dog, for, proceed, hot (British accent), but not N. American), not (only if short as in Spanish, not drawled out into u), (NOT “love” (N. Amer.))
p puff
q quick
ph phone
r run, far, sour
rh begin r with whisper, like wh
s sun, yes (NOT “is”, “sure”)
sh shut, fish
t tub, it
th thumb (NOT “the”)
u ruby, put (NOT “use” “up”)
v van, love
w won or few
wh what
x six (NOT “xenon”)
y young, baby or myth (not “by”)
z zoo (NOT “azure”)

Pronounce each vowel briefly but distinctly, like in Spanish. At first say each one as a separate syllable. Examples: la-te, be-a-u-ty. Each vowel letter may be pronounced in several ways. The first variation listed is preferred when pronunciation is changed from traditional. But I try not to change vowels which need not change (sometimes difficult); this is to “preserve” those sounds so that later transition to traditional pronunciation will be easier. E.g., I pronounce “bather” to rhyme with “father” rather than “rather”. But I retain the traditional pronunciation of “rather” (in my own speech when with a child, I do not correct a child who rhymes “rather” with “father”).

Try to pronounce every letter including doubled letters. E.g. bo-ok, bil-l. If pronunciation is difficult insert a very short neutral vowel, above, woman, represented here by “,”. E.g. k,ni-fe, tho-u-gh,t, bac,k. Pause distinctly between words.

LEARNING TO TALK: A baby starts learning language when only a few months old. If *e* is to learn v.p., v.p. must be regularly used by people around *er* from birth if not before. Don’t change pronunciation of a child already learning to talk.

You will have to speak very slowly and carefully at first. But this makes picking out and associating words easier for the baby. Conversation may be easier at first if written out, then read, though this will probably be necessary only the first few days (the adults are learning). After a few hours practice Haelan and I can converse easily though slowly, without writing.

Anyone who cares for the baby and does not know v.p. (such as a babysitter) is instructed to remain silent. Other visitors are not a problem. At first a baby learns mostly from what is

spoken to it, not from overhearing conversation between adults (according to July 72 PSYCHOLOGY TODAY page 71).

Reading aloud slowly to a baby provides practice both for the reader and the baby. But I wouldn't try to get the baby to read until *e* shows interest.

LEARNING TO WRITE/READ: Many children are "naturally sensitive" or potentially interested roughly from age two to four; age six or seven, when those kid concentration camps start trying, is a poor age for most people (according to some Montessori educators).

I might begin by adding captions to pictures or writing down a brief story or letter or diary entry the child dictates. I save these up and read them back upon request at a later date. Sometimes I point to and sound out each letter of a word, then ask what the word is.

I use a lettering style which is simple yet similar to the type in most books. I use lower-case only; to capitalize I make the same shape larger. My present style:

I connect together *m*, etc., to emphasize that they represent single sounds.

When talking about letters I name them like they sound. "G", "H", and "I" are g, h, i (rhymes with ski) not dj, eich, ay.

Manipulating a crayon is difficult for a young child (like doing it with your left hand if you are right handed). I provide an electric typewriter, or else I encourage *e* to print big.

I would never teach cursive script – those nasty little squiggles which are so difficult to read. For greater speed a child may learn to type, or later learn a shorthand if *e* wants.

Reading will probably be easier and more interesting if the books are about things a child sees and does rather than fantasy. (The real world is plenty fantastic to someone who has only been in it a few years.) If your life-style is "unconventional", suitable beginning books may not exist – you may have to write your own. (Dick and Jane might be very strange people to someone who has only lived in a Shuswap in the woods.)

A few letters are pronounced alike in v.p.: c, k and g; i and y; u and w; f and ph. Consequently a child may spell some words unconventionally (kat, babi). [I] wouldn't "correct" *e*. When *e* reads traditional books *e* will learn that "cat" is used more than "kat" and may change then if *e* wishes.

LEARNING TRADITIONAL PRONUNCIATION. I would provide opportunities for learning t.p. by age six so that a child will learn it well enough to "pass" as a "native-born citizen" when adult, if *e* wishes. A child will most likely pick it up from outsiders without special prompting. Many children notice and enjoy imitating regional or foreign accents. If a child meets no outsiders I would speak t.p. occasionally, or supply a cassette player and popular songs, but I would wait until *e* is reading well.

SPECIAL RELEVANCE TO VONU: V.p. may be the quickest and easiest way for a child to learn to read at home; the parent must spend some time learning v.p. but from there on the process is easy. Other advantages:

V.p. provides a "natural filter" for young children against the flood of bias and irrationality on TV and radio, which can come not only directly but second-hand from playmates. At the same time v.p. reduces the barrier to printed words. Thus reading will be relatively easier whereas listening to a "news" broadcast or the gossip of outsiders will be more difficult.

There is much greater freedom choice in written matter than on radio/TV and v.p. takes advantage of this. Censorship of books and periodicals is almost impossible – "even" in Russia there are samizdat – underground newsletters; whereas censorship of broadcasting is easy.

V.p. also serves as a filter going the other way. An outsider could not easily interrogate a small child.

Even after a child learns t.p., v.p. remains useful as a within-the-family code when among strangers. If spoken rapidly it is as incomprehensible for outsiders as pig latin. But, unlike pig

latin which has a very distinctive sound, v.p. sounds like a heavy foreign accent and is more “acceptable”.

These benefits are not offered by other reading/writing aids. With either v.p. or a phonetic alphabet a parent must invest some time learning it. And with either system a child will eventually learn the traditional way. But with a phonetic alphabet the child’s reading is limited until transition, to the few books in that alphabet. Whereas with v.p., the child’s reading is limited only by *er* vocabulary.

A note of caution: visionetic pronunciation is not a fully-tested system; my only experience teaching young children to read was before v.p. I don’t foresee [foresee] major problems but I can’t guarantee there won’t be any. If you are the first to test v.p. and get good results, you may be able to write and sell instruction manuals.

PRONUNCIATION REFORM: I’m interested in v.p. mainly as a learning aid, “cultural filter” and spoken code. But I believe that changing pronunciation conventions is more likely than changing spelling conventions. Reasons: (1) English is spelled almost the same world-wide whereas pronunciation varies greatly. Uniformity of spelling is one of the few desirable features of English. Why give it up? (2) Spelling has changed little in centuries; pronunciation has changed greatly – which is how spelling became non-phonetic. (3) When words are adopted from foreign languages which use Roman letters, spelling is rarely changed, pronunciation is often changed. (4) A spelling change would obsolete billions of dollars’ worth of books; a pronunciation reform would less-seriously affect old recordings and movies. (Much singing and acting is deliberately in dialects.) A hundred years ago, in the heyday of spelling reform proposals, relatively few people read but everyone spoke. Today the logical change is the other way.

A reform movement isn’t necessary. People who initially learn v.p. will “naturally” speak it when around others who know it. As more people learn v.p., old ways will die out.

COMMENTS AND OPTIONS: Pronunciations are chosen to: minimize spelling uncertainties; be compatible with those foreign languages which are near-phonetic; be easy to pronounce; minimize rules; minimize changes from t.p.; retain all frequent t.p. phonemes (sounds). These criteria sometimes conflict. E.g., for spelling certainty “I” and “y” should be exclusive. But “y” pronounced like in “yes” would be difficult to say in “baby”.

“Dh” is rare in written English but is included in the v.p. alphabet to facilitate learning the “the” phoneme and thus transition to t.p. I suggest that some things of the family be given proper names beginning with “dh”.

Gh, kh, rh, wh: If any of these prove very difficult for YOU to say (they won’t particularly [be] for a child; they occur in many languages includes Anglo Saxon (Old English)), ignore the h and pronounce the same as g, k, r or w.

“C”, as it occurs in text, is pronounced cow about 75%, cell about 17%, and ocean about 8% of the time – the reason for my choice. But if a child will also be soon learning a Romance language, such as Spanish or Italian, follow the rule for that language (which holds for most English words as well): cell before “e”, “I”, or “y”, otherwise cow.

“Rr” may be pronounced with a trill and added to the alphabet to make easier the learning of a foreign language with such a phoneme.

*Such an alphabet is initial teaching alphabet (i.t.a.). I.t.a. letters are designed so that overall shapes of many words remain similar to their shapes when spelled traditionally, for ease of transition. THE ITA HANDBOOK was sold for \$2 by i.t.a. Publications, 20 East 46th St., New York 10017.

[Transcriptionist’s Note: The “Initial Teaching Alphabet” was popular in the 1960s but has since fallen out of use.]

HOW TO STAY OUT OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Advice from people who have done it boils down to:

Don’t register a child or start in *e* in state schools. Don’t get on their records. Instead I find a freeish private school and let *e* learn at home.

If *e* is already in state school: Check by phone with district superintendent to find out what forms, if any, are required to remove a child. Do not give your “real” name when checking. Obtain

any forms. Stop going to state school. Send the school a note (or form, if required) by mail saying either you are moving to another state or that you are enrolling the child in a private school.

Keep the child off the streets during school hours. If you must go somewhere with the child during school hours and questioned, say the child has a dental appointment or something. Have stories all prepared and practiced.

Have mobile or rented living quarters be prepared to move if the neighbors show suspicion.

This probably won't work if you live in a small town where gossip travels fast. Either live in or around a big city or far out in the woods.

Don't self-righteously tell off the school bludg. And don't spend your precious life trying to "reform" the public schools. That's trying to fight them by their own rules. And slavery "reformed" is still slavery. Instead, always tell the Man what He wants to hear, then go do what YOU want to do.

For sources of materials for learning at home, see THE LAST WHOLE EARTH CATALOG.

Sources for information in this article: "The Free Man in the Slave State," Allen Humble, INNOVATOR, Autumn 1968, reprinted in VONULIFE #5; NO MORE PUBLIC SCHOOL (see bibliography).

QUOTES ABOUT EDUCATION

"Even if the kid did decide he wanted a government education certificate he could (at least in Vancouver, BC) get a high school diploma starting from zero in about three years if he is over 25 or so. That's a hell of a lot better than 12 years of boredom and bullshit, slavery and servitude, stagnancy and...Formal "Education" doesn't really mean as much in society as I thought it did (though learning does). The Public School System is just a great big concentration camp for kids as anyone knows who can see the fences and watch them marching EN MASS." (Letter in VONULINK)

"Babies are Zen masters, curious about everything. Adults are serious and bored. What happened? Brain surgery by the schools." (Jerry Rubin, DO IT!)

"Obviously, a school that makes active children sit at desks studying mostly useless subjects is a bad school. It is a good school only for those who believe in such a school, for those uncreative citizens who want docile, uncreative children." (Paul Goodman, COMPUSLORY MISEDUCATION)

"She hears things all day long that make no sense, but she doesn't appear to mind. She lives and moves in uncertainty as naturally and easily as a fish moves in water. When, and why, do children begin to crave certainty?" (John Holt, HOW CHILDREN LEARN)

"Every time we show Tommy how his engine works we are stealing from that child the joy of life – the joy of discovery – the job of overcoming obstacle. Worse! We believe that he is inferior, and must depend on help." (Jerry Rubin, DO IT)

TROGLYDYTE COMMUNITY

By: Rayo

(The article is a projection from experience of a few people.)

A Loose Open Association (loa) is a community form suitable for vonuans who rely more upon seclusion than mobility.

An loa consists of two or more separate families living within a few miles of each other in an otherwise unpopulated area. A 'family' may be a lone individual, a couple, one or a few adults with small children, or a close cohesive band of any size.

Each family has its own vonuum (vonu home) where it lives most of the time. A vonuum may be a tent, hut, smial or other hidden structure. The vonuum's location is usually kept secret not only from outsiders but from other families in the loa. This avoids excessive concern about who might be an informer or simply careless. And, if the vonuum is ever molested, there won't be cause to suspect another family.

Gatherings are usually limited to two or three families at a time. Families who wish to get together agree on a meeting place, which is probably not close to any of their vonuums.

Inexpensive rain shelters, bedding, cooking utensils and some goods may be stashed there so that gear need not be backpacked each time. A family may use a number of sites for get togethers with various people, including one outside the loa's territory for visitors from outside. Frequency of get togethers and amount of exchange is up to the individuals but with homes a mile or more apart, contact with another tribesman is almost always a treat, rarely an irritant as it often is when people live packed together.

Since the loa as a whole does very little there is rarely if ever a gathering of the 'tribe as a whole'. Any communication to all members is most easily made in writing. Each family has one or more drops (which may be at meeting spots) thru which messages and parcels may be relayed both to other members and the outside. A drop consists of some weather-and-animal-proof container, such as a wide-mouth steel drum with tight-fitting lid covered by a tarp hidden in brush.

Mail is received at the residential address of a friendly outsider, who leaves it in a drop near *er* home; or at a P.O. Box. The loa may also have a telephone answering service or even a secure radio link to a telephone.

In a small loa all members may take turns going outside for mail and purchases. In a larger association, a few of the longer-time member-families perform this on a regular schedule.

The originating members decide on rules of association and 'territorial boundaries' of the loa as a whole. Some of our present customs ('rule' may be too strong a word):

We do not make fire, bright lights, loud noises or anything else apt to attract attention, within the territory.

We minimize motor vehicle movement into and out of the territory.

We do not divulge our location to outsiders nor invite them into the territory. (We are happy to have visitors but meet them outside.)

We divulge the identity of another member to an outsider only with that member's consent.

We tell each other about all artifacts discovered within the territory (to warn someone if *er* concealment is insufficient, or that there are strangers within the territory.)

New families join the loa only with the consent of all present members.

The bounds of a loa's territory is known only to the members. Members have no power to keep outsiders out. They simply remain invisible to anyone who enters not at their invitation.

What constitutes a family is up to each family. Within the loa, families may coalesce into larger subgroups or break up. Older children may build their own secret homes where they are vonu from their own parents and any would-be bullies as well as from outsiders. Thus a child can choose associates from all members instead of being dependent upon, and thus vulnerable to one or two adults.

Since wilderness vonu costs little, even fairly young children can be economically independent.

The greatest benefit of an loa, at least at first, is not internal exchange, but more efficient outside trade by pooling purchases, transportation and communication channels. Seldom-used equipment is shared.

An loa may begin as a seasonal gathering, most likely in Summer. As members build better shelters they remain in the area longer, some the year around.

To obtain money a member may work outside a few months a year at first, using a van for temporary shelter. In time *e* may develop an enterprise which exports an intangible (such as writing or computer programming) or a small specialty product.

HORSE NOMADS IN PRESENT-DAY CALIFORNIA

By: Eldorado

This report is fictionalized in respect to names, exact locations, current status, and sequence of events, but factual in terms of specific information and tips offered against the background of our experience.

We are horse nomads. Our ideal has been to combine the natural territorial range of the horse (an area about 100 miles in diameter) and its defense mechanism of fast flight over rather long distances to new grounds with the needs of people who would function as nomadic gatherers

when operating on a subsistence level. When living more interdependently as spin-offs of the larger society, recreational and profitable uses of the horses and our general mobility serve as current fringe benefits.

We dwell at several seasonal bases and a larger number of very temporary squat-spots in an area of California having a great diversity of climate and elevation. Although containing areas of heavy population density, about 90% of our grounds are uninhabited. We are seeking to explore other areas, about 100 miles apart center-to-center, which form links in two chains – one running North-South, the other East-West – and providing stations in an underground railroad allowing us to move people and things really long distances in rather short times. We see one of these routes paralleling the U.S.-Mexico border and linking the Gulf and Pacific coasts, and the other linking West Coast locations. This implies our having some contacts with other like-groups and vonuans in general.

Moving thru 'Public Lands' has never been a big problem; perhaps in part due to our taking on protective coloration as needed and the ability to present plausible explanations. I cannot divulge how all that is done, but suffice [it] to say there seems to be a tendency to accept a small group of people on horseback as having some reason for being where ever they are found: bird-watchers, 'horse people', hunters, etc. Long stays are on private property belonging to friendly owners. I should emphasize we do encamp for long periods on one spot. However every effort is made to keep ourselves in a state of readiness and training for movement on very short notice. We can split and function as sub-groups or individuals, move to known areas where supplies are already stashed. We have a potential for moving hundreds of pounds of goodies if need be, and this can be an advantage over foot-people, but horses require their logistics. Everything has its compensations.

We are a gregarious gang and like company. We need not conceal our camps as carefully as do some vonuans because we can scramble and be many miles away by the next morning. There is a certain strength in numbers – and a lot of fun. About 12 seems to be comfortable, but 20 or more would be a mob-scene.

When at a fixed base some of us live in camper-like units we have built which are capable of being hauled in a pick-up, on a utility trailer, or on an old horse-drawn wagon. Commercial equipment of any kind has been a problem and we have had to research and improvise our own.

As intermediate equipment and for use further out in the boonies we have some big tents and other gear suitable for a group living quite sumptuously while gypsying. Each individual allowing him to survive indefinitely alone on the trail.

In order to keep organizational structure at a minimum group ownership has been avoided. Each person owns their own horse, equipment, etc. Any property they may have acquired in that other society is not a group concern. Short-term cooperative ventures, trade-work and trade-use deals are common. At times the entire group has been involved in profit-making schemes. Discussion in each case determines who is to do what and what goods and services are worth. That amount is paid to each participant at a final accounting. The initiators of such projects usually act as their managers with the tacit consent of those involved. At the wind-up of the affair no more organization is needed.

In routine affairs we all act as teachers to one another (including children who are considered as small-size people). Knowledge along with the persuasive powers and energies of each person carry a certain amount of authority. Additionally we have councils in which someone may be selected to perform a certain job such as negotiating with a land owner or taking some money we all throw in the hat and shopping for needed supplies. There is no central authority. In the event of a person so conducting himself as to be obnoxious to others or to jeopardize the basic objectives of the group we can ask him to leave – and in [the] event he won't, we will! New members may be discouraged by what appears to be authoritarianism. We reserve the right to protect ourselves, to set standards of capability for people, horses and equipment, to require our camping spots to be maintained, etc.... We want to enjoy our mode of living. There is a great deal to be learned by a green-horn and this may involve some months of being instructed, managed, processed, cussed-at, before the new-comer stops being a nuisance to others.

We are very oriented to the idea of living naturally and of living close to nature. These motives seem to confuse people hung-up on current definitions of Liberal versus Conservative. We

propose to live differently and therefore forsake old patterns. We propose to live INTENTIONALLY and not to be acted upon. Our survival demands exclusion of non-survival people. Boozers, dopers, those who haven't the determination to take care of themselves are not welcome. Most of us are into various physical-spiritual integration trips. Ages range from 2 to 50 with complete equality between men and women. Relationships are an individual matter, but two types are absolutely basic: that of the person to this planet and that of the individual to the group. Unlimited loyalty is required in both cases.

Some of us work at city jobs and commute. Several have broken out of that to work as independent contractors, but still have to travel. Incomes vary as do needs. The actual money needs within our system are very low, but some may be saving up for trips, projects, education, etc....We demand a great deal from our horses in appearance, usefulness, and in their capability of moving us many miles quickly. It's best to allocate about \$35 per month to each for its keep and then work backwards from that figure in two ways: swap, scrounge, bargain for horse feed and supplies to cut this cost; and also, put the critter to work to earn his keep. We have rented out horses, packed stuff for people, plowed up garden plots, hired out to motion picture companies, dragged logs out of the woods to be cut for firewood.

The TRAVELING HORSE as such has not been intentionally bred, nor his needs in equipment commercially produced in about 75 years. Potential horse vonuans can call on a vast amount of good information in books. Look into the very recent interest in 'Endurance Competition' and what is being learned there. Bum steers are available from 'cowboys', dealers, the proponents of one breed or another. Manufacturers are keen on gulling you into buying images wrought from old movies, TV, rodeos and other hokum in the form of overweight saddles, clothes intended for saloon musicians, and gadgets. We have had to develop our own criteria drawing from several schools of thought. One general warning: Dismiss the Great American Wild West Tradition! It has no relevancy. I will illustrate some tips in the following fable:

Some of us took a 30-mile trip down a desert valley to a new canyon-mouth camp site to check it out. It was arranged that an 'outsider' friend would meet us there for a visit, leaving from a different starting point and going by another route. Friend's short-legged horse walks about 4 ½ mph. It could trot at perhaps 7 ½ mph, but neither the horse's conformation, friend's ability, nor the saddle he uses encourage much of that. He claims his big saddle horn is "good for roping steers". What steers? He settles for a bone jarring job exhausting to both horse and rider. Both his route and ours cross a BLM fence which he detours adding an hour to his trip, but not accounting for his additional 3 hours later arrival in sore condition. Ours was a different sort of trip, interrupted by picnic and skinny-dipping at a spring, rest stops, investigating the candy potential of some cactus we found and goofing around. Our tall 'giraffes' walk easily at over 6 mph as they were chosen for ability. We can trot on smooth level stretches getting maximum mileage for effort expended. We get off to walk several times – which we can do as our feet are not crammed into point-toed high-heeled boots suited to the Tijuana cab driver. And about that BLM fence: some bedding was draped over it (an old military trick for going over entanglements) and we just jumped over it.

Don't expect horses to live off the land in most of the country. While moving about dry green grass, weeds and such may serve as 'filler', but we always carry along or have stashed concentrated feeds such as pellets and grain. A few days' supply can be carried as it is light and compact. Know your area and map out places where you can buy supplies. Locate short-cuts, rails which may cross private lands, but where trespass is not involved. In most states the trespass laws do not preclude your traveling over private land per se. Rather, trespass must involve your doing damage or intending to do damage by entering private property.

Our present goals include acquiring a few more people fostering other similar groups, internalizing education for children by setting up some school activities. We may use this school later as an outer-facing and contact point with the other society by taking in carefully selected people (of whatever age) for tuitions. Probably most of us have a strong sense of separateness from the Silly Society and now want to develop the positive aspects of this Apartheid situation by acquiring skills and cultivating talents which will better express our own culture. In this vein when I'm asked "what kind of people do you want?", the answers are: minstrels, singers, dancing

girls, troubadours, elves and poets. We admit to a certain theatricality; it may be our strength – and a lot of fun!

SMUMANS: THE SUPER HOBOS

By: Rayo

‘Smum’ stands for Seclusion and Mobility Using Multiplicity. Smum has some features of and intergrades with troglodyte, foot-nomad, urban anonymity, and vehicle-nomads ways, but is [it] differs in overall living pattern and equipment use. Smum has similarities to traditional ways as diverse as hobos, eskimos, fur trappers with several overnight cabins, and wealthy families with several ‘conventional’ houses.

Many smum life-styles are possible but all involve migration among various abodes. The abodes are usually simple, inexpensive, semi-permanent and widely separated. A number of towns of a region are used, in succession, as trading outposts. Smum offers, in part the wide-ranging mobility and anonymity of vehicle nomadism with the privacy and safety of troglodysm. While smum is complicated to describe (at least with conventional concepts), smum is easier to implement than any other life-style I presently know of which offers comparable vonu. Smum is made economical by the low cost of plastic film and second-hand utensils.

A smum family migrates between its abodes, probably seasonally. Less often an abode is moved to a new site within the same area, or phased out in favor of a new abode developed elsewhere.

Most of the abodes are located at least a quarter-mile and not more than ten miles from a road. The road is preferably either a highway, or a trail without habitation along it or at its intersection with the highway. Most abodes cannot be reached by motor vehicles. There are several hiking routes from each abode to one or more such roads. Each route reaches the road at a different place and at a place out of sight of residences. At least one route from each abode ends in a parking spot which is out of sight of the road and rarely used – suitable for unloading supplies.

A few hundred yards into the brush from each parking spot is a stash for low-value supplies awaiting backpacking to the abode. The supplies are stored in drums for protection from animals and weather.

Hiking routes are irregular and cannot be followed by someone not familiar with them. Each route is used only a few times a year so it doesn’t receive much wear.

In Siskiyou region, abode sites are selected so that highway distance between is typically 100 miles. This separation is determined by the distance between major trade towns and the living patterns of conventional people – people rarely go a hundred miles to work, shop or socialize. Overland hiking distance between abodes is less – typically 30 to 40 miles – the abodes all lying within the same mountain range.

A family has no single trading outpost. From each abode a different town or, better yet, two or three in alternation are used for shopping, receiving forwarded mail, and perhaps temporary employment. The towns so used are fairly large – at least 5,000 people within shopping range. And they are located on major highways and thus accustomed to many visitors.

After living at one abode a few months and making trips alternately to the nearest suitable towns (which preferably lie in opposite directions) the family moves to another abode, a hundred miles away, and makes trips to different towns. And so forth. They do not return to the first abode and the corresponding trading outposts until a year has passed. If a family has six abodes, 12 trading towns, and makes trips to town twice a month, one member is in each town twice a year, not often enough to be distinguishable from the many thousand travelers who stop briefly.

The family is probably not limited to a fixed schedule or route. If they encounter trouble in one town they do not return to that area for several years, meanwhile developing a new abode elsewhere. In an emergency they can hike overland between abodes without using roads or going into populated areas.

All possessions of a smum family have one or more of the following characteristics: inexpensive, expendable, small, used seasonally. Inexpensive items are duplicated and left at each abode. These might include polyethylene film and rope for rigging tents, bedding, cooking

stove, utensils, extra clothes, and drums for storage while abode is not occupied. Bedding, clothes and utensils are scavenged at dumps or purchased second hand. Total cost of stationary items at a warm-weather abode is probably less than \$50. Expendable supplies include food staples, soap, writing paper, kerosene and propane. These are ordinarily left at an abode until consumed. Some small but valuable items move with the family; such things as watch, transistor radio, binoculars, handgun, radiation detector, camera, medical kit, sewing kit, and often-used reference books. Seasonal items are grouped according to use at specific abodes; these include most books, tools and construction materials.

Each abode is somewhat specialized for the activities performed there and the season that it is used. Abode might include: Summer camp: This may be more remote than other abodes since there will usually not be snow and swollen rivers to hinder access. If foraging and vonu horticulture are accomplished in that area, books, tools, and preservation equipment are stored there. A plastic tent and mosquito netting are sufficient shelter.

Winter abode: This may be a semi-underground structure, or a large foam hut plus a plastic tent. Since there is little warm working space much reading and writing are done there. Most books are stored there.

Electric abode: A small generator, probably hydroelectric, powers a sewing machine, electronic equipment, or any other gear requiring electricity but not bulky imports. Relevant books and materials are stored there.

'Edge place': This is for work involving bulky imported materials such as carpentry, and is the one abode accessible to vehicles. Major work on any vehicles is performed there; also any work which because of space required, noise or smells is not easily vonued. Edge place is most likely on fairly secluded private land leased from a friendly landowner. An old van or house trailer may be parked there to provide sheltered work and storage space. Edge place is much less vonu than other abodes so work requiring much privacy is not performed there. And any family members especially threatened, such as slave-age children during that season, remain elsewhere.

A minimally-furnished van may be used for shelter if one or more members occasionally go into that society to earn money. When not in use it is probably parked on private land, perhaps at edge place.

A friend who may be outside the Siskiyou region provides a permanent mailing address. The friend accumulates mail, bundles it, and sends it as a parcel, as directed. If possible the family makes arrangements with trustworthy local people in each town to receive U.P. parcels; if not the parcels come general delivery.

A legal home address for driver's license and vehicle registration, if needed, is probably arranged in a large city outside the region, and separate from the mailing address.

Means of transportation vary. One smuman may not have any vehicle. *E* hitchhikes for mail and light supplies, also for migration between abodes. *E* hires a van or pickup, preferably a transient, to haul heavier supplies.

Another smuman may use a motorcycle for all transport – this will be a bike with enough power for the highway yet light enough to manhandle into hiding places – perhaps a 250cc trail bike.

Still another may have a van or camper for hauling supplies as well as for work excursions. *E* will also use a motorbike or else hitch rides, since places suitable for long-time parking will seldom be convenient to unloading spots.

Smumans, like other vonuans, obtain money in ways which minimize time and involvement with the Servile Society. One may have a line of special services or products *e* sells thru merchants in the towns *e* visits. Another may have a mail-order enterprise. Someone with a highly-paid skill may journey to a distant city for temporary employment.

But most, at least at first, will probably depend on day labor in nearby towns and seasonal crop work. Although this is low paying, a smuman's expenses can be very low. So not many day's work are needed.

An individual or family without slave-age children can be flexible about outside employment – working together or separately at any time of the year. A family with children is more

constrained. Perhaps during the school year the children remain at a secluded site, then during Summer the whole family does crop work and any other activities involving that society.

If asked for address by employers or bludg, a smuman gives *er* legal home address. If asked for local address *e* says *e* is visited by some friends (location vaguely defined).

A smuman can be opener with outsiders than can be a more-stationary wilderness-vonuan. In some instances *e* may be able to socialize with local non-vonuans. *E* can even say to friends *e* is camping 'back in the woods', knowing *e* will have moved on to other woods before the word gets very far.

For a smuman, the whole Siskiyou region becomes, in a sense, a single widely-dispersed city of several hundred thousand people. Smum offers much of the anonymity of metropolis without the pollution or nuclear danger. Assets are dispersed and cannot be destroyed by a single misfortune.

Comparing smum to full-time van living: Most time is spent in or around abodes which are concealed away from roads in rugged, brushy areas rarely if ever penetrated. With our van the greatest mean time to harassment (mth) we have achieved is one or two years. Whereas with a small tent we can easily achieve 20 years mth; with more work and care, 200 years mth. (Interpretation: if there are 200 such camps, an average of one a year will be discovered.) This is while a camp is set up; torn down and stuffed in drums under bushes chance of discovery is even lower. We have had enough stash tents in enough situations to have confidence in the 20 year figure. One year mth is adequate for someone not especially threatened who wants peace and quiet. It is not sufficient for slave-age children, someone without 'acceptable' ID, or for most kinds of alternate-economy enterprises.

A serious disadvantage of smum for some: activities must be accomplished at certain places and in certain seasons, rather than when one is in the mood. Planning and bookkeeping are essential. Life is more structured than with everything in one place, but the structure is chosen by oneself, not imposed by outsiders.

One might initiate a smum life-style by exploring a region on foot and hitchhiking, using light-weight camping gear, then gradually build equipment and supplies at the most desirable spots. Or a van nomad might develop a string of vehicle squat-spots; then use these as bases for scouting. On the other hand, from a smum life-style one can become, say, a troglodyte by further developing one abode and phasing out the others.

Like any new life-style, smum should be begun when one is not in immediate danger --- when one has time to experiment and can survive a few mistakes.

WINTER IN THE WOODS

By: WJP

My love for the vonu way of life has its origins back in Boy Scouts. I was very lucky in having a unit with leaders that were as much stoked on getting out in the wilderness as they were on the usual merit badge-competition crap. I never liked the hiking but getting there made it all worth it. Most of my 'education' came on those hikes and with friends later as we continued the tradition. As so many have found, you can't live a city life or even a farm life and then suddenly decide to go vonuan immediately. Lessons must be lived and learned.

It took me a year in Vietnam to learn the value of my legs. The summer after I got out I got together with an old friend and a couple we knew and we set up a small camp near Butte Meadows (about 40 miles from Chico, California) on land owned by Diamond International (lumber company). We spent several weekends scouting out a spot that would: 1) supply running water nearby, 2) be open enough to let the sun in but be forested all around, and 3) be as isolated as possible from the dirt roads nearby. We settled on a tiny meadow near a creek, accessible to the truck and VW we would use to bring in supplies, and yet far enough from the dirt roads to allow fair security from detection.

We built a sweat lodge out of willows covered with a tarp and dirt and even dammed up part of the creek to swim in. We ate mostly gov't food commodities and had a small wood stove to cook on. We drank fresh creek water; there was nothing between us and the several feeder springs but a few miles of 20-year-ago logged forest and unraped meadows, as we soon learned

on extended walks. After two months we were discovered. It seems that Diamond International employs a duffer to patrol their land in a Toyota jeep and run off any intruders. He said he had been by many times but this time (soon after a shower) he noticed tire tracks leaving the main dirt road and decided to follow them. He couldn't believe his eyes, said it was the cleanest camp he'd ever seen, said he'd like to let us stay but that he couldn't cause of his job, gave us "a few" days to be gone.

I got permission to live on private land near there and we put up a small shack out of lumber we scrounged from old deserted cabins in the area. Most of the wood was sawmill oak which had been cut right in that area over 50 years ago. We roofed it with old corrugated tin found also on old shacks.

The next summer (after a city winter) I spent at the shack. People would come up and visit, sometimes for days, and I did a lot of walking and reading and looking at stars and thinking. Ah, the hunters came without warning and scared the piss out of me at first. But soon I realized that the deer and I stood a better chance with them than the bobcats, mt lions, etc., so I just sat in my shack and waited for them to get it out of their systems for one more year. After the second weekend of the season I heard nary a shot.

I spent the winter (last winter) there, doing a bit of reading and writing and a lot of woodchopping. This was when I learned of the growing sport of snowmobiling. They never came up to my place but the noise could be heard for over a mile. It was disturbing at first, but it soon got to be a trip to sit outside and watch them zoom along, staying mostly on the roads, making all kinds of powerful sounds, going nowhere, just going asserting their existence. They only came on the sunny weekends and once at a time that must have been semester break for the college down in Chico. I never bothered them and they never really bothered me. We were just finding different answers to the same questions.

We all have such a fear of spending time alone and especially away from where we can get help fast. I tried not to scare myself and knew that if I could just get up there, snowed in, with the essentials, that I would make it. What really did it was that, because of my experiences in 'Nam, I was no longer afraid to die, or afraid to let go of the known. Surely, I did not want to die; I did all the research I could to make me more prepared for the winter, but I was not caught up with fear, like some of my friends – when they heard what I was planning, all they could say was 'what if' this and 'what if' that; they couldn't see that maybe a special experience is worth the uncertainty it entails.

I got my water from the creek, my wood from downed timber, and my light from kerosene lamps; I ground my flour on a Corona mill; I had two squirrels, a gopher, a few mice, 3 raccoons, and several coyotes for neighbors; I found I didn't need shit-food and sugar and movies and TV and cars and steaks and new clothes and lots of money and a successful career and weekly sex and grass and booze and mescaline and acid and flush toilets and electricity and hot showers after all, but if I hadn't had them I probably wouldn't know that I didn't need them.

It was a short, warm winter, only lasting a little over three months (at 4,000 ft) and it was a glorious Spring. I saw so much more of life, because I was really looking now, and not blindly caught up in keeping busy. I got an unskilled job pretty easily and worked this summer, getting my overdue dental work done (I had cracked two teeth eating raw wheat kernels, but had only three small cavities) and preparing for this winter. I have permission to keep an eye on a Boy Scout Camp near my shack (the lodge was broken into and ransacked last winter, by snowmobilers, I presume).

My main staples will be wheat and brown rice, with some dried vegetables, flavored soy protein and a little meat as supplements. I got along nicely with very little meat the last two years and plan to continue. Here, as anywhere, you have to get out and scout around and do what you have to in order to find out what it is you really want to do. Peace to you and yours, hi to Rayo and Dr. G., until next spring, WJP

ETHICAL LAND USE

By: Rayo

As a vonuist my policy is non-coercion – live and let live. So long as another human does not do or threaten violence, I do not intentionally interfere with that person or with artifacts he creates or acquires with the consent of the one who creates.

Artifacts include structures upon or under land – a home, factory or garden. But naturally-occurring land itself is not created by the deliberate efforts of any being. So what claims to land or uses of land may I properly make? I will begin by scrutinizing some traditional answers to this question.

One doctrine holds that land belongs to the first person who uses it (or discovers it and claims it). Some people assert that this is the only truly moral doctrine – i.e., consistent with non-coercion. But actually it is arbitrary. How does a person who first gathers wild berries in a particular valley gain a right to exclude or collect rent from others who wish to gather berries or plant turnips? *E* can claim the particular berries *e* gathered. But *er* action does not create more berries nor trees nor soil. Likewise, someone who grows a crop may claim the harvest as well as ‘improvements’ to the land such as clearing and terracing (so long as these improvements endure) but does not thereby gain any right to interfere with others who make non-conflicting uses.

This doctrine is not only arbitrary in theory but capricious if not unworkable in practice. Very little if any land in the world today is used with the consent of first users. Typically, a tract of forest is ‘owned’ by a lumber company which bought it from a government 50 years ago, which seized it from an Indian tribe 150 years ago, which seized it from another tribe 500 years ago, which seized it from still another tribe 2000 years ago. Further investigations may show that the land was held by still another tribe 10,000 years ago. And so forth.

Under ‘first-user’ doctrine most of North America would belong, not to ‘the Indians’, but to just a FEW Indians. There is archeologic [archeological] evidence of at least five different waves of immigrants across the Bering Strait thousands of years apart. In all probability, descendants of the first group multiplied and used most of the continent; subsequent comers were ‘trespassers’.

In many cases the original tribes have vanished – destroyed by enemies, epidemics, or hardships endured upon being forced out by ‘their’ lands by a stronger tribe. Individual survivors scattered among other tribes and intermarried. Determining original users and their closest surviving kin, after tens of thousands of years, would be extremely difficult to say the least. In a society where ‘first user doctrine’ was consistently applied, there would be as many archeologists and paleo-geneticists as there are lawyers today.

This is not to deny that great wrongs were inflicted upon many Indians by Europeans (principally the U.S. government) or that restitution should be made. It is to deny that first-user doctrine provides a proper way of deciding who should own what today. Being dispossessed of land was, in many instances, the least of the damages inflicted: Indians were also murdered and their children were, and ARE forced into state schools.

A second doctrine asserts that land belongs to the first person able to use it ‘intensively’ – i.e., cover it with improvements. By this doctrine a farmer has the right to seize land from a tribe of foragers.

But this doctrine is as arbitrary as the first and raises such questions as, what constitutes an ‘intense’ use? May a government seize (‘condemn’) the farmer’s fields to build an airport?

This doctrine is most applicable to ‘built up’ areas – houses and factories – where the ‘improvements’ (artifacts) may be more valuable than the land. It isn’t relevant to wilderness land.

A third doctrine of land ownership asserts that, since no individual created land, land is owned by ‘society as a whole’ or ‘all the people’. But this merely compounds the absurdity. If NO person created land, how did ALL people do so?

In practice, since little if anything is done with the unanimous consent of all people, some ruling group attempts to control land in the name of ‘the people.’

This leads to the fourth doctrine: sovereign control of all land belongs to governments, either by ‘divine right’ (in the case of absolute monarchs) or by the (equally mystical) ‘will of the people,’ Governments then delegate plots of land to favored subjects.

This is the least tenable doctrine of all: a fictitious title is, in essence, transferred to a government by an equally fictitious contract. Furthermore, since most governments on earth are

essentially monster criminal conspiracies – guilty of wholesale murder and robbery, any property such a government might otherwise claim, is forfeit as restitution to its victims. Unlike other land users, a government does not even have a moral claim to structures it may put on land.

Since a government has no moral right to land, no one has a moral claim by virtue of assignment by government – i.e., ‘legal title’.

My land-use ethics: No one created naturally-occurring land. Therefore no one owns land per se. Any ‘rights’ pertain, not to the land itself, but to SPECIFIC USES of land. Therefore, morally, I MAY USE LAND IN ANY WAY WHICH DOES NOT SERIOUSLY INTERFERE WITH OTHER USES ALREADY BEING MADE, EXCEPT AS I MAY OTHERWISE AGREE.

The exception is important. It includes renting, leasing, caretaking or being a guest. If I go onto some land at the invitation of another, I thereby recognize his right to control my use of that land. This is true regardless of what ‘right’ *e* may have to the land – i.e., whether or not *e* has ‘legal title’, whether or not *e* dispossessed earlier users, or whatever.

This doctrine is not without elements of arbitrariness. For example, what constitutes ‘serious interference’? And in [the] event of a dispute who decides? But all concepts involving human action have ‘boundary problems’.

Broad categories of uses to consider: (A) Relatively ‘visible’ uses of land such as conventional construction, farming, logging, mining and road building. (B) Relatively vonu uses such as hiking, foraging, camping, gold-panning and hidden construction.

The visible uses are vulnerable to organized predators (sometimes to unorganized ones as well). Visible users can operate only with the consent of such predators. To minimize my involvement with criminal organizations I must minimize my visibility including visible uses of land.

Situations of possible conflict: (1) vonu use concurrent with visible use; (2) two or more possible vonu uses.

Example of the first: Suppose I wish to build a concealed home on land ‘owned’ and periodically cut over by a lumber company. I do not recognize the company’s ownership of the land per se; however I respect the use they are already making of it – to do otherwise would involve me in power games of that society. So I do not attempt to cut and sell commercial-size timber. Nor do I, without provocation, interfere with the company’s operation.

To the contrary, I am probably mildly beneficial to the company, while remaining independent of it and (most likely) unknown to it. I eat porcupines which gnaw trees. I try to put out any fires started by lightning (as well as being very careful with any fires of my own). I use only dead or crowded-out-and-dying trees for my construction – primarily to avoid visible alteration, but this also reduces fire hazard and speeds growth of remaining trees. I may make minor repairs to access roads. In a sense I become a kind of benevolent wildlife; perhaps as desirable (from the point of view of the company) as a bird which eats pine beetles, but even more ‘uncontrollable’.

The lumber company’s use may also benefit me. An area they cut may, after a few years, be lush with berries and game. After a few more years it will be a dense thicket of young trees and brush – an ideal vonu home site. And their logging trails may be useful for occasional access to that society.

I try to be beneficial or, at least, non-injurious, because vonu is always relative. The company could, at great expense, hunt me down, chase me out, or at least force me to take measures which would seriously inconvenience me.

The company may be completely unaware of my presence. Or they may suspect that someone is using the land but not know who, when or where (weekend recreationists may also use it). So long as I am benign they are well advised not to pursue the matter further. ‘Declaring war’ on a vonuan would be highly unprofitable. They could bring greater forces to bear – perhaps many men with dogs and helicopters – but they must pay these forces. And the property of mine which they could seize – if they could find it – is of little value to them. Whereas they have large amounts of valuable and vulnerable property – equipment, roads and the trees themselves – all out in the open. While I will not deliberately initiate violence I will happily retaliate. If someone deliberately interferes with my uses, I no longer feel obligated to respect *er* uses.

This analysis applies also to land claimed by a government agency, except that the government (unlike most lumber companies) is a coercive organization and so does not have a clear claim to 'improvements' it may make.

Might it not be easier for me to get the company's permission to camp on their land, in return for caretaking? Then I could dispense with some of my security precautions. But to the degree that I become involved with visible users of land I partake of their vulnerability. What effect might my occupancy have on their insurance? If I fell and hurt myself could I sue? If I have school-age children, could the company be charged with contributing to the delinquency of minors? And, if they know where I am, will they tell others?

The usual experiences of vonuans with large companies: If one asks permission to squat, or even rent, *e* will be turned down. But if one goes ahead and does it without asking, and is later discovered, at most *e* will be told to move, quite often *e* is allowed to remain.

The second type of situation which could result in conflict: two or more unrelated vonuans attempt to use the same land. There is so much relatively-unused land compared to the number of vonuans that I don't think this will be much of a problem in the foreseeable future, except possibly for those who hope to obtain all their food by hunting and foraging. In [the] Siskiyou region alone there is about 30,000 square miles of uninhabited forest, brush land and high desert – enough to provide 10,000 groups with three square miles each. Nevertheless I will consider some possible cases.

If the vonuans are of the same subculture they will probably have conventions regarding land use, including pre-agreed-upon arbitrators to resolve any disputes. They may have secret signs – intelligible only to others of their kind – meaning, "This land is already being used for _____. No trespassing for conflicting uses."

Another possibility: life-styles may be so different that the vonuans, if skilled, rarely or even encounter each other or their artifacts. If they do, they will be inclined to leave alone, so that they will be left alone.

I cannot predict the techniques which vonuans may use in the future nor the conventions regarding property which may develop. But, unlike visible people, avoiding conflict by diversifying uses will usually be more advantageous than fighting over who shall make a particular use. Most forms of combat increase the visibility of the combatants (e.g., explosives, stockades) and their vulnerability to third parties, and so are not compatible with vonu.

This doctrine of land use is similar to the conventions of other life. Many species are territorial: bears have territories; humming birds have territories. But territorial defense is directed mainly against unrelated members of the same species – i.e., individuals attempting to make similar uses. A bear does not attempt to keep humming birds out of its territory, or vice versa. The tendency of life is to diversity – to minimize conflict.

ROOTING OUT THE OUTPOSTS

By: Rayo

("It's hard to fight an enemy who has outposts in your head." Attributed to Sally Kempton)

The book CRUSOE OF LONESOME LAKE relates how Ralph Edwards built a homestead in a remote, isolated area of British Columbia. Ralph performed incredible feats such as packing tools and supplies, including large machine parts, 50 miles from the nearest settlement over a precipitous trail.

Ralph had no need to question the world-views of the culture in which he had grown up. Or did he?

His homestead was half-done when he learned of World War I. Leaving the fruits of his hard labors to the bears, mice and mildew, he rushed off and enlisted in the U.S. Army. He spent precious time fighting the war "to end wars" and "make the world safe for democracy." And if some equally patriotic German had aimed his way, Ralph's dreams would never have materialized.

On the other hand, I heard of someone able to speak learnedly about the evils and absurdities of the State, who allowed himself to get drafted and shipped to Vietnam – and is now a basket-case in a VA hospital.

Neither ideas nor actions alone are sufficient. Achieving vonu requires both – and integration of theory and practice. And neither ideas nor actions are ‘primary’. More effective actions depend on a better understanding of the world. And better ideas spring from experience gained doing.

I and probably you were heavily indoctrinated during our early years, not only by State schools, but by attitudes expressed by parents and playmates, and even more by having to live as virtual slaves – most people rationalize that whatever seems unavoidable is really for the best.

As one grows aware of that society’s contradictions one becomes more skeptical. Nevertheless, most people criticize only activities they are personally familiar with, and assume that other State functions are proper. Such a person may say, “I grant that ____ is wrong. But what if the government didn’t provide highways, schools, postal service, national defense, pollution control, food and drug regulation, banking regulations, welfare, police protection...” and so forth.

Answering such questions will not directly affect the policies of government; e.g., proving that there would be better transportation in the absence of coercive financing and control will not cause highway departments, state cops, licensing or gasoline taxes to go away. But one benefits psychologically from knowing that (1) coercive methods are not constructive and (2) the achievement of vonu by individuals indirectly benefits others as well.

There isn’t space here to refute the myths of State. Nor do I know of many readily-available books which do. It is up to each reader to identify and remove any ‘outposts of the State’ from *er* own mind.*

I suggest selecting ONE activity of government you believe is justified and examining it critically. Ask yourself: Has that activity always been performed by coercive means? Or have there been times and places where it was voluntarily accomplished? Are the interpretations taught in school justified? Or are they simply part of the indoctrination? Do government programs really accomplish what they claim? If government (or its corporate/union vassals) stopped doing this, and did not interfere with others trying to do it, how might it be done by non-violent means? Here are some fallacies to look for in arguments favoring coercion:

Spurious cause and effect. Example: “Living conditions are better in America than in Russia so our government must be good.” COUNTER: Russia today is more prosperous than was America in 1800, so should we praise Brezhnev and damn Jefferson? Actually, living conditions depend on many factors including climate, work ethics, market size, and time that industrial development has been under way. American living conditions improved most rapidly during the late 19th century when government was relatively little, which suggests that relative prosperity is IN SPITE OF, not because of, government.

Paternalism: “Most people are not competent to choose food, drugs, doctors, automobiles, entertainment...” etc. COUNTER: If someone isn’t competent to run *er* own affairs in which *e* has the greatest interest and knowledge, how is *e* competent to select leaders to try and run other people’s lives?

Overlooking indirect effects: Example: “Look at the marvelous things the Space Program built.” COUNTER: What things might people have done with these same resources if government had not appropriated them?

Mistaking a different servitude for liberty. Example: “Before child labor laws, under *laissez faire*, children worked long hours in factories.” COUNTER: Children did NOT possess *laissez faire*, they were legally the chattels of their parents who could and often did force them to work against their wills, and took their pay. Children who ran away and were found, were returned by the police. Child labor laws did not end child slavery; they merely altered the powers of the various masters: less powers to parents, more to bureaucrats. If really free, a child could seek factory work or not as *e* wished.

Mistaking license to aggress for liberty. Example: “Factories would pollute (more) if it weren’t for government controls.” COUNTER: The polluter is the aggressor: *e* dumps *er* wastes into OTHER PEOPLE’s air and water. It was state laws, which protected industries from the just wrath of their victims, that made possible large-scale pollution in the first place.

Confusing the effects of intervention with the effects of liberty. Example: “Free, unregulated competition leads to monopolies.” COUNTER: The effect of free competition has been to

DECENTRALIZE industry; the 'old guard' industrialists FAVORED government regulation, to REDUCE competition, which is the effect it has had. (Kolko, THE TRIUMPH OF CONSERVATISM)

Attributing mystical capabilities to government. Example: "Who would provide highways if the government didn't?" COUNTER: Highways are built by PEOPLE and the machines they operate.

It isn't possible nor necessary to predict in detail what would happen if government or the monopolies it fosters ceased such and such activity. If, for example, the State was no longer able to collect gasoline taxes and license fees or dictate what kinds of vehicles could be built and operated, the following are all possibilities: local road-repair cooperatives; private, competitive expressways, financed by tolls or by franchising businesses at rest stops; various mass-transit systems; better all-terrain vehicles for travel on unimproved roads; cheaper, easier-to-operate aircraft; better communication which reduces the need for travel; more decentralized industry which reduces freight. No one can predict to what extent each of these would develop; what actually happens would depend on the ingenuity and independent decisions of millions of people. But one can predict that people will find ways to travel and transport.

What highways were built, would be built because there were people willing to pay for using them, rather than for political reasons. And I don't think there would be the petty harassment by police. (How many people would pay for THAT?)

This is not an appeal for 'anarchy'. Trying to eradicate or discourage all power-seekers is as futile as trying to kill all flies and mosquitos. What is important is dispelling any notion that one owes anything to flies or mosquitos – or governments.

*If any "what if the government didn't..." question bothers you, write me, enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope, and I will answer it to refer you to a source of further information. (See p. 120)

SPECIAL INFORMATION SOURCES

Here are some newsletters, magazines, directories, book publishers and other organizations which often have information of use to vonuans. Most of these are not found in libraries or bookstores.

Most of these sources are NOT primarily concerned with vonu. Some vonu newsletters and information nets are not listed here. To contact the latter see "How to meet other vonuans." Rather than play critic I've written only brief descriptions. I recommend sending for samples. The price listed here is for one copy postpaid unless otherwise indicated. A question mark indicates that I'm not sure of the price. For items costing \$1 or more I've estimated words per cent. Many of these are small, low-budget operations and do not give free samples.

Thanks to several people for leads. I'll appreciate information on sources I've missed.

A is A Newsletter, Mega 9730 Hyne Road, Brighton, Mich. 48116. Reports on the 'libertarian movement'. Descriptions of 688 publications, groups and individuals; mostly anti-establishment politicos from Conservatives to anarchists; some alternate life-style groups. 50¢; annual directory \$2 (130 words/¢).

Abode Hacienda, Route 3 box 517, Glendale Ariz. 85301. Outdoor, para-military and some political books. Mail order. Catalog free?

Akwasne Notes, Mohawk Nation via Rooseveltown, NY 13683. Large newspaper by and about native Americans – news stories, expose, history, political protest. 60¢.

Alternate Sources of Energy, Donald Marier, Route 1 Box 368, Minong, Wisc. 54859. Magazine about wind, solar, hydro, wave, methane power. Some how-to-do articles. 40¢?

Alternatives Journal, Box 36604, Los Angeles, CA 90036. Newsletter about intentional communities and group marriage. 25¢?

B.C. Access Catalogue, c/o C. Grove, Station G, Box 6424, Vancouver 8, B.C. Canada. Local shops, groups, people, institutions. \$2. (500 words/¢)

Communities, c/o Twin Oaks, Box 426, Louisa, VA 23093. Magazine about various intentional communities and communes. Merger of Modern Utopian, Communitarian and Communitas. \$1 (400 words/¢)

Camper Coachman, Griffin Publications, 10148 Riverside Dr., North Hollywood, CA 91602. Also at some newsstands. Magazine mostly about new, commercially-built campers and trucks. 50¢

Canadian Whole Earth Almanac, 341 Bloor St. West, Toronto, Canada. Issues on healing, crafts, shelters, food. \$3 (430 words/¢)

Chinook Centrex, 4312 SE Stark, Portland, OR 97215. Annotated directory of stores, agencies, and groups around Portland. \$1.25 (1100 words/¢)

Equality, 6 Frankfort am Main, Postfach 3413, West Germany. Publishes unedited material from subscribers as a free-expression forum for utopians, communists, libertarians, etc. Published in English, German, French and Italian. Contribution.

E.S.P. Directory, Al Fry, 879 Park Ave., Perris, Califo. 92370. Addresses of many occult, metaphysical, mystery, mind improvement, alternate life-styles, extra sensory, 'flying saucer' etc. groups and publications. 50¢

Foundation Journal, 85 East Geranium Ave., St. Paul, Min.. 55117. Somewhat like Whole Earth Catalog. No recent information

Fur, Fish and Game, 2878 E. Main St., Columbus, Ohio 43209. Outdoor magazine with many classified ads for hunting, trapping and camping equipment, buyers and sellers of herbs, etc. Also published books on hunting and trapping. Available at some newsstands. 35¢?

The Green Egg, Church of All Worlds, Box 2953, St. Louis, MO 63130. Neo-pagan religion inspired by STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND. Contact newsletter for 'non-conformists' of many kinds including pagans, anarchists and witches. 75¢

The Green Revolution, Route 1 Box 129, Freeland, MD 21053. Published by Heathcote Intentional Community. Newsletter about doings there and at other communities, and how-to-do info for neo-homesteaders. Oldest surviving alternative life-styles zine. 35¢

International Harry Schultz Letter, Economic Research Corporation, P.O. Box 45, Rheinfelder 4310, Switzerland. Very expensive newsletter which advises international investors and movers. \$7 (15 words/¢)

International Maritime Legal Research, P.O. Box 4022 Station E, 1723 Broadway, Toledo, Ohio 43609. Recruiting people to occupy and start a new country on Minerva Reefs in South Pacific. Send stamped envelope for information.

Invictus, Box 85429, Hollywood, CA 90072. Theoretical philosophy journal with viewpoints ranging from anarcho-capitalist to Objectivist. Sometimes vonuist news stories. 75¢

Libertarian Connection, Lisa Dawn, Box 90913 Worldway Postal, Los Angeles, CA, 90009. Publishes what subscribers send in on mimeo stencils. Contacts and discussion for anarchists, vonuists, black-marketeers, etc. Articles on alternate money-making schemes, life prolongation, warning systems, placer mining, futurology. Much ideological debate. Special sample issue 25¢.

Lifestyle, Box 1, Unionville, Ohio 44088. Split-off from Mother Earth News with articles on intentional communities, foraging, cheap shelter. \$1.35? (1000 words/¢?)

Liveaboard, Paul Doerr, Box 1444, Vallejo, CA 94590. Publishes letters from people living aboard small boats. (Also publishes Pioneer.) 40¢

Minerva Office of Information, 426 E. Washington, Orange, CA 92666. Group attempting to found a new country on Minerva Reefs in the South Pacific.

The Mother Earth News, Box 38, Madison, Ohio 44057. Much how-to-do and where-to-get info for small farmers and neo-homesteaders. Also sells many books on farming and outdoor living. \$1.35 (1100 words/¢)

New Earth Catalog, 526 O'Farrell, Dept. 119, San Francisco, CA 94102. Similar to Whole Earth Catalog. No recent info on it. First issue \$3.50 (150 words/¢)

Normount Technical Publications, P.O. Drawer N-2, Wickenburg, Ariz. 85358. Reprints military books on weapon maintenance, survival, guerrilla warfare. Catalog free.

Other Scenes/Nomads, P.O. Box 45, Amsterdam, Nieuwendom, Holland. "The only truly international magazine of the counter-culture will report on the nomadic life from Europe." I haven't seen. "Few issues/\$1"

Peace Plans, J.M. Zube, Wilshire St., Berrima, NSW 2577, Australia. Many schemes for achieving peace and freedom reprinted from many sources. Most are political but some are vonuist. 50¢?

People's Yellow Pages, 351 Broadway, Cambridge, Mass. 02139. Protest groups and sources, mostly local. \$1

Pioneer, Paul Doerr, Box 1444, Vallejo, CA 94590. Suggestions for outdoor adventure, survival, underground homes. Brief news items and book reviews. Some politics. Newsletter. 40¢ Preform-Inform (or Pre-in-Form). Name changed to Vonulife, May 71.

Prospects, Swiss Bank Corporation, 15 Nassau St., New York 10005. Newsletter giving general economic news about Switzerland and Swiss banking. Not a how-to-do. Free upon request.

Puget Sound Access, Box 15301 Wedgewood Station, Seattle, Wash 98111. Directory of local sources. I haven't seen. \$1.50 Rationalist Church of America; Box 1059, Milwaukee, Wisc. 53201. Sells alternate holiday cards. Send stamped envelope for info.

Santa Monica Organic Garden and Nutrition Club Bulletin, 844 Fifth St., Apt. 1, Santa Monica, CA 90403. Heterodox health and gardening newsletter. 10¢

Security World Products Directory, 2639 S. La Cienega Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90034. Burglar alarms and other warning devices. I haven't seen. \$3 "129 pages"

Shelter Publications, Box 279, Bolinas, CA 94924. Published DOMEBOOK 2 and SMART BUT NOT WISE. Book on all kinds of hand-built shelters announced for 1973. Send stamped envelope for info.

Tax Talk, War Tax Resistance, 912 31st Street, Kansas City, Mo 64109. News about tax resistance activities. Some how-to-do suggestions. 25¢?

Ticonderoga Dispatch, c/o James C. Jones, 11123 St. Lawrence Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60628. Local bulletin of outdoor club offering survival training courses. Interested in free living. 25¢?

Underground Press Syndicate, Free Ranger Tribe, Box 26 Village Station, New York 10014. Exchange for many 'underground' publications. Send stamped envelope for list of members.

Vocations for Social Change, Box 13, Canyon, CA 94516. 'Employment directory' for protest groups and alternate institutions. 50¢

Vonulife, Box 248, Paradise, CA 95969. Communication among nomads, troglodytes, backwoodsmen, secret city folk and others who live and let live, and live out of sight and mind of those unwilling to let live. Annual handbooks issue, \$1 (500 words/[1]¢)

The Last Whole Earth Catalog, 558 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025. Detailed reviews and source listing of many books, tools, supplies, and other catalogs useful for alternate ways of living. This was published May, 1971 and so is getting a little out of date, but is still much more complete than anything else of its kind. \$5 (3000 words/¢)

Wildcrafter World, RR3 Box 118, Rockville, Ind. 47872. For homesteaders, herb gatherers, trappers. Many letters from old-timers. Publisher died in 1972 but back issues are still being sold. Newsletter 35¢, annual booklet \$1 (340 words/¢)

Win, Box 547, Rifton, NY 12471. Published by War Resisters League. Reprinted papers taken from the FBI. Article on squatting in vacant apartments. Mostly political news and editorials. 35¢; FBI papers issue \$1

World Club Directory, Worldwide Culture Society, Box 129, Beverley Hills, CA 90213. Short descriptions of 2000 clubs and publications; mostly 'lonely hearts' and hobbies. \$3 (150 words/¢)

SURMOUNTING PERSONAL OBSTACLES TO VONU

By: Rayo

These guidelines are gleaned from our experience with vonu living so far. I suggest thinking about each of these in turn. See if it applies to your situation and goals. See how many consequences you can develop.

Most of these will seem obvious to your intellect. But are they reflected in your values and actions? As Lee and Skye wrote in LIBERTARIAN CONNECTION, "We were born among sheep, raised by sheep, educated as, by and for sheep – and before we knew better, some of it got thru." But one's 'subconscious' can be gradually 'reprogrammed' to more constructive, less

contradictory values. These are not hard and fast rules. Each individual has unique abilities, desires, assets and problems and should think thru or [our] own approach. Most of the examples used are of wilderness vonu, but most of the guide lines are applicable to other forms of vonu as well.

Be as vonu as you can, consistent with physical comfort. Vonu isn't an all-or-nothing thing. There is NO way to be COMPLETELY invulnerable to coercion. But this doesn't justify giving up and 'adjusting' to servitude any more than inability to live forever justifies neglecting health.

Ask yourself 'how much' questions about various approaches. HOW MUCH of the time can I live in a place of my choice? HOW MUCH will I be annoyed by a Gestapo? HOW MUCH chance will I have of surviving a nuclear war? HOW MUCH of what I would like to do will I able to do? HOW MUCH time and resources must I expend to achieve this?

Distinguish present and immediate dangers from possible future risks and deal FIRST with the former. The former include, for examples: nuclear weapons which are ready for launching; existing coercive laws which are often enforced, such as compulsory schooling. The latter include all the spy devices Big Brother might (or might not) have operational by 1984 or 2084.

Select approaches which yield maximum vonu per time and resources expended. It may be wiser to buy a camper, park it in the woods and eat feed-store wheat, than stay in that society another 20 years while trying to learn how to live completely off the land.

Seek vonu, not self-sufficiency per se. A few people cannot live in complete isolation without years, perhaps generations of experience. And they probably wouldn't be very vonu even if they could.

Distinguish wilderness vonu from outdoor adventures. Many 'recreation' and 'survival' skills have little relevance, at least in Siskiyou. We have yet to ski, climb rocks (with pitons, etc.), ride a horse, use an axe (we much prefer saws), make fire without matches, splice a rope. Some skills useful in our situation: maintaining equipment, building with natural materials, orienteering, hunting, first aid.

Vonu your home first. 'Domestic' activities – sleeping, eating, cleaning, grooming, mending, reading, listening, erotics, thinking, exercising, conversing, child care – take up most of one's life. And they are relatively easy to vonu – they can be accomplished without elaborate equipment or deep involvement with outsiders, unlike most means of earning money. Earning money requires relatively little time IF one lives frugally.

Give shelter top priority. Food and other supplies need be purchased only once a year. But a place to sleep and store supplies is needed every day. Don't spend much time learning to keep bees, tan hides or gather mushrooms until you have a home that is 'out of sight and mind'.

Don't build what you can buy at relatively low prices. This includes most mass-produced items. Home-building a camper is poor economics for most people. Concentrate time on the many things necessary for vonu which are not (yet) for sale.

If you must work in that society to earn money, commute seasonally or every few years rather than daily. Don't live in cities and towns when you aren't working. And don't subject non-employed members of your family to smog or threat of incineration.

Vonu first during summers, when simple shelter is sufficient. Then strive to extend the season.

Don't spend time learning a slightly better vocation that's intertwined with the coerced economy. Look for ways to earn money compatible with your approach to vonu.

Have savings before trying wilderness vonu. The amount needed will depend on the individual and way of life. \$1000 per person (not counting initial cost of equipment) will suffice for a year of frugal living – maybe two or more. Live frugally while within the coerced economy. Make saving a 'crash program'. Take savings off the top of income and live on what is left. Don't touch savings until you are ready to break out.

Put savings in both liquid and secure forms. Consider: First, at least six months of supplies you know you can use, such as dry food staples, stored where you plan to live. Second, currency no larger than \$20 bills, \$100 to \$500 per person. For larger savings investigate silver coins, other precious metals, and Swiss banks. (See article in VONULIFE #6). Keep out of U.S. savings bonds, banks and other institutions.

Don't speculate in stocks, real-estate, antiques, rare coins, horse races, poker games or anything else unless you are a full-time professional.

Don't spend much on equipment until you have experience with your way of life. Then you will know better what you need.

Take pride in your ability to live vonu, not in your productiveness as a semi-slave. If your present source of income is controllable by the State, avoid ego-involvement. Base your self-esteem on active interests which you can control.

Judge your success by your enjoyment of life as a whole, not by the money you earn. There isn't a high correlation between income and happiness. There are 'impoverished rich' as well as 'affluent poor'. Many an 'upper-middle-classer' not only spends most of *er* time at tasks *e* detests but finds that much of *er* supposedly-high income (what is left after taxes) goes for 'prestige expenses' necessary to 'get ahead'.

Distinguish comforts from status games – e.g., a shelter that is warm and dry, from a house that would impress non-vonuist relatives.

Be willing to pioneer. 'Pioneering' is a romantic word for self-learning – experimentation – making and correcting mistakes. In ten years there may be apprenticeships and relatively-proven procedures for vonu; there isn't now.

Don't give up if you've made one attempt which aborted. Analyze why you failed, find ways to correct the problems, and try again. Success in vonu, like in many fields of endeavor, requires persistence.

Don't expect vonu to be gratis (or freedom to be free). Vonu requires time, energy, and resources. It is quite costly at first, like most new things. It becomes easier as one gains skill.

Don't expect 'society' or government or a 'reform movement' to GIVE you freedom. There are humans willing to coerce others. And there will be such creatures so long as there are people easy to coerce – willing to 'adjust', 'go along', do what they are told. ('Nature abhors a vacuum.') You CAN'T control how other people live. You CAN reduce your own vulnerability; THEN, perhaps, you can offer help to others who desire vonu strongly enough to 'pay the price'.

Don't expect a PLACE to make you vonu. Human predators can potentially get anywhere you can, and will if something there attracts them. One area may be much better than another for a particular way of life. But vonu depends more on HOW one lives than WHERE one lives.

Be willing to live 'in hiding' – out of sight and mind of most people most of the time, either through concealment or deception. There is no way to have open-house parties at home (for example) and still enjoy much vonu. This is one of the costs of vonu, and it is a price many people are not willing to pay.

Expect to be bored occasionally, once the thrill of breaking loose fades. Most people have spent most of their lives taking orders. One must learn to structure one's own time – choose activities and maintain interest in them over long periods.

Choose goals within your means: skills, capital, and present numbers. Your first goals can serve as stepping stones to further objectives, but should be worthwhile in themselves. It's better to ACHIEVE vonu in modest increments than to only TALK of utopias. You are more likely to attract additional people or financing after you have something to show.

Vonu yourself first, then link up with other vonuans (if you wish). There may be a few opportunities for inexperienced people – mostly women and very young children – to join already-established vonu groups. But most people must do it themselves.

Don't look for companions until you are achieving the kind of life you seek. You are more apt to find companions willing to do, not just talk, after YOU are doing.

Distinguish vonuans from 'great adventurers' when seeking companions. Be wary of someone who claims to have 'done it all' but is back to 'conventional' living. Also be wary of someone who doesn't want to 'do it alone' but intends to do it as soon as *e* finds the right group to do it with. Someone who gets bored with herself will probably soon get bored with a few companions. Perseverance and ability to direct and motivate oneself are more important than any particular experience or skills, though the latter are also valuable.

Vonu yourself before having babies. Most children 'acculturate' very young and are thereafter hostile to change.

Don't confuse invulnerability to coercion with ability to coerce. 'Rule or be ruled' is a false alternative; vonu and aggression are incompatible. Vonu does not create any victims, aggression does – and the victims have strong incentive to retaliate or otherwise frustrate the aggressor. Furthermore, a thief rarely finds desirable companions; any potential friend fears e may be the next victims. If, despite this, someone desires a career in crime, the easiest way is to go to work for the IRS or other government agency.

Stay relatively mobile so you can respond to emerging opportunities or link up with others.

Don't try to change life-styles in the middle of an emergency, be it a general disaster or a personal crisis. Developing a new way of life involves learning – and making mistakes. Do it when mistakes are least dangerous and most easily corrected.

Be wary of extreme, all-or-nothing predictions. Example: Either there will be a State so powerful that no one can possibly be vonu. Or else government won't be any problem. Historically, both totalitarianism and 'anarchy' are rare and ephemeral. Most likely, those people who are easily intimidated and manipulated will continue to be preyed upon; those people willing to expend considerable effort to avoid exploitation, will be largely immune.

Emphasize the long-range and positive: creation of a better way of living, rather than survival of some future catastrophe. Various disasters are possible, but time and circumstances are rarely predictable.

WHERE TO GO TO BE VONU

Many vonuans like the Pacific Coast. And most of those favor either Siskiyou region (northern California and Southwestern Oregon, from about Chico to Eugene) or coastal British Columbia. Both have plenty of forest and mountains and creeks and not many citizens. The people putting this issue together live around Siskiyou so I'll write mostly about it.

One big attraction is being away from and upwind of military bases, big cities and other likely targets. There hasn't been a nuclear war yet. I might even bet that there won't be one anytime soon. But I won't bet my life on it! Even now there's fallout from nuclear tests and crop spraying and industrial fumes and this is several times higher on the East Coast than the West.

Another attraction of Siskiyou is the variety of terrain and climate and vegetation all within a few hundred miles. Along the coast temperatures rarely get below freezing in winter or above 70° in summer. From the Coast Ranges to the Cascades, winter temperatures are rarely below 20° and summers are hot and sunny, except on the higher mountains where snow sometimes falls even in July. Some areas are thick forest, others open woodland, others rocky and bushy.

From about mid-October through May there's much rain and snow, but also some warm, sunny days, even in January and February. There are several heavy snowfalls each winter but snow usually melts off within a week or two below 2000-to-3000 feet. There are many little valleys which are fairly easy to get to in summer but are completely isolated during winter except to someone on snowshoes; the valleys themselves may be free of snow but trails go over passes which are snow covered.

Another attraction is few citizens. There are areas of hundreds of square miles without roads (except jeep trails) or (known) inhabitants. Citizens mostly keep to the few river valleys and along the highways. A town of 10,000 is a big city. Even the citizens seem to me to be a little more tolerant and not quite as nosy as 'rednecks' elsewhere. When somebody wants a metropolis, there is Frisco or LA to the south and Portland to the north.

So far as I know the climate of British Columbia is similar to that of Siskiyou; a little wetter and colder overall. Like here, the coast is wet and mild; inland beyond the Coast Ridge is drier with more extreme temperatures.

Some vonuans favor Southern California for its warmer climate. And there's some wild land there too. But not much forest and not many creeks which flow the year around. And there are many more citizens to wander out onto what green land there is. Also there are more cities with missiles aimed at them.

Further inland in the West, between the Cascades and the Rockies, winters are colder and the forests and creeks not so plentiful as in Siskiyou. Cold doesn't matter much to citizens who

spend most of their time inside anyway and don't mind burning plenty of fuel. But it does to people who want to blend in with the natural environment.

I'm not urging all vonu people to come to Siskiyou. Someone may have a good situation somewhere else. (As for fallout, one can build a shelter or maybe find a cave.) But for someone who wants to live out of sight of the short-sighted and hasn't found *er* spot yet, Siskiyou is a good region to look over. However I would NOT recommend Siskiyou for:

Somebody 'on the run'. Wilderness vonu is a way to reduce involvement with unpeaceful people in the long run. It's not a way to get away on short notice. Any new way of life requires much preparation and learning. And 'accidents' are likely while one is learning. The time to do it is when one has plenty of time and 'acceptable' ID. In an emergency it's usually best to stay with ways of living one already knows.

Somebody looking for a quick way to earn money. There are opportunities here like everywhere. But discovering them and getting into them usually takes time. So it's wise to have a big grub stake before heading into new territory.

Somebody who wants to grow more than a small garden. Most of the land is steep and rocky. What soil there is, is mostly podzol, not fertile. The only fair crop land is in a few river valleys and that land is all occupied. It sells at a high price compared to farm land elsewhere.

There is plenty of rain but it comes at the wrong time for crops – and leaches minerals out of the soil – so most crops have to be irrigated and fertilized.

Somebody who wants to observe vonuans. There isn't a central community of vonuans nor any one place where vonuans gather. VONULIFE's mailing address is only that. There isn't any particular concentration of vonuans near there. A concentration would be un-vonu. There are little groups and families and individuals scattered here and there. They are most interested in meeting, (1) other vonuans with similar interests, (2) sympathetic settled people who offer things vonuans want (such as mailing addresses, parking space) or want what vonuans can offer (sometimes labor, money, particular skills). Many are new at vonu living and are still too busy getting the kinks out of their own affairs to offer much more than friendly words to newcomers. Even those who are open to visitors (some aren't) are difficult to meet because they are difficult to find.

So come to Siskiyou only if you think it's the best place for you to do your thing. And after you are doing it you will probably get to know others who are doing it and maybe you can do it better together. I suggest arriving in early summer so you will have time to look around and to get shelter and supplies ready before winter if you decide to stay.

It's not difficult to find squat spots good enough for a few days and that's enough time to find something better. Almost any spot that's not in sight of houses or roads will be okay. Stay out of the towns as much as possible. There are many summer transients, and local citizens and their keepers sometimes get unfriendly. Buying low-cost food isn't difficult. There are feed and grain stores in almost every town and food co-ops in some of the larger towns, though prices and selections won't be as good as in a big city.

Most creeks in unpopulated areas are safe to drink from. But it's best to boil or chlorinate until you know what there is upstream.

Be very careful with fire. A fire is one thing which can bring a storm of angry bludg. Cook on some kind of stove with a good spark arrester, and with only bare dirt under and around it. Cook after dark so smoke won't cause a false alarm.

If you would like contact with someone local before coming, or would like some help or advice, write and tell in detail your situation and wants and I will attempt to forward your letter to someone able to help. Please include 24¢ a letter and allow two months for forwarding. See other suggestions for making contact further on.

Topographic maps show land contours, creeks, forested areas, and roads and settlements which existed when the map was made – mostly 1940's. Maps to the scale of 1:250,000 (1/4 inch equals 1 mile) were 60¢ each from U.S. Geological Survey, Denver, CO 80225 or Washington, DC 20242. Siskiyou west of the cascades is covered by Ukiah NJ10-2, Chico NJ10-3, Eureka NK10-7, 10, Redding NK10-11, Westwood NK10-12, Weed NK10-8, Alturas NK10-9, Coos Bay NK10-1, 4, Medford NK10-5, Roseburg NK10-2, Klamath Falls NK10-6, Crescent NK10-3, Salem NL10-11, Bend NL10-12. Most of these maps cover two degrees of longitude and one degree of

latitude. For example Ukiah goes from 39° to 40° north and 122° to 124° west. Also ask Geological Survey for indexes for Calif. and Ore. of 15-minute topographic maps, no charge. These are one inch to one mile maps and show more detail.

Forest Service maps show creeks, roads, some trails, and whether land is 'public' or 'private'. The road information is more up to date than on the topo maps. The scale of most of them is ½ inch to one mile. They can be ordered from or picked up at the headquarters of each National Forest. No charge last I knew. Address, "Headquarters, _____ National Forest..." National Forests and headquarter towns in Siskiyou region are: Mendocino, Ukiah, CA; Tahoe, Reno, Nev.; Plumas, Chico, CA; Lassen, Susanville, CA; Six Rivers, Eureka, CA; Shasta-Trinity, Redding, CA; Klamath, Yreka, CA; Modoc, Alturas, CA; Siskiyou, Grants Pass, OR; Rogue River, Medford, OR; Winema, Klamath Falls, OR; Fremont, Lakeview, OR; Siuslaw, Corvallis, OR; Umpqua, Roseburg, OR; Deschutes, Bend, OR. For areas covered see road atlas or oil company maps. Bureau of Land Management local offices have maps which show land they claim, which is much of the land not in National Forests. Some National Forest maps also show BLM land, some don't.

CLIMATES OF THE STATES, temperature and precipitation tables and maps. For Ore. and Calif., 25¢ each. U.S. Gov. Printing Office, Div. of Public Documents, Washington, DC 20402.

Geologic Map of Oregon, of Calif. 35¢ each, U.S. Geologic Survey (address above). Prices may have gone up.

WAYS TO COMMUNICATE WITH OTHER VONUANS

Some vonuans would rather not, which is fine too. This is for those who do.

Try to spot vonu achievers among people you already know. Many dislike living at the beck and call of every 'authority'. Most are too tied into the system (or feel they are) to do anything except maybe make angry little noises. But here and there someone is quietly getting more and more of *er* life under *er* own control. *E* probably doesn't call *erself* a vonuan and *e* probably doesn't have all the angles figured out (neither do I). But maybe you and *e* can figure better together.

Subscribe to and publish letters in VONULINK, the bimonthly newsletter issues of Vonulife. VONULINK is especially for people who live in isolated places or urban anonymity and prefer to communicate mostly by mail rather than face to face. VONULINK contains open discussions, updates to articles in Vonulife handbook issue, and news items. Each subscriber has the right to include unedited material – up to six 7 ½ x 10 pages a year if black on white and relevant to vonu. There are no activity requirements except that institutions or their agents are not eligible. Circulation of personal material is limited to 100 copies. (I reserve the right to split VONULINK, probably geographically, if necessary to keep circulation under 100, but promise to send at least 40,000 words or give extension or refund.) A one year subscription INCLUDES the next handbook issue of Vonulife, and is \$4.

OR, write to Vonulife for samples of other vonu zinets (mini-magazines). These are distributed in different ways by different people in different places so that communication is decentralized and vonu. Most zinets are for people who live in the same regions are for people who live in the same regions and have similar interests, and want to get acquainted and visit as well as communicating by mail. Some vonu zinets are NOT listed or advertised, and can be contacted only through Vonulife or a present subscriber. Some are strictly information swaps and do not sell for money.

For a trial subscription of at least two issues (maybe more, depending on the zinet), send \$1* and a description and of yourself. Tell as much as you can about your situation, background, world-views, objectives, capabilities and interests (but no need to include specific personal information such as residential address or name of company or school you attend). Describe the kinds of communication you would like. Say whether or not your residential address and phone number (if any) may be published. Say whether or not your letter may be published without name and address. Please mention any 'vonuist', 'liberation', 'survival', 'back-to-the-land', etc., periodicals your presently read – to avoid accidental duplication.

I'll read your letter and relay it to the zinet I believe is most in line with your interests. (If there isn't one yet I'll send VONULINK or refund your money). Most vonu zinets including

VONULINK swap material of general interest (but NOT personal contact info) so I recommend AGAINST subscribing to more than one. Send your description and \$1* to Vonulife – address on back cover.

*Some zinetes are free to those who live out of sight and mind most of the time. So if you do but can't spare a dollar write anyway.

Send letters for forwarding. Send several carbon copies if you want, along with 24¢ each (stamps okay). You may direct letters to Vonulife authors, to people in a certain geographical area, or to people I believe might have certain interests, etc.

Orders for this issue or for COMPLETE SETS of older back issues are filled by whoever picks up the mail, usually within a week. But all other mail must be relayed to me, wherever I am. So please allow two months for forwarding of letters or subscription orders. (Often times it's faster, but don't depend on it.) See back cover for Vonulife's address.

VONULIFE ISSUES FOR SALE

VONULIFE 1973. Copies of this issue: 50¢ each plus 50¢ per shipment, postpaid third-class. Copies in good condition may be returned postpaid for refund or credit of 40¢ each.

VONULIFE 1974. I'm accepting advance orders. Single copy \$1, if order arrives during 1973. (Price may be higher when published, depending on size and postal rates then.)

The following are newsletter-size issues published from May 1971 through Sept. 1972. Each contains about one-fourth as many words as does this issue. Some of the contents.

#1. Many situations and searches. Pinyon nuts and other West Coast wild foods. Acquisition/use of 'private' land. Pedestrian nomadism. Keeping your bod dirtless, by Fry. Steel drums for storage. Hygeia's Hygienic Review (happiness). Education. How to live on wheels. What if there was a millennium and no one came (freedom heuristics) by Lee and Skye. Freedom strategy (terminology, vonu and liberty) by Rayo.

#2. How to live in a VW bug, by Aikido Al. Russian-style 'hippies.'. Uncover undercover. How to find a freemate. Free-marriage contract. Have your child at home. Pacific Northwest wild foods. Freedom Strategy (wealth) by Rayo.

#3. By Orion. The Year 2000, by Lee. Methane bibliography, by Stumm. The poorman's motor home, by Fry. Scouting public lands for primitive living, by Adam. Report on Costa Rica, by Maehl.

#4. Do-it-yourself tooth repair, Fry. Air drops into S. American jungle. Clandestine communication net. By Doerr. Freedom strategy (against retreatism) by Rayo).

#5. By Fry. The freeman in the slave state. Vonu in cities. Survival of nuclear war.

#6. By Doerr. If the FBI knocks. How to get land in B.C. The soddy. Frontier dugout. Buying and burying silver coins. Mexican dentists. More on nuclear war. Vonu transportation ideas.

#7. Many situations and searches. Vonu in the mountains. Health, by Fry. Electrical converters. How to hide a camper. Vonu fruit growing. Vonu communities.

#8. Barbed wire. Selecting site for vonu home, by Rayo. Hygeia's Hygienic Review (simplify). Medicine, by Fry. City squat sports. By Doerr. More on nuclear war, by Mitchell Jones. FWTC newsletter #1.

#9. Living with children in a bus. Small vonu community. Renting apartments vonuly. By Rayo. Alternate money experiment. Elmer Fudd's Bandwagon. More on nuclear war. Unbreakable cipher. Living in Mexico.

P-I Reprints. From PREFORM-INFORM 1968-69. On living in motor vehicles.

Complete set of older back issues (all ten items above) for \$2.50 postpaid. Individual issues 25¢ each plus 25¢ per shipment postpaid.

BACK COVER

VONULIFE is published every two months by Mike Freeman. See bottom right of this sheet for mailing address. A specific handbook issue is published in March; Vonulink newsletter issues are published the other months.

One year subscription, including the next handbook issue and five Vonulink issues, is \$4, mailed anywhere. Vonulink issues are sent first class. Subscriptions for Vonulink are not accepted from institutions. Handbook issue only is \$1. For back issues see p. 120.

Unclassified advertising in Vonulink issues: ¼¢ per character or space plus 20¢ an ad. No checking copies.

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NOTE TO PUBLISHERS: Vonulife is seeking a regular publisher to distribute or publish Vonulife 1974 handbook issue.

NOTE TO SUBSCRIBERS: There is no March Vonulink, because of the work of getting this out. Also some of the letters which have come are included here. Subscriptions are extended by two months.

Bibliography

Sources and postpaid prices are given (if known) for books not generally available in libraries.

The following literature on food is recommended by Haelan Hygeia (see article, "Far out eating for \$10 a month").

AMINO ACID CONTENT OF FOODS, M.L. Orr and B.K. Watt. Home economics research report #4, USDA, 1957. 75¢. Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

ANIMAL MACHINES, Ruth Harrison. Expose on livestock raising.

COMMON EDIBLE AND USEFUL PLANTS OF THE WEST. Muriel Sweet. 1962. \$1. Naturegraph, Hea Idsburg, CA 95448. 64 pages.

COMMON FLESHY FUNGI, Clyde M. Christensen. \$4.25? My favorite single mushroom key. Burgess Publishing, 426 S. 6th St., Minneapolis, MN 55415.

COMPOSITION OF FOODS, Watt and Merrill, Ag. Handbook #8, USDA. \$2. Superintendent of Documents (above).

DIET FOR A SMALL PLANET, Frances Moore Lappe. Interesting but doesn't show how recommendations ultimately arrived at.

DISCOURSES ON THE SOBER LIFE: How to live 100 years, Luigi Cornaro, 1464-1566. \$1? Health Research, 70 Lafayette St., Mokelumne Hill, CA 95245.

EARLY USES OF CALIF. PLANTS, Edward K. Balls, 1956., \$1.75, 103 pp. U. of Calif. Press, Berkeley, CA 94720.

FASTING CAN YOU SAVE YOUR LIFE, H.M. Shelton, 1964, \$1.15, 91 pp. Dr. Shelton, P.O. 1277, San Antonio, Texas 78206.

FEEL LIKE A MILLION, Catharyn Elwood

FOOD COMBINING MAKE EASY, \$1.20, 71 p. American Natural Hygiene Society, 1920 Irving Park Rd., Chicago, Ill 60613.

FOOD IS YOUR BEST MEDICINE, Henery g. Bieler.

GATEWAY TO SURVIVAL IS STORAGE, 75¢. Walter D. Batchelor, 61 Beacon Ave. Ave., Layton, Utah 84041.

THE HYGIENIC SYSTEM, H.M. Shelton, volumes 2 and 3. \$5.50? a volume. 1934 revised 1963. Vol. 3 is most complete book on fasting I've seen. Shelton (above)

THE HERBALIST, Joseph E. Meyer

HUNZA HEALTH SECRETS, Rene Taylor

LET'S EAT RIGHT TO KEEP FIT, and LET'S GET WELL, Adelle Davis

MAN ALIVE YOU'RE HALF DEAD, Munro

THE MOLDS AND MAN, Clyde Christensen

MY EXPERIENCES WITH LIVING FOOD, Kristine Nolfi, MD. \$1.25?, 23 pp. Health Research (above)

- NUTRITION AND PHYSICAL DEGENERATION, Weston A Price
 OIL STORY, Paul Hawken and Fred Rohe – pp. Send stamped envelope. Organic Merchants,
 c/o Erewhon, 8003 Beverly Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90048.
 OPEN DOOR TO HEALTH, Fred D. Miller
 RANCIDITY IN OILS, Don E. Townsend and Gordon L'Allemend, 1962, 15¢, Lee Foundation
 for Nutritional Research (report #8), Milwaukee, Wisc.
 REBUILDING HEALTH, Ebba Waerland.
 SHALL WE EAT BREAD?, R.W. Bernard, \$1.50. Health Research (above)
 SPROUT HANDBOOK, A. Stuart Wheelwright, \$3.95, 61 pp. Good but expensive. Research
 Technical Service, 3747 Quincy Ave., Ogden, Utah.
 STALE FOOD VS FRESH FOOD, The cause and cure of choked arteries Robert S. Ford, 1969,
 \$3.50, 48pp. Magnolia Laboratory, 701 Beach, Pascagoula, Miss.
 STALKING THE WILD ASPARAGUS, STALKING THE HEALTHFUL HERBS, Euell Gibbons.
 SUGAR STORY, Fred Rohe. 1 page. Organic Merchants (above).
 Ann Wigmore, 25 Exter St., Boston, Mass. 02116. Info on wheat grass, sprouting, and
 natural healing. Send a dollar – tell her what you're interested in.
 WILD EDIBLE PLANTS OF THE WESTERN U.S., Donald R. Kirk, 1970 \$3.95, 307 pp.
 Naturegraph (above)
 YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SICK, Jack Dunn Trop, 1967, \$1.15, 231 pp. Good introduction
 to natural hygiene. American Natural Hygiene Society (above).
 YOUR DIET, DIGESTION AND HEALTH, Edmund Sigurd Nasset. Summary of orthodox
 nutrition – helpful.
 Other literature which is referred to in this issue or otherwise recommended.
 AT HOME IN THE WOODS, Vena and Bradford Angier, \$1.50 pb. Collier Books, 866 3rd Ave.,
 New York 10022.
 FIFTY YEARS A HUNTER AND TRAPPER, E.N. Woodcock. \$1.50 A.R. Harding, 2878 E. Main
 St., Columbus, Ohio 43209.
 HOW TO LIVE IN THE WOODS ON \$10 A WEEK, Bradford Angier
 INNOVATOR. No longer published; back issues may be available from Efficacy, Box 1747,
 Harlingen, TX 78550 or from Lisa Dawn, Box 90913, Los Angeles, CA 90009. Send stamped
 envelope.
 THE LAST WHOLE EARTH CAT. See p. 113
 LIBERTARIAN CONNECTION. See p. 112
 LIVING THE GOOD LIFE, Nearing
 THE MOTHER EARTH NEWS. See p. 112
 NO MORE PUBLIC SCHOOL, H. Bennett, \$2.95. Random House, 201 E. 50th St., New York
 10022.
 OUTDOOR SURVIVAL SKILLS, Larry Dean Olsen, 1967. \$2. 188 pp. Brigham Young U.
 Press, Provo, Utah 84601.
 THE PAPER TRIP. 28 pp. 1972? Original edition \$5.95, Eden Press, 15951 Diamond St.,
 Westminster, CA 92683. Reprint 35¢, Rev. Keith Gormezana, c/o People's Press, 621 Holt Ave.,
 Iowa City, Iowa 52240.
 PIONEER. See p. 113.
 For other periodicals and some publishers, see page 111.

VONULINC 12, MAY 1973

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INVEST IN AMERICANA

V.L. people with any storage facilities whatsoever should pick up every conceivable collectible over a few years old (that's free or very cheap)" that can be pack ratted away. The nation as a whole is "collection mad" and anything with "flavor" and appeal to it is going to about double in price in the next couple of years and as we mentioned in H.T.S.S.T. Depression may be better than money if things continue in the direction. I'm not clever at all but I can double any money on every little mini-\$ scouting trip purchase I make. It's getting harder though and if you're the outback so much the better. Going through a few antique shops will give one a felling for the "needs". Perhaps we can get into this a little deeper. –AL FRY

The following is in response to Rayo's letter on Group Marriage in VonuLinc 11. It blows my mind! To wit: (no, that's the trouble...no wit at all...just the collection of all this Apollonian, algebraic abstraction) it seems Rayo gives it away in his statement that "...G and I have not tried swinging for fear of disease and of emotional involvement with people tied to that society, so we have no firsthand experience in this area". I have sat in on several multiple manages and swingers groups as referee and father-confessor and so will claim some 1st hand knowledge.

First, it seems that this occupation with mathematics and formulas of how to do things, who lives with whom, sleeps with – has kids with – etc., etc., is a disease of the mind endemic with those who lean toward group marriage ideas...and is also usually the triggering mechanism which breaks them up. The group marriage gang would probably categorize themselves as super-liberated people, when in fact they are very hung-up with proprietary concepts. Ownership and control are deeply imbedded in their thinking and the idea of a bunch of free spirits coming together on any level, including sexually, is highly threatening to them. Structure and regulation must maintained, so they do in fact figure out all sorts of elaborate formulate for regulating each other. Eventually the strictures of multiple complex regulation of multiple relationships get so heavy they can't even live with it and things disintegrate. It seems to me that the first step these folks might consider is Group Divorce! In order to implement the liberal ideas they espouse it would make more sense for them to appear en masse at the Court House and apply for a Group Divorce on the grounds the State is meddling in the private affairs of individuals and projecting itself uninvited into a contractual arrangement between two people as a third party. Let's get Nixon out of the bedroom!

Next, your reasons: fear of disease and emotional involvement are arguments commonly used by proponents of both swinging and Group Marriage. Both factions have some vague idea that only a special kind of person goes into their thing possessed of the hygienic sophistication to avoid disease and know-how to content with it in event it surfaces. Additionally, most G. Marriage-types presume that by internalizing contacts, outside infection would be avoided. I don't condone this specious thinking here...only record it. The G. Marriages contend emotional involvement is ok, while the swingers avoid it like the plague. So, these arguments are being bent to serve the purpose of either group.

Now if G. and you are saying your fear of emotional involvement with those in the Silly Society would set up torsions with in you, that's understandable and Bully for you. I'm happy to hear you are capable of emotional involvement, but what of those not immersed in that other society...what of your own kind of people? And, is fear a legitimate basis for non-action?

I submit that G. Marriage, being basically non-libertarian is not relevant to Vonu. Swinging, involving a physical-emotional split and being devoid of emotional involvement, responsibility, and limiting of emotional expression is neither libertarian nor Vonu.

Seems to me G. and you have a different choice: Either you find yourselves compatible and in rapport and as free mates elect to exclude others from your intimate lives just because you are so pleased to do that (which is OK with me), or, you decide that however compatible you may be, that as truly free people,...as autonomous individuals, you may also elect to broaden your emotional involvements with other like-minded people who share your ideas and commitments and with discretion and responsibility include others in your intimate lives (which is also OK with me). I submit either of these choices is relevant to Vonu...and moving to a wider and less personal application...that this is really the choice of Vonuans generally. Carry on!

-E. (Feb. 4, 1973)

To Vonulink. Thanks for trying again. I'm still here. I also am confused by the vonulink – split? I mean, is this it? You're going to make 2 different newsletters so each will have circulation less than 100? Why bother? Why not just refuse additional subscriptions? What criteria would determine what material went in each newsletter? What if I really needed to know something that only appeared in the other one? Etc. Hope for further explanation.

About kids, now, and schools. It is very easy to drop your kids out of sight of the public system without any hassle – probably easier in town, in fact, than less populous rural areas. My kids (then ages 5, 7, and 10) did not attend school at all for over a year, no trouble with anyone, no “keeping out of sight”, no worrying (their dad worried, but then, he's a worrier). The way to do it is outlined concisely in a book called NO MORE PUBLIC SCHOOL by H. Bennett (from Random House – just shows how respectable it's getting). Briefly – just follow their rules. Tell them you are going to a) move, b) travel extensively, c) send them to private school. Probably you'll never hear another word. It would be a little trickier in rural areas where there's only one school any local kid could be expected to go to – but the prospect doesn't really bother me and if I want to do it again. I'll do it. Did you know Congress passed a law to assign social security numbers to all first graders? Incentives are increasing.

By the way, registering a kid's birth, contrary to popular opinion, gives no one any handle on this. In fact, I think multiple registrations is a great idea. I was too lazy to do it of my youngest, but if there was another, I'll register in several different counties under several different names (the reg. office did not ask me for any I.D.). I'd tell you about my lifestyle, except I can't see that I've got any. But I really appreciate your newsletter. –K, Portland, Oregon.

To K, I wish I'd gotten your letter in time for v.73. Would have saved me from writing the piece that covered the same ground about schools. Did you have neighbors? Did you move around a lot? What would have happened if a neighbor complained? What did the kids do during school hours? Do you think it was partly luck in having all good neighbors (if you did)? Did the kids go back to school after a year? How come? Maybe you'll write some more about this for v. 74. And I'd like to hear from others with experiences of this kind.

About the split – I don't know yet if there will be one depends on how much “competition” vonulink gets. But if there is one the things likely to be of interest to most people will be reprinted in vonulife and/or printed on poolpages (which go into all the links). –Lan

This letter is late. I had it written out, but the way I like to type, it took a while to start. Copy what you want out of Pioneer or Liveaboard. It will give a lot of the info on living on boats as it comes out. It is intended for people who live on their own boats.

All those questions you asked: as a member of an Indian tribe, would you have more rights, justification, for a nation?

A soddy is the easiest built, safest, it won't burn, coolest/warmest, least noticeable if built right in the right place, costs least, a bullet won't penetrate walls, durable. Again, if built right. A soddy can be hard to build right depending on where...can be left for long periods as by a nomad on his acre somewhere or out on lovely government land, if built reasonably small, a very small fire will warm, thus little smoke to attract attention, it is a good storage place. A dugout is also good if sod isn't available. 3 walls of earth, leaving the 4th and roof of boards, sticks, brush, etc. covered with earth. This is damp, since the earth is the walls and not dry upwalls. The water

will seep out of the hillside through the walls and they may slide in wet times, so I prefer the soddy. So, use a rented pickup to get your sod from a meadow somewhere or field, floodplain, pasture, city hall lawn, wherever. A wicker house can also be made. This just poles set in the ground. 2 rows, staggered. Poles woven in each wall. Space between filled with leaves, grass, etc. Add more as they settle. A “pillow” may be made of long thin stuff like river cane with moss and leaves and these set up as walls. Movable like. A roof, made like the walls, plastic sheets to waterproof, held down with sticks and stones. Semi-permanent. I’ve made a couple for camps. They burn easy though. Some Indians use them. I rarely use them for obvious reasons. Had hoped my soddy article had enough so anyone could build from it. What is lacking? I have built a couple soddies, a couple wicker houses, a Hogan, and grass beach huts. A couple in VL 3[?] wrote they were building one but not heard since. Could be hard there, so much rain. In warm lands, thick walls may not be needed for warmth, but handy for cool. Islanders braid big mats from leaves and lash to poles from walls. Pile sand floor. Leaf roof steep to drain. Bugs come in though.

Try the birdcage I described. It has some advantages...and disadvantages if you walk in your sleep.

Have I built any smials? No. I’m a cave-crawler (saw my photo-article in explorer’s journal?) and have lived in ex gold mine bashed out of solid rock in a mountain side...constant drips. One in Sandstone was not. Have a solid type. Living in caves/shafts where bits of roof fall regularly is a nervous life. So can crawling in them be. I have dug and built some underground root cellars, which are smials, I suppose, though they aren’t usually lived in.

Storm cellars, cyclone shelters, and spring houses are a sort of smial. Some are reasonably comfortable if fixed up. I’ve dug and timbered horizontal mine shafts in dry places. Many desert mines are perfectly good smials and a big lot cooler than the open desert. Some desert peoples in the Sahara, etc. live underground and have veritable cities underground. Even one people in North Africa today put large systems of passages, etc. underground. It’s sometimes 60° cooler than on the top. Also many have water...from condensation...underground streams and veins. I think, if I built a big smial, I’d find problems I hadn’t anticipated. Laws in some places, money costs, others depending on location.

I’ve certainly found them in building my new boat, but they can be overcome. Perhaps, a vonuan could buy an old abandoned mine shaft somewhere for a home when he is in the area. I still think owned land, however useless for moneymaking that is farming, mining, commercial, etc. In fact, the more “useless” the better...is best. No one can trespass, chase you off, destroy (legally) and you have an “address” for bludg. Also mail can be sent there, if only to a mailbox along the road and you pick it up only yearly. You have an address. You have a home. You can apply for food, etc. if that’s your bad. You can plant food trees, even if only seedlings and no one can chop them for a building.

ADVERTISEMENT: I WANT SPOTS WHERE I CAN SAIL TO AND TIE UP TO THE SHORT...DESERT, ISLAND, FLOODPLAIN, SWAMP IS OK. I WILL PAY CASH AND EXTRA TO THE FINDER...advertisement.

There are many caves and hollows in walls all over the world where people have lived and/or camped in passing. Find a place of solid rock...tufa is easier to work...and drill with stardrill and sledge and prybar and pick a hole six feet or so into a rock face. Tamp in some dynamite and touch it off. Do it again in the back or the blown hole, making side drills if necessary to enlarge the hole. In a while, you have a room. If you make the entrance hole small and enlarge when several feet in it’s harder to see and easier to block with a stone. The hole can be only crawl size. About 2/3 feet diameter. Live in it when you’re there.

The concrete pipes I suggested are the commercial things. A few years ago, I gathered several damaged ones from a dump and used them as I described, cementing the holes and edges. 4 ft diameter size. The 10 ft size are usually carried 1 per load on low-belly trucks can be broken in shipment and are useless to the business, so get them and repair and coat with tar. I’ve wandered in drain using pipes 30 ft height and see no reason you couldn’t get one and put floors in to make 3 or 4 floors, just like a 4 story house underground. Use as I showed in Pioneer and Hob. They are watertight when finished. You will get condensation so leave a spot in the bottom. You could even use this constant accumulation of water. Outside air brings in water which condenses

and runs down sides to puddle in bottom: reservoir, swimming. They are heavy but can be easily moved with levers. Considering durability, strength, or survivability, etc., the cost may not be too bad. It should last forever. I have rethought land and want small bits here and there where I can sail to them, like on sea, rivers, etc. Taxes would be low, like a couple dollars/year on less than an acre of "worthless" land, where I can live at times, store things buried and sealed in plastic.

Everyone should have a few emergency tools, etc. stashed where he can get them if needed. Or cache extras, plant a few food plants suited to the climate for food as he passes through. You know you can eat cactus fruit and leaves and many people have lived on them, as in parts of Mexico. Regular farming in rows and groves is too obvious, just scatter the stuff. The land would be an auxiliary. Your boat if properly built and kept up would be much better, movably, hidable, provide free air transportation (sails) quietly, storage, living quarters, anywhere, and can be brought right to your land if you pick the right spots...south in winter, north in summer. I think I covered much of this in a recent letter.

I am writing a book on some of my trips and have about 100 pages finished. It might even be good enough to find a publisher. I'm doing it as much for my own pleasure as expectation of publishing, but then that's the only reason you should do anything, right? It won't be as much on how-to as on things I've done, like diving on ships, finding gold, catching snappers and snakes for sale, hunting tiger with sword and spear, tickling gators for tourists, going to old cities in the jungles, climbing mountains, crawling caves, scuba, hunting, fishing, etc.

As the weather nasties, I think more of the tropics where you can stay in the water all day and not chill, where fish can be caught and fruits picked and no trouble keeping the belly filled. It's a lazy life, lots of sleep and loafing and the women are friendly, or were last time I was there. Carry a meat grinder. That's THE tool for the traveler. Small fish and tough plants can be ground up into food. Grind small fish, bones and all. Don't turn up your nose. You eat sardines? Caribbean fish soup? Any tough meat can be made into a burger. Any tough vegetable we couldn't eat otherwise. Make bread by my recipe, catch a few fish, or gather some shellfish, get a few fruits or greens and you have a big meal. The Islanders seine out a bunch of guppy-size fish and make a soup out of them. Tough vegetables can be ground into a thick, jelly-like soup. Tortillas are just ground corn, or some other grain. A little sea water for salt. A few squeezes of lemon or spiceberry for flavor or a handful of pepperberries...they grow on a tree.

With a small woodburning stove, you can use driftwood for fuel for cooking and heat what you need. Leaving the door open is even a source of light. It's usually not all that dark on open water though. Your eyes become accustomed to the low light and unless you're sailing, you'll probably sleep at night anyway.

I have a new mag, strictly for liveboarders now and publish letters from all over the world. Surprising how many people live on their boats, not counting the Chinese and Philippines boat people. Get a kerosene cabin lamp – Aladdin is best, giving 60w light on kero. As much light as pressure type, but no pressure, no noise, more light per quart kero and an anchor light, which can also be used as a cabin or carrying light if you want to prowl the beach or attract night fishes. Ask direct questions on other boat-living information you want. I think that answers the question asked?

So now, I'll just comment on some things in VL...like acorns. Grind in meat grinder and soak. If they are run through the meat grinder a couple of times, soaked, hand-worked, and squeezed in a couple changes of water and soaked, it is faster than pounding between stones and leaching in running water, etc. The whites are milder. Don't care too much for soda and such chemicals in my food. Don't use in baking either. We get more chemicals just breathing dirty air than we need without adding any deliberately. Soda counteracts normal stomach state. The meat grinder can also be used to extract medicinals.

To figure radiation distribution following attack just get weather bureau wind charts. They have a booklet they issue with charts for all months of the year. However, since the prevailing winds here are all westerlies, you can expect the big dusting will be mainly to the east of any target and not so much usually to the west unless a big wind was blowing at the time of the attack. I would think the logical time for an attack would be the afternoon or evening before a big holiday like Xmas when everyone is in town or traveling or when one political party has just

made a big win and losing-party officeholders are moving out and confusion and backbiting reigns. Or combine both. December 23, 1976?

A dry area gets less fallout than a wet since every raindrop coalesces around a bit of dust. Otherwise, the dust may just blow on by. Also less ground cover to catch it. And of course, as far upwind as possible, like along the seacoast or on an island. The California/Oregon border area is about as far from cities as you can get now, in the U.S. Some friends were considering in Dak until I pointed out the targets in Washington. Also radiation fallout distribution charts. Perhaps some Caribbean Isles would be good since they – some of them – are washed by the great equatorials of the Atlantic sweeping in from the SE from Africa. Of course, if Europe is hard hit, they will have that.

I will probably retain this Vallejo address after I am even further from Vallejo than I am not, but I will be hunting some sort of mail drop later for when I am sailing far away. Anyone have any ideas? Most nuclear war writers, when totaling up rad totals omit the vast stockpiles of bombs and the in-place missiles destroyed by direct or close hits or sabotage; this can add several powers to the final figures and would undoubtedly go up even if the defenders deliberately touched them off to prevent the enemy from getting them. EUREKA and all like that.

I'm about to mount my keels. This is a big milestone. It means the hull will be turned over and begin to look like a real boat. Then, the furniture, the deck, the mast, the sail, fittings, and I'm done. I'll be living aboard. The printer I told you about advertises in Writer's Digest so is in business unless he has folded. I've never used him, but his prices are under half of anyone else's. Why doesn't J B (VL 10) use a guzzler?

So it takes a year to get enough rain to fill his tanks, but he lives there, so he has time. You sound familiar. Would I know you?

You know the Romans had a war tank, but dropped it in favor of legions?

The oldest electric battery remains now in the Smithsonian. I have had two types of hidden garden. One was in a water meadow...a natural, somewhat damp natural clearing in a woods. Clumps of burdock, Jerusalem artichokes, peppergrass, dandelion (didn't do too well), rhubarb, chard, mustard, collards, lettuce, (snails damaged badly), chicory, nascurtiua, and such stuff that wasn't too obvious (rabbits, etc. did some damage but I ate them too, so the trade wasn't too bad. The other was in a bog. I piled up the soil, water only a few inches deep, in long rows and planted in the top of the row, a foot or so above the water. The plants were well watered, I didn't have too much trouble with animals or land snails. The soil was VERY rich and crops were good, big, and abundant. Some crops wouldn't grow there. Deer and rats bothered, though, but again were food. Have eaten tule/cattail roots. The buds are the best parts, and quite good, raw or cooked. The rest is woody. Once, for another purpose, I built a small platform in a swamp on stilts several feet high and lived there. It should have been higher to avoid mosquitoes, and damp. Tolerable and could have been made better. Live on a platform about 20 feet high and garden at the foot on built-up dirt. Hidden, good food supply, low rent district, few neighbors.

The easiest sluice I know of is just a box with no ends anchored in midstream with arms on the upstream end to shunt more water into the sluice. Use plain boards and braces and hinges that can be taken apart. Put pieces of pipe on sides so stakes can be driven down through them into the creek bottom to hold it in place, or use loops of wire, or just tie it down. The sluice bottom should have cross-pieces of 1 bys or 2x4 to make the water riffle. A piece of long-loop rug can be put on the bottom too. Something to catch the gold flakes as they tumble along the bottom. You can use conch tie rod for anchors through to pipes. It looks like a sort of Y, the arms stretched to catch the water and direct it. You can put a piece of plywood on the bottom in the Y or you can just pile the dirt in the stream bottom and work it with a shovel or your feet. The object is to dissolve the dirt so it floats down through the sluice and any gold is caught and held. Throw the stones out and put more dirt in. Later, pan the dust from the rug or the riffles.

For your typing, why not just drop silent letters and repetitious ones. Stopt for stopped, etc.

I have seen some of the skypsy photos made by some of the gadgets; I've mentioned they look good, but as the v n supply routes have shown, they aren't perfect. Still the government works on them and improves them, and finds more kinds to use.

Trappers Line Cabins were 4x6 and 6x8, very low roofed and easy to heat if not very comfortable. You could build one of 4x8 plywood sheets with no cutting. Set on a couple logs.

I don't remember which issues of Pioneer have what and have no back issues to send anyone unless someday I run off another batch. I have the stencils and if a hundred people wanted copies, I would re-run, though I don't expect this. A lot of skypsy stuff may have been in Unknown which was more on unusual things, and still is. I have a lot of stuff to print when I get time and ambition to type. Pioneer, if you noticed, was on almost a monthly basis for a few months. Now, with pushing on the boat, it is slipping again.

I had offers to make my keels of \$750 to \$1000 and one of the highest was a guy who planned to steal the material from the government and assemble at his job. I waited a couple of months to find a reasonable offer but finally did it myself. Found the steel, had it cut, welded, sandblasted, painted, transported, etc. for \$2 or \$300 so that shows something other, but I lost a lot of time.

I did answer your other letter. That was only a few months ago so maybe the P.O. still hasn't delivered it.

In Hob 2: God knows where you could get a copy, not from me. And I re-run it in Pioneer. I had diagrams of a VC village with all the underground passages, openings hidden under stuff, etc. like houses, fireplaces, pots, in well walls, fields, etc. This information is hard to get. The government said they wouldn't give me any information because "it might aid the enemy" so help me.

Alligator holes are also made. A gator digs a hole in the stream bank, under water. This leads into the bank and then up to a chamber above the water where the critter lives. Same for croc, etc. The entrance can't be seen because it's several feet under. It's damp, muddy, often smelly, but...

I hear Point Reyes Stores won't take food stamps, etc. I have rented P.O. Boxes by mail. Don't know whether it's easier to rent boxes in small or big towns. Probably depends on the clerk. Say you just arrived and give a trailer park or motel address. Rent a room in a private home for a week. I doubt though if P.O. checks addresses put on applications.

A new ID device, as accurate as fingerprints is voiceprints used to get porno callers convicted in bigger towns. A voice on tape is enough.

ANYONE HAVE ANY SCUBA OR BOAT EQUIPMENT TO SELL?

Winter survival techniques: I've found that foam pulverizes. Surface rubs off like sand. Wonder how good breathing that would be? Kerosene out here is 50¢/gallon. What is your experience with catalytic heaters? I find heat is less than promised and they stink. I used one in a camper and by the time it warmed, I had to open up the door to breathe...the fumes are awful. Kerosene space heaters stink too. Put a can on a 1/4" pipe (with a reservoir outside) in the firebed of the woodburning stove, like a trailer heater, and burn fuel oil. Put a turnscrew control on the pipe to regulate it, and you can get any degree of heat.

Now about phonetics. For shorter words, put f for ph, drop silent letters as tho, thrulose c and let s and k replace it, no double lettrs.

Why don't vonuans ask for a Republic of Minerva passport? Look at some of the African nations, who is to say what is a nation? They said (v1 10) they will register ships. If it works only in a few places, you are ahead. I've written them a couple of times, but no answers. Third world might recognize their passports to spite the biggies. Liveaboarding might fit it a good auxiliary to have.

Barter sounds great, only I want a sextant, chronometer, scuba/hookah, etc., & who has that to barter?

Dewey Walker is like Buckskin Bill on the Upper Salmon who was written about in The Last of the Mountain Men. He even makes his own muzzleloader rifles.

B's letter is interesting, have you ever read James Bond Smersh Actually Exists? The French caught one years ago; he killed a diplomat in a hotel corridor by putting cyanide powder in a folded newspaper and blowing the dust in the man's face as they passed. They are suspected of several recent murders in the U.S. the cops can't even PROVE are murders.

With some spy plane cameras, you can read a newspaper on the ground at 60,000 feet or more, rodale, prevention mag Emmaus penna says you can test body agreement to foods by eating small meals of one food and checking your pulse in 15 min. I read some races have longer

colons or something...long for cereals, short for meat, but how do you find out, short of cutting open and measuring? Which is what they did on bodies.

He whose income can be diverted to another's use without permission is a slave. He to whose use another's income can be diverted without the other's permission is a king.

Wish you would always put state or location on letters, helps to understand.

S.S. coding write wash. They give booklet. It is part geographics.

Herters sold for 30¢ plans for water shoes. They're just small open boats about 5'x6"x6" for each foot. I use only duper for stencils. I want to be independent of schedules, printers, even elect. Only other I must depend on is post office to deliver Pioneer. If someone wants to put an article, etc. on stencil, I'll be happy to run in Pioneer. 1st class postage is 8¢ for now, but 9 sheers 24# will go for same or more sheets of lighter paper at 3rd class, so may as well send max when possible, to reduce cost per sheet. I keep stencils of back Pioneer issues so tell me which you want, and I'll run off a couple hundred for you, swap, sale, gift, whatever. I want government books on Navigation Lake H 0 9, 229, 214, etc. Will buy cheap or trade.

Services depend on location and run from house cleaning/wrecking to office cleaning/moving of contract harvesting which I've done with group of 6. Pick, sort, clean field, pack so much in such and such time for so much \$. We keep culls, give money and food. Can be applied to anything, also fish. Do any job that takes your entire group. Fast, collect money, and move before taxers, organizers, etc. move in. More money for you, tax, dues break for the owner. Straights are all for the saved buck and will agree to most anything they can profit on. Not too much problem about their lawfulness if they don't get caught. Have good signed agreement and be prepared to physically insist on your payment if necessary. Pay or have all smashed. No problem usually. Their interest is to have you and others come around next time too.

For warm roof, make 2 out covered with tarpaper oven cheap wood or poles. Inner about 2 feet down; fill space with leaves, most. Line both sides with plastic sheet. Haven't done, but is logical. Walls same.

I want one of the new government survival gun kits of 22 or 22h with 6" barrel, action, steel rod stock that pack in 6"x3"x2" pack.

Ever try gorges to catch fish? Just straight silver wood, wire, etc. tied in middle to line. All stuck into bait. Fish takes. Rod lodges crossways inside. Used for thousands of year. I've read Al Fry's How To Survive Depression, it's very good. Lawrence Barcus, who publishes Wildcrafter's World, Homesteaders/Landcrafters Newsletter just died. Excellent zines he published since 1940's. Hope someone continues. Want used copy of Ancient Atlantic by one T. Hansen or any of Hansen's books.

Perhaps thin varnish on cardboard box would preserve better from mice. Many consider nuclear war talk passé as some think "ignore it, and it will go away". Wishful thinking. Or maybe they think man is just too nice to kill neighbors. Stupid either way, and their survival will be just luck.

Live beside a river and you consider the possibility of flood, right? Reality maybe ugly but it is real.

Pierre...don't you think the trouble has already started? I can name 2, 3 things right off the top of my pointy head that have doubled or more in price in last few months/weeks starting with foods.

The ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, AND FIREARMS DEPARTMENT: the U.S. Gestapo, is in full howl. In last few months, they have shot man in head (permanently paralyzed), threw naked woman outside her home while searched it and took much stuff, broke into homes in various parts of country and terrorized various elderly, women, kids, etc.

Dollar value still falling, Europeans don't want U.S. junk products, U.S. proxy going hat-in-hand to foreign governments (other government come to you if you still a powerful nation), leaders without ability (not power) to beat little country like nv, power failures, fuel problems, land values, etc. It's later than you think. If anything, your feudal divisions' prediction is too optimistic.

What are your recommendations for a lifestyle?

About bombing the Arab capital to stop terrorism: the same way that Arabs rationalized the killing of innocents in planes, etc. and the same way the Israeli rationalize their actions. Put pressure on the many and they will stop the few. The comment was not specifically directed against Arabs. Israel sunk our ship with no warning and have shot down plane. Hit the many and let them handle the few to avoid being hurt again. The Germans used it to keep Europe peaceful when they conquered them in WW2. And don't believe the TV/movies that underground heroes were behind every door. They weren't, and very little resistance was made. Of course, the Arab leaders know who the terrorists are.

Do you say rulers got their power as a freewill gift? Israel is not really Israel .It is Judah (Judah, Levi, Benjamin tribes only). Bible often mentions war between Judah and Israel. So even that much is a fake. The principles of world power methods are heartless, but they are real and it's how it is. Teddy Roosevelt, when a U.S. citizen was kidnapped in a mid-east country said to release him to the Marines; he was released the next day by a government that "didn't know who the kidnappers were".

Why don't you try an ish of vl with another full reduction? We could use a magnifying glass if needed and the information content would double or the size halved, whichever. I would put all the Pioneer ishs out in reduced size if I could afford it, as a reference. If I got 50 to 100 orders for any one ish, I'd reprint it.

A modern language could be made by using one syllable root words with just one meaning, the basic root being singular, present, neuter, etc. and either combined to make longer words (agglutinative) and/or use prefixes and suffixes to change (root noun) to another part of speech, tense, person, possessive, sex, etc. 2000 roots plus a dozen ixes and have a vocabulary of 50,000 words and its international since each root has only one possible meaning and is pronounced phonetically. Porn for pornographic, boil for biology (some 2 syl roots would be needed) and these, with ixes, would become verbs, adj. etc. Let's biol would replace "let us do an experiment or study the science of biology."

Mont = mountain, mt climber, mt climbing, climbed, climbing, climbiest (or hardest to climb).

The possibilities are endless with a recognized series of ixes. And why a b in climb? How is h in hut and grass hut or y in you/yes in vl 11? I don't like 2 letter letters like ch, dj. Use letters we don't need like c (let s and k replace it) or make a few new. One more row on a typer won't be that much trouble. Access = akses, view = vu, purple = purpul. I think I said Heinlein's ideas were good ideas, not that he practices them. They have worked in past ages/places. I have written him and know he lives fairly straight and just writes, but our present system has failed too. 3, 4 adults could be good and larger could be trouble. Seems it is a matter of personalities/desires. Some things work for some and other things for others. Most group marriages I've heard of are for anyone who drops in and are odds-on for failure. I don't really have any politics, I think. Like you, I dislike them all, but they do exist so I see them as they affect me and try to project probable consequences to me or for me. I see life is much better today in U.S. than in most other countries. I prefer our government to Nazi, communist, whatever. I usually give address for clips once with 1st reference in ish, or try to. Except for paper. A letter to S.F. Examiner, S.F. will reach it without street address. Liveaboard will have more boat info than Pioneer. I had lots of time to think of do and don't's for boat while tied in bunk in storms, etc. I have about 20 pages of thinks and reasons. Got very methodical after the 10th breaking part or inadequacy of other boat. Hopefully will be aboard soon, but what to do about books, etc.? Enjoy. -PAUL DOERR

A CRITIQUE OF THE STATE OF THE ART: Aikido Al's code would be broken almost easily, with the aid of a computer, in any message of two hundred digits (approx.) or more. In my opinion, most of those "cryptanalytic geniuses" are presently working for Fedbludg, a cautionary, if security is lifely important. Random number tables can be found in the back of many math texts, and are almost completely invulnerable when used with almost any sophistication. The completely invulnerable code is one which is never recognized as code in the first place. My access to VL moved after VL 8, I am without 9 or might say more elaborately.

Won't different dialects and pronunciations make phonetics difficult communication?

ELECTRICITY

The latest “Mother” mag has an article on “do-it-yourself electricity” and shows a way not covered in last V.L.’s. The bus dweller author uses six 12v batteries to get 70 plus volts to run his “brush type” motors and such and then charges each one separately as needed. Excellent idea except I can’t afford replacing that amount of batteries, even periodically. I have terrible luck with batteries and they aren’t cheap. Have found though that one can get used batteries for a few \$ a piece. They will seldom put over 3 ½ to 40G amps but would work in above situation since the volts are what counts. Not amps.

The author uses generator which is about same as alternator in the long run as the alternator gets hot so quickly that you can’t run it as long. My picture in recent V.L. should have an even larger pulley on the alternator since the thing really kicks out the heat producing amps and this isn’t as necessary in battery charging. I haven’t devoted as much time as I would like to a cheap way electrically but have hung my little \$6 charger outfit under my van (up in an out of the way spot) and will wait till L.P. gas rationing or a stroke of inspiration moves me further. – AL FRY

Hello,

15 feb. 73

Been surfing perimeter of system since '68. Spend most of my time traveling (20-25 lb. pack). Mostly broke, seldom hungry. Have lived months on peanut butter, raisins, and sunflower seeds. Army surplus my best supplier. Do all cooking (not much) in alum. canteen cup. Just bought ensolite pad, nylon net hammock (\$5 each) but haven’t tested yet. Wrist rocket sling shot best weapon. Lived several months N.J. watershed land in clear tipi 16 foot roll, \$12. Central pit fire conserved heat, fuel-less visible light. Use book matches (free) and magnifying glass as backup.

For money, I get blue collar or trainee gig for required time, then split. One co. paid me \$3/hr to learn welding; one paid \$3 hr to sleep (ha!) in a mineshaft; one paid \$3/hr to watch marker balloons (sleep, again), etc. Buy everything used, bargains only; then sell for profit when no longer necessary. Total income 1970 – \$440. Don’t worry about being detected. I’ve camped several hours on central grassy area of route 80 overpass loop. No one, including several police cruisers, saw me (although I was wearing camouflage suit). Vognostic would be good descriptive term for myself.

When I first heard of you people (pre-inform days), I was very relieved to find like-minded people. However, why advertise your existence? The more people know of us (and the more of us there are) the more chance for bludg reprisals. Be assured the only thing keeping us free is lack of organized opposition. Before bludg deals with you, they must label you (e.g. hippies). Why make it easier by labeling yourselves? My greatest interest these days is ships (the last frontier). A la Captain Nemo. For the worriers, there are a few astrological crisis years. They are 1982, 1988-9, 1992. Not sure what it means, but they will be HEAVY. Can’t think of much else. 2-4-6-8...meditate and smash the state. Seek keyboard and guitar (I have drums) for celestial music – or free-man band – or what have you? –TL

[EDITOR’S NOTE: Next image is on following page – it’s a scan of a handwritten note, in cursive, in a language created by the author, Joesif Bednash. It might be unintelligible to some (and not of much value), but I’ve included it for archival purposes. –Shane/Rayo2]

t Vonulief 28 I 73 * Joesif Bednash, 1515 Pusifik, Venus 90291
 Kakhifoeraya
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 may 73 vonulink 12 page 3

Dear Vonulife – Nearly a year ago, I sent for 3 back issues and then we were busy up in the Maine woods working on our school bus camper. I think I left your copies up there.

We have had good luck of making a V.W. bug big enough to sleep in. We got one kit for \$9.95 from Whitney's – the big auto suppliers. We thought the kit would be for both seats but alas! Just one. Ever since then, we've ordered 4 times and have to send back a wrong kit because out '58 bug takes a special kit with certain attachments. BUT, nevertheless, 2 people CAN live in a VW bug. You have to remove the rear seat and that gives you lots of space. We also have a Swedish-made hikers stove and can cook in the bug too. We haven't tried our stove yet. Do any of you have one? What is the right way to start it? We used canned heat previously.

Cave living must be great. We've been to the big ones – public – especially Merrimac Caverns in Mo. – Jessie James' old hideaway. It's huge and always the same temperature.

Have any of you spent time around Albuquerque? There's something magical about the Sandia Mountains to me. Also hope to get Mexico – any ideas or pointers?

We do a lot of "crafts". Right now, I'm making geo-dome inspired patchwork large pillows and they really are gorgeous and to think they are made from rags. Boston Center for the Arts is having a giant Flea Market Sunday and we are going to try and sell our various crafts. What do you do for crafts?

Hoping to hear from one of you, Marie Areedondo, Lynn, Mass. Do write!

Have you heard anything about Sun River couple buying the real old African Queen and making it livable? For her all shot to hell in the Orient I think .I'm trying to dream up a raft affair to drive a camper onto and making an "instant" boat home – or floating home – strictly on paper now. Any ideas on house boats? –M.

Hi Lan. Have not forgotten your note about writing articles, but haven't really been doing any of the things mentioned (travelling, freelance typing) and also typewriter isn't accessible right now. Am planning to send something when I get to it, though I don't know how I will do as objective reporter.

What I am writing about is I recall seeing something in VL that vehicles are registerable in Oregon by mail, requiring only a street address. I would appreciate very much if you know of anyone willing to have their address used, and/or if it's safe to use any Oregon address and one's own mail address. State of Connecticut has made insurance compulsory and with severe engine problems in Chevy van I don't need any more expenses (rather, I don't have it) *(for fee). I'm inadvertently rushed since this new law is recent and my present registration runs out Mar. 31. Any information/advice appreciated. Thanks. –SUZANNE

(This is probably too late to do you much good – sorry but your letter didn't catch up with me until just recently – and I probably couldn't have helped anyway. Does anybody in Oregon have an address Suzanne could use? You might just try writing Oregon Motor Vehicle Department, Salem, I think. Say you are now a resident of Oregon but on a temporary job in the east. Give your Oregon residential address (motel picked out of yellow pages?) but tell them to send mail to your temporary eastern address. Say, you'd rather register van in your home state, because you'll be moving back there in a few months and don't want to change (nat.). I think you could get plates and at least temporary title this way but I don't know. Complication would come when Oregon sends out renewal notice which would go to Oregon address. Maybe by that time you'd have a forwarding address. Or else you could write the motel – tell them there was a mix up – that you were going to be staying there but had a change of plans – lay \$1 on them – and ask them to please forward any mail. It might work. I haven't tried it.

You might write several different states and see which seems easiest to deal with and gives the best price. Louisiana used to be cheap. Anybody know about Nevada? Montana? (They didn't used to have a sales tax.) Calif. is no good. Their fees are high and they try to collect a sales tax on cars coming in. Insurance I'm not sure about (I haven't had wheels for a while). Oregon supposed to be pretty cheap registration and no sales tax. Anybody have experience with other states? –LAN)

Dear Vonu Life. We are much like you in activities and philosophy. We evolved from a small sports club to survivalists and then to living free. We are very much into introducing new people to outdoor living and educating them in the skills needed to live free. We feel that small organizations communicating with each other directly or through publications such as Vonu Life are more conducive to liberty than large national organizations. We have a small publication (The Ticonderoga Dispatch). We are especially interested in alternative economic systems.

You might be interested to know that our group plans to wash cars every weekend this summer so that we can raise money to be used to buoy wilderness land (before the developers get at it). This land would be used only for teaching outdoor living skills and as a camping place for our members and friends. Keep up the good work. –JAMES C. JONES, Chicago, IL.

To Vonu Life. Once whilst walking somewhere in Texas, I found a wooden bridge maybe 100 feet in length. It was late autumn maybe, because it wasn't warm as it used to be. As we walked along, the road by the left bank, a glowing white yellow light came crossing directly over the tops of the trees on the far bank and dispersed itself into the trees until it disappeared, evidently near the ground somewhere I suppose. We sort of went "AH", "WHAT", "SEE" and some other things. And I started running across the bridge for some reason, I don't know, and was followed by the rest. On the other side, where the light had lit there was a house. Whilst crossing the wooden bridge with the very rusty metal everything, I heard "Jonnie, Jonnie!!" coming from someone's mouth somewhere. Then, once, on the other side, we saw the house, lights like a home, and

approached. No one was there, even my friends. Just me and a feeling I had been standing a very few latitudes north too much.

This actually happened to me and your vonu life just sort of reminded me of it. My truck has a broken something but I didn't really like it completely because it is the first and only one I've had. I'm 26 and got it last year. I don't have a license because I've lived in a cave – quite nicely and a tipi too and a two-story treehouse. I paint in oils and actually am quite a schizophrenic and read Marco Polo. My mo's a French gypsie and dad's Hungarian. Lived in Europe and drank myself into burning an American flag with the underground on T.V. cameras.

Mostly, I live on the coast line. I used to live in Silver City. It reminds me of Cave Junction for some reason. Well, I'm going to mail this to your address, whoever you are. I live in Washington. But I am going to live in Utah's Logan City somewhere.

So au biento,
Billy

Greetings!

Feb. 9, 1973

Keep seeing your ads pop up. We truck camp in our home brew rig and are thinking of going full-time. Free City Park in Sterling, Colo. (nice). Free City Park in Artesia, N.M. – 3 day limit. Huge BLM land – FREE. Lake McMillan north of Carlsbad, N.M. – camp right on lake – turnoff is not marked on main road. –WALLIE, Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Vonu Life People,

City vonu, vehicle nomadism, boat living, and wilderness living interest me in that order. By next fall, I hope to be living in my van on the streets of New York where I go to school. Commuting is expensive and a real drag. Is there any information around on tapping into phone lines? – Eagle Claws

Hi. Got your address from Mother Earth News. Sounds like a good thing...And since you have a Cave Junction address, we must be neighbors and might even already know each other. Come and visit us – we live walking distance from _____ on land owned by a lumber company. They already told us we have to move and that's after being here for almost a year. – The Rainbow Family

Looked up on the map where Paradise is located. Is this a good area for vonu or just a good mail drop? I remember Oroville (nothing there), but the woods up towards LaPorte looked promising (a lot of gold miners and prospectors during warmer months, not to mention rattlers). Good luck! –W, Crescent City, Calif.

(The people who did vonulife before me had the Cave Junction P.O. Box. Vonulife's mailing address is only that. There isn't any particular concentration of vonuans near there (or anywhere else that I know of). A concentration would be unvonu. There are little groups and families and individuals scattered here and there. Most of the Siskiyou Region seems to be good for vonu, once one gets away from the few towns and highways and tourist attractions. Which spots are best depends a lot on what somebody is looking for. –LAN)

Dear Folks,

I'm gonna start looking for land in South Western states (N.M., Ariz., Colo.) come this April and Spring. I don't have much money and have illusionary (perhaps) visions of finding a small (3-5 acres) plot of land for a thousand dollars. Or perhaps some place that can be obtained through paying off the unpaid taxes on abandoned property. My needs in type of environment are suited towards the cheaper types of land (i.e. – would be satisfied to live in semi-arid conditions (plains) as long as water is obtainable. Also, would like to be within "commuter" distance of mountains. –DAVID, Denver

Dear Friend,

We've enjoyed your issues 3 thru 9 immensely. After months of planning and organizing, we're moving into our wagon. Your publication has helped us become more conscious of our intentions, and to reevaluate our place amongst the growing number of nomads.

I, too, believe caution and self-preparation are of great importance in the years ahead. But I feel you (by you, I mean the overall tone of Vonulife) are sometimes oppressively paranoid. We can easily reach a point at which we cause to happen the very things we fear.

And by constantly dividing mankind into "bludgs" and "vonuans" you erase a large portion of humanity. I don't believe such divisions are now necessary. They are, in fact, dangerous. We need wider, broader vision than this attitude fosters. –Will, W. Va.

A lot of people seem unaware of relatively cheap sources of dried (organic) foods by mail order. One I use is Jaffe Bros., PO Box 636, Valley Center, CA. Another one that ships postpaid is Natural Sales Co., Pittsburg, PA. Their catalog looks like a pill factory, but they also sell plain food. This might not be cheap compared to do-it-yourself, but it's way under local grocery stores, and the nearest source of most such foods is grocery stores, and the nearest source of most such foods is 300 miles from where I live (this county is bigger than two eastern states, but has less than 10,000 people).

In 1948, one summer in the mountains in California a bunch of us used a simple way of receiving mail – it might still work in 1973. One man simply asked the rural mail carrier if he would deliver to a box by the road even if there was no house by it. He said, yes, give yourself a group name, and mark it on the box. Every noon, one of us hiked down the trail to the box. I merely mention this as a simple way of getting food and other bulky things delivered within walking distance. If you're really hiding and scared, it would not work, but a lot of your writers seem to use trucks anyway, which are pretty obvious items.

Sir, Your Vonulife is a very timely newspaper for those of us with not much money. I hope I am wrong: we are headed for a depression, than war. 1929 over again, the only difference, we have social security, and those living on it could get away from these cities if they had someone to guide them. And vonulife is doing a good job, even if some of your pages are a little difficult to read.

The tele phone co. and other large co. get rid of vans when they lose their tax benefits and are good buys. In Vonulife 9 on 3rd page, a man wants a folding bicycle. I have one at 1/3 cost or will trade for something. Coast Ent., Loma Linda, Cal.

Dear Sir, I read a book "Looking Backwards" – best seller 100 years ago. He advocated dividing gross national product by the number of people. Since we are not likely to have that system in the foreseeable future and the second coming of 1929 is not far, the readers of Vonulife should try sprouted food. Cheaper and more food value.

Also recycling potatoes, onions, garlic, turnips, and carrots. You cut eyes out of potatoes, eat the rest, plant eyes, potatoes will be small. Onions green, eat tops, leave one inch above root, plant in damp ground. Big onions, cut around onion and use, leave green silver in middle and plant. Spoiled onions plant in ground. Garlic same as good dry onions. Turnips and carrots use them leaving ½ inch on top. I do not think they grow but you will have good greens. Potatoes can be planted on top of ground. Cover with leaves or weeds, keep moist.

If water is scarce, get soap with oil base instead of lye. Like palm olive. And use dish water on garden.

Before starting out, on foot or van, you should have a list of people in the vicinity where you are going.

The readers of these newsletters or magazines are friendly. Mildred Loomis. Green Revolution; Madeline Murray O'Hara Newsletter; Rodale's Organic Gardening; Homeopathic Digest.

I have a folding bike but how am I going to get it to Vallejo, Calif.?

Social security number, driver's license, armed services serial numbers, postal service are not confidential.

I am interested in starting a credit union, also a place where vonu people could acquire skills easily learned. Let's hear from people who are interested. -C., Madera, Cal.

SMALL ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADS

Make money distributing Vonulife 73 to newsstands and bookstores in your area. If you buy one or more boxes of 500 you pay only 40¢ a copy, including freight to you (\$200 a box). You can sell to bookstore for 55¢ or 60¢. Retail price is \$1. Send payment and shipping address with order. Unsold copies in resalable conditions may be returned postpaid for refund of 40¢ each. (If you buy 500 copies or more I won't sell to anyone else in your area (such as Chicago and suburbs) for less than 50¢ each during 1973 without your permission.)

I'll be glad to forward mail for people using this address. I already do a little of this anyhow. Basic charge is \$2/month, payable any: cash, stamps, check, money order. -John T. Harllee, Florence, South Carolina.

VONU FORTNIGHT. Live and learn wilderness-vonu for up to 14 days in Siskiyou Region, assisted by Roberta and Tom. We can show you how, help you: scout sites; erect shelter; finesse trails; prepare inexpensive whole-grains; forage wild foods; store supplies; cache valuables. At least 20 hours of personalized instruction, demonstration, assistance, consultation. We furnish: campsite, rain shelter, mosquito bar, ground pad, cooking gear, food, lamp, tools, books, and maps. You bring: clothes, bedding, and any other personal items such as snakebite kit and firearms. Extras we can furnish (extra charge): bedding, local transportation, attended vehicle parking, help setting up "permanent" shelter or supply stash. Your campsite will be in forested, mountain area; Batning Hole is clear creek less than one-half mile away; moderately secluded - over mile from nearest settlement. This is not a "survival course" - i.e., how to stay alive after a plane crash until one can get back to "civilization". We emphasize ways of living out of sight, in comfort, much of the time. We are still learning, too. But maybe we can advance you in your quest. One or two people. \$70; additional people in group. \$20 each; additional days. \$1 per person. Sorry, no animals. 20% deposit. Say when and how you will arrive; we will send directions to meeting place. Allow at least six weeks for mail to be relayed to us.

MONOPOLY: Why natural soil management was abandoned. MAL-NUTRITION - What you and I can do about it. 22 pages. Reference. \$1.00 pp. "One of the most important events that can occur in the area of advancing understanding of human liberty is for specialists in various avenues to apply the general principles of economic understanding in specific ways. James R. Roaf has done this in his monograph on monopoly, by taking some of the basic concepts relating to competitive economics and showing how they relate to natural soil management." Robert LeFevre, President, Rampart College. "If your pamphlet doesn't sell it will be because of an apathetic public. It is a masterpiece." -Ray

The E.S.P. Publications Directory lists over 600 unusual publications and organizations. Not only the occult, metaphysical and mystic mags, but the mind expansion, self-help organizations as well. A couple of dozen large herb dealers are listed as well as where to get cancer cures banned by the AMA and goodness knows what all. \$1.00 to "big mag" readers. 50¢ to V.L. readers. -Al Fry

A is A Newsletter. Connects you with the forces for freedom and individualism. \$5/12. Samples, \$1. 69 pp. Directory. \$3.

In the March 15 issues of the WIN Magazine, PHIL BERRIGAN writes about the Harrisburg trial. JIM FOREST examines the events leading up to the trial. Subscribe now and receive the March 15 issue free. Subscriptions: \$7/year. Single copy: 50¢ WIN MAGAZINE, Rifton, N.Y.

AGAINST THE WALL - leading the intellectual revolution against coercivist thinking. Sample copy, 35¢.

Secret mail receiving/forwarding. Absolute privacy guaranteed. Use any name. Other services available: specify your needs. MEMON rated. Details from: MYOB Services, Paradise, CA.

WIND GENERATOR

March 14, 1973

To Lan:

(About time I renewed my free subscription by sharing my situation.) No longer very nomadic. I get around Portland and its environs a lot as my friends and I are fixing up a house in the woods in exchange for three years free rent. I teach every Tuesday evening from 7-10pm at Portland Community College. The class is on geodesic domes; sun, wind, methane, and water power; inflatable structures and, mainly, on anything that helps people become more independent by giving them some of the skills the need to survive. I really find myself focused on acquiring all the knowledge and know-how needed to design and build your own home and power independently of the power company umbilical cord.

As a practical application of this, we are building a 15' diameter, 3-blade wind generator to power our wood furnace blower and water pump up on the ridge where we live and in class we are building a 30' diameter, 4-frequency, $\frac{3}{4}$ sphere dome for a local artist.

I have found Jim Stumm's methane power bibliography very useful and, since I learned a lot about windmills from Hans Meyer, I'd enjoy passing it on. You can read about WINDWORKS in the Nov. 1972 issue of Popular Science where there are plans for a small and portable windmill. It generates $\frac{1}{4}$ horsepower in 10 mph wind, 2 HP in 20 mph, 6 HP in 30, 16 HP in 40. The 15 footer, using the same glider airfoil shape and constructed the same way out of Hexcel paper and fiberglass, gives $\frac{3}{4}$ HP in 10 MPH, 6 HP in 20, 18 in 30, and 48 in 40 mph wind. People interested in all this can also read the article I wrote for the Portland Scribe "Wind Power" issue, Jan. 6-12, 1973, issue #46. It is a good starting place as it explains how the blades are built and is full of pictures taken in the workshop.

Visitors are welcome to the class. And anyone who sends me a self-addressed 25¢ stamped manila envelope will get a whole bunch of stuff I've gathered on wind power. I'd be interested in where they are located, the topography, and average wind speed so I can explain what's possible for them. Later. -Lee Johnson, Portland, Oregon.

A SOLAR SAUNA

I have recently built a solar heated structure that readers may find interesting. I'm sitting in it now as I write this. These are the weather conditions here at present: separate: 23 degrees F, winds: 5 to 10 mph, sky: partly sunny with a thin haze, time now is 3:00 in the afternoon. This structure, which I call a solar sauna, is sitting in the field out behind my house. The solar sauna sits on a plastic ground cover which is lying on the snow. It is entirely unheated, except by the sun. I'm sitting inside completely nude, and I'm quite comfortably warm. In fact, if I stay here too long, I will probably get a sunburn.

The structure is made mainly from corrugated cardboard. I pasted up cardboard boxes cut flat, 5 layers thick, with wallpaper paste. The grain of each layer runs at a right angle to the preceding layer. This gave me a building material that was $\frac{3}{4}$ inch thick, fairly rigid, light, a good insulator, & dirt cheap (cardboard was free). Also sheets could be pasted up to any size even if only small pieces of cardboard were used. Edges were trimmed off straight, and edges and surface cracks and holes were pasted over with strips cut from paper bags using water paste. All sides of the solar sauna except tone are made of cardboard. The exception is made of clear plastic stapled over a light wooden framework.

The structures has basically the shape of a regular tetrahedron (3 sided pyramid). The equilateral triangles are 4 feet on each edge and there is a collar of 3 rectangles around the bottom which raises the pyramid up to 10 inches. This forms just about the smallest structure that one person could sit inside of in any comfort. To sit cross-legged with your back in one corner is the only possible position. The panels of the sauna were put together with masking tape. It was painted on the outside with varathane for waterproofing & on the inside with aluminum paint to get a highly reflective finish.

The top pyramid just sits loosely over the bottom collar. Although, the top overlaps the bottom section, the construction is a little sloppy and edges don't meet perfectly. Some cold air does blow in, but it feels like a refreshing breeze. (I'm sweating quite a bit now.) The structure sheds rain and snow fairly well and stays dry inside, but after a couple weeks out in the weather, water is seeping up from underneath, waterlogging the bottom. The plastic may do more harm than good by holding water like a saucer. Probably the bottom panel should be made of wood and raised up off the ground. The upper panels remain completely sound. Only the masking tape is coming a little loose on the inside. This structure is stable in winds to 20 mph & perhaps higher without being weighted down. The tetrahedral shape means the transparent side catches the sun's rays for most hours of the day, without having to move the structure, as long as it points generally south, and there are no dark (cold) corners inside. No other shape would do this as well. You feel no cold or wind inside. The inside is a bright, cheerful environment. It makes sunbathing on any somewhat sunny winter day possible, and costs zero in fuel.

I see this structures as being of considerable interest to wilderness vonuans who are planning for survival during the winter in a cold but sunny locale. This structure can be built quickly and easily by one person, costs almost nothing, and will keep you warn with no expense for fuel down to perhaps zero degrees of temp and 20 mph of wind. The only drawback is that this structure is too small to stay in comfortably for long. I'm thinking about a similar structure which would be a tetrahedron with 10 foot edges. This would give a unit big enough for 2. You could stand, sit, or lie down in it. Even such a structure wouldn't be a complete solution, since the sun won't be shining all the time. But in combination with a good sleeping bag, much of the warmth maintenance problem would be solved.

This structure has certain drawbacks. For one, it isn't portable. But maybe a portable structure (backpackable) could be constructed on the same principle. Also it would be highly visible and conspicuous. But then, it could be hidden in trees and brush as long as the south side is left open to the sun. And it may not be visible as far off as a column of smoke rising from a wood burning heater. There's condensation on the inside of the plastic, probably from my breath, but it's not a problem if you avoid touching the plastic. It may reduce the heating effect of the sun by cutting down on the transparency. There's no condensation on the other surfaces and they are warm to the touch.

As I get out of the solar sauna, 2 things strike me vividly: I really am sitting on the ground in the middle of all this snow, and it really is cold out here.

Just passing along some information in case anyone can make good use of it. The coding of social security numbers works like this: The number is nine digits in the pattern 000-00-0000. The first 3 digits designate the office where the number was issued, e.g. 097 would be the Albany, NY office (I don't have a listing of office codes available). The next 2 digits tell when the number was issued; not the year, but the series. Currently, they're in the 70's or 80's. The last 4 digits identify the individual.

—JIM STUMM/Box 29, Hiler Branch/Kenmore, NY 14223

Okanagan Wilderness School

RAYO...not too much to say about Okanagan Wilderness School right now except that it's pretty far from being a "school" in any common sense of the word. As you know, we went all out for several years – going after boarding students and individuals who were open enough to live with the absolute freedom that our environment permits, and talented enough to free those city-raised boarding kids.

We ran into lots of trouble: first of all, most of the people were from the U.S., which means that they had no experience at all either with wilderness or with themselves. Mainly, they were just so "trip-oriented" that they couldn't see what was actually happening around them at any given time. Likewise with the older kids, although the younger ones were less of a problem.

We've always had our visitors – the ones who were decent enough to let us know they were coming – camp by themselves for awhile before making contact with them; that solved the outside infection problem as well as getting the un-strung a bit before trying to relate with them. After a

time, we realized that everyone over the age of about 12 was going to need some time to become acquainted with life, so we would have each couple camp alone in an isolated area, totally wild and touched, for maybe a week, then they would split up and camp alone for another week. Then, their kids, if any, would join them for another week, followed by a week with another family who'd done the same or who was already with us. This "therapy" solved nearly all the problems.

The only trouble from the bludg came from the fact that the Dept. of Immigration and Manpower was very much concerned about all these Americans coming in without legal status in Canada; they'd be subject to deportation if they looked for work or found it necessary to use our free medical or hospital care, or went after welfare. So we got carefully looked over. This was when the flow of exiles from U.S. fascism was at its peak anyway, so the Mounties were really hoping trying to keep up with all of them. In case you didn't know it, there are about 200,000 American exiles now in Canada (not "a few hundred" as Nixon says frequently) and many others in Sweden.

A big visitor problem was dogs; we made it quite clear to those who wrote ahead that we couldn't take any Lassie-trips, but lots of people tried dropping in. Many failed to find us, but most of those who did had a dog or two with them. One of our guys just looked up one day to see a dog racing toward him through a garden of seedlings; he grabbed his rifle and shot it dead without a second thought. And a few minutes later, these two Californians came wandering in yelling their dog's name over and over. Stuff like this kept us uptight all summer. Our wildlife doesn't like dogs, our gardens don't like dogs, our concern for health, serenity, and nice peaceful wholeness just doesn't like dogs. Aside from that, just the sound of a dog barking – or someone barking at a dog – is too much to take out here.

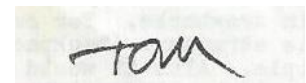
So anyway, we're getting back now to what we originally intended: a bunch of hermits, hermit couples, hermit kids, living wild and free over thousands of miles of wilderness. The 160 acres of "school" property has become our "village"; a place to come together, to trade, make things, fish in the lake, make medieval music, do Balkan dances, grow the food, and good around. We spend evenings often just enjoying the beauty of young happy faces, eyes shining in the firelight.

I was just thinking how long it takes us city people to get free. This is my 14th year living "out-of-doors" and most of that time in truly wild places. But it took awhile to become...I guess I'll call it non-verbal; when the mind-chatter went away, and everything seen, smelled, heard, touched, and tasted was experienced directly without breaking it all down into words. Direct sensual experience. I'd guess that many of our Native people enjoy open sense too, but I wonder how many whites? Maybe just some of us Vonu types who've been able to overcome the heavy condition which causes us to intellectualize everything. Comments anyone?

Well, I should type this over but I'd probably make just as many mistakes and slop it up, and I don't have a better ribbon either.

I have Vonulife copies #4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9; would like to have all others; really want to know how my kindred souls are making out.

–TOM ANDERSON



KEEPING IT ALL WARM

by Al Fry

Blundering along these years in such a "hard" world has toughened my brain far more than my body. The problem of keeping warm has been of course one of the problems and a skinny frame seems to exaggerate the problem at times. Time was when I was worked in the N.W. in the Summer and spent what I could of the Winter in Mexico but sort of couldn't find "my" people down there. Now I hover in southern California during the worst months at least. But there are times.

We were onto down coats in the early '50's, but it is an expensive proposition. Have lost \$50 coats and ruined my frame of mind for weeks. Still find myself afraid to leave the darn things sitting in unlocked vehicles. But tis true there is nothing so nice.

Fur is something I love and feel a lot easier about slinging over my seat. After all, who would want to wear such a hairy greasy smelly wonderful thing but me? I have friends who tell me they keep just as warm with the fur side out. But I think it depends – old shorter hair fur coats of the rebuilt “Goodwill” variety seem to hold heat while hair out, but “baby” when it's cold, I put my goat hair job in with the fuzzy stuff in.

Once some moons ago, I spent a hard-earned \$30 for one of the Mexican bulky knit wool jobys in San Francisco. Still have it, but found that they could be found across the border for half the price and are a little too susceptible to snags to suit me. Mixed alcohol and lanolin together and painted it over to get some of natural oil – water repellency back. Was very warm but needed a nylon windbreaker in windy weather.

Last month, I made the local “swap meet” and saw a fellow sitting down with a down coat that I fancied and after running off at the mouth and waving a \$10 bill at him for time, I guess he temporarily lost control 'cause it's not my newest coat. Sort of have a guilty conscience though – when I left, the guy looked sort of lost and cold.

Synthetic sweaters are like all other synthetic materials. They tend to exaggerate body odors very quickly – something wood rats like me don't need. The greatest thing I can put next to my skin is wool. Some can't do it, but I love it and it minimizes natural odor.

Fell in the ocean one rainy miserable day last month in Baha, Mex. and would have been a cold rat if it had not been for the wool I always keep in the car for such mishaps. I love silk and linen, but haven't had too good luck with silk lasting and linen is awfully hard to find. Cotton is great if one has washing facilities and can change as required. In fact, it's such a good blotter that a person could go bathless if he changed often enough.

Anyway, to get back on track, I think that for warmth, it doesn't make any difference if you are wearing down or stuffed saw dust as long as the inches are there. This is especially true in sleeping gear and shows why foam rubber is such a good cheap insulation. It's thick and not full of thin spots.

For years, I have been latching onto every GI down and feather bag that I can find under \$4 (swap meets, etc.). I usually sleep in them until they become oily and then I rip them up for stuffing. In my van, I have a winter comforter made from such sources and I baffled it well enough so that it is a solid 3 or 4 inches throughout. Down proof cloth is hard to find, but cotton ticking works and “rip stop” fine weave nylon can be found in a few yardage shops for a dollar a yard (gulp). I don't like to sleep next nylon but often use a cotton liner in such situations. Cotton bags are great for awhile but get oily too quickly and washing is a hassle – never use anything but soap (bar, etc.). (Try your Amway or Basic H and you'll find a pile of crud where feather should be.)

Also while I'm at it, get yourself a big spool of nylon sewing thread and forget the ridiculous flimsy cotton stuff that can let you down months ahead of when _____. Enough for the rest of your life shouldn't run you more than \$3.50 in a big city garment district and if you get tan, you can sew about any color of material. You can make some nice things if you tighten up the sewing machine tension spring enough to get a good tight stitch. And you don't have to sell your soul for down either. I have thrown in handfuls of downy stuff from lots of eatin' birds.

Space age materials with reflective properties have a ways since I bought one of the duralin gums(?) cloth bags in the 50's, but didn't see anything too earth shaking then, and probably wouldn't now. Anyhow, if this keeps someone from going out and spending a lot of hard-come sheckles for “commercial” new stuff, then I'm doing my warmest.

WHAT THE IRS CANNOT FORCE YOU TO DO

Numerous court decisions have established that certain illegal demands normally made by the IRS upon citizens cannot be enforced if the citizen claims his rights under the Constitution. Some are as follows: *You do not have to answer questions asked by the IRS. *You do not have to produce your private records. *You do not have to produce your private records. *You do not have to obey a summons issued by the IRS.

The IRS has even admitted the above in Senate Hearings, but strives desperately to prevent this from becoming widely known.

(This is from a sheet distributed by Marvin L. Cooley, Mesa, Arizona. Cooley also distributes The Big Bluff “one hundred twenty-eight pages of legal information on how the average American citizen can protect himself from the illegal tactics of the Internal Revenue Service”, for \$5.)

UNLICENSED DOCTORS

In the yellow pages of Manhattan, New York City, telephone directory there are listed about 6,500 names under “Physician.” According to a survey conducted by the Office of the State Attorney General, approximately 9 percent of these are unlicensed doctors. The Brooklyn Yellow Pages contained 13.8 percent who were practicing without authorization. (from Awake, March 22, 1973)

POTASSIUM PERMANGONATE

Have had people ask where to get the wonder solution Potassium Permanganate since it is prescription stuff now. Well, you go down to your feed store again – They use it in chicken water to keep the birds insides in good shape. Dilute it until it is a faint purplish hue. Infections clear up if soaked in it and every woman should use it faithfully as a douche if they are bedding down with more than one partner. Not only prevents VD but gets rid of the cancer virus, etc. which causes a great percent of middle age women to have female problems. “Studies have shown nuns and celibates don’t usually have the problem” and occurrence is less in a one mate relationship.” Refer to How to Survive the Depression. –Alfalfa Frank

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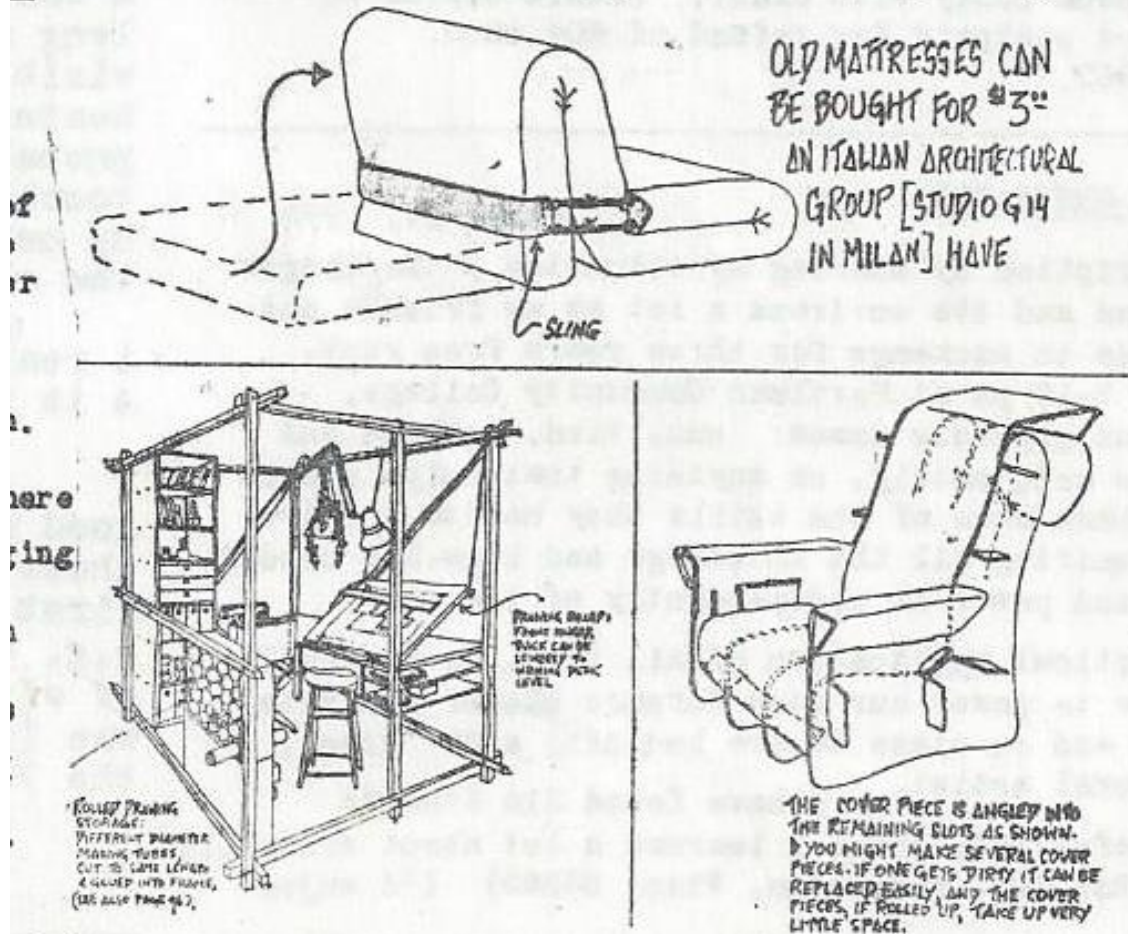
Traffic spy

Orbis III may be watching you. Orbis is an electro-optical traffic monitor that checks your road speed. Going too fast? Orbis will take a picture of your car and you, and your license plate, and record location, time, date, and posted speed. Orbis is a brainchild of LTV Aerospace.

Fast Furnishing

Do you want to know "how to build and where to buy lightweight furniture that folds, collapses, stacks, knocks down, inflates, or can be thrown away and recycled"? Read *Nomadic Furniture* by James Hennesy and Victor Papanek, to be published this month

by Pantheon Books. A manual of furniture design for those who find themselves increasingly on the road, the book is a design accomplishment in itself. The text is not set in type; it is, rather, drafted by the authors. So are the excellent illustrations. If the anxiety of moving your possessions is upon you, this book may be your refuge.



62

Saturday Review of the Arts 3/73 clipped by MYOB

A Case for Non-Coercion Based on Rational Self-Interest¹

by Rayo dec72

The ethical principle of non-coercion² can be stated: One should not initiate the use of physical force against a volitional being or against property created or acquired through voluntary consent.³

Many people espouse this principle. But most arguments for it are mystical or altruistic.⁴ Some are blatantly so; they invoke "God's Will" or "the Good of Society as a whole." Others are

more subtly so, and talk about “natural law” or “innate rights” without clearly defining those terms.

Some supposedly-egoistic arguments for non-coercivism are merely reformulations of Kant’s categorical imperative and thus mystical. One example: “If I deny inviolate rights of all others, I cannot claim such rights for myself.”⁵ A critic might respond: “My recognition of inviolate rights of all others will predictably have only negligible effects on what rights, if any, all others consider inviolate (assuming no God who enforces uniform rights).”⁶ Another example: “I don’t initiate force because I’d rather live in a world where most people don’t.”⁷ A critic might respond: “I, too, would prefer such a world. But I have no reason to believe that my conduct will significantly affect the conduct of the world’s population.”

To base non-coercion on rational self-interest, what must I show? Only that I can expect overall benefits from adopting it – i.e. from espousing, internalizing and habitually acting in accord with it. I need not prove that coercion would **never** be in my self-interest. My decision to embrace or reject an ethical principle is not the same as my decision on action in a particular situation, although the former may decisively affect the latter. An ethical principle is only an abstraction, and like any abstraction, only approximates what it represents. Someone’s conception-of-A is not A – a map is not the territory. But maps and other abstractions are often useful.

In rare situations initiated force may be in one’s self-interest, and holding a non-coercive ethic (internalized as a habitual response) will mean loss. But this doesn’t prove that adopting the ethic was irrational. Any principle is adopted **prior** to the situation. The probability of overall benefit or loss, judged at the time of adoption, is what is significant.

Similarly, in some automobile accidents one is more apt to survive if not encumbered with a safety belt. But this doesn’t prove that habitually fastening safety belts is a mistake. Overall probabilities of survival/non-injury are what count.

Most critics of non-coercion ethics espouse situation egoism, which is: Hold no general principles (except this one): always act according to self-interest as perceived in the situation at hand. Such a critic might say: “Why encumber yourself with principles? Why build spooks in your head? Why not play it by ear?”⁸

In reply: At any time I can consciously consider only a very small part of what is around me. I must deal with most of my environment thru habit and emotion. So the development of generally-appropriate habits is to my advantage. If I can walk over ordinary ground without deliberating about each step, I can better think about what is around.

An ethical principle, when internalized, becomes habits and attitudes. So the central question of this article reduces to: Is developing non-coercive habits and attitudes in my rational self-interest?

Consider the alternative: situation egoism. As each situation arises will I have time to deliberate? To the contrary, most opportunities to coerce are fleeting and require split-second decisions. Xerinye and Strakon¹ gave two examples. (1) You are one of the two astronauts in a space craft returning to earth. Suddenly you discover that oxygen leaked out; only enough remains for one man. (2) You are alone and see a big wad of bills lying beside an unconscious form in a dark alley. If one hesitates – in the first situation the other astronaut may strike first or barricade himself; in the second situation the drunk may regain consciousness or someone else may come.

In both situations one is apt to benefit from coercion if one acts quickly, without deliberation. But even those examples involve many considerations. In the spacecraft, more oxygen might be generated by electrolysis of water. Or the men can spend periods in drug-induced coma to reduce oxygen consumption. Even if no alternative to death is immediately apparent, a solution may be found with further thought. Might it not be wiser to chance this, or even to join in some cheat-proof form of Russian roulette, then to face possible revenge by the other man’s friends and relatives back on earth as well as possible destruction of a craft in a flight? In the second situation: Is the drunk still unconscious? (Is it a drunk?) Might someone be watching from an unseen window? Might it be a trap, perhaps set by non-coercivists to profitably punish or eradicate coercivists?

Karate training emphasizes development of appropriate habitual responses. A combatant who tries to think thru each move is soon disabled. Similarly, someone who hopes to gain from coercion must not only reject principles, he must train himself to spot opportunities and act quickly, else he miss or bungle them. This is one cost of coercion to the coercer: time/effort/attention which could otherwise be devoted to other pursuits.^{9 10}

A second, obvious cost is risk of defense or retribution by the victim or his friends or agents.

A third cost to the coercer is ostracism. He is not likely to develop close, long-term relationships with people he finds desirable. Even other coercivists would rather associate, between crimes, with those who are habitually non-coercive. Even if a coercivist is never caught – even if he never actually commits coercion, he gives subliminal clues to his attitude and habits thru gestures, expressions, inflections, mannerisms, and false starts. He may claim to be non-coercive, but in vain. Others will be uneasy when around him and will prefer to avoid him, although they may not always know why.

How serious a loss this is depends on his life-style and goals. If he prefers to drift around the fringes of big cities, forsaking close friendships, his loss may not be great.¹¹ But achieving freedom will be very difficult. Freedom, thru wilderness vonu, international mobility, urban hideaways and/or black marketeering, is enhanced by close, trustworthy confederates.

Many freedom achievers are especially sensitive to subliminal indications of attitudes and habits, because their freedom in part depends on spotting spies and other security risks. They, especially, are likely to shun a situation egoist. (How big a reward might be offered for information? How much could he rip off? Will he be tempted? Etc.)¹²

Conceivably a coercivists might become such a good actor his friends would never catch on. But this entails the greatest cost of all. He must constantly suppress, inhibit, fake – and live in fear of a slip giving him away.¹³ I doubt that he can do this and retain a deep capacity for joy. And without it his ‘successful’ rip-offs will be hollow triumphs.

Could a band of coercivists avoid these problems by agreeing not to coerce each other, only outsiders? This is often attempted. Every State is such an attempt. But without a general principle of some kind, any agreement is without basis.¹⁴ Some will turn on others the first time they perceive an advantage. And this possibility leads to distrust and sometimes pre-emptive strikes.

I do not claim that adopting non-coercive ethics is in the self-interest of everyone. But I conclude, that for myself at least and probably for most who seek to control their own lives, non-coercivism will maximize efficiency, probable safety, trade opportunities and emotional capacity.

AUTHOR'S NOTES:

¹ This article was prompted by and is in part a reply to: “Every Man for Himself,” Krista Xerinye and N. Strakon, July 20, 1971, INVICTICUS.

² This is sometimes called the libertarian ethic. I now avoid that term because many who agree with non-coercion, including myself, reject other elements of libertarianism, especially its strategy and politics.

³ This give rise to complex and controversial boundary questions such as: What constitutes force? What is a volitional being? What constitutes property, especially in the case of land and inventions? What constitutes initiation? But herein I consider only black-and-white cases of coercion/non-coercion.

With boundary problems, this seemingly-simple concept becomes very cluttered. I wonder if there is an alternative formulation (set of general principles) which handles boundary questions more neatly? (Analogy: Ptolemaic and Copernican frames of reference for astronomy.) But I don’t think rejecting ethical principles is the answer.

⁴ But altruism can always be resolved to either mysticism (“it is my Duty to (society, country, race, humanity)”) or egoism (“I enjoy helping others”).

⁵ The Categorical Imperative: “Act so that you can will that the maxim of your action should be a universal law.” To point up the equivalence to it (or to “The Golden Rule”) and its inadequacy as a basis for non-coercion, consider a converse example: “If I grant to all others the right to rape me, then I can claim the right to rape anyone.”

⁶ Xerinye and Strakon¹ hold that “Natural rights is an invalid concept.” Since ‘rights’ has religious and authoritarian connotations, I prefer to avoid the term rather than attempt to salvage it.

⁷ But if “subculture” or “tribe” is substituted for “world” this becomes an argument based on egoism, since one can choose and be chosen by a subculture/tribe.

⁸ I doubt that a situation ethics – absence of principles – is readily internalized. More likely I suspect, someone who claims this as his ethic is influenced by ethics (attitudes and habits) he has picked up from other people, especially as a child. It’s easier, I think, to replace habits and attitudes with different ones than to simply drop them.

⁹ Alternatively, he can choose a career in a form of crime (mail-order fraud?) not requiring split-second decisions. But this also involves much time.

¹⁰ Some of these points were raised by previous INVICTUS articles responding to Xerinye and Strakon.

¹¹ As a potential friend or business associate, a situation egoist may be considered less desirable than a traditionally religious person who, while not consistently non-coercive, is at least fairly predictable.

¹² About internalization: Conscious conclusions about what I ought to do, strongly affect my attitudes but with a time delay of several years. Assuming as much delay in others, I would not expect a newly-avowed non-coercivist to act so consistently, and would tailor any association accordingly.

¹³ This is also an argument against “conventional” living arrangements for vonuists and applied libertarians, which involve spending most time around hostile people.

¹⁴ An association (and agreement) among a band of coercivists could be and often is on the basis of the general principle: One should not associate with anyone who has coerced him or his fellows (but it’s okay to associate with people who have coerced outsiders). Such an association will continue only so long as anticipated benefits of future association exceeds benefits of coercion against a fellow. This depends on large part on differences between fellows and outsiders. The most durable governments and lesser criminal syndicates have been those different in culture or race from their subjects/victims. A wayward member could not easily/attractively “disappear” and find new associates.

A State invariably tries to indoctrinate its subjects, especially its lower-echelon functionaries, with either or both of the following beliefs: (1) The enemy is significantly different – not really human and therefore “fair game.” (2) The enemy is really the aggressor; the State acts in self-defense. In either case the State is trying to invoke general ethical principles.

(from INVICTUS, December 1972)

Thoughts on Freedom Strategy: Vonu/Activity Tradeoff

by Rayo 1ag72

Occasionally, especially when some project isn’t going too well, I ask myself: Can G and I achieve enough vonu for vonu to be attractive on more than an experimental basis? Or have we reached a point of diminishing returns beyond which a vast effort will yield only a small improvement? To conceptualize this better I made the following graph. The vertical axis represents vonu expressed in terms of mean time to harassment (MTH). Each vertical unit is approximately a ten-times increase in MTH.

The horizontal axis represents amount of activity; also difficulty of concealment. The units are:

• **Summer survival** – tent and bedding sufficient for sleeping, eating and reading. Occupants are one or two able-bodied adults. The occupants hole up; eat only stored food. The occupants come and go not oftener than once a season. Several months’ supply of food is on hand.

• **All weather survival** – shelter adequate for survival (not always comfortable nor convenient) the year round. Maintenance and trips are during good weather; only sedentary activities and minimal housekeeping are done during cold/wet weather. A several-years supply of food is on hand; there is no foraging. Occupants are able-bodied adults who come and go not oftener than four times a year.

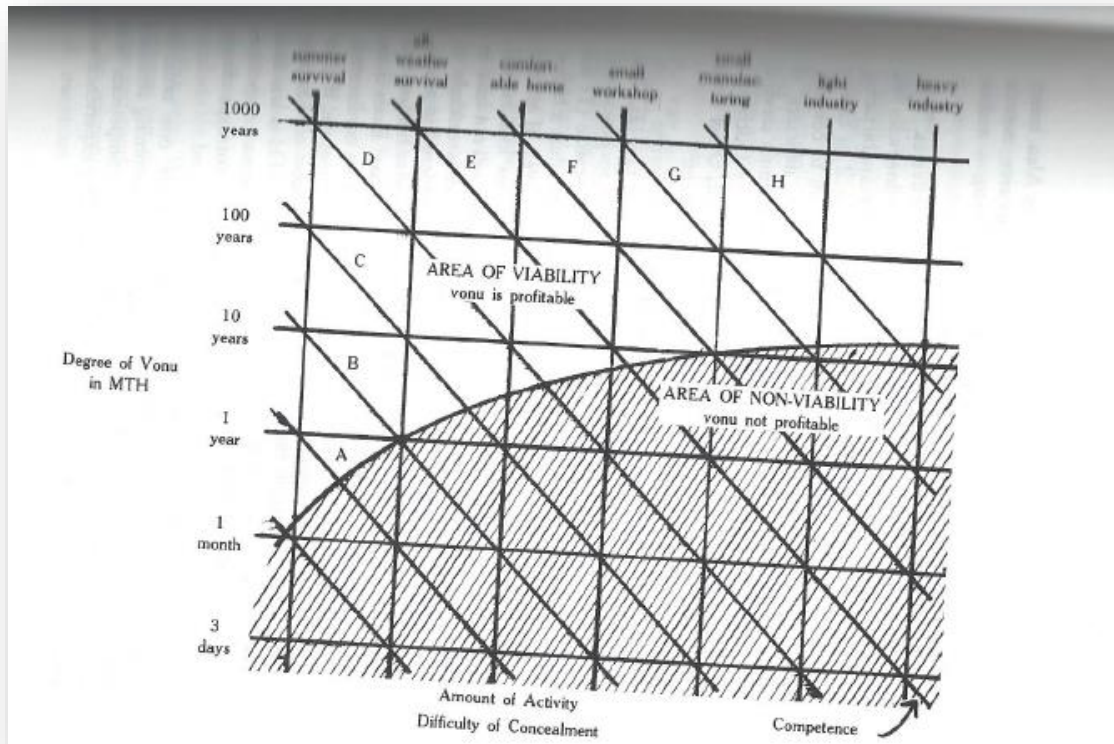
• **Comfortable home** – Size and amenities are comparable to a small apartment or motorhome. There is one small family which may include small children or a non-able-bodied person. The people come and go not oftener than once a month. There is some foraging, hunting and grow-holes, but they live mostly on stores. They have no export products except possibly writing or art.

• **Small workshop or laboratory** – 400 square foot floor space. Electric power from water, sun or wind. And/or considerable cryptoculture. Frequency of communication to outside at least weekly; transportation at least monthly. Export products may include research/development, fabrication of small special purpose devices. One family, perhaps large, per site.

• **Small manufacturing** – of items with high value to weight ratios. Aggregate floor space is 1500 square feet (may be several separate units). Communication with outside comparable to telephone/telefax. Transportation at least weekly. Considerable export and/or purchases of most food. More than one family involved; perhaps two dozen people.

• **Light industry** – many products possible. Also, heavy fabrication for local use. Daily transportation. Extensive outside commerce. Up to several hundred people.

• **Heavy industry** – and/or communication/commerce center. Up to 40,000 people.



There is nothing immutable about this clustering of activities. Thus someone with only summer survival might have a clandestine radio link comparable to a telephone, while a group capable of manufacturing might still import almost all food. But I have attempted to cluster together activities which seem to be comparably difficult to conceal, with each unit representing a 10-times increase in difficulty of concealment. Thus, a camp and supplies sufficient for summer survival can be easily hidden, whereas concealing a heavy industry (such as a 'conventional' steel mill) would be extraordinarily difficult. Other levels of activity are intermediate in difficulty and concealment.

Within the shaded area vonu is not likely worthwhile – i.e. total costs of being vonu will usually exceed the total benefits. The boundary between the viable and non-viable situations slopes downwards to the left, at least under present conditions. This is because (1) the lower levels of activity require much less equipment and thus a higher probability of confiscation is

acceptable; (2) the lower levels of activity are less suspicious and thus unlikely to lead to serious loss even if discovered. Thus a vonuan with only a summer camp will not look or act much differently than someone on vacation, and is unlikely to arouse suspicion if discovered. At most he will be ordered to move. Whereas a factory found deep in the woods (or otherwise hidden) will almost certainly be the subject of an intense investigation. Even if the operators elude capture, the equipment will most likely be confiscated. Almost certainly the factory will no longer be able to operate. If three years are the estimated time to amortize the initial cost of a factory (typical), the factory would not be built if estimated MTH is less than that. Exceptions involve illegal products with no non-vonu competitors such as drugs, with a very high profit margin and a correspondingly short time to amortize equipment costs.

The diagonal lines represent levels of capability one order-of-magnitude (10x) apart. Six years ago, when I was becoming seriously interested in vonu but had little experience, my competence was roughly represented by line A. Three years ago, after experience with living in a van, competence had increased to line B. Today our competence level is approximated by C. Thus, at present, we can choose among the following: a small tent, adequate for summer only, in a remote place with 100 years MTH; a larger tent and more equipment and supplies in a place with year-round access and a 10 year MTH (the larger tent is also more visible). When we want a home with amenities comparable to a city apartment we must move back to the van, and the best we have been able to do with it is one or two year MTH. If I needed a year around workshop right now, I'd have to rent space in a conventional building somewhere. Choosing a good situation and taking responsible care, chances are I could operate for a month before some bludg came around and asked to see my licenses (etc.).

With our present capability (line C) we really aren't able to enjoy a comfortable home the year around and be vonu. The price of living in a van is some submission to the bludg – maintaining a driver's license, paying attention to the legalities of parking in a particular are etc. With the van we are, in large part, enjoying liberty (legal interstices), not vonu. And laws and their interpretations often change.

So long as we have C-level capability we can trade off between increasing vonu and increasing activity. But increasing both requires more capability.

C-level vonu is attractive (except in a disaster survival situation) only to experimenters in vonu ('pioneers') who are interested in vonu for its own sake. We are somewhat analogous to experimenters with aircraft before 1910. These people built and flew aircraft (or tried to) not to get somewhere faster (trains were faster than the first experimental planes) nor even for aerial observation (balloons were more reliable) but simply to fly. Of course they anticipated future uses, but these would be profitable only after considerable experimentation and improvement. Someone would have been ill advised to build a plane in 1910 in order to (at that time) travel more quickly between LA and NY. Similarly our present capability at vonu has limited usefulness. Most people prefer a comfortable home that is relatively non-vonu to 'spartan survival' with relative vonu. We probably would too except that (1) we believe we can increase our capabilities, as we gain experience, to where we enjoy vonu and comfort the year round; (2) experimenting with vonu is, for us, an adventure – fun.

A minimum of D-level capability is necessary for vonu to be attractive to many people other than experimenters. E-level is probably minimum for development of much of an 'alternative economy' worthy of the name. How easily/quickly can we increase our capability by another order of magnitude or two? It is tempting to project past progress and assume we will keep advancing one level every three years. On the other hand we might be at a point of diminishing returns.

My present expectations are that G and I can progress to level D primarily by refining present techniques – living mostly above ground and importing most supplies. Progressing beyond D will probably require fully underground shelters and 'new' access techniques. (I'm more optimistic now (March 1973) than when I wrote this (November 1972). At mid-winter our plinu structure was doing well. And I've conceptualized life-styles which ease interface problems.)

Of course during the past six years we've made plenty of mistake which slowed us down; there was no one (we knew of) to teach us so there was much trial and error. Today we could probably guide an inexperienced but highly motivated person (what I was six years ago) to our

present level in a year or less. But we aren't especially interested in doing so until we reach level D; level C is not attractive enough to justify a "recruiting/training" effort.

Vonuists disagree about whether one should first seek greater activity or greater MTH. Some believe that the neophyte should first try to build up a large and profitable but non-vonu (conventional) business, then attempt to vonu it. Evidence is inconclusive but I believe the opposite approach is much more promising: become vonu at a relatively low level of activity, then attempt to increase activity while maintaining or increasing vonu. Points: The more people involved and the more interactions with that society, the more difficult any change of life-style. A non-vonu enterprise is apt to have little in common with a vonu enterprise; experience gained during the former will probably not be particularly helpful when doing the latter.

Concealment is not the only means of being vonu; there is also deterrence and mobility. But someone who employs deterrence without concealment is essentially just a would-be rival State. Mobility is valuable only in conjunction with some kind of concealment or deception; if one can be easily traced and identified wherever he goes, nothing is gained by moving.

To some, deception/concealment seems so difficult or unpleasant that they opt instead for liberance – playing "legal interstices" while remaining otherwise "conventional" and visible. For myself, I'm not especially interested in liberance, partly because millions of people are already playing those "games" for all they are worth. I don't believe I could come up with gimmicks much better than what thousands of tax lawyers, accountants, draft advisors, etc. are doing. And "legal interstices" are transitory – as quickly as many people discover a dodge the bludg move in to close it. Of course a particular vonu way may not offer permanent security either; there will be new detection, and counter-detection techniques. But once vonuans get "below" the "noise level" of environmental change caused by animals, weather, and/or non-vonuans, the bludg and their detectives will be at the point of diminishing returns. In the short term certain forms of liberance have their attractions and are worth using. But I believe vonu has greater long-range potential.

BOOK REVIEWS

by Rayo 25mar73

VONULIFE 73, edited by Lan, VonuLife, Paradise, CA. I haven't seen a copy yet, but I had an opportunity read many of the articles submitted. I'm not exactly an impartial critic. I edited a section on wilderness shelter and wrote several other articles. Haelan did the food section which is a condensation of her forthcoming book: OUT OF SIGHT EATING.

I don't believe that VONULIFE 73 equals the advance announcement – "a handbook and directory of vonu living" – at least judging from the articles I saw; some important topics are covered little or not at all. Nevertheless, I can easily say that it's the best "how to become freer" book/magazine ever, and second only to THE LAST WHOEL EARTH CATALOG as a general "self-liberation" aid.

HOW I BROKE FREE IN AN UNFREE WORLD, Harry Browne, Macmillan, \$7.95. I've only skimmed/read a friend's copy, so far. It's similar to Lee and Skye's "What if there was a millennium and no one came?" article, which was in LIBERTARIAN CONNECTION and VONULIFE; but much expanded. It's the best vonuist philosophy/psychology theory book I've ever seen.

HOW I BECAME...is not really a how-to-do-it book. Browne's own experience seems to have been limited to slipping through a few of the cracks in urban society. Specific suggestions are few (the only one I recall is: try to work as a "subcontractor" instead of as an "employee"). Emphasis is on liberating one's mind from the beliefs and attitudes of others as a prelude to becoming freer. But as a psychological self-help text, it is excellent.

Browne's narrow experience shows in his recommended reading list, which contains only theoretical books plus a few investment letters such as Harry Schultz's. Brown is not even aware of such sources as WEC and TMEN. (I don't think it's a case of being aware but hostile; Browne recommend the similar but obsolete RETREATER'S BIBLIOGRAPHY in his earlier book.)

This book is expensive but comes from a major publisher and so is likely to be ordered by libraries.

HOW TO LIVE IN THE NEW AMERIC, William Kaysing, \$5 in paperback. This is another book I've only had an opportunity to scan. The sections on motorcycles and publications (how to prepare copy) seem to be good, reflecting on the author's own experience. Otherwise, it seems to be a hasty, stale rehash of material published elsewhere. The nomadics section consists, in large part, of two long excerpts from vintage-1968 PREFORM-INFORM. VONULIFE is listed under its old name PREFORM, as a "commune", at an address it left four years ago! Much of the book is on acquiring land for small farming. It contains little how-to-do-it info; somewhere-to-get-more-info info, but doesn't come close to LAST WEC as a source for sources.

The purchase of "Vonulife 73" was another step in my gradual "divesting myself of the holds that would hold me" in search of a more compatible environment. After 12 years of higher education and 4 years of trying to convince the smug of the limitations of smugness from within the system, and after many years of discovering that citizenship and humanitarian concern are not popular skills, and that all human organizations tend toward mediocrity and corruption

On the 1st of July of this year I plan to motor and tent along the Pacific Coast north to Vancouver in an attempt to scout saleable coastal ecosystems, and commune with the local flora + fauna. Returning to L.A. in the Fall to ponder what I've experienced and then decide on a more permanent move. I am 34 years old, single, in excellent health and still optimistic in my search for the uncorruptible.

I am open and eager to hear from individuals or groups of individuals "out there" along the Pacific coast who might be interested in inviting me to their Sylvan retreats for an exchange of information

BARNETT S. SALZMAN, M.D.
PSYCHIATRY
410 NORTH BEDFORD DRIVE
BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210

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TWIMC:

Marcy 14, 1973

I'm a strong, healthy, and intelligent 26-year-old male. I've been struggling the last five or more years to carve out a niche for myself, wife, and child (!) in this insane, inhumane, and sick civilization. I know too much to ever be able to "fit in" with the mass neurosis and insanity. A better phrase would be "sucked in".

Ultimately, I'd like to have set up a wilderness place where children, wives, humans, etc. could be free. Anything I can do to this end, I'll do. I may never achieve it, but I will try. Like, I think I'll have to go off myself and search around in person. I have basic knowledge and experience that would enable me to survive and live well all for free. In other words, I'd need no money for foods, clothing, or shelter.

Like R.W. Emerson said, "The end of the human race will be that it will eventually die of civilization." I have a good little book by E. Carpenter called "The cause and Cure of Civilization".

We just want to live in peace, simply, and in tune with the higher vibrations, away from the low and gross, which includes most everywhere! We want to raise our own children in our own way, teaching them TRUTH. We do not believe in land ownership and feel that man has no right to anything except the products of his own labor and even that should be shared and the "owner" should consider himself as the caretaker and worker in partnership with the creator.

I work when I can get work and as long as I can keep it. I spend large amounts of money on books that seems to have potential to open the road to freedom from dependence on the factory and chemist and medical machine, etc. So far my collection is satisfactory and nearing completion. The vonu papers are a vital part of this library.

That about sums it up. I'd like to write to people interested in such vonu things and have them write to me, in hopes to help each other out of this mucky swamp, this quick sand trap that we all seem to be in whether we see it or not! -JIM SAVINO, Altoona, PA

Dear People, I'm currently a street musician and I sometimes build dulcimers. I wish to be with a new age group such as yours while I seek like-minded people. I plan to visit a number of such groups before I decide which is of greatest mutual benefit.

Basically, I'm heterosexual, tending toward a desire for variety. I have a son now living with my father. I may have a traveling companion.

Love,
Robert (San Francisco)

Dear vonulife editor,

Jan. 27, 1972

I enjoyed your publication and ideas expressed therein and have found inspiration for my creative work. I am composing a vonu rhapsody, now, and later will write a more simple vonu song that can be sung and played on the guitar. Would like to know more about the word vonu. What language? I am enclosing \$1 for the 1973 vonulife. Hope the printing is not too tiny. It's so hard to read! -Nancy, Tucson moving to N.J.

Answering Nancy's Question: According to Rayo in vonulife \$1, page 14, "Roberta and Tom of Preform have suggested "vonu" which is a contraction of "VOLuntary and Not vUlnerable"." So it's like "scuba and "fob". In that article, dated 25mr71. Rayo gives arguments for coining a new word rather than using any existing word. -LAN

Dear Lan:

Thank you for your information letter. It's a deal on Vonulife 73 for How to Live. I'll also send you the paperback First Time Farmer's Guide as soon as it's printed in April.

I won't mention Vonulife other than as a reference in Robin Hood because Robin is a fairly heavy book. I do agree that the best way for anyone to live is without having to put up a defense. However, we all remember what Malcom X had to say about this.

There are lots of lapsed mining claims in Nevada and Idaho so you might send any overruns around your area to those states. I'm strong on mining claim living as one is able to use the rules to protect – a most unusual situation.

–Peace, love, and sunshine, Bill Kaysing.

OKANAGAN WILDERNESS SCHOOL

(Somewhat outdated) 1) A community of aware young families concerned with the no-compromise survival of their children, themselves, and the earth; 2) a sanctuary for the children of those yet unable to leave the deadly cities; a retreat for “specialists”; a place to think, re-evaluate, and integrate – away from the stifling fragmentality of the institution.

We value SPACE – for children and adults alike. We see no reason in huddling together, forever surrounded by our own species. We're learning what it is to BE – not how to live as a group...

Being free of modern social anxieties, abstractions and trivia, we have much more of ourselves to give to our children. It's not necessary (in Canada) to isolate ourselves socially; our seclusion is mostly for environmental reasons.

It seems obvious that a child cannot learn what is real and meaningful from someone who is doing something unreal: teaching. In a truly natural environment – where normality is reality – the child may see with unclouded vision, and sort things out with a fresh mind. Thus, he is uniquely able to recognize and deal with irrelevancies and illusions.

We want to avoid the reactionary substituting common today: leaving one crowd (family) for another (commune); changing from familiar distractions and escape techniques to novel ones, or from one wet of comforting rituals to another; opposing social regimentation with impulsive extremes rather than genuine spontaneity and natural flowing. Since we find spiritual joy in the fullness of life, we needn't pursue it through vain, obsessive faiths, or any of the other delusive methods used by those in unique, unhappy places.

Although, we still have room for a few families and a limited number of individuals (including kids), we are no longer taking people as “teachers” or “students”. We find that our “teachers” often have the most to learn, and our youngest children – the free, unhurt, unconditioned little people born right here – are the ones who have the most to teach. We hold no formal classes (as should be obvious by now...

Our wilderness is the real thing and we want to keep it that way. We therefore exclude motor vehicles, dogs, more than a few grazing animals, and humans who have not yet learned respect for biological diversity.

A Guzzler For Desert Water Supply

First, this is nothing but a sheet to gather water and an underground tank to store it. One person probably needs a gallon of more of water per day for drinking, etc. and two maybe would be enough for drinking, cooking (though I advise eating everything possible uncooked for health) and some washing. 365 days per year is 365 gallons minimum per person. A cubic foot is about 7.5 gallons (1' x 1' x 1') so a 500 gallon tank would be about 6' x 6' x 6'. Rainfall is figured in inches so a rainfall of say 12" is one cubic foot on one square foot of land surface per year. You would need an apron of 23' x 23' to collect this 500g. If the rainfall were 6", you would need about 32' x 32'. Actually, doubling this would be best to allow extra for washing the apron, accidents, a year of efficient rain, etc. Also I would have two tanks, each of full capacity, in case one leaked or became contaminated. Also, any extra from a previous year could be saved in case of deficient rainfall the following year. Put 10' apart for soil support.

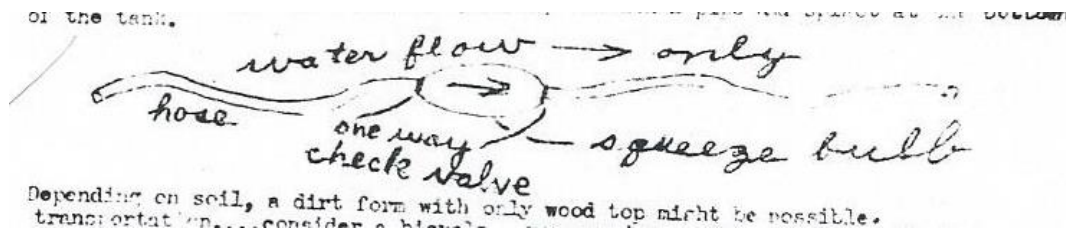
The apron is simply a large, slightly sloped piece of (best) concrete with a low wall around it to keep our most leaves, etc. It can also be made of plastic sheet (which doesn't last long in sun but is cheap and can be taken in during dry season), or rammed earth or bitumen (which could give bad flavor to water). The concrete need only be an inch or two thick, preferable reinforced with wire cloth.

The walls channel the water into a drain (a 4" tile is on) with a filter of ½ or ¼" hardware wire cloth to prevent animals from tumbling in and drowning and screen to exclude insects. This should be well fastened to resist claws, stones, etc.

The drain lands down into the earth...about 4' underground...the 4' of earth insulates against heat evaporation. It should be more-or-less watertight. Tile, again, will do.

The tank preferably is of reinforced concrete and you should have two, each with its own drain (one can be plugged to divert water into the other). A man-sized manhole, with cover, should be in the top of each to facilitate entry for cleaning, repair, etc. It will be covered with earth except when entry to the tank is desired. The tank MAY be barrels, or sheet iron, or even old fuel or gas tanks. I would advise painting anything underground, including wood with roofing-tar type paint to protect against rot and termites, etc. It may also be constructed wood, even scrap, (2x4, 4x4, even 1x) with plywood walls. This could be tarred and used as is but I would use plastic sheeting inside. The heavy (6 mil?) sheet (20 to 50' wide) sold by Sears and Ward building supplies would be OK, just lapped into place or cut and heat-sealed into shape. Use two or three layers inside the other, each made separately for security and check for leaks and holes before using. Colorless would probably be best as added color weakens material and may, in time, dissolve into water. Sand smooth the inner walls or pad with corrugated cardboard. Leave plenty of slack and glue, not nail, the cardboard and plastic into place. Tamp soil well around the outside of form so it will not give and stretch and tear the plastic.

The water may be extracted by a separate pipe, but if the screen is removable, like screwed or dropped into place, a hose can be used with a small pump. Even such a foolproof thing as the squeeze-bulb water "pump" sold at aquarium stores for a couple bucks (also Herters) will do fine, is light weight and durable. If you build a smial (underground house) you can just tap in with a pipe and spigot at the bottom of the tank.



Depending on soil, a dirt form with only wood top might be possible. Transportation – consider a bicycle. You can buy a tiny motor to attach to it. It runs a small wheel against the bike's wheel and gets a couple hundred miles to a gallon of gas. The tank only holds a quart or so.

OUTDOOR GEAR

by Al Fry

Here are my opinions on some of the petty gear not usually mentioned. Firstly, I try to get my hands on stainless steel in all my metal except knives (I've never had a stainless knife I liked regardless of price). I have carried around a simple Swedish spoon with a fork tang and dull edge for cutting. For many years, it sort of comes next to bill fold and pocket knife. A stainless bowl is always in my duffel or on my table and anyone scrubbing aluminum junk with creek sand long enough will appreciate the difference. I have also developed a preference for squarish stainless trays and such to replace plates – you can't fill plates up with juicy grub or a touch of soap water afterwards.

I don't claim that little cooking in aluminum gear will poison you but let that acid fruit or lemon juice set overnight in copper or aluminum stuff and you'll know you've got bad news. I've even been poisoned by copper screen wire which covered and touched my drying fruit.

About the best thing I carry in my van mess gear is a stainless pressure cooker which doubles as a pot, etc. I, just save a darn lot of time and fuel, both precious to a "simple liver".

As a waste basket, I have a big stainless pot which I have used as a bucket, cooked up larger amounts of grub in, filled with battery acid (while cleaning out the sulphated dunk in my ailing batteries), filled with grape juice after a session at the vines and in general greatly enjoyed after the demise of earlier plastic junk substitutes.

After struggling along for years with short-lived watch bands of all makes, I eventually got ahold of a good stainless Rolex band (something I haven't needed of late however).

Somebody's going to call me on overlooking Teflon coated cookware but some of the DuPont bunch pass this way infrequently and I understand even they won't use it. I suspect that the feldspar it's composed of is a pretty potent accumulative poison although I risk it all to make my frequent rice, corn, wheat, and flax waffles in a Teflon waffle iron. Corn and millet are impossible in an ordinary iron and I don't like all the refined cooking oil mixtures.

ABANDONED CAR IS ONLY HOME

(from the Toronto Star, Jan. 2, 1973 – clipping by us)

The rusted wreck of a car, abandoned beside a back road years ago, is Bob Taylor's home. He moved in, with his crippled old mongrel. Laddie, last August, when they were evicted from a shack on the farm he once owned 100 yards away. And there he stays, refusing help from welfare people who come from Chatham, 20 miles to the west, and from provincial police who stop by once in a while.

This is the inside of his home: A small oil lantern hangs on the rearview mirror. A cheap kitchen clock sits on the dashboard. On the steering column hangs a pair of threadbare socks to dry. The front seat is his bed. A soiled pillow, a tattered blanket, a battered coat for warmth day and night.

Laddie sleeps in the back amidst the old clothes, jars, bits of food, and anything else the 68-year-old man can gather in his daily tramp through the villages of this Kent County farmland.

What food Taylor can scrounge he shares with his dog, who, despite a crippled paw, walks as many as 20 miles a day beside his master. Taylor, clad in his battered coat and rubber boots, is a source of embarrassment, most of the rural residents say. But he won't give up his home until he's allowed to move back into the shack on the farm he once owned. The man who bought it for back taxes three years ago let Taylor live there until last August. "I'm not going to budge until I'm allowed to move back into the old house," Taylor says. The shack has been vacant since he was evicted.

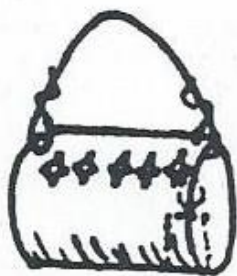
RAZORS

Nature gave me a fairly heavy set of bristles in front and on occasion, I have let it all grow out but ordinarily I find things go better with 'em short. To that end, I've used everything from straight razors to modified hair clippers. What I've settled for is any outdated Norelco electric which doesn't set me back over a dollar or so. If I clean my mug good before using, I find the Bonson is a faster shaving razor, but won't work on D.C. juice from my van

The little known secret to keeping any electric going is periodic sharpening with a very fine abrasive compound which can be had in some drug stores (razor sharpening compound). Blade people get an electric and promptly get disgusted with it in a couple of months after it gets dull – this makes an ideal situation for a penny-pincher like me.

Forget about good Swiss and German wind up razors and such. They are a waste of time. I've bounced around the Pacific with a Norelco battery job and been able to get blades in Australia in a pinch for my cord model. The things will even cut down a weeks' worth of weed patch in a pinch and I don't know of any others that will, without a clipper gizmo. A triple clipper blade is the best thing to take a beard off with and by grinding a little bottom overlap off a good Wahl clipper blade you can get close enough to almost forget razors. After using many brands and cutting a few thousand heads of hair, I can opine that Wahl is about the best clipper for the money. And before I forget, a bad hair shampoo to grease off your brush before a shave makes it all come off so easy. Any opinions? –Al Fry

CANDLE LANTERNS



Lots of folks are into these lanterns already; this is for those who, like me until lately, haven't yet discovered them and are still hassling with battery-powered flashlights that go on the blink at the blink of an eye.

Take a can, any old opened "tin" can, which is clean and at least 4 ½ inches in diameter, the can as shown. About an inch back from the open end of the can, punch a series of five or six small holes under the handle at the top of your lantern-to-be.

Now cut an ordinary white candle to size – about 3 ½ inches. Light it, drop some wax on the bottom of the lantern under the holes and plant the candle upright in the wax.

You're in business. Go out in the dark and try it. These lanterns are fine even in rain and moderate wind. And they throw plenty of light, you'll be surprised how much. Candles, it is well known, are lots cheaper than batteries, and in these lanterns they last about 1 ½ to 2 hours of "operating time". –By Guy du Lac

(reprinted from The Green Revolution, Nov. 71)

SYNERGY: A Working Conference on Transitions & Social Change. Stanford, Calif. May 9, 10, 11, 1973. "Synergy" will be a gathering of more than 500 "resource" people from the Rockies west – people who have begun to build new institutions, create new work forms, and live out new relationship, and who want to work on common problems collectively. Everyone who attends will be a full participant and resource to others.

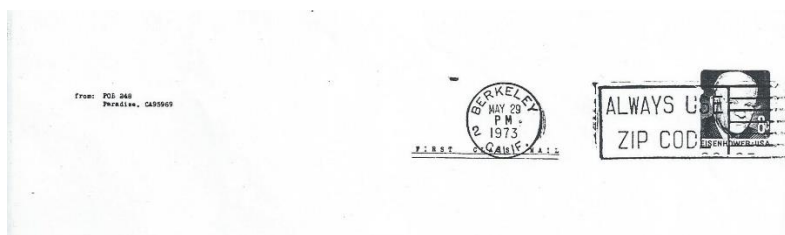
We'd like this to be a real nuts-and-bolts conference which gives folks the opportunity to share problems, experiences, ideas, energy – through problem-solving and brainstorming sessions, information exchanges, small group raps, etc...

On Saturday and Sunday, the conference will open out into a two-day Spring Festival for the Bay Area community aimed at raising consciousness, sparking new ideas, and generally having fun. –Project Synergy. Old Union Clubhouse, Stanford, Cal. (Past, but they had one last year and may have another next year.

CUSTOM HINTS

If you have spent at least 48 hours in Canada and have declared no exemptions within 30 days, you are allowed an exemption of \$100 on goods brought back to the U.S. Exceptions to the above rule apply to liquor and cigars, and to purchases at the duty free shops as follows...Duty-free shops: Liquor purchased at the duty-free shops on the U.S. border must be consumed in Canada.

Items within the \$100 limit (\$10 if you spend less than 48 hours in Canada) can be declared ORALLY. All items must be declared IN WRITING if their total value is more than \$100...or if a customs duty or internal revenue tax applies to any article. Families can add their allowances. A family of four, as an example, may claim up to \$400 in exemptions even if articles acquired by one member...exceeds \$100. Gifts of not more than \$10 value can be mailed or shipped from Canada to U.S. residents... (This is Ontario. Sept./Oct. 1972)



VONULINC 13, JULY 1973

Vonulink is published every two months as a readers' forum and supplement to vonulife. Compiled by Lan.

VonuLife Staff:

April 30, 1973

Congratulations for the excellent job in putting together the March 1973 Vonulife. I was absolutely amazed and very pleased with the subject. Far Out Eating for Ten Dollars a Month. Since 1968, when I first became aware of natural hygiene, I have spent over \$250 on health books, mostly food and nutrition, and far out eating has some information that I had not come across. In my opinion Far Out Eating cannot be improved upon and will be the standard for vonuans or anyone trying to eat for maintaining the best of health.

None of the ten books I have about edible wild plants stated that milkweed pods can be eaten raw, but Rodale's encyclopedia of organic gardening, page 1107, stated that they can. I ate about four ounces in two days raw with some other food and did not notice any effects. I consider Donald Kirk's book on edible wild plants the best.

By chance I have noticed that two cultivated food crops affect me slightly. When eating two or three cantaloupes, over five inches in diameter, within one hour, I get a slight groggy feeling in the head. Almost the same feeling comes over me when eating for our five pounds of tomatoes within two hours. I wonder how many, if any, other people would be affected if they duplicated my eating experiment.

Winter in the Woods by W.J.P. is a very informative article for one attempting to go vonu. If people would investigate natural hygiene, there would be no qualms about being away from medical help.

I picked black oak acorns from this area and to prepare them, I ground them in an old Elgin coffee grinder and leached the tannin by squeezing it in a bag using my hands. I did not even use any hot water. I ate it after drying as is and mixed with other foods and consider it good feed and would not hesitate to live on it for an extended period of time. One writer about edible plants says black walnuts are strong (the meats) and most people prefer them cooked. Another writer states that the black walnut meats are inferior to Persian walnuts. I cannot understand how an intelligent mind can make statements as the above. I have collected seven bushels and extracted approximately 30 pounds of nut meats and ate it as my only protein for 70 to 80 days uncooked or unheated in any way. -T., Indiana

Dear Lan,

I've lived and want to continue to live anonymously, but the few contact I've had and invited to visit with me have always been most welcome. But quite frankly I'm a loner in the main, then I'm able to fold my tents and slide quietly away whenever I have the desire to explore other places, and of course to avoid getting entangled in any way.

For myself, I've always insisted on looking like any other guy going to work or whatever and not flaunt obvious conventions by wearing odd looking clothes, dirty beards and long hair. In this way, I can always pass off as just another guy "that lives among us and doesn't disturb any one" (remarks by neighbors when I live temporarily in a populated area.) But then I'm older than many of your readers so perhaps a little more crafty in my camouflage!

Sincerely,
Bob White

Vonulife,

Not sure exactly what your topic is, but I'm into a countryside where the peasants build their houses underground and leave above ground less scarred. And as a naturalist I'm into the wilderness. –Dana, New York

To Anyone Interested:

I am 25, 6'3", weigh 178, have dark hair and eyes, and a lean hard body. Right now I'm living on a communal farm near Perris, Calif. in the desert. The people here aren't really very together and the region just isn't right for me. I have lived most of my life in southern California. I went to college to study Philosophy. I studied all that I wanted to and quit school. I traveled around the world about 4 ½ times. When I was 20, I got busted in the Middle East on a false passport charge and spent about 2 years in prison and immediately after that, another 15 months in a U.S. prison. Last summer, I was released. While in prison, I changed my worldview. I now live to enjoy life...being close to nature, the mountains, trees, rivers, the ocean, and the sunshine and most important relating to other people with love and compassion.

As far as my skills are concerned, I am resourceful and can do work life electrical wiring, plumbing, gardening, painting, typing, etc. I am a qualified travel agent and know about all phases of booking and ticketing, tours both independent and package, etc.

My interests are in living free as is possible in the world today. In living with one or more guy who can develop a deep emotional and spiritual relationship with me. I am gay and would like to live with another gay guy if possible. My interests in sports include tennis, swimming, and surfing. I really turn on to rock music and am learning to play the electric guitar.

I would like to hear from anyone would be interested in meeting me. In the Siskiyou Region or the coast of B.C., I'd like to hear from anyone who would help me get a place to live. I will probably bring supplies to setup a plastic tent, but would like to know other Vonu people in the area that I could get advice from and could socialize with.

My address can be published and it's also o.k. to publish my telephone number. This letter can also be published without my name or address if desired.

Love & Peace,
Mark Payne

Dear Lan:

Thanks for listing T.S.C. in your last issue. The T.S.C. has a new P.O. Box but continue to mail to my address. My compliments to you on VONU LIFE, it is truly the most realistic and useful publication I have found. Enclosed is a brassard now on sale by the T.S.C. for \$1.50 each. We think they are kinda nice and most important they start conversations that help us find more as you would say Vonuers. ("Live free" and green tree on red, white, blue vertical strips). Yours truly. –James C. Jones, Chicago, IL

COMMENTS

by Rayo 21je73

GROUP MARRIAGE: To E, Vonulink 12: Something I said (VL11) must have upset you. But I'm not sure what or why.

My "abstract algebra" was ABBREVIATIONS employed so I could give a specific example briefly; it was not FORMULAS – i.e., I did not specify that people rotate in any particular way, I merely described possibilities.

The main structural element of a swia – adults are usually together in pairs – is also the main structural feature in monogamy – one of the two relations you consider compatible with "libertarianism".

You defined your number-two relation only in terms of what it ISN'T – it's not swinging, group marriage, nor monogamy. What is it? How about a specific, detailed example?

If I become emotionally involved with someone and am separated from her for long periods, I find this unpleasant, especially if she's in a danger zone. If, on the other hand, we arrange to live near each other and visit frequently, this is a "structural feature". So how can I have emotional involvement without structure?

What were the structures of the group marriages you refereed? With you experience I expect you could offer many helpful suggestions on effective and ineffective forms of relation. Unfortunately your VL12 letter wasn't very informative.

I don't think that structure is necessarily incompatible with vonuism, so long as it's structure of one's own choosing which can be terminated on reasonable notice, NOT structure coercively imposed by others – e.g., the state. If I can reduce outside interfacing and attendant vulnerability by joining even a “highly structured” group, this might be a wise trade-off.

POLITICS: To Paull Doerr, VL12: “Put pressure on the many to influence the few”? This is the premise of many a tyrant and mad bomber. For an analogy: Suppose my life has been threatened by someone named Paul, but I don't know who or where he is. Should I go around killing people named Paul at random, so as to put pressure on All-The-Pauls to find the guilty Paul and stop him?

The population of an Arab city you propose bombing includes little children, people opposed to that government, people having little or nothing to do with the government, etc., as well as culpable officials and their supporters. To regard all these people as part of an abstraction called “Iraq” and hold all responsible for the acts of any of them, is as barbarian as imputing guilt to everyone named Paul.

But, regardless of the morality of your scheme, why be an unpaid, unwanted advisor to murderers, thieves, and scoundrels, when you could be spending your time on more rewarding activities?

TITLES: To Lan, Vonulife 1973: All in all I think you did an excellent job putting VL 1973 together. But I have one complaint, Most of the titles on my articles were NOT mine, and I believe some were misrepresentative – especially, “Smumans: The Super Hobos”. I don't know enough about traditional hobos to know how much similarity there might be. But smumans I'm aware of have been doing it a few years at most whereas some hobos have been at it for decades – and might consider themselves “super smumans”.

I'm sorry if you felt obligated to publish all the articles you solicited. I believe some of your own which you left out were potentially more valuable (judging from the rough drafts) than some of mine which you published.

ROMANTIC ARTS DEPARTMENT: To Thor Xavier Challenger, Libertarian Connection #35: As soon as I finish the comic book I'm writing (Dr. Ferris meets Dracula), I'll do an adventure novel in which Fi Fai Fo, a multi-millionaire Zen-combat master, is lured by a treacherous Mixed-premise Conservative, with talk of billions in gold, into a mine and ambushed by 84 IRS agents disguised as piles of horse dung. Fi disables 8 of them with his famous gzick jabs of kicks, but the 84th sneaks up behind Fi with a power move and buries him under a ton of horse dung. They dig Fi out, tie him to a buzz saw, and prepare to amputate his valuable right arm for back taxes. But Dzuuna, the vonuan heroine, arrives in the nick of time, throws an aerosol psilocybin bomb in to the ventilation system, and turns off all the lights. The bludg freak out and Dzunna rescues Fi. They elude a posse of orcs and trolls, led by Dr. Ferris, and reach Dzunna's hideout cave, previously stocked with a thousand year supply of Vitamin E and other goodies from Dawn Immortality Service, where they outlive the State happily ever after! So there!

Editor, Vonulife

April 12, 1973

Enclosed clipping from Toronto Star may be of interest to vonu readers. It would seem that gypsies and vonu people have much in common.

There was a book published years ago by a female gypsy titled “Romany Life”. I read an abridged version of the book in Reader's Digest and found it fascinating. There are some very good gypsies and most of them acquire craft skills.

Webster's says of gypsies: “One of a wandering Caucasian race coming originally from India”. They have been around for fifteen centuries or more and have suffered because of the love for freedom is so strong in them. –Thomas Skinner, West Lorne, Ontario.

LIFE IN THE SHADOW OF EXPRESSWAY: BRITISH GYPSIES SAY IT'S PROGRESS

By Frank Jones, from the Toronto Star, April 5, 1973, condensed

Eric Gray, a bluff, smiling Yorkshireman, pulled his old truck and house trailer onto a vacant lot under an expressway interchange in West London a week before Christmas. While traffic roared overhead on the expressway, Gray, his wife, and five children went about setting up home – and waiting for the police to arrive.

The people in nearby homes like wary householders all over Britain, had their eyes open for people like the Grays and quickly passed the message to their local council: The gypsies are here. But three months later, through the tact of the gypsies and a measure of understanding from Hammersmith Borough Council, the Grays are still camped by the expressway. And about a dozen more gypsy house trailers, three horses, and a goat named Kitty have arrived.

The image of Britain's 50,000 "traveling people" is changing fast. They have long since given up picturesque horse-drawn trailers in favor of modern, truck-drawn ones. And instead of camping out in the woods of rural England, it's now estimated that two-thirds of them now live in cities, leading a twilight existence on flattened urban renewal sites and in any cranny they can find to park.

In 1968, the British government passed a law requiring every municipality to set up an official campsite for gypsies, each accommodating a maximum of 15 trailers...From April 1, municipalities which have met the minimum 15-trailer requirement can seek powers to force all other gypsies outside their boundaries.

One example of the act's injustice is that Birmingham, Britain's second largest city of 1,013,000, has no legal obligation to provide more than 15 spaces, and is now trying to evict 30 families camped illegally on a vacant site called Druid's Heath. There are an estimated 400 Romany families in Birmingham, nearly all of which could be expelled.

Britain's travelling people have also found themselves steadily restricted under the terms of a 1959 act forbidding them to camp alongside highways, and a 1960 trailer site law which gave local authorities the right to close up sites even though, in many cases, the gypsies had bought the land.

"We have to stop where we can find work," said Gray, who specializes in buying up junked electric motors, burning out the insulation, and selling the salvaged metal for scrap. "When we have worked out an area, we have to move on. And the trouble is that they won't let us burn the motors on official sites, so they're no good to us."

They gypsies, whose place of origin is still uncertain, earn their living in all kinds of trades from scrap metal to asphalt paving to buying up antiques door-to-door. But to an increasingly urbanized and regulated society, the existence of a people as free as the air can only seem an affront, the prejudice against the gypsies seem to be growing.

"It's hard work, and people make it harder for you," said Billy Hill, a 28-year-old father of four, on the Hammersmith site. "I have tried living in a house, but the neighbors find out you're a gypsy and they try to get rid of you."

They're a bit more civilized around here," said Arthur Riley, dark-haired with a passionate Romany face. "But in Scotland, they're really tough. Up there, you move quickly or the police give you a real kicking. They send along their tough boys to move you along."

A few weeks ago police around Leicester forced them to move six times in two days. "They don't even give a chance to make the kids a meal, and we finished up on a dirty, stinking official site that 1 mile from any shops," Mary Kennedy said as she poked up a fire for morning tea. "It's a hard life. The children don't get a chance for an education – we've taught ours to read and write ourselves – and if you're ever ill, you have the devil's own job to get a doctor to come and see you."

The temporary site under the expressway was typical of the gypsies' guile in coping with local authorities. The land is owned by the British Broadcasting Corp, and the traveling people quickly found a BBC water main and tapped it for their supply – until it was turned off. But the camp site is on the boundary line between two boroughs, and Cook has skillfully played off one set of officials against the other, so that today there are brand new toilets erected on the site by Hammersmith with their own water supply.

A factory owner next door had been fighting for two years to get water supplied to his plant, and was some impressed by the gypsies' skill in getting water that, according to Cook, he paid them \$25 to find a main and tap it for him, too.

“There’s something to be said for it,” said Mrs. Kennedy, taking her kettle off the fire and ignoring the paper blowing around the site and the trucks thundering overhead. “It’s a healthy life and you are free. It’s quite comfortable here.”

THE GYPSY

By Gemini Seneviratne – from The Toronto Star

The 4 million gypsies of Europe are getting restless. For 15 centuries since the Rom – to use their correct, though less familiar name – filtered into Persia and later into Europe, they have suffered endless persecution.

To medieval mind, the Rom, coming from the Turkish side of Europe and speaking an unknown tongue, were suspect and inferior. The church rejected them because it opposed fortune telling and the practice of magic. They became the first persecuted minority in Europe, opposed by the pillars of medieval society, the church, the state, and the trade guilds.

The ruling classes regarded them as useless because they could not be easily exploited. The Rom stayed outside the feudal, and later capitalist and socialist society, having become neither serfs nor conformist wage-earners. Thousands died in the Spanish Inquisition. Hitler’s Nazis exterminated between 250,000 and 500,000, and, unlike the Jews, got not financial compensation after World War II, let alone a new homeland.

The Minority Rights Group, an international research and information body based in London, which exists to expose the plight of minorities in all parts of the world, recently commissioned Gratton Puxon, a gypsy author and prominent worker for Rom rights, to investigate the position of the community in Europe today. He found gypsies still subject to neglect, misunderstanding, ingrained social prejudice and outright police harassment.

Police in Belgium have instructions to prevent any of the nomads from crossing the frontier and in Spain, gasoline we used to burn huts in a gypsy encampment at Barcelona to improve the landscape for tourists.

Hello,

May 19, 1972

Urgently and in brevity, I will talk straight.

The only hope for man’s freedom are in the invisible people wherever they are; they form the basis of my religion.

Person-to-person, they work bypassing computers, cameras, and investigators. They are the Johnny Appleseed’s planting creative ideas wherever they go...at least how I define them.

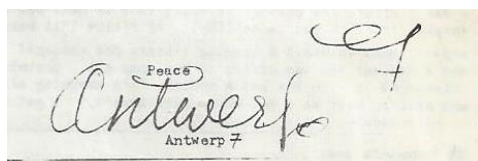
More aware am I now of the Pauline erroneous doctrine “That all should be brought to light”; this is contrary to “do the good deed in secret” and “let your light shine before the others” – really means one or two people along the way (if it’s anymore, they will crucify you before your time!). As it stands today, State, Church, and Organization would have us spread eagle tummy down. No.

Here’s my message, pass it along, write it on little scrolls, and place quietly everywhere!

“There are some invisible people communicating with us from patches and patterned pebbles when they meet along the road (usually deep in the forest). They swap. They have pebble barter markets. Some trade old rusty tin cans or pieces of weathered wood.”

And this is my religion.

Peace,



8 GORT / SATURN'S DAY 10/7/72

My own reading about intentional communities confirms yours – namely that communities nucleated by a religious inspiration, taking their inner-life nourishment/meaning from such an inspiration, last longer, and have a better quality of life.

Religion essentially has to do with a person's sense of connection with nature/cosmos/All. Religious practice, taking part in religious ceremonies, is an affirming, a deepening and strengthening and enriching, of that sense of connection and a revealing of the significance of it for the person involved.

So – I would say that any ceremony that does the job is okay. But to really do the job, I think it has to be poetic, have a touch of beauty/poetry/art/wonder. It has to be a heightened moment or hour, an intensified moment or hour. It exalts nature, and ourselves as a part of nature, our kinship with nature. And it also creates and sustains and enlarges meaning through the symbols and ceremonial practices. Different lifestyles certainly will arrive at different ceremonies for similar occasions, whether the celebration of a seasonal climax or the celebrating of a birth or marriage or puberty or death. I'm using the word celebration in a very broad sense, of course. The test of a ritual is whether you feel better or worse, more satisfying, and fulfilling, inwardly richer.

So-called primitive peoples – of ancient times and of the present day – used the circle as a physical format for their religious ceremony. Nature is full of rifles and cycles. The heavenly bodies seem to circle through the sky. The earth is a great "circle." We "circle" through the seasons of the year, through sunlight and moon-and-starlight. The circle has no loose ends. It is continuous, yet definite, delimited. It has a center – a unique focal point. It is symmetrical. It distributes people within it in a closer-to-equal fashion than does the "classroom" format. Yet almost any sort of geometrical figure may be inscribed in it, if need be. It is womb-like, containing. And at the center is an altar, where a human – that creaturely child of nature in whom nature has the potential of becoming self-conscious – may come into direct contact, closest-of-all contact, with the womb of nature from which she/he has emerged. One moves around the circle in the same direction as do sun and moon – from east to west.

SMALL ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADS

These announcements are free to subscribers – up to 100 words a year. Otherwise 10¢ a line plus 20¢ an ad. Need not be about vonu living.

Hi Brothers & Sisters! Another gathering of the Children is being called for this summer – starting July 1, Paradise Lake, Wind River Wilderness, Wyoming. Every One come. Let's get together!

I'll be glad to forward mail for people using this address. I already do a little of this anyhow. Basic charge is \$2/month, payable any: cash, stamps, check, money order. –John T. Harllee, Florence, South Carolina.

Secret mail receiving/forwarding. Absolute privacy guaranteed. Use any name. Other services available: specify your needs. MEMON rated. Details from: MYOB Services, Paradise, CA.

DIRECTORY OF LITTLE MAGAZINES AND SMALL PRESSES, Eighth Edition, 1972-73, is based on an entirely new survey. This directory has been called "the first and by far the best" by Bill Kats in "Guides to the Underground". \$2.50/Eighth Edition; \$8.00/four year sub. DUSTBOOKS, Paradise, CA.

The 3000 word guide "How to Survive the Depression" is still available to V.L. readers for 50¢ and for those who bug me for more writings – I just printed another dollar manuscript on the fantastic never told before real History of our planet. What we're doing here. What the goal

of life really is and where it's all leading to (without religion). V.L. readers can have this 17,000 words for 50¢.

A is A Directory identifies 688 libertarian groups, periodicals, individuals. \$2. A is A Newsletter, \$5/12. Samples, \$1. Brighton, MI.

The LIBERTARIAN CONNECTION is an open-forum laissez-faire magazine for libertarians. All subscribers have the privilege of contributing material, which will not be edited. LC is known for its creative ideas on practical actions and theoretical considerations in the expansion of both individual and larger-scale freedom.

BRING BACK PAGANISM! The Church of All Worlds is a neo-pagan religion dedicated to the celebration of life, the maximum actualization of human potential, and the realization of the ultimate individual freedom and personal responsibility in harmonious eco-psychic relationship with the total biosphere of Holy Earth. We have a growing number of Nests across the continent – one may be near you. Our magazine, GREEN EGG, is published 8 times a year. Thou Art God! –CAW

73 VONULIFE – how to live and let live, out of sight and mind of those unwilling to let live, by people who are doing it. Many articles on shelter, food, money, communications, young, ways of living, doing it. About 70,000 words. Single copy \$1.00, multiple copies 50¢ each plus 50¢ a shipment. Also available are older newsletter-sized issues of VONULIFE, ten for \$2.50.

A LITTLE CARE SOUTH OF THE BORDER

by Al Fry

With more and more mention of Mexico and countries further down in the underground mags, I suppose it's about time I take my usual stand of painting out some different sides of the coin.

This lad won't take any vehicle across the border that he can't afford to lose. Anyone with a nice camper, I would strongly advice to leave in the states and go south in an older make-do job or an older car with camping equipment. This isn't advice from a few tourist scare tales, but from bumbling along from Panama up to T.J. You could do a thousand crossings and may not have any trouble, but let your car run into another car, run off the road, or in any way break a major law – and friend, your rig will be the first thin in the dollar sign vision of some "mordida" loving official.

Ask the little woman down the road from where I'm writing this now. She never did get her camper back after she and her husband lay in it (after running off the road) four days. The second day, they were robbed, ransacked (cut a finger off her husband to get a ring) and left for dead. There are people like this in any country. It's a hard world and what little official protection you have left from a basically sound original constitution is lost when you cross the border.

Also anyone can truly have a lot of fun in Mexico, etc., but it takes a little common sense to blend in and not be notable to someone wanting something. The values are a little different – one can buy a life here for a few thousand and one can hire it done in Mexico for a few hundred – life is cheaper so take that into account. I have friends that still won't go near certain towns there – from stepping on wrong toes.

Took my 12-year-old down to Ensenada two weeks ago for some dental savings again, but as usual, it was in an older car which we camped in – prices are inflating right along with the dollar up here. Paid for the trip with a little trading and selling, but believe me, it wasn't any illegal dealing – most are wise to fact that any such dealings are sent to Border patrol computers where the dealer who lured you in will get still another big cut from value of the goods you are caught with.

Once tried to calm down the friend of a famous person who had sapped a Mexican family in her big shiny car. As they put her in an ambulance, she pleaded to me and god to help her, but she was a little late and the boss had done it's work and she got a long hard lesson where "pull" doesn't count for much.

CHEAPER MOBILITY

By Al Fry

Let's expand on the last vonulife articles on oil and such and see where we can further save a little money. If you already have your rig, then the previous oil advice will keep the bearings functioning. If you want to add from 5 to 10,000 miles to the life of your engine, add a little "Rislone" additive to your oil. This is the only anti-friction additive I will use and several oil company technicians I'm aware of use it regularly because it works. Motors can be overhauled fairly easily, however, and a little abuse probably won't break your budget. What does irk me however is someone who won't spend a few dollars on a grease gun to lubricate his outfit – grease is cheap payment for a faithful set of wheels to motivate you – wipe the zircs before you place nozzle to write to prevent injection of dirt. Rear end and transmission gear oil should be changed every 20,000 miles but I seldom bother and instead cement a little magnet to the drain plug so that the loose metal which gather in the oil will be trapped and won't abrade the bearings.

The other day I spoke to a couple on the road in a Scheel bus conversion and learned they had gone coast-to-coast by the proficient use of a small length of rubber hose alone. While this is a remarkably cheap way to obtain gas, I have a different set of values and ethics to contend with and usually wind up searching out budget stations – even load up my 25 gallon tank occasionally at a real price drop. I keep tires a little above recommended pressure for easier rolling. Persons in Premium Burning Cars (heaven forbid) can turn their distributor a bit until the car no longer pings using regular (you'll be able to "feel out" the timing if you just do it). I have used a little 2.0V Citroen now for years and since it gets about 50mpg, I try to tow it with me if I settle any place for long – let my van sit as much as possible.

Persons insolvent but with a place to leave a car can often pick up a dilapidated set of wheels for free. I spotted a nice truck some months ago which had a bludg paper on its window and because I hated to see a wrecker get it free. I towed it to a friend's place and eventually got title to it through a lien sale. Get the lien sale papers from your DMV office – officially assume the vehicle has been on your property for many months and wait out the 3 months or so it usually takes for the wheels of legality to grind out your papers. Use your "like they want it" imagination a little as to things you are not sure of since the DMV is seldom concerned at more than collecting their fee and detecting stolen vehicles.

When you consider it, probably the biggest money most people spend outside the housing or food is that of keeping their wheels up to date and humming. The latter chore is usually laid on someone else because the owner doesn't have the time or in most cases doesn't want to get his hands dirty. Anyone with average intelligence, some tools, and a public library to find specs, etc. can fix his own car. Soaking the carburetor in a little varnish remover overnight and replacing the points can often add up to many dollars saved in fuel consumption. As far as rubber goes, I remember as a student, I used to get my rubber back of service stations, adding a "boot" here, a weight there, etc. Even now I would consider I had reached a state of momentary insanity if I paid out the price of a new tire. Junk and wrecking yards, swap meets, backyard junkers all can supply cheap rubber.

Batteries are still a pain in the neck. A felt washer dabbed in Vaseline and placed between the post and the cable terminal will eliminate this corrosion and if a cell goes bad you might jiggle the battery good, remove the acid (in plastic bucket) and pour the acid back in after the lead-gunk has settled – hopefully this will unshort the cell. Anyone without a little charger and tester knows something I don't know about – cause they are almost indispensable to me. Anyway, like or not, the majority of us are stuck with wheels and it is so much cheaper if we take care of our own.

There is a mounting cry by various agencies and the controlled press about oil shortages and such and it is a good bet that the powerful oil and banking interests are about ready to get the price of gas up where they want it so if you can get a smaller more economical vehicle do it now because with the soon zooming gas prices (this is written in April) and inflation it will be harder later on. Since diesel fuel can be stored for years and gas can't, and because diesel probably won't be rationed near as high, it may be worthwhile for persons of some means to go diesel if their rig is a larger variety.

I have the gizmos to convert my van to propane, but will wait and see which way the wind blows. It's a good idea to put different valve guides in such conversions since propane doesn't lubricate them as gasoline does and trouble may soon develop. A few hundred dollars in high pressure compressor and tank is necessary to use household natural gas but it may come to that for the more inventive. As far as the chicken shit converters go, it takes expensive filters to filter out deleterious substances from this gas or engines suffer greatly and meet an untimely demise.

I strongly suspect that some of the standard gas engines could easily be converted over to steam by changing the timing gear sequence and doing the appropriate plumbing to a little steam generator. If this sounds a little far-fetched, I can only refer to data on a fellow who converted Model A Fords thusly during the war. I haven't the motivation to work it all out at the moment but have always thought in my dreamy visions of one A. Fry chugging along with back hill country stoking up the steam boiler with flotsam, jetsom, and aqua wood along the roadways.

I suppose I must have been inspired by "Hub Cap John", the fellow who pushed his little 2 wheeled "home" alongside the highways of the Salton Sea desert country for years. I never had a long talk with him but he seemed content enough and he could scrounge enough along the roads to survive all right. (Actually I find the Palm Springs – Indio Desert Country very nice on the winter and have scrounged enough to always live well on a bare budget.) Anyway, to get back to the subject, do you remember how the Biafrans were using 50 gallon barrels to "crack" and make gasoline from crude oil?

Anyway, wheels are pure joy to me and I love to roll along the highways and byways and even getting socked for gasoline isn't too terrible considering the price of my hay now.

POWDERED MILK, FLAVORINGS, AND CHEAP FOOD

By Al Fry

A few issues back, there was an inquiry as to how one would dissolve the government subsidy powdered milk. Well, I don't really think it can be done without a blender but there are other approaches. Since I was a kid I have enjoyed mixing the stuff up to a custard consistency lumps and all and just eating it. Maple syrup, molasses, jelly, peanut butter – flavor it however wish or leave it alone or freeze it to resemble an ice cream. It tends to create gas in some persons and for these persons I recommend "subsidy yogurt". If you have a pilot light in your oven you can make it there. If not, figure out where the stuff will be warm and make up a batch. Powdered milk – warm water – a spoonful or so of grocery store yogurt (for starter) and you are in business. I dump the powdered milk in a running blender of warm water and dump this in a container which I set in unlit over and in the morning it's ready to cool off in the refrigerator or eat as is or flavored as above. It may not taste exactly like the "factory" stuff but it's good to me and I always try to get the "makings" if I can. Must be tons of milk dumped by ignorant or fuzzy commodity recipients and I sometimes trade for this and other commodities although I try to live more simply on potatoes, rice, seeds, and weeds most of the time. Like everyone, I know our tastes vary a little from year to year and I think it very important for one to pay attention to what one's body is telling one through cravings.

I love tune fish, but as it is usually beyond my budget, I satisfy the occasional cravings with the terrible smelling, salty, cheap mackerel. The secret is to irradiate the salt brine by carefully washing and tomato paste. Campbell's tomato soup, or whatever. Even mayonnaise and chopped greens will get it to the palatable point.

As my "Depression" paper points out in more detail, meat is necessary for peak human brain efficiency and the cheapest grocery store meat I know of is chicken. Even with inflation, the price isn't much more than 30 or 40 years ago. People who have the "back to the land" bug usually think that they will get some chickens and come out with cheaper eggs and meat but it is usually a joke at final "tally" time. There isn't any way to compete with the cage farmers and their shortcuts and small profit margin. So I pressure cooker up the backs and necks or do it in style with pre-pressured and then friend chicken. "Wild chicken" or grouse and such I always found tough and stringy without the old pressure cook it first routine – and this is one of Col. Sanders' secrets.

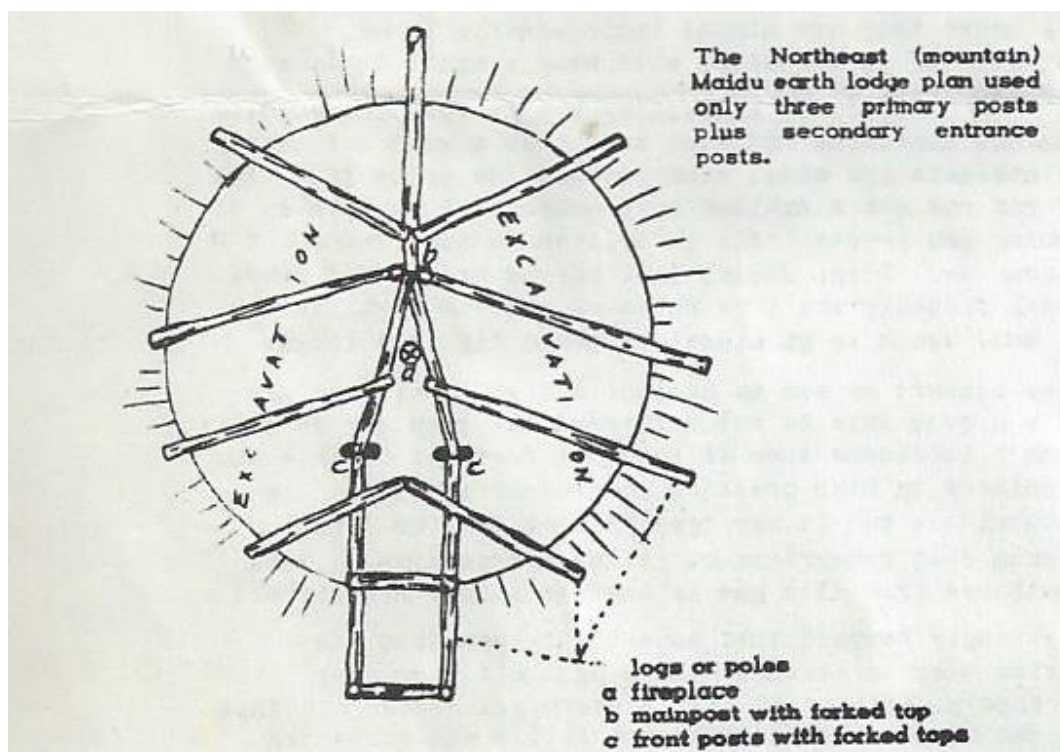
INDIANS OF THE LASSEN AREA

CHAPTER IX HOUSES AND FURNISHINGS

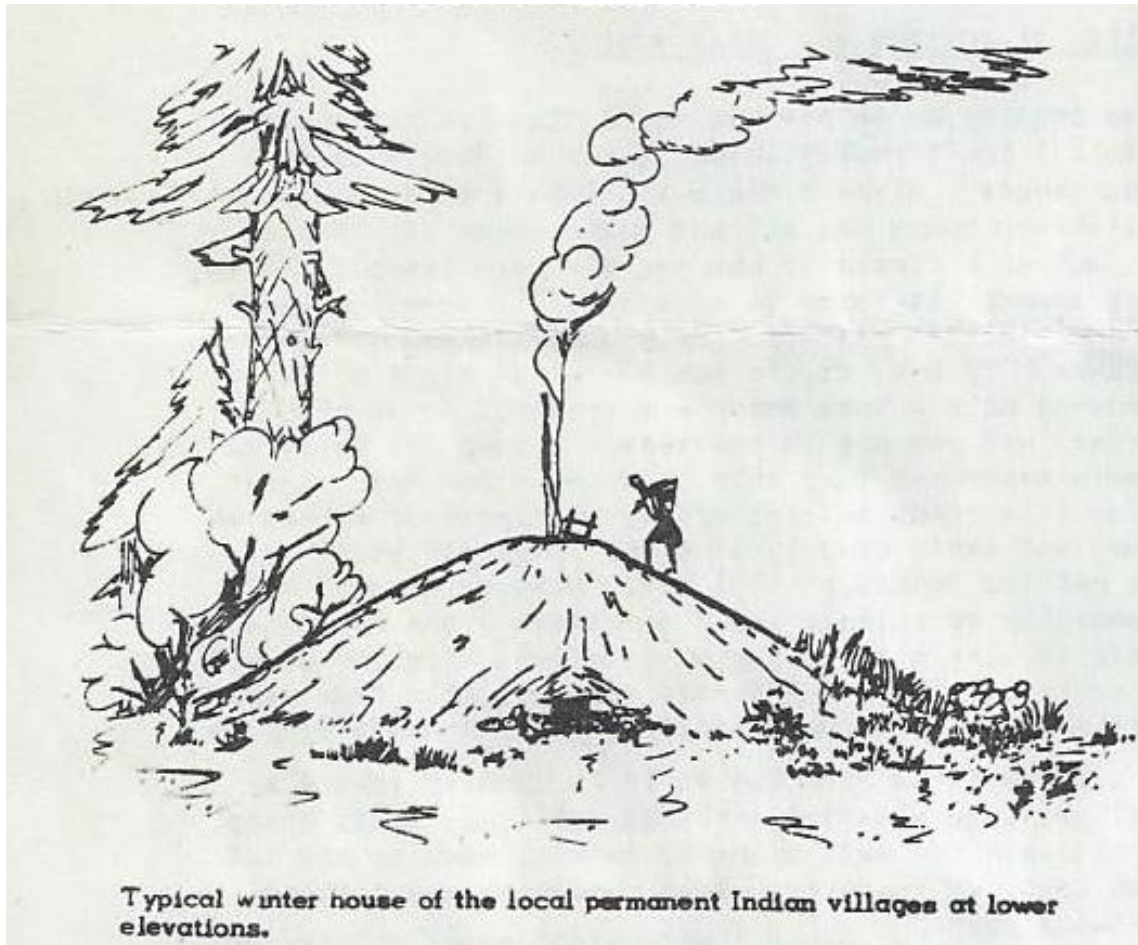
by Paul E. Schulz

The Atsugewi used earth-covered lodges as their permanent winter dwellings. These varied in size from about nine feet in length, for a single family, to more than thirty feet in length for a chief's house which was usually larger than other houses. Most frequently houses were about twenty feet long and somewhat narrower, being occupied by three to five families. The earth lodge was elliptical in shape with one center post planted firmly in the earth floor somewhat back of true center. This supported beams running to two smaller secondary posts and to earth shoulders which resulted from excavation of the entire floor to a depth of about three feet. On the beams, other poles or rafters and bark slabs (usually of incense – cedar) were laid. The whole sloping roof was then covered with pine needles and a layer of earth.

The main entrance was through a hole about in the center of the roof. Over this a heavy mat was placed in bad weather. This opening also served as a smoke hole. A ladder made of two poles with cross pieces tied on with serviceberry withes was used inside.



A secondary entrance of small size, used by children, was built horizontally at ground level on the south (front) end of the house. It projected tunnel-like a short distance beyond the lodge outside wall. The main purpose of this ground level opening was to act as a ventilator duct to supply draft for proper burning of the cooking and house warming fire which burned in front of the center post. At night, the ventilator duct was closed. This reduced air supply, causing the fire to burn very slowly. Glowing coals developed as a result. These produced reduced but adequate heat for the occupants who slept with their feet to the fire. Men did all of the house construction work except for excavation. The women did this with digging sticks and wooden or basketry scoops with which they threw the dirt out of the pit. Excavation of the floor of the lodge not only made it easier to construct a strong house, but contributed materially to the warmth of the standard winter house.



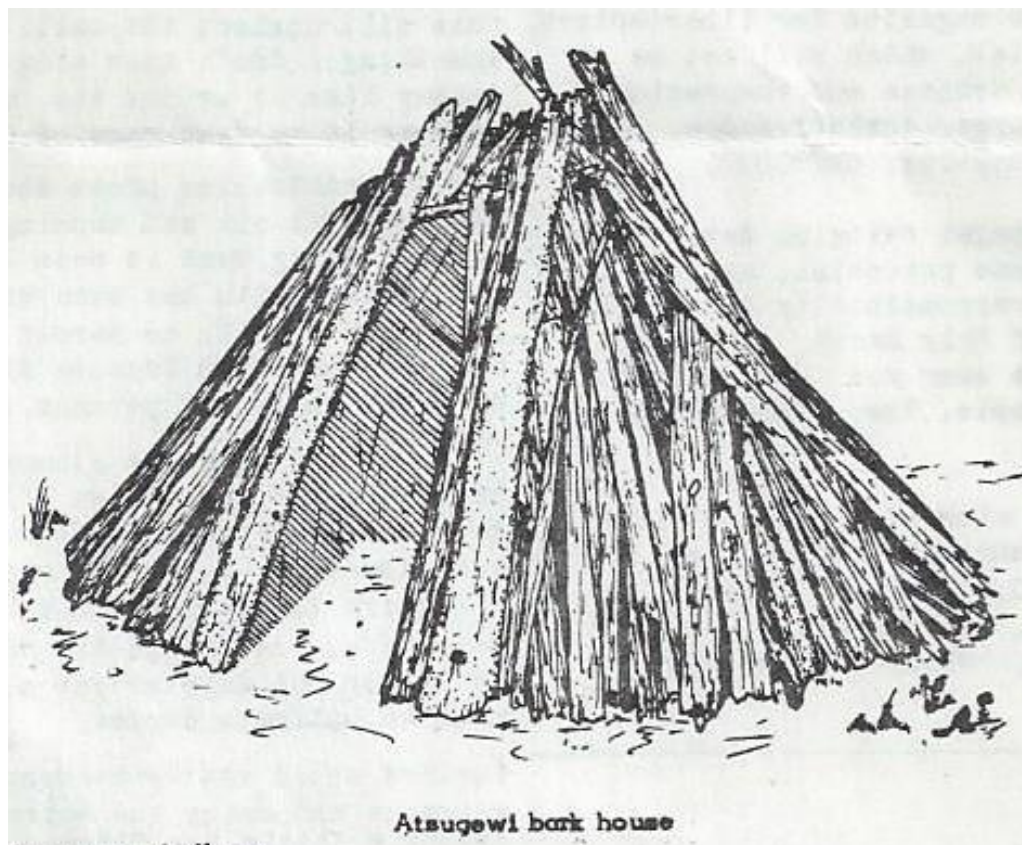
There was no furniture as such. Each family used an assigned portion of the house, and cooked its own food, but utilized the central communal fire. A thin layer of grass, carefully kept away from the fires, covered the floor. The Indians slept on the floor mats made of tule. During the day, these and the sleeping blankets were rolled up and provided the only seats. However, sitting usually consisted of squatting on the floor.

Blankets of deer and elk skin were generally used. Atsugewi also used loose tule or grass blankets and all our tribes employed both woven rabbit skin and patchwork rabbit or fox blankets. Yana in addition to all the foregoing utilized bear skins: sometimes they removed the hair from their blankets.

Atsugewi pillows were of bundles of leaves or grass, while those of the mountain Maidu were harder, being merely piles of small poles, blocks of wood, or rocks.

Interior earth walls of the houses were sometimes hung with tule mats or skins fastened with pegs to prevent dirt from sloughing off and rolling onto the floor. A few shelves might also be provided by laying wooden slabs on sticks driven into the dirt walls.

There were other less substantial winter houses consisting either of small double lean-tos of bark slabs or conical houses on frameworks of slender poles and with shallow excavations. Some dirt was thrown against the outside walls for added warmth. Lazy people, who were usually consequently poor in the necessities and comforts of normal Indian life, lived in this more flimsy type of house. Also, women when indisposed repaired to such huts. A doorway was left in the sliding to be closed by a tule mat in these little houses. They were also equipped with smoke holes for central fires.



Atsugewi summer houses as such really did not exist. Summer camps were little more than circular enclosures of brush, juniper, or other conifer limbs or of rock. These were ten or fifteen feet across with openings to the east. There was no roof, although branches and bark slabs might be put over crude frames in rainy weather. If a person were caught in a sudden shower, he might make a temporary shelter by leaning bark slabs, if available, against a large rock or log lying on the ground.

Atsugewi did not have any separate sweat houses nor dancing or assembly chambers, but used the larger earth lodge houses for these purposes. The largest belonged to chiefs and to other well-to-do Indians. Heat for sweating was provided directly by fire and not by production of steam as was the case with Plains Indians who threw water on hot stones. In recent years, however, after introduction of the horse, Atsugewi learned the latter technique and also constructed Plains Indian type sweat houses of one to three person capacity. These were dome shaped, and built of willow poles set in the ground in a circle. The tops were bent over and tied down, and this framework was covered with skins.

Old type sweating was for men only, but Indian women – usually wives – also sweated with men in the new style separate sweat houses. Old time Atsugewi purposes in sweating were for gaining success in hunting, in gambling, and for general good luck. Some praying was done, but there were no formalized ceremonies or dances amongst the Atsugewi. Men sometimes slept in sweat houses.

In the case of all local tribes, sweating was followed by a cold plunge, if available nearby. Lacking this facility, a cold sponge bath was taken.

The mountain Maidu earth lodge for dwelling and sweating was similar to that of the Atsugewi. However, northeast Maidu earth lodges “koom” were simpler and smaller than those of northwest and southern Maidu. Three posts, often forked were used in place of 10 or 11 employed by valley lodges. Excavation was about three feet deep, circular in plan, and from 18 to 40 feet across. A large flat stone was placed upright at the foot of the main post between it and the fire in the center. The vertical walls of the excavation were usually covered or lined with

vertically placed whole or split logs or with bark slabs. Logs were lain horizontally on the three posts as indicated on the accompanying sketch. Radial rafters supporting the roof were placed on these beams and sloping downward to the ground surface outside as well as to two small posts at the small open way or ventilator passage. Cross poles were placed horizontally on the rafters and on these, large pieces of bark, branches, and pine needles were successively laid. Lastly, a heavy covering of soil 8 to 20 inches thick was heaped on the structure. On top in the center a smokehole was left, large enough to serve as the main entrance originally, but after the coming of white man, the smokehole was made smaller, and, instead, the originally small ventilator tunnel which sloped from floor level up to the ground surface outside was enlarged, thus supplanting the smokehole as the main entrance. Originally a ladder of two poles with cross pieces tied on with grapevine or other wythes gave vertical access from the floor to the smokehole entrance. Dixon reports that a notched log was sometimes used for the purpose among mountain Maidu.

The room or lodge was occupied from November to March and was situated on the edges of wide meadows in mountain Maidu areas. At lower elevation, occupancy was more or less continuous.

Mountain Maidu did not have separate sweat houses. They always used a large earth dwelling lodge for the purpose. This was similar to the Atsugewi practice. These Maidu did, however, have a formalized sweat dance. Also different from the Atsugewi was the practice of men using the sweat house for gambling, handicraft work, and competitive singing.

The "hoe-bow" of the mountain Maidu was a hut, 8 to 15 feet in diameter and excavated 12 to 15 inches deep. Two main poles were securely tied near the end. From the resulting "V" at the top, shorter poles were laid to a pair of slender posts about three feet high and set about three feet apart along the edge of the excavation. Against this frame branches, bark, and leaves were piled and earth was heaped around the bottom. The doors of all such bark huts opened to the south and were hung with a skin or tule mat.

The rude summer shelter or shade provider was just like that of the Atsugewi.

Information on Yahi house details are somewhat scanty, but in all probability they were small conical bark-covered huts while some larger earth lodges were built to house several families – in general, similar, but perhaps smaller than those of the other tribes of the Lassen area. The large pretentious lodge, constructed solely for sweating and ceremonies, of the Sacramento Valley tribes seems to have been lacking among all of our local tribes.

The common bark hut dwelling of the Yana was apparently built over a circular depressions two feet [illegible] of the house rising about six feet about the ground. It was [illegible] the mountain Maidu huts, being a series of poles resting [illegible] the excavation. These met and were tied at the top [illegible] low slope, although some information claimed that the [illegible] were set so firmly that tying together was omitted. The frames were covered with pine and incense-cedar bark slabs leaving a smoke color near each apex. Earth was probably banked on the lower sloping walls. Entrance was never through the smoke hole in the case of Atsugewi and some mountain Maidu earth home houses, but by means of a small door at ground level on the south side. The entrance was protected by a little covered way extending outward three feet from the house wall, and decked over by a cable roof of low pitch. A ramp of low pitch extended from the floor of the house through this antechamber to the ground level outside as no steps were constructed.

The Yana lodge houses were not numerous. The ground plan was long, usually wedge or oval in outline and designed for several families, each with its own fire. As with the other tribes discussed in the booklet, such building also served as sweat houses. A ladder consisting of a notched log extended down from the smoke hole to the floor. One, two, or three center posts with radiating rafters and shorter side posts were employed. The Yana followed the Atsugewi practice of providing each earth lodge with a south facing, ground level, tunnel-like ventilator entrance of small size. It is possible that Yana did have a few special sweating lodges of the same design, but the matter is debatable. During sweating, Yana men talked and played; the main purpose of sweating was to make men strong.

It has already been pointed out that all four tribes which used what is now Lassen Volcanic National Park did so only during the summer. During their high mountain sojourn, the local Indians did not live in houses as such. There, resident during the three or four summer months

was in temporary camps, usually roof-less circular areas to accommodate several families. These were fenced in with brush and were entered by one or more opening somewhat in the same manner as campsites reserved for visitors at their permanent village at lower elevations. Four-posted horizontal roofs, to provide shade, were sometimes constructed too. Yana seem to have made a lean-to our hut with grass and bark covering for summer roofs.

PATROLLING THE BORDER BETWEEN U.S., CANADA IS A HAPHAZARD AFFAIR

(Condensed from WALL STREET JOURNAL, thanks to Erech)

Policing what has been termed the "world's longest unguarded border" often proves a frustrating task for the agents of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Justice Dept. unit charged with preventing the entry of illegal aliens into the U.S. Unlike the 1800 mile Mexican border, where there are an estimated 1000 patrolmen, the Northern line has only about 300 agents who, on skis, snowshoes, and snowmobiles, among other things, must cope with 4,000 miles of largely wilderness area where people can walk across without detection almost at will.

There aren't any federal detention facilities on the Northern border, as there are on the Mexican line, so those aliens the U.S. wants to prosecute must be put up at local jails (at \$6 a night). As a result, most of the 12,000 illegal aliens arrested along the Canadian border last year were merely deported. Many simply turned around and tried again – often successfully. "For every one we catch, at least 10 others get away."

Most of the action along the Canadian border takes place in the 1200-mile-long Northeast sector, a corridor that includes two Great Lakes, Niagara Falls, Lake Champlain, the St. Lawrence Seaway, sources of smaller waterways, hundreds of roads, and more than 100 rural airstrips where small planes can land and take off undetected.

Total arrests along the entire Canadian border last year were about 30% higher than in 1971. (Canada doesn't patrol its side on a regular basis, except for an occasional spot check by Mounties.) Immigration officials say one reason for the increased traffic is that recently reduced immigration quotas make it more difficult for many foreigners to enter the States legally. The vast majority of arrests on the Canadian border, therefore, are of people seeking to work in the U.S. without the necessary papers. Washington estimates there are more than two million illegal aliens in the country, about a quarter of whom are believed to be in New York City; many of these used Canada as their springboard.

Drug hauls are relatively small. And seizures of other contraband, such as Cuban cigars or gold coins, are also infrequent.

Border patrolmen cite another reason for the increased activity; an apparent growth in the number of organized smuggling rings that promise to deliver aliens across the border in return for fees up to \$1000. It's a lucrative trade, and immigration officials bemoan that first-offenders can get by with as little as \$500 fine, then go right back into business.

To foil the smugglers, the Border Patrol has imbedded what it calls "anti-intrusion devices" in many of the backwoods border roads that don't have regular inspection stations – just signs telling aliens to check in at one. The devices give off a signal in the roving patrol cars whenever anything metallic – even a bicycle – crosses over. Each device has a different signal that tells the patrol car which road is being traveled.

But many smugglers have figured out crafty elusive tactics. The smugglers often operate in pairs and send a "scout car" over the unguarded road to see if the coast is clear. If patrol cars appear, the scout car draws them into a chase, leaving the road open for the aliens to make it across. "The scout cars" occupants usually have papers proving they're Canadians, and they generally claim they're lost." Unless they have good reasons to detain the occupants, agents generally just escort them back to Canada.

Aliens try to come across in all ways imaginable – hidden in the trunk of a car, under the back seat, strapped underneath, or even in with the engine.

Sometimes people try to come through one of the regular U.S. border inspection stations. If these people are denied entrance, a "red alert" is flashed to all the other inspection points in the area and to the border patrol to be on the lookout for the car.

The biggest “headache” is the uncounted scores who simply walk across the border through dense woods or other areas where patrols are infrequent and difficult.

There are approximately 15 agents operating in the field at any one time patrolling the 176-mile border segment in New York and Vermont.

Mr. Lovejoy tells recruits for the \$12,000-\$14,000-a-year job that the mortality rate is the highest of any major enforcement agency in the U.S.

Darby, a small town, straddles the Vermont-Quebec border. Many of the town’s roads criss-cross back and forth between the two countries, and it’s pretty difficult at times to know where the border is, let alone who’s coming and going.

WHAT IS THE BEST WEAPON FOR POT HUNTING?

I do not know the air-rifle (Wischo) you mention but had an Apache for years and years. It was a bolt action loader. With pump up air supply very much like a Benjamin. 0.25 caliber with a liner to bring it down to BB size. Small size more or less useless – I never used it. SLOW to load and pump up. Used round lead balls that were a slight drive fit. Normally put in 5 pumps. Six was all I could get without resorting to some extra leverage. Was surprisingly loud. Almost that of a 22 short. Would shoot well for short distances; lost its power very quickly. If you want a gun-shaped weapon to plink with, consider an air rifle. But if you want as noiseless as possible, a rabbit/squirrel getter, I would use one of the following, in order of preference:

(1) A set of slingshot rubbers or two and 4 or 5 pounds of 00 buckshot (0.34”). Since car tubes no longer furnish a source of good stretchy rubber you probably will have to buy (ugh!) the natural. But no use paying one to three bucks for the fancy crotch when Mother Nature will furnish you a myriad of crotches for free with the use of your pocket knife a few moments. But you need good ammo. While rocks are cheap, they tend to wander. The buckshot should give you plenty of practice with and still get your hunting done. Any rabbit/squirrel you can get close enough to get with the air-rifle, you can get with the slingshot.

(2) For the price of the air-rifle, you should be able to pick up a very good 22. While the ammo is more expensive the 22 will extend your range of game if you are careful where you hit it. A silencer is illegal but! I haven’t tried this but think it will do the job. Use window screen and a nice soft easy-to-bend wire about 1/8” diameter or so. Wrap around a dowel – 5/16” maybe. Solder or epoxy together. The wire acts as a spacer. It winds up in a spiral. Cut a clip to fit the end of the barrel and work it at the right stage. Make it as big around as you can still clear the sight. A low power scope sight will probably be worth the extra loot, and give more room for the silencer. Six or eight inches is probably plenty long. This might need an expansion chamber on the inboard end, which could be made of a small juice can. Don’t think the whole thing needs to be covered. You don’t care where the gas goes if you can break up the sound. If my figures and those in Popular Science for Nov. 71, p. 62 are correct, you should not get through the sound barrier with any long hollow point. It shouldn’t be any problem to quiet a 22 down to that of the air rifle, or even a good deal less. Even a single-shot 22 will get your second shot ready much faster than the air rifle. If this is a meat getter, you won’t be shooting enough to hurt your bank account. Plinking can use a lot of ammo!

(3) A blow gun. I knew a guy here that made them as a sideline. Used a glass tube liner (a selling gimmick) in a thin wall tube. With a four-footer he could always hit a 3” bullseye from 25 to 30 feet. For darts he bought a plastic beads. (Dimestore stuff molded around the string.) About 4” of 1/16” music wire. A quick touch on a grindstone gave a point. Heat the head end red hot and jam into the center of the bead. He made a jig so he could make them fast and get them centered. They always struck point first. Have an amazing amount of penetrating power. His were about 1/2” or 5/8”. Also can make darts with a small cone shaped piece of paper and the old style wood lathe nail, about 1” long, makes a good point. 2” of cone is plenty long. Try for a snug fit in the tube. Without poison or tranquilizer, these have a surprising stopping power for SMALL game. Very quiet.

Should you want larger ammo for the sling shot: if you know someone into muzzle loaders perhaps they would cast you some or let you use their bullet mold. Sometimes you might run across old ball bearings which would very well.

I have an Armalite A7 survival rifle (22 long rifle). I am impressed by its usefulness: floats, takes down, stows in the stock, about 3 pounds, no fancy finish but looks strong.

Shotgun News, Box 1147, Hastings, Nebraska, is a tabloid-size ad paper. About 112 pages. Twice a month. Gives sources for all kinds of stuff. \$4/year. -M. HEAD

I have used several good European air rifles and while accuracy is superb, the pellets are too light to kill as cleanly as I wished. In fact, the only heavy pellets are the Sheridan type. I used to cut long rolls of lead and roll cut the thing into pellets of solid lead 22 size – must be a hair undersize or you will have trouble – also not too accurate, although little swaging die might save the day. I was always going to experiment with nerve poison on pellet although it was too much hassle. -Al. Fry

INEXPENSIVE FOOTWEAR, GLASS FRAMES, GRINDERS

Boots are expensive, especially since Rayo can go through a pair (literally!) in less than a year. (I take somewhat longer.) We were using used GI Vietnam combat boots but when the price went up from \$5 or \$6 to \$7 or \$8, we started thinking of an alternative.

I decided that thrift shop tennis shoes might be the answer. I've been able to purchase both the high top and low for about 45¢ a pair. (They are often priced higher, in which case I pass them by.) Rayo wears out a pair in less than two months in Summer; one pair has lasted me a half year – which isn't long but at the low price I can't complain.

In the past, we've been able to shop many thrift stores as we made our yearly food-buying trip up and down the Pacific Coast. This has enabled us to get many good buys. But even thrift stores in this area serve us well, though we must often buy things when on the shelves, before we need them. If one can anticipate needs and/or wait, the secondhand shops supply department/variety store goods at a fraction of the price.

Eyeglasses can be had openly (50¢ to \$1). Hot war softens the plastic so that the unwanted lenses can be removed and one's own put in – if the frame is broken, but not the lenses.

We also get some beautiful woolen socks in the thrift stores. I've even seen universal food choppers for \$2. -HAELAN

ANOTHER HONEST OCCUPATION OR 2

Oddly enough there are many more one-man fortunes today being made from non-ore-bearing rock, than the mineralized varieties. For persons wandering around the boondocks I would strongly suggest keeping your eyes peeled for likely potentials. Example: I have a friend who staked a few claims in a lava flow canyon in Idaho and has done rather well selling building stone and jasper. He loads up his pickup when he needs some money and hauls the rocks to a building contractor. The contractor may want 2 ½" or 3" wide slabs so my friend takes a hammer and chisel and fractures the rock to size, which is really easy once a "face" is blown free. If you get wind of a new road going in someplace, a nearby source of gravel for it will set you up financially for years. Another acquaintance located a turquoise mine in the N.M. outback and now just spends a few months in the summer blasting and hauling the stuff and the rest of the year he goofs off here in S. Calif. spending money and enjoying himself. A fellow west of Winnemucca, Nev. has been living high for years with his opal mines. -AL FRY

1. Who needs a Swiss bank account? They are a nuisance to obtain, pay 0% interest. Why not consider a Danish bank account instead? Denmark has total bank secrecy, like Switzerland, and it is easy to open by mail a convertible (i.e. receivable and payable in any desired currency) bank account paying interest up to 10%. Foreign accounts may be maintained in amounts up to 70,000 kroner (over \$10,000), plus there is the possible advantage of speculative profits on account of dollar devaluation (krone is very strong). (This was advertised in Time Magazine recently, but her haps it escaped most of your readers.) There are two disadvantages: a. These are term, not demand, accounts, hence not terribly liquid. b. It might be hard to explain to the IRS the microfilm copy of a Danish check in your name which turned up at your local bank in case of withdrawal. It might be possible to circumvent this difficult with a little ingenuity,

however. A cool address to send your inquiry is: P. Glindemann-Sorensen/Amgaterorv, Denmark.

What To Do When Arrested

Most arrests – two-thirds, in fact – are for such petty crimes as gambling, drunkenness, vagrancy and disorderly conduct. The single most common cause of arrest, among both men and women, is drunkenness. For every person accused of murder, more than 230 are arrested for being drunk. Indeed, only 1/5 of 1% of all arrests are for homicide, and less than 10% are for the Big Seven (homicide, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny over \$50, and auto theft).

If you're an educated, white, middle-class adult living in Suburbia, chances are you'll fare better with the police than would an uneducated, poor, black youth from the ghetto. But that doesn't mean you're immune to the possibility of false arrest, police harassment or even physical brutality. A professor watching a recent peace demonstration witnessed some police shenanigans and began copying down badge numbers. Eight cops jumped and pummeled him while another policeman grabbed the piece of paper from his hand. The professor was arrested for disorderly conduct, assault and resisting arrest. Middle-class people are also apt to be arrested for asking to see a cop's identification; for tearing up traffic tickets; for saying, "I know my rights" or for doing little more than threatening a cop's self-esteem.

The risk of arrest is even greater for young people, including those from the suburbs. In fact, suburban kids are sometimes more likely to be arrested for minor infractions of the law than are city-dwellers. James Q. Wilson, author of *Varieties in Police Behavior*, notes that suburban cops are prone to arrest youngsters "in great part because, lacking much serious crime to attend to, they have the time and inclination to keep track of minor matters...."

Marijuana use and drug experimentation, of course, are rife among the nation's adolescents. According to the report of the National Council on Marijuana and Drug Abuse, 14% of all young people under 18 have already tried pot. This estimate is regarded by many as extremely conservative.

Arrests for possession and use of marijuana have skyrocketed, and there are no signs of an imminent decrease. Your kids may not smoke pot, but if your son or daughter is at a party where marijuana is being smoked, he or she could be busted.

On college campuses, countless middle-class students have been beaten during demonstrations, only to be charged later with that classic catch-all – disorderly conduct. Your kids may not be involved with radical campus politics, but their mere presence at a demonstration has been enough for many kids to be arrested on charges ranging from "failure to obey a police officer" to assault.

If you don't think it could happen to you – or one of your children – you're kidding yourself. It can, and may, and if it does, you should know how to cope with it.

WHAT TO DO: If you are stopped by the police on the street, be polite and quiet. Officers may search you for weapons by patting your clothing, but you do not have to answer any questions other than your name and address. *Innocent or guilty, say nothing until you see a lawyer.*

If you're in your home when the police arrive, do not consent to a search unless the police have a valid search warrant. If the cops ask, "Can we look around?" and you, thinking you have nothing to hide, say, "Sure, go ahead," that constitutes "consent," and anything they find can be used against you.

If you're stopped on the highway by a patrolman who rightfully suspects you may be driving while under the influence, and he asks you to take a drunkometer test, refuse. In some states, this refusal may be sufficient to get your license suspended, but if you do take the test and flunk, you'll be liable to criminal prosecution.

If you are arrested, you are supposed to be informed of the charge. You are also supposed to be advised of your rights – the right to remain silent; to know that anything you say can and will be used against you; the right to a lawyer and to have that lawyer present during questioning; the right to have a lawyer provided for you if you

can't afford to hire one yourself. We say *supposed* to be informed, because it really makes no difference whether the cop tells you this or not. He can always swear in court that he did tell you. And, very likely, his testimony will be corroborated by another cop – one who wasn't even there.

Yes, police do lie. Paul Chevigny, a staff attorney for the New York Civil Liberties Union, writes in his book, *Police Power*, "There can be no doubt that police lying is the most pervasive of all abuses... The policeman sees his job to be catching criminals, not complying with procedure. He feels that he has done his job when the person who [he considers] 'guilty anyhow' is convicted, regardless of how the conviction is obtained." Therefore, whether or not a cop tells you you're under arrest, if you suspect that you are, don't talk. Even if you're being arrested on a warrant that bears someone else's name, go quietly with the cop. In most jurisdictions, you cannot resist even an illegal arrest.

If the cop is abusive, be forebearing. If he tries to provoke you by insulting, pushing or slapping you, stay calm. Above all, don't be a wise guy. Don't say, "Listen, I'm a taxpayer. I pay your salary." You're asking for trouble, and trouble may mean a beating. If a cop does assault you, he'll do one of two things to cover it up. (1) He'll try to make it appear that you were injured in some other way. "A common device to hide the use of force," says Mr. Chevigny, "is to push the victim down a flight of stairs." (2) He'll bring charges against you for disorderly conduct, resisting arrest and assaulting a police officer. This accomplishes two things: Your charges against him for assault will be laughed out of court, and you'll most likely end up pleading guilty to the disorderly conduct charge in return for dismissal of the other charges.

If you plan to bring charges against a cop, don't let him know about it. Wait until after you've been released, or after formal charges have been brought against you. Then you can complain. If you have suffered serious injuries, have an airtight case

and plenty of patience (cases normally take 6 years in New York City), by all means sue. A Brooklyn longshoreman who claimed he had been beaten by two cops "like an animal in a cage" was recently awarded \$145,000 from the city.

At the scene of the arrest, pay attention to details. Make sure you know the name of the street you're on. Look around for possible witnesses. Listen carefully to whatever the cop tells you. If, as it turns out later, he made an illegal arrest, any evidence he uncovered while arresting you will be inadmissible in court. And if you're only accused of a misdemeanor, there's a good chance that the arrest was illegal – generally, a cop has to see you commit a misdemeanor in order to arrest you. Get the badge or car number of the cop who arrested you, this can help get your case dismissed. Write down all information as soon as you can – you'll forget details. Write when the cop doesn't see – if he take your notes, it may help his testimony.

Books which MONEYSWORTH recommends for advice are *GROWING UP CLEAN IN AMERICA*, Joseph S. Lobenthal (out of print but available at most libraries); *UP AGAINST THE*

LAW, by Jean Strouse, New American Library; THE BUST BOOK, Grove Press; STREET SHEET'S GREATEST HITS, National Lawyers Guild, San Francisco, CA.

(This is from 1 May 72 MONEYSWORTH, thanks to Lloyd. MONEYSWORTH has a reputation for unreliability. They take information from other publications which may already be stale and unreliable and rehash it slightly so that it sounds authoritative. Like the WALL STREET JOURNAL, they sound quite impressive, UNLESS the reader happens to know what they are talking about. I'd like to see advice by people with firsthand experience.)

MONEYSWORTH goes on to advise one to get a lawyer. This is like the medical "help" books which say, get a doctor. From what little experience I've had with practitioners of those professions, I've concluded that the vast majority are essentially worthless. On the other hand I've heard of fantastic performances by the few who knew what to do and had the courage to do it.

Based on present knowledge, if I needed a lawyer, I'd seek one who specialized in getting people out of jail and had a "radical" reputation – who didn't mind stepping on Establishment toes. The average local lawyer is apt to be a golfing buddy of the judge, sheriff, and district attorney. And his wife plays bridge with their wives, etc. His career depends on remaining in their good graces. Will he do anything which might embarrass or inconvenience them for the sake of a client, who, most likely, he will never see again? Of course, he will happily go through the motions of defending someone – as long as their money lasts. Lawyers are also prone to make "trades" – sell one client down the river so that the bludg will go easy on another.

A capable "defender" needs, I suspect, not so much knowledge of law, as knowledge of "pressure points" in the System. There are so many (millions) laws subject to so many interpretations that anyone can be easily jailed for 20 years or let loose, depending on the mood of the judge, etc. So the "defender" must put skillful pressure on the judge or prosecuting attorney in such a way as to make further persecution "embarrassing" or "painful" for the bludg. Once this is done, the bludg themselves will interpret the law in favor of the victim.

There are advantages if the "defender" is not a lawyer. The price of lawyers is artificially high because of the long years of only-partially-relevant schooling required for admission to the bar. And a lawyer can be threatened with debarring. Non-lawyer "defender" might be a rewarding profession for radicals growing beyond movementism who are able to stomach heavy involvement with bludg-land.

What is the best way to get in contact with a highly competent defender (attorney or non-attorney) in event of incarceration, assuming no previous contact or knowledge? (For us, and I suspect most vonuans, the probability of arrest is too low to spend time/money in advance retaining attorneys or other defenders.) Is American Civil Liberties Union good for this? National Lawyers Guild? I'll be interested in the suggestions of anyone who has had experience as a defendant in a "crime without victims". –EDITOR

HOW TO ASSIST THE LEARNING OF WILDERNESS VONU SKILLS

First, I think that the "classroom" approach to teaching (involving lecturing) is too passive for both parties. It is too easy for the lecturer to make assumptions about the listener, and it is also easy for the listener to daydream, go off on another thought, not interrupt out of "courtesy", or agree with what is being said in order to cover ignorance. Whenever I teach (which is very rare), it is always on a one-to-one basis and the emphasis is on a "Socratic Method". I will pepper "instructee" with questions and find that repeating questions to test knowledge is often very informative.

While a "demonstration" involves ACTING it is still a display in a similar manner as is the lecture. For example, if the subject were squat-spots, I might begin by discussing possible locations for a squat-spot. I would ask what factors the instructee would consider (though many people try to make this difficult by proclaiming complete ignorance – which requires more ingenuity by the "instructor") and hopefully we would argue or discuss the matter to mutual profit. Then we would go about searching for a spot which would suit our (or the instructee's) requirements, and further discuss how well the areas we looked corresponded to what we were intending with our words. Then I might ask for ideas the instructee has for constructing shelter

or bed. This approach might be more difficult with food but there is nothing to stop me from answering my own questions when that seems necessary.

Then there is “psychodrama” – perhaps this should be called “role-playing” since “psychodrama” involves the acting out of emotionally provocative incidents in one’s life. I attended a Free University “class” on “legal rights” in which a short discussion of situations and legal technicalities was followed by a physical enactment of being hassled by cops. It sounds corny, but the “instructors” certainly did a good job of making me sweat when they acted out the role of a couple of police trying to arrest me. I highly recommend this tool of theory-practice integration. –CHET

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS – The only regularity I have been able to discern in their coding is that apparently the first digit of the number (of the last four digits?) is even in the case of male cardholders, odd for females – as far as I know. –NAME WITHHELD

MAKING THE TRANSITION TO ECANES FOOD

I hope that what I suggest here helps make the transition from a conventional North American diet to ECANES diet, described in my book OUT OF SIGHT EATING, a pleasant one. I don’t foresee taste posing any particular problem, to anyone relatively free of food prejudices. However, some of the tastes and textures will be at least a little different from usual and may therefore take some getting used to. I think this is to be expected since tastes are acquired. Consider that people in one part of the world may turn their noses up at what is considered a delicacy somewhere else.

With few exceptions, I liked all of our ECANES foods right from the beginning. But with time, I have come to really relish them.

The food that took an effort on my part to get used to were bone meal, limestone flour, and molasses. But after repeated tastes over a number of months, I came to tolerate well all three, and sometimes even like them. (Rayo’s not minding them at all made it easier for me to learn to eat them.)

In addition to the psychological adjustment to the ECANES diet, I think there is a physiological adjustment. Dr. Shelton (Orthotrophy Vol II) claims that repeatedly eating a food increases the body’s ability to digest it.

If one experiences any distress, such as indigestion/gas, I suggest decreasing the portion size and eating only or two foods at a time, paying attention to combinations.

Some people are reportedly allergic to whole wheat. If this seems to be the problem, before condemning it, determine if the difficulties mightn’t be improper combinations or stale wheat. Even home baked bread is often made out of store-bought or otherwise stale flour, rather than flour home-ground IMMEDIATELY before baking. And there may be additions such as honey which interfere with digestion.

Perhaps because the ECANES diet is high in roughage and rich in B vitamins, it may have a laxative effect. Dr. Brukitt, who recommends bran for intestinal health, says there may be gas for 2 or 3 weeks, but that this disappears as the bran has its effect.

I formerly never considered myself constipated but by present standards, I must have been. According to one author, bowel movements should equal the number of meals.

Whole foods, and starches especially, require thorough mastication, so don’t forget to chew, chew, chew, and eat slowly; what’s the rush, I tell myself. Tomorrow is another beautiful day, with more delicious food to eat.

I hope that anyone who tries the ECANES diet will stick with it, realizing that all the adaptations, both psych and physiologic take time. I remind myself that things worth getting take work getting.

If one eats little, or best, none of the dextrose; eats molasses by the teaspoon, not the cup; goes easy on ECANES cookies; and does get plenty of sprouts, fresh fruit, and vegetables when possible, and raw foods; cooks conservatively when cooking, and rounds things out with supplements and vitamins, the diet outlined in OUT OF SIGHT EATING may do as well for one as it does for Rayo and me.

How well is that/ Our health is good, the best it's been in our lives, and getting better; in the last year or two, we've had no colds, no doctor/drug bills, and no new cavities!

Certain aspects of our diet may pose different problems for different individuals, but I see no reason why it cannot be tailored to meet the needs of most people interested in adopting it. After all, it's actually more nutritious than what most people in N. America eat. -HAELAN HYGEIA (A condensed version of OUT OF SIGHT EATING was published in the 1973 VONULIFE.)

VONULINC 14, SEPTEMBER 1973

Vonulink is published every two months as a readers' forum and supplement to vonulife. Compiled by Lan.

Hello! We've been wondering "where-oh-where", there must be others, but not a sign. Then I read an ad and a letter in Mother Earth. This lifestyle we're into (and getting deeper day by day) was not really planned – we just found our nerves jangling and stomachs queezing at the thought of "going back" and picking up the strings of where we left off (get a job, a dwelling, etc. etc.) – so, we began in-depth research into all our books and Mother Earths about living off the land and low budget. Our 5x7 nylon tent has thus far comfortably housed ... and our 6-mo. old coon-Australian Shepard dog and myself through snow, rain, and sun. The snow was late May variety near Snowmass, Colorado, thus not too cold – about 40° -- and we've yet to survive a winter, but we're slowly moving west and I'm sure there will be no problem as far as shelter is concerned. We've gained a multitude of ideas from an old Whole Earth Catalog, Motners, Boyscout Fieldbook, and Foxfire 1. Now, in the Nes Perce Forest of Idaho – Salmon River Canyon, berries are plentiful – blackberries (oh joy!), thornapples (syrup), wild small green apples (pare, core, and sliced – drying in the sun – limited only by storage space in our Bronco), plus (experimenting with drying them now), chokecherries (need lots of sugar – make great pies, etc.). Our main hassle has been finding mills, etc. to buy large quantity whole wheat and brown rice. We'd give our eye-teeth (second thought, we better keep them for tearing tough foods) for other people's handpicked wisdom – ideas, ideas – we need 'em. We've got about \$10 which goes a long way, but ...

Trout fishing is a newly acquired skill for us – previously vegetarians but feel fine about it, doing our own catching. Maybe we'll give that up when we are feeling more secure in this lifestyle. Learning more forage plants daily but not quickly enough. Thinking of dropping into fruit country and working a few days picking – or going to farm houses seeking day labor, cleaning fixing, painting...

Dear Vonu People. It appears that you've been thinking harder and longer about some of the same values that I've been trying to shape my life around.

There are 3 of "us" – V, N, and myself. We are intimate. We've learned to overcome the jealousy-insecurities and recognize the built in failures (of nearly all forms of social organization and expression) that break communities up.

We believe that it's impossible to hold onto and take satisfaction in each other unless we become a community (fairly isolated – socially, culturally, materially self-contained) of 12 to xx people who strive to be very distinct and independent on both an individual and community basis. We don't believe that men and women should live together. We hope that each person will want to (and will in fact – while and even able) maintain his/her own shelter and be able to understand/produce all the things that the individual consumes.

Don't misunderstand. We are very sensual and close. We'll spend a lot of time with each other and do tasks together. But we won't divide labor and/or specialize. Love and desire for each other depends on maintaining one's individuals and sense of "aloneness".

Problem: 1) We'd like to minimize or avoid – if possible – "ownership" and preoccupation with property. I don't like the idea of buying something that was originally stoles. I don't like to contribute my share to the inflation of property values that speculators and realtors feed us on.

2) We want to achieve stability and a sense of place. Even if we are able to nourish ourselves mainly by gathering wild foods – thereby avoiding the inherent property trip and land investment that agriculture entails – it would be easier to realize "community" if we didn't have to worry about being pushed around by people who own or represent property interests. "Owning" the land we'll use would – seemingly – allow us to be free in some ways, but I hate to join in the business of cutting up earth (even though we could afford it in terms of income and savings. – C., Oregon

Dear Vonulife: I mention my desire for a companion to any female vonuer who is in need of companionship, etc., and attractive (not fat) and 25 to 50, blonde preferred, but auburn, brunette O.K. too (no BLACK witchy-looking type, though!). I'm 65 6"2" high, 165 pounds, tired of getting nowhere via shoestring financing, etc., and finally with enough money to get away, but to where? Outside of 5 acres I have in Christmas Valley, Oregon (no trees) and have never been married due to a career of hitchhiking and working for room and board or \$1 per hour (for last 20 years on Rosemont) and previously \$2 per week. 8 hours per day – and always yearning for a place of my own away from the mess. Missed a movie career due to malnutrition and wound up in a hospital just after couple screen tests sponsored via Myrna Loy (so not too ugly at present)!

Female vonuer can regard me as anything she wants, a brother (!), uncle, associate, companion, father, employer, etc., but she must not be on dope or alcohol (beer or hard drink once in awhile) and prefer country to city.

I have a 52 Ford Wagon, which I've converted into a sort of camper van, but it heats up via day time driving, so will have to travel via night, to Oregon, or?

And I've been researching in metaphysics since around 12 or 13, due to the many weird occurrences happening around and to me, thus can write couple books on what I have discovered. Fairly well preserved physically due to not eating much in past and present – minus meat and favorite fruits and vegetables, but dislike preparing such other than canned vegs and raw fruits. –DON BUSH, Pasadena, CA

I own forest land near Lake Pond Oreille in Idaho and would be delighted if someone wanted to become invisible upon it. I am a yogi or witchy type. The general public finds me completely outrageous. Thus I am forced toward you, by them. My address is 15 North 100 East. My phone number is 801-438-5112. I am not available on weekends. I am a metamorphosis product (new man). I will answer letters with respect to abstractions (i.e., English language too). I apologize for violating any of your customs of speech. –GEORGE C. DENMAN, General Delivery, Beaver, Utah 84713.

14-1

Dr. Raleigh G. Tremblay
Chiropractor

fourteen eighteen west tenth topeka, kansas 66606 telephone (913) 234-9018

DEAR FREEDOM SEEKERS,

JUST A FEW IDEAS FROM MIDDLE AMERICA.

LIZ & I WERE IN CENTRAL AMERICA LAST SPRING CHECKING OUT MIGRATION POSSIBILITIES.

THE COUNTRIES WE CHECKED OUT INCLUDE MEXICO, GUATEMALA, HONDURAS, SAN SALVADOR, NICARAGUA, COSTA RICA & PANAMA.

MOST OF THE COUNTRIES HAVE VERY LITTLE TO OFFER THE "AMERICAN" WITH THE EXCEPTION OF COSTA RICA. COSTA RICA IS A DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC. IT IS A STABLE GOVERNMENT AS FAR AS WE COULD TELL THERE IS A GOVERNMENT MONOPOLY ON UTILITIES, & THE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE INDUSTRY.

THE CLIMATE IS SPRINGLIKE (IN THE CENTRAL PLATA) THEY HAVE A RAINY SEASON (MAY TO OCTOBER I BELIEVE) BUT IT IS NOT A CONTINUOUS RAIN, THE SUN USUALLY SHINES. THE PEOPLE ARE VERY FRIENDLY. MOST OF THE COUNTRY IS MADE UP OF LOWER MIDDLE CLASS FOOD IS LOCALLY GROWN, VERY CHEAP & VERY GOOD FOR YOU. BEEF IS EVEN CHEAP, COMPARED TO U.S. PRICES. THERE ARE PLenty OF PRIMITIVE AREAS WITH LITTLE OR NO INHABITATION. WE LOOKED AT 10 ACRES ON THE BEACH (PACIFIC SIDE) FOR \$5000.00

IT WAS PRETTY INACCESSIBLE, BUT REALLY BEAUTIFUL. THE ONLY TROUBLE WITH BEACH FRONT IS THAT FOR MOST NORTH AMERICANS IT IS VERY BAD FOR THE HEALTH OVER LONG PERIODS. LAND CAN BE BOUGHT ON THE EDGES OF THE FOREST FOR \$100.00 PER ACRE, AND PUT INTO PRODUCTION FOR ANOTHER \$500.00 PER ACRE.

THERE ARE QUITE A NUMBER OF NORTH AMERICANS RESIDING IN C.R. THEY RANGE FROM LONG HAIR HOMESTEADING IN THE MOUNTAINS, TO GENTLEMEN ENGLISH DAIRY FARMERS. THE MAIN LANGUAGE IS SPANISH WITH ENGLISH, JAPANESE, & ITALIAN IN ABOUT ABOUT THAT ORDER. YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A CITIZEN OF THE COUNTRY TO WORK IF YOU HAVE A TRADE LIKE CARPENTRY, OR ... THE PAY ISN'T TO GREAT THE BEST.

A tip for being stuck in towns for some reason, and dirty with city grime. For showers, we have YWCA-YMCA membership cards. They have a lot of other services we don't use much, like first aid classes, cheap rooms, a place to exercise in the city. Fees vary here from \$4 - \$60/year. A local membership card is good anywhere they say. Sometimes a guest pass is necessary. It seems men can obtain memberships in YMCA's and vice versa. Here a woman's card is far cheaper. Family memberships are also available. It amazes me how many local chapters exist even in a rural state such as this one...—Will & Isabella, W. Va

I can tell you how to light a backpacking stove like Optimus or Svea. The instructions that come with the stove aren't worth a shit. There's a little saucer-like gizmo under the works in these stoves. You get a little gas into this saucer and light it. That heats up the plumbing and vaporizes and pressurizes the gas inside, so when you open the valve, you

can fire up the vapor that hisses out. The problem is to get that little bit of gas into that saucer in the first place. The Optimus instructions suggest you heat the gas tank with your hands until a little gas oozes out. This has got to be the most half-assed suggestion anyone ever made. You try it some cold morning in the woods when you're dying for hot coffee. You're supposed to heat the thing with your hands, but they don't say what you heat your hands with. This method will work alright, but it may take 30 or 40 minutes of struggling.

The Sven instructions add that if hand heating doesn't work, you should heat the bottom of the stove with several matches. That's a little better idea, only half-half assed. The point of all this is mainly to put a little gas in that saucer and the easy solution is just to put it there. There are 2 sensible ways: 1) if you carry an extra little can of gas, pour some gas from it onto the works so it fills the saucer, or 2) open the fuel tank on the stove and take some gas out with an eye dropper or by pipetting with a bit of tubing (like 3 in. of a plastic straw) and put it in the saucer.

Here's the whole process: Turn the knob both ways a few times so the needle will come up and clean out the gas orifice, then turn the valve all the way shut. Open the fuel tank to equalize air pressure and while it's open, take out a little gas and put in saucer, or pour some gas from the spare gas can. Close the fuel tank tightly. Make sure you haven't slopped gas all over yourself or the neighborhood, you're not out to burn yourself or the woods. If gas spills where it shouldn't be, wipe it up or wait for it to dry. Now light the gas in the saucer and watch the pretty flames. When the flames burn out, open the valve and crack and light the gas vapor that hisses out. Upper level students try to save a match by opening the valve just in time to catch the last flicker of flame before it dies out. This method will get you cooking fast and easy every time.

In VL 12 someone quoted some prices for dried fruit from Jaffee Bros. I have a 10 month old catalog from them with these same prices and I'm sure they must be much higher now. Your best source for unprocessed food is a food co-op if there's one near you. It occurs to me that I can easily offer a service to anyone stuck way out in the boonies far from any cheap food source, and pocked a few shekels at the same time. I work in a food co-op and I will sell food to VL readers at our non-member price, plus postage. Write and I'll send you our price list of over 150 items in these categories: herbs and spices, dried fruits, nuts and seeds, beans a grains, baking supplies, mic. Our policy is to stock good food at lowest prices, so we don't stock all organic. If organic is only a little more, we'll probably stock it. But if organic costs twice as much, we'll stock non-organic or maybe both. You may be able to find better prices locally, especially if you can buy in bulk. But the prices I offer will compare favorably with most other mail order and health food store sources. For price list, write to me: Jim Stumm, Kenmore, NY.

Picking up on Lan's suggestion in VL 13, I'm willing to do a lending library of libertarian and other books and maybe zines. I have all these books sitting on my shelves anyway, not doing anyone much good here. I'll lend them out for a reasonable price. Here's how I'll work it: I require a deposit of 50¢ of the purchase price for each book, maybe higher for new books or for persons I don't trust, with a minimum of 50¢ per book. Most of this will be refunded when I get the book back. I'll deduct from the deposit (1) my postage to send the book to you, and (2) a monthly rate of 1/10 the purchase price of the book, 10¢ minimum. The monthly rate will be prorated from the date I mail to the date I receive the book back, with a one month minimum charge. Then I'll refund the difference to you or credit it to your account, at your option.

You must sign an agreement to return each book to me within 3 months of the date you receive it. If you violate this agreement, you forfeit your deposit, I'll do no more business with you, and I may do such other nasty things to you as I may choose.

At your option, you may establish an open account with me, then I'll credit your account instead of refunding small amounts, which will save me writing a lot of small checks. In exchange, I'll give you a 10% discount off of all charges. You can withdraw any or all of your credit with me at any time.

Write to me for my list of books available. If there are other books you want but don't see on the list, tell me what you want and maybe I'll get it. Also, do you have books of interest to libertarians that you no longer want? Here's a chance to clear off your shelves and get some of

your money back. Send me your list of books you are willing to sell to me. Indicate price you want for each book and condition of book. Send no books until I get back to you.

Also, I have lots of back issues of libertarian magazines and newspapers I would be willing to lend out, but I haven't figured out how to go about that yet. And I would be willing to participate in some kind of exchange of currently libertarian mags, but I haven't thought through the specific details. If anyone would like to make a specific proposal, I would be happy to entertain it.

Hello, Lan. I am living in Dallas, Texas and I have a job in semi-suburbia. There is some open land in the form of vacant lots nearby. And maybe small wooded areas, but I haven't checked too carefully.

Anyway, I own a pickup with a covered bed (small camper) and a trail bike. I am trying to figure out a way to use my truck as living space. I foresee two major problems: (1) Vandalism or theft of bike and belongings in truck. (2) Maintaining adequate diet, high protein (milk) and vegetables on hot or warm days. What I want to know is: Are there problems solvable and during what seasons?

HIVE – A HANDBOOK OF SURVIVAL IN NUCLEAR ATTACK, Rogers Channel, Emergency Planning Research Center, Stanford Research Institute; Prentice Hall, 1962, provided the most useful information of any such book I have discovered. I came upon it in a library — I don't know if it still being sold.

This man, reproduced from it, in more realistic than the one I published in VL5 because it considers probable wind conditions rather than assuming one "typical" day. On the other hand, it assumes five megaton surface bursts exclusively (as I recall) which probably underestimates danger in areas near ICBM emplacements which would likely be struck with numerous high-megaton surface explosions. When estimating probability of fallout, consider high altitude winds since they will carry most of the fallout. In the Pacific Northwest, winds above 5000 feet have directions between 200° and 320° over 90% of the time; velocity is usually between 20 and 40mph.

The author believed (as I recall) that during the middle 1960's, population centers not near military targets would be attacked by bombers rather than missiles and, in event of surprise attack, bombers would arrive several hours after the missiles, so inhabitants of these areas would have warning. Optionally, such cities might be preserved as "hostages". With the greater number of missiles today such an assumption might not be safe.

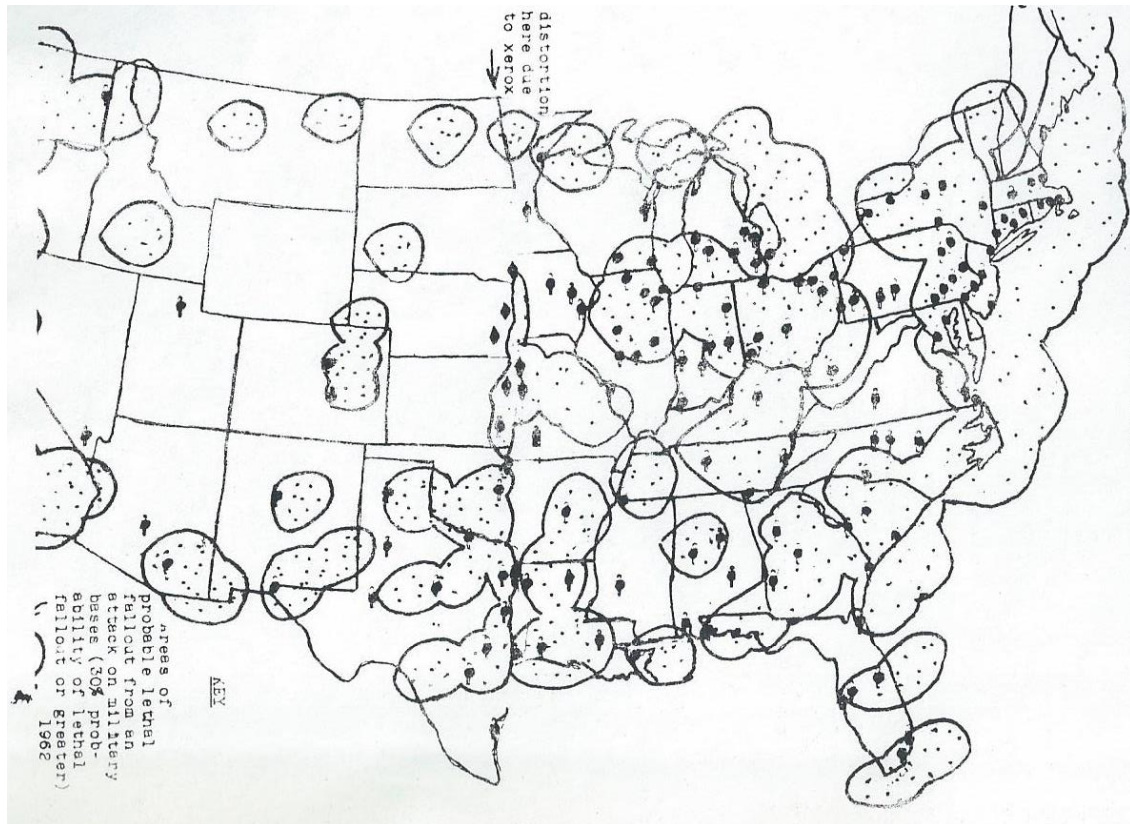
The handbook describes several simple shelters which can be constructed quickly. One which attenuates radiation 500 times, can be dug by one person in one hour, assuming fairly soft dirt and the availability of large strong boards (such as doors removed from houses).

I am skeptical of attempts to predict the date (even within a year) and details of a nuclear attack. But it is foolish to assume that there will not be such a war simply because there hasn't already been one. (I have never broken a bone, been arrested, been injured in an auto accident or had an appendicitis, so I can be confident (by this same line of "reasoning") that I never will.)

Two persons I know have attempted predictions. Both are highly intelligent. Both have secret to classified information. Both have devoted much time and considered many military and political factors. One believes that an attack within the next year is more likely than not. The other puts probability of an attack during the next five years at less than 1% per year. I don't believe it is worthwhile for me to attempt to select one prediction over the other.

Facts which are indisputable: on one hand, nuclear weapons exist and can be launched on short notice; on the other hand, they are not routinely used (they haven't been since 1945). In the face of unavoidable uncertainty, the rational course, I believe, is to arrange my life so that I have high probability of surviving a nuclear attack if there is one, yet not go on the assumption that there will necessarily be an attack. —Rayo

[IMAGE BELOW: Key – Areas of probable lethal fallout from an attack on military bases. 30% probability of lethal fallout or greater. 1962]



SMALL ADS

SURVIVAL. Devaluation usually brings inflation which later usually brings on depressions so if there is doubt in your mind as to what's coming, perhaps our "How to Survive the Coming Depression" may interest you (if you still don't have a copy). A guide of 3000 controversial fact-filled words, it shows many methods for making it through the coming hard times with a satisfaction guarantee. Still half price to V.L. readers. -A. Fry

The **LIBERTARIAN CONNECTION** is an open-forum laissez-faire magazine for libertarians. All subscribers have the privilege of contributing material, which will not be edited. LC is known for its creative ideas on practical actions and theoretical considerations in the expansion of both individual and larger-scale freedom.

The **Church of All Worlds** is a neo-pagan religion dedicated to the celebration of life, the maximum actualization of human potential, and the realization of the ultimate individual freedom and personal responsibility in harmonious eco-psychic relationship with the total biosphere of Holy Earth. We have a growing number of Nests across the continent – one may be near you. Our magazine, **GREEN EGG**, is published 8 times a year. Thou Art God! -CAW

DIRECTORY OF LITTLE MAGAZINES AND SMALL PRESSES, Eighth Edition, 1972-73, is based on an entirely new survey. This directory has been called "the first and by far the best" by Bill Kats in "Guides to the Underground". \$2.50/Eighth Edition; \$8.00/four year sub. **DUSTBOOKS**, Paradise, CA.

Secret mail receiving/forwarding. Absolute privacy guaranteed. Use any name. Other services available: specify your needs. **MEMON** rated. Details from: **MYOB Services**, Paradise, CA.

I'll be glad to forward mail for people using this address. I already do a little of this anyhow. Basic charge is \$2/month, payable any: cash, stamps, check, money order. –John T. Harlee, Florence, South Carolina.

MAPS

by Al Fry

Maps are back country people's "books of the land" and just as a person can save years of bungling along without a "guide" by opening a few pertinent pages so can a traveler save a lot of time and money with a little "map forethought". I remember back packing into some surprising little lakes in my Idaho "growing up" country – local lakes I had missed until I started map collecting. I recall that some of the old topographical maps showed long defunct ghost towns which helped us collect some of the now fast disappearing [illegible]. I'm not crazy about topographical maps but in desert country and flatland, that's about all that's available in many cases. Biggest setback to me is that they cost money. It's best to send to the Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. for a master map sheet which shows the maps to get for the areas of your state. Many blue print shops handle these topographic maps and even the backpacking suppliers are often now carrying them.

The best maps by far: if they cover the right area for you, are the Forest Service's National Forest maps. These are modified topographical and trail maps and are free if the local ranger station has any in stock. Best idea is to write for them from the regional supervisor nearest to the forest area you want a map of. In the N.W., this would be Missoula Montana (Federal Building), Denver (Federal Center), Albuquerque (Federal Building), Ogden, Utah (Federal Building) San Francisco (630 Sansone St.)...Getting these maps this way may be more bother, but is better than coming up with nothing from local sources. If you are heading to Canada you can get really wonderful maps from the Canadian Map Distribution Office, Dept. of Mines and Tech. Services, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. They put out details of what is available and you stand a good chance of getting Park maps from the appropriate park director.

AAA is an excellent source of less detailed maps of the Northern U.S. and much of the rest of the continents. I have a hard time getting maps below our border.

If you are prospecting for something, it's always very useful to stop by a local library, University Geology Department library, courthouse, or BLM office to get the land formations and "lay of the land" information. More sophisticated and expensive maps are available for certain areas and librarians can often save you the "searching time". Looking for caverns? Look up limestone areas. Gold? All the gold producing sections of your area already mapped out for you. Likewise with about everything else that's valuable. All it takes is a special map – a map available to any who take the time.

USING YOUR NOSE

by Al Fry

Few [?] of the subjects brought up in V.L. may seem a bit odd but I think that in [illegible] oneself it is well to get a view of all sides of any questions so that choice may be made. Too often many of us never really see a true picture of that has always been right in front of us all the time. In my case it was my angular protruding Virgo nose. I really never used it much when I was a kid and no one was there to tell me how. Over the years I finally learned to use and enjoy it. I use it in all my cooking now – instead of depending on clocks, gauges, and such, I "smell" it right. Just like the great French chefs can tell when things are right or done, I now periodically take a whiff of what I'm cooking to tell if it is done or now. A waffle or bread for instance will retain a faintly raw doughy odor until done. Similarly vegetables, greens, weeds, or whatever you cook you can smell through a par boil or well-cooked [illegible] as you prefer. As your acuity increases you can begin to tell when things are seasoned to your liking also.

To be good to yourself it is good to [illegible] the smells to your life that you enjoy. This finally does make life a little more pleasant. I have always loved wild smells and frequently find myself grabbing some handfuls of good ol' N. West sage brush to later use as natural [illegible] or around my van just for the aroma it brings. Many of the old [illegible] used flowers and such in healing

scents and I'm sure we all could crave the particular aroma we needed if we just relaxed and "let it come".

Humans give off distinctive odors that tend to mirror their health and condition. A good many doctors can detect a person with a certain disorder by the patient's odor. I have learned to do this with a certain extent and find that I automatically put up guards when I find someone I'm being intimate with has something as wrong odor – learning a "clap" odor for instance once cost a case of "clap". Healthy body odors however are usually delightful if of the opposite sex. I have never recovered from a girl I once knew in school. She made chills go up my spine just being around her and her vital natural "turn on" aroma. The reverse is often true however and I have on several occasions found a perfectly "wonderful" girl in every respect except that her natural body odor was out of harmony in some way and I just got turned off over a period of time. Goodness knows how many close relationships are ruined by the eventual consequences of this problem. It just seems to be something most persons ignore or try to. Suppose it can be done with a constant daily round of showering and such but it's a hard thing to fight – living together is hard enough as it is.

As you use your nose more you will be able to pick the fruit and vegetables that are ripest and best. You will smell the flower stem end of a cantaloupe to see if it is a healthy luscious fruit or smell a watermelon to see if it is ripe. Of course if you are hooked on drawing a lot of cigarette smoke down your nose and lungs, forget it – even your natural body aroma will be tainted with the tobacco smell. In any event if you enjoy natural living here's hoping you will enjoy your nose as much as I do mine.

Thinking about getting a camper? Al Fry warns that purist conservation organizations and other government lovers are trying to close off public lands to keep RV's out. On the other side there are recreational vehicle organizations and makers trying to keep them open. One telling who will finally manage to club whom and how hard. But it might be wise not to put a lot of money or time into an RV just in case. (Any "closure" would be pretty difficult to enforce I think but still this is something to take into consideration.) –Lan

To Jim Stumm about your lending library: Ordinarily, I don't pick at something in the same issue in which it is proposed, but since it's a business proposition, maybe you want criticism as fast as you can get it. 1) if you want as much as 50% of the purchase price as deposit, wouldn't it be simpler to go all the way and require 100% of the price you would be willing to sell it at deposit? Then you don't have to bother with agreements or doing nasty things to people. If somebody doesn't return the book, it means they bought it and you keep the deposit. 2) Your rate are no good for me and many other backwoods sites. It might take me two or three months to get the book (I don't get mail very often and the P.O.'s slow, especially with books), month to get around to reading it (maybe I'm busy with something when it comes), and a month or two to send it back. Figure 5 months average. At 10% a month, that's 50%, so instead of renting it from you, I'll hold and try to buy it used or read it at a library, etc. Some people get mail much faster than I do, but these are mostly people who can get to libraries easy too, so they don't need to borrow by mail. I can see charging 10% a month for a "best seller" which everybody wants to read right now and nobody will want in a couple of years, but I doubt that many of the books you would be dealing would be like that. How about 10% for the first month and 5% each additional, plus any damage? –LAN

[INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK]

Escape the Rat Race **Books**

34 JONES STREET
Suite 257B
San Francisco, CA 94107

7 15 73

DEAR LAN:

YOUR LETTER OF JUNE 2 JUST MATERIALIZED ON MY DESK...WHO KNOWS HOW IT ARRIVED. BEEN TRAVELIN' A LOT MYSELF SO COUDD HAVE DROPPED OUT OF AN OLD SUITCASE. ANYWAY, I'M HERE IN THE DELTA COUNTRY LIVING ON MY OLD COAST GUARD CUTTER. IT'S A REAL GAS ALTHO ROTEY DOESN'T DIG IT LIKE I DO. HAVE IT UP FOR SALE SO PROLLY WILL BE TRAVELIN ON IN ONE OF MY TRAILERS SOON. HOWEVER, IF IN THE MEANTIME YOU ARE ANYWHERE AROUND BETHEL ISLAND, WE'RE AT PRINCE HARBOR ABOUT 1 MILE WEST. BETHEL ISLE IS ABOUT 28 MILES WEST OF STOCKTON OR 45 MILES OUT OF BERKELEY. IT'S A SMALL COMMUNITY ON DUTCH SLOUGH, AN ARM OF THE SAN JOAQUIN RIVER. SWIMMING AND FISHING ARE GREAT HERE AND THERE'S LOTS OF FREE FOOD ALL AROUND. PLENTY OF FRUIT TREES THAT JUST VOLUNTEERED TO GROW ALONG WITH REGULAR CROPS THAT AREN'T MISSED BY THE FARMERS. A VONUAN COULD LIVE OFF THE DELTA WITH EASE ALL YEAR ROUND. PERHAPS IF HE HAD A SMALL BOAT OR HOUSEBOAT. JUST FOR FUN, I BUILT ONE OUT OF AN ABANDONED SET OF PONTOONS AND A \$75 TRAILER. IT'S HORRIBLE TO LOOK AT BUT LIVABLE AND IT FLOATS UP AND DOWN WITH THE TIDE.

OK, PRINT ANY AND ALL THAT I SEND YOU ALONG WITH MY LOCATION. I'M ON PROBATION FOR GROWING A LITTLE POT SO THEY KNOW WHERE I AM ALL THE TIME. I MOVE A LOT BUT I'M STILL A HARD TARGET TO HIT NONETHELESS.

IF YOU'RE LIVING AROUND PARADISE, PERHAPS WE CAN GET TOGETHER THERE OR HERE OR SOME MIDWAY POINT. WOULD LIKE TO RAP WITH YOU IN PERSON ON MANY SUBJECTS. THE TIME FOR VONULIFE IS DRAWING NIGH WITH GREAT RAPIDITY...THUS WE COULD EXCHANGE INTERESTING DATA.

GLAD YOU GOT HOW TO LIVE...THIS BOOK WAS SUPPRESSED BY THE PUBLISHER AND I'M NOW TRYING TO PEDDLE IT MYSELF. WROTE ANOTHER BOOK THAT IS PURE VONU. THE ROBIN HOOD HANDBOOK, OR HOW TO LIVE LIKE A 20TH CENTURY FOX. IT WILL BE OUT IN OCT. IF THINGS HOLD TOGETHER THAT LONG. I'LL SEND YOU A COPY.

VONULIFE 73 IS GREAT!!! NOW HAVE MYOPIA BUT IT WAS WORTH IT. MUCH OF GREAT VALUE THAT I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYWHERE ELSE. PAULDOERR IS AN ADD BUDDY. ALSO INTO BOOKS.

IF YOU WRITE TO NOEL YOUNG, CAPRA PRESS, 631 STATE ST, SANTA BARBARA AND TELL HIM I SENT YOU, HE MIGHT HAVE A COPY OF SMALL BOOKS STORES LISTINGS. A GAL NAMED MISSIE MAYTAG GAVE ME A COPY AND SHE WAS ASSOCIATED WITH NOEL. ANOTHER SOURCE WOULD BE JOHN SHUTTLEWORTH OF MEN. HE'S AN OLD BUDDY SO MENTION HIM. YOU MIGHT TRY WEC DIRECT. DONT KNOW ANYONE THERE BUT THEY'RE ACCOMODATING.

I WONDERED ABOUT THE WHITE SPACE TOO. WANTED THEM TO FILL IT WITH DATA BUT THEY WERE IN TOO MUCH HURRY. PROLLY GET THIS BOOK BACK AND DO IT MYSELF WITH ANOTHER PUBLISHER. FIRST TIME FARMERS GUIDE BY STRAIGHT ARROW HAS GONE INTO 3 OR 4 PRINTINGS SO SHOULD MAKE ENOUGH BREAD FROM THAT TO KEEP MY GOING. DO YOU HAVE A COPY? IF NOT, I'LL SEND A NEW PAPERBACK. ECSTATIC WONDER AND ZERO EXPENSES... Bill Kaysing

PROJECT MINERVA

International Maritime Legal Research
Station E. PO. Box 4344
1723 Broadway
Toledo, Ohio 43609

July 1, 1973

MINERVA REEFS NEW COUNTRY PROJECT

Project Minerva is still underway. However, the occupation of the Minerva Reefs has failed. The King of Tonga has rejected all negotiations for settlements of the Reefs of Minerva. To further

strengthen his position, he has entered into a Mutual Arms and Protection Agreement with the Far East. Under International Law, the Libertarian Concept of Law, and the Natural Laws of the World, the Republic of Minerva (on the Reefs) was a nation in fact for a period of five days. This period of time occurred in January of 1972, when the original claimers were on the reefs. This claim failed for want of occupation.

We have a 230 page research package available to any person desiring copies of the historical documents connected with the first valid attempt to set up a new government/nation under the Libertarian concept. It comes complete with the Leader's letters and all other important documents, including the King of Tonga's answer to negotiations for the settlement of the Reefs of Minerva.

It has been rumored that a few individuals have set up a government in exile. These individuals have no valid reason for doing so. To set up a government in exile you must have been forced to leave a country. The Reefs of Minerva were abandoned in January 1972. The settlement of the reefs is now impossible without the co-operation of the King of Tonga and his people which number 1,000,000 strong.

COCOS ISLAND

The negotiations for this island are satisfactory. We wish to clear up a rumor which was planted by a person who is in direct opposition to the success of any new country project. A is A published a report that the island was being used as an international drug center. A is A received this report via a planted news article in Costa Rica. The gentleman who sent A is A the news article works for the U.S. government. Until recently, Cocos Island has been used as a military field exercise training area by the Republic of Costa Rica's Militia. This is a documented fact, not A is A's published article that the island is being used as a pot plantation. We know, we're there.

A NEW COUNTRY PROJECT

Satisfactory negotiations have been accomplished and funds have been paid. It is expected that it will take approximately two years to assure that this new country will have the support and protection that will be necessary for it to survive its initial internal adjustments and external pressures from governments which are opposed to individual rights. We are going forth very carefully at this time to insure that this nation will not be destroyed by individual greed, egos, or power grabs. The following this are taking place:

1. We are working with the heads of five small nations to insure recognition and mutual protection in the area.
2. Very quiet publicity and information on this project are going out across the World.
3. Support is being sought from Individualistic Businessmen, Professional Men, and Women.
4. Individualists are being screened, as to their intentions, for potential elected leadership positions and dual citizenship in this new country, when it is opened up.

When the above things are accomplished this new nation will be announced to the World. Many rumors will fly about, many already have; however, we wish to point out that you will be informed of the facts as they become fact, not fancy. We are not in this project to make a profit. We are in this project to do our small part to insure its success. If this new nation survives, it will stand as an example of true freedom for individuals. Perhaps there is a better way of government than some of the other systems across the World. (July 17th, Dr. Taylor will be guest on a Radio Talk Show, Radio London CJBK-129. Special Announcements will be made concerning this new country. Dr. Taylor will be a guest of Frank Ogden planned The Survival Institute, etc.)...

Wow. We're doing a book on low-cost housing and I'm gathering the information, photos, etc. and doing the rough draft...and we'd like more material if we can get it. First of all, we don't want to interfere with anyone's privacy and we don't want to reveal locations – especially when someone wants it that may. With that in mind, could we possibly get photos of the Shuswap

house and any other cheapies that are made from free, easily obtainable materials? –Cassandra Wester, Assoc. Editor, The Mother Earth News

(This letter was July 24. Didn't say when closing date is.)

We are now gathering material for "Shelter", our first book since "Domebook II". "Shelter" will be a book on barns, treehouses, domes, houseboats, sculpted dwellings, simple 2 x 4 framing techniques, nomad tents American Indian wooden structures, thatched Irish farm buildings, new ferre-cement techniques, pickup truck contractors, house-wreckers, travelling carpenters. Making your own building materials: thatch, adobe, shaked, wattle & daub, others? Contributors will be paid 50¢ per page (of finished book) or portion thereof for text or photos. If you have something to contribute, please send us a card and we'll contact you with details. –Shelter Publications

Hello Rayo,

I've got a panel-type van with all the gear. My bag, for the next couple of years, is to travel around the country, visiting various libertarian establishments and outposts to see how they're coming along, what they're doing, and how they're doing it, before the big depression hits. After that, I plan to climb into them there hills and embark on a nature-lover lifestyle.

My interests are education – specifically with an eye on opening a libertarian school, teaching kids how to live a life of liberty, mutual repeat, love, and sound economies. Believe it or not, one of my side-hobbies is astrology. Not the kind that "predicts the future" (we've got free will), but the kind that describes personality and character types according to the part of the year you're born in.

I'd like to meet and, if possible, travel with, a sheik who has similar interests. A sheik who is rational enough to be self-sufficient, to have foresight and insight about her own life, and who is sensitive enough to be loving, kind, and plain old human. Taurus seems to fill the bill, but I'd be delighted to share my lifestyle with a nice Scorpio, a Cancer, or a sweet Pisces. I'm a Pisces myself. Some of my other interests psychology, philosophy, writing, and camping. If you're a libertarian chick reading this, I'd like having you get in touch with me before I take off. You have nothing to lose; a lot to gain in a very rewarding relationship. I'm a very interesting guy with a lot more to me than meets the eye in this letter. Write soon.

STUART L. CARTER
6035 Lymbar St.
Houston, TX 77035

I couldn't print the rest of Dr. Trembly's letter because it was on the back of the sheet. But I'll mention that e is organizing a tour of Costa Rica especially for people interested in settling there. 8-12 days, about \$500 which includes most everything. If interested, write S. 11418 W. Tenth, Topeka, Kansas.

The [Illegible] Politics
by Kerry and Cara Thornley

(This is the opening chapter to a forthcoming book called I TAO: A Manual for Yin Revolution.) (Somebody wrote "LC 3 – April 13, 1969" on this – it's been in VonuLife's file since before my time. Anybody know where to get the whole book?)

THE DICTATES OF POWER. Men do not hold power – power hold men.

The central reality of political life is that no one can occupy a position of considerable power for long without having to fight. The nature of that fight is determined by the nature of whatever challenges to power are about. Respond to any of them incorrectly and you are Out. That's the game and those who play know it.

The prime requisite for political leadership is ruthlessness. A leader who is not ruthless cannot get, much less keep, political power.

The second requirement is guile. (Especially in a democracy is the best liar-actor likely to end up in the highest position, so that what democratic leaders lack in ruthlessness, they make up in guile.)

Beyond these traits, all that is needed is the delusion that external power is somehow of value.

Chung-tse was fishing from a bridge on the P'u River when two high officials of the Ch'u State came to see him, saying: "The Prince of Ch'u wishes to appoint you Minister of State."

Chuang-tse continued fishing and did not turn his head. "It is said," he told them, "that at the Royal Palace there is a sacred tortoise that died when it was three-thousand years old. The Prince of Ch'u keeps it enclosed in a chest in his ancestral temple. Now would this tortoise prefer to be dead, and thereby an object of veneration? Or would it rather be alive, wiggling its tail in the mud?"

"Why," answered one of the officials, "It would rather be alive!" "

"THEN BEGONE!" shouted Chuang-tse. "I also prefer to wiggle my tail in the mud." (Chuang)

THE DYNAMICS OF BETRAYAL. Differences in temperament, and not in quality, separate those who favor political revolution from the advocates of political reform. Revolution is for those who prefer to be sold out quickly, so as to get it over with. Reform is for their brothers who favor a gradual, painless form of betrayal.

Revolution depends on overt violence. Reform depends on implicit violence – the readiness to imprison at police gunpoint those who do not go along by working and paying taxes, by submitting to conscription and fighting, by obeying any number of inane, obsolete, petty, or harmful prohibitions, and proscriptions.

He who wants to take over the country and remaking it under his own reforming plan will fail. "Mankind" is an abstract concept that cannot be remade after one's own ideas. Under any system of reform, a ruler must make use of different, real life people – some as they seem and some not, some who will assist and others who will resist, some strong and some brittle and unsafe to rely on. That is why the Sage never tries to take over things and reform men. (Lao)

For the political state is nothing more than a social weapon for inflicting violence and compelling obedience by means of threats of violence in a manner that is traditionally acceptable to the great unthinking majority of men. Struggle for control of this weapon is what the world calls political action – be it revolutionary or reformatory, conservative or reactionary. And victory in this struggle results in nothing more than control of the weapon. Since weapons are tools of destruction only, there is very little the winners of political struggles can do that is creative.

When the government is sluggish and stagnant, the people go about their business and are content: When the government is active and efficient, the people become irritated and angry. (Lao)

So all political revolutions and reformations are sooner or later seem to betray whatever was creative in their original programs. This has less to do with the nature of men than it has to do with the Dictates of Power.

THE IMPRACTICALITY OF POLITICS. Politics is generally thought to be the business of practical men, but if human happiness is desirable and widespread suffering is not, then politics is both historically and logically impractical.

For a while, the political state/weapon produces constant propaganda and schooling on behalf of its own necessity, it does not protect so many lives in the restraint of accused murderers as it destroys in the process of warfare; it does not protect so many citizens from bodily harm through police action as it injures by such means; nor does it prevent the theft of so much wealth as it confiscates through taxation.

Evil is stimulated when the righteous ideas of superior men are codified into which, when disregarded, are enforced by punishment.

When the state/weapon is used to directly or indirectly procure men of genius and talent to assist in projects the powerful consider essential to the good of all, it only succeeds eventually in convincing younger brilliant men to hide their gifts – to become plumbers instead of nuclear physicists.

High trees invite their own cutting down and fruit trees invite its own picking. All men proclaim the value of usefulness, but how many perceive the advantage of becoming useless? (Chuang)

Not only is the power of a few men over many predicated upon the dubious assumption that a few minds can more intelligently govern the actions of millions of individuals than can millions of minds, but it is also predicated upon groundless belief that non-coercive individuals will permit their coercive rulers to know what is going on “in the ranks.” Yet as Mordecai the Malign has overserved (in issue #9 of I Magazine): “the State is [illegible]. The Legislature makes the game-rules, declaring who is [illegible] and who isn’t. The judiciary decides in individual cases, whether a person under the rules of the game, should be clubbed or not. The police are in charge of internal clubbing, the army of external clubbing. The tax bureau is devoted to clubbing everybody into paying the cost of all this clubbing. Nobody ever tells the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth such a clubbing machine. Everybody, to some degree, tells the State what they think it wants to hear.” Those who don’t are clubbed. So the state of weapon becomes like the brain of a pre-historic monster – miniscule and sluggish in relation to eat bulk and energy it commands...(to be continued).

VONULINC 15, JANUARY 1974

Vonulink is published every two months as a readers' forum and supplement to vonulife. Compiled by Lan.

PACSCRIPT has stopped publication indefinitely. Primary reason for stopping is that my ideas on outside communication have undergone a major changes during the last few months and PS does not fit in with new plans. Also, although PS met with a fairly good response, the individuals responding were mostly people already contributing to VL or LC, so PS did not seem to be fulfilling even its original purpose. I have no interest in providing competition for VL and LC.

We are establishing a laboratory to conduct experiments related to "whole systems". At present we are trying to get plugged into any information outlets already set up to disseminate or receive information of this nature. ShelterLab.one, Chicago, IL.

Will appreciate contact with folks living in the Big Bend – Davis Mountains area of southwest Texas.—P.M. Plimmer, Alpine, TX

Starting in January, we will be launching a new organization to be known as "Live Free Inc.". The L.F.I. will not only take up many of the sports programs but will take up many new tasks. To start we are selling "Live Free" patches at \$1.50 each. "The National Outdoor Living Directory" at \$2.00 each, conducting free survival training, helping folks set up land funds, and loaning out tape programs. The main direction is towards individual problem solving and liberation through group activities. Anyone interested in knowing more about L.F.I. can write to the Sports Club address or to James C. Jones, Chicago, IL.

Secret mail receiving/forwarding. Absolute privacy guaranteed. Use any name. Other services available: specify your needs. MEMON rated. Details from: MYOB Services, Paradise, CA.

BRING BACK PAGANISM! The Church of All Worlds is a neo-pagan religion dedicated to the celebration of life, the maximum actualization of human potential, and the realization of the ultimate individual freedom and personal responsibility in harmonious eco-psychic relationship with the total biosphere of Holy Earth. We have a growing number of Nests across the continent – one may be near you. Our magazine, GREEN EGG, is published 8 times a year. Thou Art God! –CAW

Vonuists – This letter is the deliberate effort to contact others who value love, life, freedom, and truth above all else.

I am a woman-mother who is seeking primarily a place for my children to grow positively and freely. I am here in Salt Lake trying to get financial backing for a truck and trailer so that we may leave to join others with whom we share similar interests, dreams, ways, etc.

I have attempted to break without vehicle, etc., and I find it just too frustrating and energy consuming – especially trying to keep it together for myself and two children aged 10 and 2 – good food, decent shelter, other children to relate to – with my own peace.

However, it is my way to provide for myself and my children truth and life – more than that I cannot say. It is important for to me to meet others who I can honestly relate to. I'm sure that it would be a better way if we could get together. Please, if you can turn us on to others or places we could meet, we'll take it from there.

I don't believe in any organized "schools" as such. To me that's just someone imposing his ways on someone else, or deciding what is important or unimportant for the individual instead of giving him the right and opportunity to decide for himself.

When we get the trailer-truck together we'll be heading for Northern Calif. Any info on places where we could park and communicate with others will be appreciated.

Peace, Love, Freedom, Truth,
Camille
Salt Lake City, UT

Dear Folks. After a harrowing period in the city I am back in the woods. Almost got "house" finished (if it work I'll write about it), fall garden planted. Need to get firewood and food put up before the wet season comes...This is beautiful country. –Gordon, Arkansas

Dear Vonu Life,

I just finished building a camper on the back of a 48 Dodge pickup. It's insulated and I'm going to put a wood stove in. I'm hoping I can make it through the winter in it but I have to find a place to park. In the woods somewhere on some deserted road where no one will bother me. Or on some one's land who wouldn't mind. The thing is it has to be close enough to someplace where I can walk to get supplies – 5-10 miles – since my truck probably won't start in the cold and I'll be snowed in anyway. –Michael, Wisconsin

If you know someone in a state in the south you may be able to get a license, registration, and plates for your vehicle. Cost is minimal, no inspection, can usually be done by mail. Send letter explaining you are moving into state and want to transfer your current license, registration, and plates to Tennessee. Put letter in envelope and mail to friend. Friend mails letter to motor vehicle in state involved to assure proper postmark and mails forms to you. I suggest Tenn. and S. Car. These were okay last I knew.

I have a Pica Smith Corona office typewriter with a typing stand which I would like to sell for \$25. It is in good condition. I would be able to take it with me when I go west this fall and spring, if you know anyone who needs one. I will be going to New Mexico/Arizona by way of Tenn. then following routes 40, 30, 20 plus 10. I am usually near my Lebanon address. –Peter Bickford, Lebanon, NJ

I've just gotten into VonuLife, and I see a few things that I can help clarify. So here goes: I see mention form time to time of a language (artificial). Yes, Esperanto is phonetic. And in Vonulife 2 page 5, you say, "For a language, make a list of a thousand words..." But you are just talking about doing Esperanto over again. It uses a large number of prefixes and suffixes that turn a small number of simple roots into a large vocabulary. It is entirely regular. Really simple. I ought to know. Although I may be a bit rust now, I once could write and read it as well as I can English. I do not think any of the other artificial languages can hold a candle to Esperanto. So forget the others. Use Esperanto. If you need any more information, I'll be glad to tell you where to get it. Only one declension. The final letter tells you what part of speech a word is. Word structure tells other things too – sing, or plural; gender; active or passive; etc.

About those one tenth watt walkie talkies: The FCC limits them to 5-foot antennas. More antenna would let you talk further. But that would be illegal. But the FCC says nothing about a ground connection. So try grounding one of them. That can increase the range.

In talking about a den, I can see that you are steadily approaching the dens that the Picts used to use in northern England. Some of the remains of them can be seen in England today. So why not start where the Picts were? Dig a circular hole in the ground. I think it must have been waist deep. Then with earth (sod if you can get it) build the walls. The idea is to make a beehive type structure – an arch. When it is finished, get grass to grow on it. Thus it will look like a low hill. In building the walls you should use miniature piling – small sticks calculated not to rot. This should help to make it strong enough that a person can walk over it without caving it in. The tradition was that the Picts "disappeared into the ground". In reality they did. They simply slipped into their houses. Of course, you must arrange ventilation (concealed). And you must contrive a door. You can do it with native materials. Then arrange a bunch of brush on the door. It would be taken for a natural brush pile. Pursuers could never catch the Picts. They slipped

into their houses, and the pursuers walked over the “hill” without knowing it was a home. Reinforcement would do no harm, and probably was used.

About the intrusion sensor (Vonulink 10 page 8): Don’t put the sensors around the perimeter. This way they would record sounds not only beyond the perimeter, but also inside the perimeter. Put them midway between center and perimeter. This way it takes a smaller circle of them. I am assuming they are not directional.

If any of this is published, please withhold my name. Or use my initials. Peace.

Dear Lan,

Re: The questions concerning “meaning” in social “security” numbers, I believe the first set of digits indicates state or other geographic political entity in which you obtained said SS card – picked that up from secretary at a short run employer who said, upon seeing my number, “Oh, I didn’t know you were from [xxx].” Thus if you don’t know the code you might at least check with someone from the state in which you desire to locate your first “honest” job in your history.

During the current fuel crunch many seem to be discussing pretty expensive fuel tank conversions to increase fuel capacity. While Al Fry and others have pointed out the savings to be had through big volume purchases, this is not the motivation among the currently interested. One acquaintance intended blowing \$200 on big capacity for converted bus. It would seem that if you want to be a “retreatist” (in Rayo’s sense) you might do much better with fuel caches (a la Manson) than huge tanks which cut into mileage and are subject to looting (whether official or casual). The main point here is that one would do well to invest in things other than gas dependent hardware. Again, if you’re playing the retreatist gambit you presumably have one or more retreats (whatever became of “squat spots”?) and several routes and means for getting to it [them]. Hence a string of caches seems reasonable. All this ignores the prospect of travel permits, proscriptions, etc. –Erech

Info on European travel, valid as of ’71: Least-hassle way of crossing borders is apparently walking over established hiking trails, between countries which don’t have government that insisted on guarding every inch of frontier. Next best is train.

Hitchhiking across frontiers, or even right up to them, causes problems. (Before getting into Strasburg from Germany, I had my knapsack inventoried, and was asked several times whether I was sure I hadn’t been in Turkey.) Once you’re inside a western European country or Yugoslavia, it’s assume you entered properly. One French bank accepted as my “permanent” address the local youth hostel, probably would work for other foreigners, but not for natives.

ID: Getting voter registration is absurdly easy in LA and San Francisco. There are deputy registrars with tables set up on the sidewalk, who get bounties for those voters they sign up. You get a copy of the document saying you’ve registered to vote; another copy goes into the bureaucratic machinery and confirmation is mailed to the residential address you’ve given. If that piece of paper bounces (can’t be forwarded) you still have voter’s registration which can be used for identification (though not for voting).

Library cards usually call for nothing more to establish current address than a rent receipt, a letter mailed and received at that address, or something similar. Or it might be worthwhile to pay the fee charged cardholders who don’t live or work in that city – believe it’s six bucks in LA. –Dan

**[SCANS OF HANDWRITTEN LETTERS
ON NEXT PAGES]**

— Dear Vona's —

Thumbing thru some old copies of Mother Earth News, and came across your trip — far out!

Wondered if we indivibks would get it together ever — at least enough for a NEEDS LETTER. (That's enough.)

Being a far-more-permanent-than-I'd-like, tent dweller, and wishing to become independently nomadic (no car, truck, bus, or other gas guzzler) — my latest endeavor is to get a good, sturdy burro & make a cart (2 wheel) for him/her to pull me & my junk around in (also cat) & the dog (Beebe) — can walk. Biggest problem is I have no idea how much weight (cart & all) a good healthy donkey can pull. I don't want to make the cart until I get the critter as I might have to settle for a mule — second choice, and they are usually not only bigger but there fore stronger, and I could make the cart larger.

Another hassle is the lack of correspondence from the Canadian tent companies — I ask (in a letter) for a price quote on a 8'x10'x2'x7' Wall tent, and get one for a 9'x12' — and then they ask if that will be satisfactory? — bullshit. Duty from the states on a tent is 29 1/2% — forget it.

This is for my winter tent, as my summer one — thru Sinson-Sears catalogue, incidentally — is nylon (7'x7'x10'x5'6") & also is a bit small for winter living, tho it has been a most excellent spring and summer tent. It weighs 27 lbs with pegs & poles, and is very waterproof, but the condensation problem would be a drag in winter.

It only costs \$40.00 too, and that's a good price for a tent here, also has full mosquito netting & 3-way zippers & triangular rear window with mosquito netting that zips shut from the inside. Unfortunately, it got sad orange walls & floor (no choice of color scheme) blue roof and — get this — orange/white/green/blue striped ends! — looks like a bleeding circus. — it almost glows in the dark. In spite of it's atrociously high visibility it is a good serviceable tent. But the leaves are turning yellow and fall starts early here. The rain has been visiting, and is on the way again over the mountains again, I see.

I plan to heat my winter tent with a home made stove, which I made out of a 5 gallon square can (details on request) — and don't plan to be cold nor uncomfortable, either.

(Well, that's enough jawing, for now, and would really dig to get your newsletter if you are still doing it, and some rap from anyone who's into winter tent living, and also some one who knows any info about donkeys/burros —?

Dear Vonu-ers: Happy Trails

Got your '73 issue and read it with some pleasure, and some sadness. As you see, I am living in Canada, but came up here from Calif in '70 (after the attack on Xos) and tho I can recall the paranoia thing, there brings out in a person, had kind of forgotten how bad it all was until I read your zine.

I guess you would probably say that I'm a lacadaical Vomer, and that's true, except that here in Canada, at least in this area, the cop hassle is not so ever present. Right now, (Dec. 16th - and raining) I'm living on Crown land, and quite a lot of local people know it, but don't expect any hassle, as I've been here, in my summer tent then, since June 9th and spent the whole summer here, and am now and have been, for about 3 1/2 months, in my 8'x10'x2' x 6'3" unbleached white canvas wall tent with top 1/3 of a 55 gal on drum, stuck in the sand on the open end (with doorway cut in front)

I stave pipe going thru spreader ring - for my stove. (Stove found it on beach) I'm on the shores of Kootenay Lake, and can see a long way both up and down the lake, and the mts. covered with snow across the lake, and plan to finish out the winter and go on the road in spring.

I'm going to buy a burro, and if that goes OK - as a pack animal, then another for milking in spring. But am having one helluva time finding out much about them as a pack animal - and the things I will need to have for it's upkeep, in the way of tools, and food supplement, etc. Also would like to run with some one (thru Vonulink?) about them, some one who already has had some experience with them. Any ideas? - names?

For one to Venu off into the bush here is probably not too easily done, due to having to keep a heated place in winter, but it's not all that hard, since a small collapsible sheet iron stove can be bought and taken back in the bush, and by heating only at evening, or night in spring, summer and fall, keep a place dry and during winter, with dry wood, keep a fire going all the time during the day. The main problem here is that the bush (forest) is closed to everyone, not just campers, but even logging companies, during high fire hazard times, which may run as long as a month. I myself had to use a 5 gal. can stove since no open fires were allowed anywhere, so that would present a problem during summer here, tho one could take a chance and cook at night, but using a tiny sheet iron stove, as an open flame is dangerous when every thing is tinder dry. A tent, I think is even a better idea than hunk of plastic, but I've had some bad luck with plastic and don't much like the stuff to live under either. It's non-breathable and no good when it's cold out & warm in, as it ~~does~~ does water proof nylon for the same reason. I can put my summer tent (7'x2'x15" x 5'4") up in 20 minutes and be moved in, and it weighs - with pegs & poles - 7 lbs. - and has full magnitude netting - 3 way zipper and netting over a triangle window in back that zips from inside. You can live in the arctic - about as far North as you can get, in a Tent, but that takes knowing how and building a snow wall around it and a bit higher, then an extra canvas tarp over that about a foot above the tent roof - with metal spreader ring for pipe thru it! Then snow blades pressed firmly down on top

of that piece of canvas to hold it down, all the way around. You do need to dress properly and have warm sleeping bags, to live that way, but people do it today, and have done so for many years. When thinking of shelter thru the cold, both in housing and clothing, it is wise to recall that it's the dead air spaces, between you and the outside, in addition to the proper moisture ventilation, that makes the difference between warmth and death. If you get damp from perspiration you are going to lose the insulating quality of that wet you have on, fur, down, wool, or whatever. A small tent or cabin - and by small, I mean 8'x10' for two people - is big enough, if you don't have too much junk - and smaller is OK if you both can hack it - This saves on wood hauling, which is followed by sawing, then splitting. In the far North on the tundra willow branches & driftwood, as well as certain mosses will burn, but gathering it is extremely time consuming, and only a tiny sheet iron stove is usually used there for that reason.

Most people think it takes a lot of years to live in, but that is not the case at all, when you keep the junk you let follow you around from getting out of hand. This is part of the pack rat syndrome to which I am, some time victim. But this is only when it's dry, or very cheap and hard store stuff, as I am fiercely rigorous about applying my - "Do I need this - or do I just want it" rule, to any new item. This 8'x10' tent has plenty of space for me, but

4

I have to keep some stuff outside, and when it's too season, all my foot stays outside. This does get tiresome, but after storing up two different tents, I decided it's worth it to not have anything in the tent that has food on, in, or had any proper contact with food. Bears have poor eyesight, but super keen noses. I do away cooking outside too when it's good weather, and before dark, as I'd a lot rather have a bear come snooping around when I can see in better.

In the issue you sent me, the article on the polyurethane foam hat caught my eye, and it reminded me of a trip I had in a book written by a dude who had taught a Marine Survival School course, and it was making - sort of forming a pack out of 1" thick polyurethane plastic foam, and then buying a pair of canvas, rubber bottom mukluks to fit. Also he said to use a plastic cement, or rubber cement all up the plastic or something. Then I hear that there is some company making polyurethane foam sleeping bags! - and that they are warm even tho soaked with water (like a wet suit?) - so my last thought is why not make Esquimo style parka and pants out of it? - covered with light candle wicks & candle loose parts, ought to be as warm as furs! - and a lot cheaper. I'm not too much into sewing (glueing) or I'd get it together and whip up an outfit out of it. It sounds like it would be a really light weight out fit, tho bending at elbows and knees may be a bit stiff & heavy with 1" thick stuff!

The fact situation is a vonuish hassle, and tho I've gone thru a lotta changes, electricity, kerosene (some one else's place), kerosene (some one gave me a nice old one) - and into my tent back on candles. However, a while back I was working with soapstone, & carved out an Esquimo kudlik (blubber lamp)

which the small is to scale, and used it for a while with fat, wax & oil as they became available. But went back to candles because I couldn't find a really suitable wick. Finally I took it out of storage a few weeks ago when the pyrex bread pan I had used for making the 2 halves of my candles, broke, and I was also wanting to try a new wick idea. So it looks like I've finally got a good strong light & adjustable flame, by using flat 1/4 inch wide strips of asbestos sheeting (thin) — and two of them seems about right for the size lamp I have. I do have to be careful not to let it overheat if I use three, so I use 2 to be safer. By putting a hand mirror alongside the lamp I can double the light intensity. This can also go for any kind of light — kerosene lamps included. I am using the kudlik with wax in it at present, just lay a chunk in the dish & it slowly melts, and I can adjust the flame height by moving the wooden wedge in or out under the back of the lamp. Sounds like a lot of hassle, but I find it less than home style candles, counting making them too. Also the lamp looks trippy. You can rig up one with a sardine can too, and also you can put sand in the can & stick the end of the wick in that if you want. Asbestos seems to be the answer to the wick problem, and is real cheap to buy a life time supply (do not inhale the fibers — they cause lung cancer — even in small amounts). The use of kerosene or other oil oils, is, well, too hazardous, in my opinion, even by night, so I don't know. I don't like the smell of kerosene flames either. The kudlik will also use animal fat or oils (Veg) nicely. And by reading

you can buy a steel wagon-base with wheels, tongue, etc from Sears, etc starting at about \$80 up to \$130 for one with adjustable shaft for length and high speed wheels & hubs. Width is 7'-8' & length is 12'-20'. Tongue will take 1 or 2 horses or mules or a tractor.

Build on this, rising 2x10 & 2x4, etc, a foundation box, of your chosen length, 10" deep. Fill with insulation, vermiculite, or 2 layers 4" batt & 1 layer 2" batt. Top and bottom is T & G board or heavy plywood. Paint with preservative & sealer. Put around this a wall about 12" high, or whatever you choose. The result will look something like a kid's big sandbox. This should be insulated. This is your base, & it will be covered with felts or rugs, etc, perhaps sewed up of salvage pieces — enough to be soft & comfortable. They can be taken out for washing, airing, sunning, etc. You don't wear shoes inside.

Mounted on the front is a driver's seat, preferably with rain/sun roof. On the back is a hinged set of steps. Brackets can be fastened on rear for water drums and beneath for long tool (shovel, etc) boxes. Don't forget overall weight tho.

The body can be solid like a gypsy wagon or frame- & canvas like a sheepherder's wagon,

or you can make a portable yurt, like one, now gone, wagon people.

They used a very thick felt for roof and walls of a tent erected on a wood frame. The interior was much like one of Hollywood's creations: hanging oil lamps, movable drapes, seat-cushion, less-than-knee-high tables of pretty, carved woods, bright ornaments and colors - all inside - the outsides were dark and dull. You can use nylon or dacron cloth with 4 - 6" of foam rubber between 2 layers of cloth. Waterproof both sides tho, it can soak up water and get heavy if you don't use closed material, so be sure what kind of foam you get. This is lightweight and very warm. Sew thru all so it won't shift. It can be dropt down flat for travel so you can move thru low trees, etc. without cutting.

Balloon tires won't leave much trail. The only store-bought supplies would be lampoil, etc. if you do as the Navajos did. They planted foods and moved to them and picked or harvested as they went in a big circle. Sometimes, as with corn, one person was left to chase off the deer, etc. till harvest. There is a lot of open land you could move thru, tending south in winter.

This would probably be best with several families. Possibly part-time or seasonal work in some of the small towns could supply whatever money is needed. You could ride the horses with saddles or harness & use bows or even thrusting spears for small game. A few people, moving around, could probably find most of their food growing wild. A windcharger would keep a 12 V auto battery charged or solar cells could be used with small rechargeable batteries to operate radios and even some tape/phono music or small lights. Even very young couples could get along the way since little contact with civilization & experience is needed.

Jan 14 vonulink page 4

15-4

Peter Coerr

Dear VonuLife:

Here a few of my thoughts on a few of the subjects seen raised in your past issues. 1) On the subject of possible dwellings, you might consider the value of abandoned mines. The advantages are:

(a) They are there waiting for you to use. You have hardly any work to do to occupy them. Surprisingly to me, hardly any of the ones I have explored in northern New Mexico have been occupied by wild animals. When you talk about not disturbing things and thereby attracting attention, this is the ideal situation. You can move in and make yourself completely comfortable without changing the looks of the outside at all.

(b) Quite often, old mine shafts will be found to have water in them, which is another asset to one who wants to be independent of outside sources of supply. With an internal supply of water you can, with the barest minimum of planning, be self-sufficient for a very long time.

(c) In many parts of the country, they are plentiful, and fairly easy to find. Of course you will need to do some planning and adjust your itinerary to conform to the availability of what is in your area. A good source for where to find mines anywhere in the US is your local airport. For about \$1.25, you can buy a "sectional chart" covering whatever area interests you. These cover quite a large area. The scale is 1:500,000. Views visible from the air are marked by a crossed pick and hammer. My experience has been that about 90% of these are not visible from the air anymore, since what makes them visible is the area of tailing just outside the entrance. Once

the mine is no longer being worked, the tailings tend to get covered up with old mother earth and the mine disappears from aerial view. Incidentally, about these maps, the political information on them is quite often rather poor. Typically, the roads and highways will be very out of date. New highways won't even be on them sometimes, especially in the Rocky Mountain west. The terrain relief information is fairly accurate, although the scale is too large for there to be good detail. They make good overall planning maps, but plan to get a topographical map of an area if you want to explore in any detail.

Another source for abandoned mine information would be the US Bureau of Mines. I haven't tried this, but I'll just bet that you can get maps and lists of just about anywhere you want by writing to them and asking for it. This brings up another subject I wanted to get into.

It seemed to me while reading "What is Big Brother Watching?" that there is a side to this that you didn't get into. That is that you can make Big Brother work for you if you take the trouble to learn how. You can sit around and wish Big Brother would away if you want to, but I don't think the wishing will make a bit of difference. Actually, Big Brother is a stupid giant, and can be used to the advance of any of us elves who are visible and can learn to dance around on the giant's points of control. The foregoing is an example of just that. Using federal agencies to get information for you to use to your advantage. But, specifically, about what Big Brother is watching, you can find out for yourself to a certain extent just by asking. The federal government has a problem called EROS, which stands for Environmental Resources Observation Satellite. The output from these satellites is all gathered into one data center in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and by writing to them you can get whatever photographs you want to see. There is a nominal fee, so if you are in a big hurry you might send them \$5 or so. Otherwise, you can tell them what you want by defining whatever area you want to look at in terms of its grid coordinates, tell them what scale you want, and they will tell you to send 1 or 2 dollars or whatever, and then they will pull what you want of their computer. This could be a great advantage to someone who was concerned about the aerial visibility of something of something he was building. You could just keep camouflaging it until you stopped seeing it in the satellite photos.

Finally, an untried idea in the for-what-it's-worth department. It occurred to me that a slick way to pick up mail would be to go down to the hardware store and buy yourself a mailbox. Then find yourself one of those places where they have about a million mailboxes all lined up on a 2x6 standing on posts. Take a couple nails and nail yours up there too, with whatever name you wanted on the front in nice, clear letters. This would have to be an RFD route, of course. Then, your address would just be your name, RFD x, etc. You could drive by any time of the night and pick your mail up, and chance are, no one would ever give it a second thought if there were a lot of boxes there already. Even if someone did wonder about whose it was, people usually assume that someone else must know about it and let it go at that.

Finally, a word of philosophy about your magazine as a whole. I think you people are a bunch of raving paranoiacs. Nevertheless, I would like to applaud you in your undertakings, for I believe that in diversity such as this is the real strength of the species. Someday, maybe what is today's silliness will be looked upon as clear thinking and foresight. So it has been in the past. Yet, as of right now you might as well know that I expect you all to die sitting in your tent flaps cross-legged with a shotgun in your lap, waiting for the intruder that never came.

I have enclose \$5 for you to continue sending your paranoid drivels.

Editor, Vonulife:

There never was a time in Canada, in my memory, when opportunities for employment were better. Even so one should not succumb to the love of full-time employment but could use the affluent period for providing some cash reserves. It seems that most vonuans require some cash.

If you are going in for freedom without cash, then work for one day and purchase that book titled "Bushcraft" by Richard Groves. It is available in Canada from Book Center and costs \$3.95. It is assumed you have some clothing. If you are going to do it in Canada, some stout clothing will be required for the winter here. In that case, inquire from The Macmillan Company Toronto for books of Ellsworth Jaeger. His book "nature Crafts" is dedicated to a Cree woman who became lost in a vast northern Canada forest. Her only equipment was a hunting knife and the clothes she wore. But she survived the long winter and was in good health when found by a hunting

party in the spring. Other Jaeger books are: “Woodsmoke”, “Land and Water Trails,” “Wildwood Wisdom”, “Easy Crafts”.

Vonuans in the Chilcoten area of British Columbia, Anaheim Lake, should seek out Chee Lonit, who roams the woods of east central B.C., for lessons. She is a merry eyed old lady, with a couple of blankets and a bit of canvas. And she sometimes wakes up in the; morning under several inches of snow. Chee Lohit was born on the Redstone Indian Reserve but like solitude and roams over many miles of forest and meadow. She uses English, Chilcotin, and old Chinook trade lingo.

–THOMAS SKINNER, Ontario, Canada.

I’m looking for a map of the state of Wisconsin of the late 1800 vintage – showing the principle meridian guide meridian base lines, and rows of the townships, such as depicted by author A.F. Wallace in his book, “Land Cruising and Prospecting”. Also the book “A Cabin Book Primer”, now out of print. A live animal trap is shown in the F.C. Taylor Fur Co. catalog years 1955-60. Collapsible. –M.J. McNamara, Ontario, Canada.

LEAD BATTERIES

by Al Fry

Since most everyone depends on “wheels” and since our wheels depend on our batteries, batteries are pretty much a factor of life. I have usually relied on \$9 rebuilt batteries or occasional used swap meet \$3 batteries if they are a good heavy duty type (Delco, etc.). Paying over \$20 for a battery doesn’t make good sense if you don’t get several times the life of cheap batteries (and you don’t).

The first thing I do when I get my battery is cut a washer of felt and a washer of plastic to fit each battery post. Combing gasoline on the felt, I put it, with the plastic washer over it, and stop worrying about further cable corrosion problems. Next, I never put any of the cobalt blue or Super X additives in the battery as they will shorten the life of the battery by half, regardless of the claims. And last, aside from normal water maintenance, I never let the battery sit any length of time dead, or even at half charge – this will shorten a lead battery’s life considerably.

If you wake up some dismal day and your battery is dead, there is a 25% chance you can give it a new lease on life by eradicating the lead crud which lies at the bottom of the cells and sometimes shorts out the cells. Shake the dickens out of the battery and then empty the acidic in a plastic bucket after the “crud” has settled, pour this acid back in the battery, recharge it, and cross your fingers.

LIFETIME BATTERIES

by Al Fry

After years of struggling along with sick, finicky, short-lived batteries, I finally decided to part with some hard-earned shekels and try to eliminate the problem. It took me months of moving around to get what I wanted and now, several months after I’ve been using them, I’ve decided Hooray for space age batteries.

Uncle Sam uses these modern Nickel-Cadmium batteries in his planes and some alert systems – other batteries used in rockets and more sophisticated operations are silver-zinc, silver-cadmium, and silver-magnesium – these last batteries are harder to locate and cost uncle more but are worth diamonds if you want the best. Why bother? Well if you are using batteries in your little sanctuary van, bus, or whatever, the continuous periods of charging and discharging and especially any prolonged period of discharge without charging tend to shorten a lead acid battery’s life. You will probably be lucky to get a couple of years out of the darned thing – furthermore, if you overcharge the thing, this will further break down the plates. All in all they are a disgusting monument to greedy industry considering you can get nickel-cadmiums in Europe. Nickel-cadmium, etc. just don’t wear out. You can let them stand discharged without damage – you can overcharge them all day without damage. You can discharge and charge them thousands of times and they still won’t wear out.

The only thing that does bother them I found is to blow the tops off of them. I was really zapping mine with 15 amps and not thinking about the gas generated. I messed with the clip and created a spark and “zam”, I was covered with caustic liquid. Fortunately, I had a bottle of vinegar in my van, so getting under a garden hose and stripping, I rinsed good and did the vinegar neutralizer thing quick – otherwise I’d have been a very burned boy. Surveying the damage, I got out my ever present little tube of super silicon glue and glued the demolished battery cells back together and lo! they worked as well as ever.

If you want something that will keep you in light for the rest of your life, here is a tiny suggestion: Every government surplus store you go by, stop in and check for government batteries. If you want to check prices or send for some mail order, there are only two places I found that reliably carry them: EESE Radio Co., Indianapolis, Indiana and in the west C & H Surplus in Glendale, AZ (phone book). All of these government batteries come in 1.2 volt cell banks. You buy them by the cell and little cells will run from about \$3 or around \$12 a cell for the big cells. If you want only one cell then you would run flashlight bulbs. If you get 5 and a hook them together, you would run 6v car bulbs, and so on. I took my cells and made up a 12 volt system in my van. Since the bulbs don’t have much wattage I put them very close to where I read and have them in a light with a magnifying lens to increase the intensity. The flashlight bulbs should also be put back of a magnifying lens and such an arrangement would be perfect for an everlasting rechargeable flashlight (are you there, spelunker Doerr?) I found my cells in San Diego and they came from an early warning system and are the largest I’ve ever seen. I got a deal by buying all available at \$5 a cell but only have 5 left I would part with.

Large cells are better in that they hold more juice and run things longer – even start cars. Small cells ought to be fine however for any one in a vonu type lifestyle that doesn’t need any excess weight. One cell would need a little flashlight battery charge (a 6v charge probably wouldn’t hurt if it were low amperage) and a regular battery charge juices up the multi banks – including the auto alternator juicer mentioned in previous V1.

If anyone has notions of a water or wind power system running an alternator, these batteries are almost a must because of the constant charge and discharge and overcharge cycle that really ruins lead batteries fast. I have a small inverter that switches my 12 volt system to 110 volts for razor and small appliance usage but it is a little more efficient to run on straight 6 or 12v. since there is a loss in the conversion to higher voltage.

At this time, I think we have a few years yet until we come to a point where one must be self-sufficient or a pawn of big brother or perish (could be 10 years before a “collapse” and the perish part) but the next few years are vital in getting organized and stocked up on the things needed in the coming years. Self-sufficiency should start to become the goal to work toward. I’m beginning to get ready. Such things as these batteries will be worth their weight in gold to some persons in the future. There may come a time when you won’t be able to get a lead battery replacement because of chaos or lack of money. If you have your Nick-Cads, you can wind, water, or gas charge them via an alternator or generator and have light. Light may be important after you have run out of kerosene, propane, or whatever.

AILING MOTHER-TO-BE SAVES EYES BY STAY IN CAMPER AT HOSPITAL

At \$75 a day and an expected prolonged stay in the hospital, Mr. and Ms. Norman Egan looked for a solution to their financial problem. Mrs. Ruth Egan, pregnant and with “placenta previa” a potentially dangerous problem, lived 35 minutes driving time from Salt Lake City’s LDS Hospital. Doctors said that was too much time away from emergency treatment if the placenta should break away from the uterus. “Bed rest and constant doctor care are the only answers to a live baby”, her doctors said.

On May 3, the hospital administration granted the Egans permission to keep their truck and camper unit in the hospital’s parking lot. In climbed [?] Mrs. Egan for a five-week stay. “Everyone was caught up on the romance of this unique case,” said L. Brent Goates. Chief administration. “Nurses and other hospital employees, relatives, and friends, as well as her doctor, made daily visits to the camper.”

Mrs. Egan says she had at least 45 different volunteer baby senders. Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormon), to which the Egans belong, helped make the

Egans comfortable. Each night Mr. Egan would arrive and spend the night. Even their children were able to visit their mother, something they couldn't do in the hospital.

"Everyone was so nice, I didn't have time to get depressed. Besides I've seen pregnant women lie in bed nine months." She kept her mind off her problems with the excitement of the hospitals nearby emergency entrance and the houses of the area. It all came to a happy ending this week. She was wheeled into the hospital on a stretcher and, by Caesarian section, gave birth to a 7-pound, 3-ounce girl. Both were described in excellent condition.

(Thanks to Al Fry, I think, for clipping.)

MICOOSUKEE INDIANS WIN LEGAL EXEMPTION FROM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Judge Richard Stanley of Collier County Florida on July 29th that Bobby Clay, a Miccosukee, will not have to send his five children to the public schools. Judge Stanley said he had based his decision on the recent Supreme Court ruling that stated that children of the Amish religious sect do not have to attend public schools because it would violate their constitutional rights under the First Amendment. Clay had sought exemption for his children as a follower of the Miccosukee customs.

Clay had been charged by officials of the Collier County School System with violating Florida's compulsory attendance law, which requires children of 7 to 16 years of age to attend school.

The 38.-year-old Clay works as an auto mechanic at a gas station/general store near the village of Royal Hammock, where about 350 Miccosukee live 18 miles into the Everglades west of Naples. Clay never attended schools as the white man knows it, but he speaks some English. His wife, Judy, 37, speaks her own language.

Truant officer Michael J. Galloway asserted in court that the children were being kept in Miccosukee villages for economic reasons, rather than religious ones. He contended that tourists who pass to visit the villages along Route 41 expected to see Indian children playing in the yards, and that the Miccosukees had realized their children's attraction.

School records indicate 70 Indian children out of 9443 county pupils attend school. Several hundred school-age Miccosukees live in Royal Hammock alone...Hugh Sayer, an attorney funded by the Miccosukees for this case, also argued that the state law doesn't apply to Clay or Miccosukees because they have never signed peace treaties and have kept themselves intact as a separate nation. "They are a group who refused to die, although the persecution they have suffered is shameful," he said.

Another said: "Everything they do is associated with religion. They can't understand why we want to send our children to a school where God is not mentioned or taught. And they don't see why our schools would impose our beliefs on them."

Anderson said Indians fear their children will become hopelessly confused by the two different societies they would be forced to live in if they had to attend white man's schools...(from Akwesasne Notes)

THE HOME AND ITS ENVIRONS MUST BE MADE SECURE EVEN IF THAT MEANS MAKING OTHER AREAS MORE DANGEROUS

If, for the sake of argument, one accepts the proposition that the total amount of crime cannot be diminished, only displaced, this then offers a new question: Is a pattern of uniformly distributed crime preferable to one in which crime is concentrated in particular areas? It is our contention that the second situation is more desirable. The home and its environs must be felt to be secure or the very fabric of society comes under threat. From our interviews, we have been led to believe that people accept the fact that certain areas of a city are unsafe and therefore take steps to avoid or minimum the risk of using them. But they all find this an intolerable condition for their own residential environment. People can limit the use of dangerous areas, and, if too frightened, will find ways of collectively using these areas so as to add to their safety.

a flat piece of metal of about 1"-1 1/2" width and long enough when bent in a U shape to reach across the top of the kettle, you can even heat food & the water up or it - watching not to let the flame quite touch the bottom of the pan or it will make soot. If you turn the lamp right, you can also read at the same time. It is also smoke less, and could be used to heat a small enough place, such as the foam hut.

The use of a small back pack white gas stove (I have the Optimus 8R white gas burner) really is handy when in areas where a fire is unsuitable or impossible. A quick spot of tea & yag off in the morning. I have even baked bread on mine using a tobacco can lid with slits cut in it & a cast iron skillet to bake in. Don't put a metal cast iron stove lid or anything that holds the heat that much, over one of these w.g. stoves made for back packing. The tank gets too hot from reflected heat. You could blow one up like that. The tobacco can lid doesn't hang out over the tank on my Optimus and doesn't hold heat like cast iron lids/stove do. A gallon of white gas goes a long, long way too. Well, I'll send along a couple bucks for some Donutlink zines, preferably Canadian desert areas, but especially anything about burro tripping - and burro or horse trippers. Eldorado may know? Camping, tent stoves, pack equip. etc. Since I'm gonna split here in the spring, don't want to get wound into a year subscription, but any back issues would be welcome digitally or above subjects (transparencies too) & a few links till spring. Use anything here in if you wanna -
Usualy, Donna

(This often happens when women meet to go shopping or to use the project laundry room.) In the home and its environs, no one wishes to feel so restricted. The family spends most of its time there. It is where future generations are raised and where the most susceptible members of society live. It is also the shelter to which we all return from our forays. For these reasons, it must be made secure, even at the expense, if necessary, of making other non-residential areas more dangerous. In many way, it would be a significant accomplishment to achieve this and alone - to displace crime to whopping, institutions, and business areas. The argument can be made that these other areas are inherently more easily served by formal police protection. (This is from an article on crime in public housing projects in intellectual digest.)

Before the dawn of agriculture, when primitive peoples were food gatherers, acorns probably were relatively more important than wheat is now. Today, though eaten by hogs and wildlife, acorns are an undeveloped food resource for humans. The American Indians, who gathered and stored quantities of acorns for making bread, developed several simple methods of washing out the tannin and bitter taste with water.

As a rule, acorns of the white oak group are preferred for human food, being less bitter than those of the black oak group. The species of white oaks generally are recognized by the leaves and their lobes, which have blunt or rounded teeth and are not bristle-pointed, by the light-gray, scaly bark, and by the acorn shell, which is not hairy inside. Slight sweetish acorns, produced by a few kinds and by individual trees, can be eaten raw or roasted and should be selected for tree-breeding investigations.

Acorn meal and acorn bread are easily prepared, whether for a variation in the diet or for camping trips and emergencies. Gather acorns as soon after they fall as is convenient. Then crack and remove the shells and grind the kernels in a food chopper. If acorns are to be stored, they should be dried by heat or fumigated to prevent damage by insect larvae or decay.

The bitter tannin is easily removed by spreading the acorn meal about one-half inch thick on a porous cloth or by putting the meal into a jelly bag. Then pour on hot water and let this percolate through. Repeat once or twice until the bitter taste is removed, and squeeze out excess water. Then spread out the wet meal to dry and parch in an oven. Grind the meal again if it has caked badly. Another method of extracting the tanning is to boil the dry kernels for 2 hours before grinding. Next pour off the darkened water and soak the darkened kernels in hot water, changing occasionally until the bitter flavor is lost. Then grind into paste and dry.

Acorn meal is used like corn meal in recipes for bread or muffins. Some prefer to mix with equal parts of corn meal or wheat flour, as bread from acorn meal alone tends to be friable and crumbly. Acorn bread is pale chocolate brown and has a taste suggesting a mixture of corn meal and nuts.

Breakfast cereal can be prepared from acorns also. After grinding and washing, put the doughy mass in a pot, add water, and boil. The mush thus prepared swells to about double its

original volume and has a chocolate color. It is eaten with milk and sugar, with a pinch of salt added.

As acorns are high in carbohydrates and fats, nutritious acorn bread is similar to bread and butter combined. Experiments indicate that an edible salad oil similar to live oil could be obtained from acorns of California live oak and perhaps other black oaks with relatively high fat content. –Elbert L. Little, Jr., Forest Service.

NEW ZEALAND DEER POACHING A DEADLY GAME

A weird war has lately erupted among the rags and pinnacles of New Zealand's southern mountains – some of the most inaccessible territory on earth. It's the feud between the "meat hawks," professional venison hunters who scour the trackless mountains by helicopter shooting wild deer for meat and hides. These are fearless, rugged outdoorsmen who flit through country where it is often impossible to walk. They carry semi-automatic rifles for shooting deer on the run. Professional deadshots. And they work from speedy agile choppers some of which are capable of a 120 mph cruising speed.

The "venison war" has been simmering for several months. But only recently has it exploded in acts of sabotage and arson which many observers predict are the prelude to actual shooting and even bizarre whirly-bird dog fights amid the dizzy peaks of fiord land the Southern Alps.

Like most wars, this one has economic underpinnings. For at least 10 years, venison hunting has been a \$5-\$7 million a year business in the southern mountains. But this year – possibly due to the world meat shortage – the price for wild meat rose from 40¢ per pound to more than \$1.00. Suddenly the windy skies blossomed with choppers which bristled with high-powered rifles. The once-silent ridges of the southern high country sounded to hovering copters, howling sirens employed to frighten deer herds out of the bush and the pounding of semi-automatic weapons.

The venison rush was on. Some operators, it is said, can take home as much as \$1,000 for a good day's work. One venison recovery company, Alpine Helicopters, secured a three-year government contract for exclusive operations in deer-rich Fiordland National Park. But the vast and tangled three million acre wilderness proved impossible to police and soon after helicopters whirled in to get in on the bonanza...

Twice now incendiary fires have been touched off in Alpine's hangars with some damage to equipment. Frequent, but unconfirmed reports, indicate that shots have been fired from the ground as the helicopters fly through the mountains.

Some of the private operators (technically "poachers" since they operate in defiance of the law) speak bitterly of Alpine's "monopoly" in the venison business. Says one: "We've got our own little laws to go by. We don't feel the deer belong to the Parks Board or to Alpine...they're New Zealanders' deer."

In mid-November, the government took measures to stop the meat "piracy" in Fiordland, but found the policing job too big to handle. One park ranger says, "It's almost impossible to catch a poacher in the act. And even if we do, the fine is only \$350. Most of them make twice that much in a day's work..."

The "Meat hawks" are a fiercely independent and cunning breed. They know, by radio, the moment a policing chopper leaves the ground and they know the direction it is heading. In three million acres of trackless, unsurveyed wilderness, it is never difficult to find a place to hide...(from newspaper article by John Forbis)

THE SHABASHNIK REPLY

(This is a letter to the editor, from The Literary Gazette, Moscow, USSR, by way of the Southern Libertarian Messenger.)

Greetings, dear Arkadiy! We have read your article in Literary Gazette No. 10 of March 7, 1973, entitled "The Shabashnik". We read it with great interest, and even aloud, since there were three of us and nobody wanted to wait. And despite it being very amusing, we have decided to reply, since we sensed that your article was addressing us directly. We had come together, as a matter of fact, to hold a little conference on production matters, interest to our company. On our

agenda today are three questions: 1. Provision of better services to consumers; 2. Competition in the sphere of consumer goods and services; 3. Demand for new services, and possibilities for satisfying same.

The second question, to be sure, was strictly symbolic since such organizations as Zarya (a government firm), a type of enterprise so dear to your heart, never really have been serious competitors of ours; whereas with our own kind, with other “Shabanshniks”, we shall always be able to find a common tongue. The high efficiency of our company (which you noted in your article), and also the high quality of work performed (which you did not note) have earned the respect of our clients. In a house into which people have just moved, the employees of Zarya have little to do. Our upholstery material is better; the price is the same; we always have with us locks, fisheyes, door handles; and besides, we always upholster better and faster than the workers of (official) firms. Only when extra labor is involved (repairs to a heater or installation of a fisheye or lock, etc.) do we charge above the government price, so you need not bristle over such prices as 22 or 24 rubles. We are certain that the money is well earned. We have almost no overhead expenses and instead of receiving only 40% of clear profit that official firms would have the right to pay us, we get to keep the entire 100%! So there is no reason for us to work with stolen upholstery material, which is what you plainly insinuated.

You are surprised that we go to work well dressed (incidentally, in winter, we, too, wear a coat liner). But people welcome you according to your appearance and any client will prefer to deal with me over “Uncle Pete” from your firm, because he’ll shove in his drunken, unshaven face and ask: “I’m from Zarya. Do you need your door padded?” The client usually couldn’t care less whether there is a “shabashanik” working for him or a man from the official firm. He’s interested in the final results.

By the way, a bit about ourselves. Two of us have had a college education, we always drink in moderation, and we’re good family men. When we fill out questionnaires, we always say: We weren’t there, we didn’t belong, and we have none – so that our outer image is perfectly okay. It’s simply that we need the extra 120 or 140 rubles a month which a young specialist can earn in the central part of the country. We have no desire to go to the far North, and what we need per month is about 500 to 600 rubles which we earn, please note, with our own hands, and in the sweat of our brow. We have enough money for good clothes, and for taxis too – you may rest easy – there’s no need to worry on our account. But don’t hasten to relegate us to the category of money-grabbers. Nobody in our company is a hoarder; each one spends his earnings as he walks, but money is not our exclusive goal.

And consider that if we are forced to give up our work repairing doors and upholstering (as we were once forced to give up our photography business), we shall find some other work to do. In our trade, initiative, practical common sense, inventiveness and aggressiveness are compensated immediately and very liberally. So in the sphere of household services and particularly in finding new services to perform we – the “shabashniks” – have always dominated and shall always dominate. That’s because we don’t need to coordinate everything, or to carry a thousand little papers and to be aligned just in order to drive in an extra nail or to change an obsolete item.

Marx once said: “Demand generates the offer.” Demand has always existed, exists now, and will always exist. And we’ll be glad to take care of making the offer. If you have sufficient objectivity to publish our letter in its entirety, we hope that it will serve as a worthy reply to your article. We impose no limits on the commentary you make.

COMING EVENTS

by Al Fry

In my speculation, let me try to give a progression of coming events which will effect we of this country and especially the west coast.

There will be devaluations which will bring on periods of increasing inflation which will in certain cases bring about what we could call a depression – although what is coming will make depressions of the past look amateurish. I felt that what is coming might hit us overnight as in the crash of ’29, but I am not tending to believe that this one is not going to be anything like the

last depression. It may be a gradual sinking into what will eventually be a “survival of the fittest” game.

As things go down the tube, the people who generally remained law abiding, good citizens during the 30's depression, are going to be frightened, mad, hysterical, hungry, lawless animals in the many areas and this will necessitate the usage of the existing presidential orders to deal with them. As we mentioned in “How to Survive the Coming Depression”, these F.E.C.'s are already on the books and waiting for the appropriate excuse for their usage. They strip virtually all the freedoms of the constitution from us.

I would advise you to act as though we will be in chaos in the next few years. If you can I would advise remote non-perishable food caches. I would advise obtaining guns and ammo now. I would advise you to have everything which would keep you alive if you were cut off from civilization and hunted for the little you have on your back.

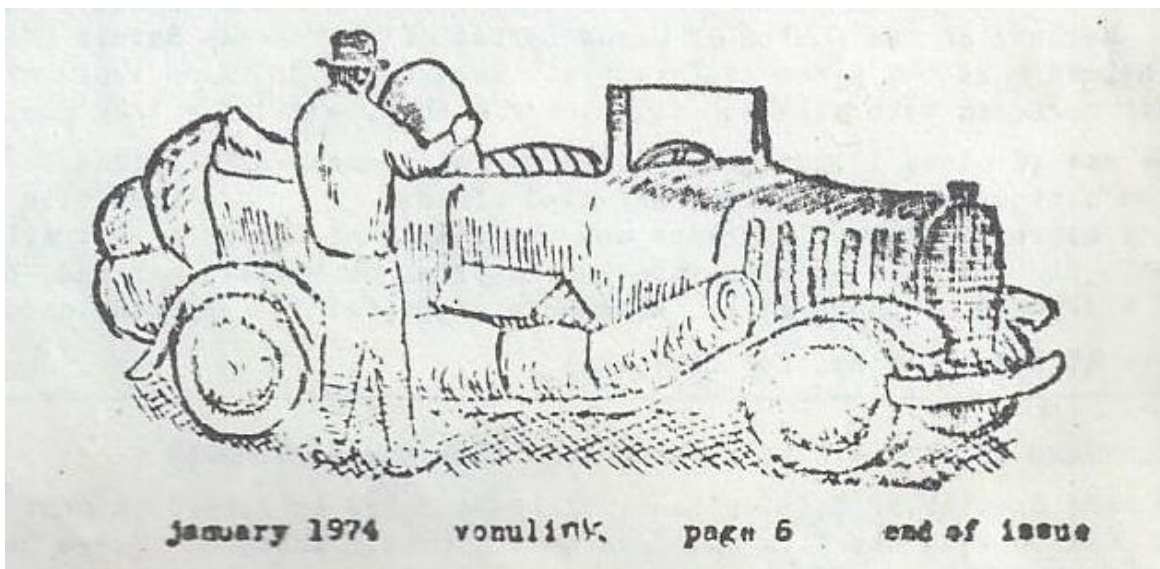
I feel it will be a gradual process. In the next few years guns will be unobtainable (except through the black market). Food supplies to the large cities will eventually slow to a trickle (with the lawless chaos and desperate element loose). I will predict a time during the worst part of what is coming when human flesh will keep many of the more desperate or lawless element alive and I see very little hope for anyone in a metropolitan area that has a “turn the other cheek” attitude.

As for the hills, I foresee banks of brigands and dangerous loners in most of the coastal mountains and I feel that for your ultimate protection gear, it would be wise to have a silencer or at least a silent crossbow – if you are alone or a couple you may very well become the objective of a more organized band.

If you are lucky enough to have a haven in the wilderness, or at least fairly far from the cities, I don't think there will be many unsurmountable problems during the first years of the coming decline. The basic problems will come from people desperate from hunger and driven callous from shock. The looting angry people of the cities will soon find everything of value gone and this will force them to spread out in all directions looking for any unguarded goods they can confiscate. If you have well-guarded as well or well-hidden stores you may very well enjoy your time during this period.

If you are storing things away it might be well to include barter material as there are few “hard times” when 22 ammo, tins of tobacco, warm coats, and such won't be worth food or favors.

There more our economy slips the harder it will be to obtain the items that will tide us over in the ‘hard times’ ahead...



january 1974

vonulink

page 6

end of issue

VONULINC 16, MAY 1974

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SMALL ADS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW! DAWN ENTERPRISES INTRODUCES HI-PRO, THE PROTEIN CONCENTRATE FOR EMERGENCY OR RETREAT USE. OR ENHANCE PROTEIN CONTENT OF DAILY DIET. HI-PRO is an edible grade partially defatted, cooked cottonseed flour. Protein content ranges from 55-60% and amino acid pattern is of high grade meat quality, better than that of milk, egg, or what germ protein! HI-PRO has a pleasant, nutty flavor and can be eaten as is or added to casseroles, stews, cookies, breads, etc., making low protein foods into high grade protein nutrition. In storage, HI-PRO is very stable when kept dry; it contains natural tocopherols which protect it from oxidative degradation. HI-PRO is now available for 69¢ per pound plus shipping. We cannot accept orders which total less than \$7.50 (not including shipping charges). Small sample if HI-PRO for examination and tasting, plus cookie recipe using HI-PRO – only 25¢.

NEW WORLD COMMUNICATIONS is for people working to shape a new world for themselves and their friends. New World Communications consists entirely of paid messages and is distributed free each month to thousands of counter-cultural/new lifestyle organizations. Communes, free schools, counselling and crisis centers, rights groups, periodicals, environmentalists, cooperatives, businesses.

You can reach this world of people with a message in NWC for 50¢ plus 2 1/2¢ per word (name and address free).

If you are a countercultural organization or a community of 5 or more adults living together and are located in the Americas, please ask to be added to our mailing list free. Individuals and those outside the New World please send \$2 to help with the costs. -NEW WORLD COMMUNICATIONS, Cambridge, MA

LIVE LONGER, LIVE FREER. Read about life extension, self-liberation, and futurology in LIBERTARIAN CONNECTION, the unique open forum. Sample 50¢. Dawn Enterprises, Los Angeles, CA. Bulk powdered vitamins available from Dawn Enterprises: vitamin C, \$9.50/kg., vitamin E, \$38.50/kg., niacin, \$11.95/kg. Send stamped envelope for complete list.

Will appreciate contact with folks living in the Big Bend – Davis Mountains area of southwest Texas.—P.M. Plimmer, Alpine, TX

Secret mail receiving/forwarding. Absolute privacy guaranteed. Use any name. Other services available: specify your needs. MEMON rated. Details from: MYOB Services, Paradise, CA.

HOW TO SURVIVE THE COMING DEPRESSION 85000 WORD GUIDE SHOWING STARTLING FACTS-METHODS + VITAL ACCESS SECTION ONLY \$4.95 OR 10¢ BROCHURE FROM FRY'S 879-V PARK PERRIS CA 92370	INFORMATION ON: THE DANGERS CITY SURVIVAL SHELTER SOLAR ENERGY TRANSPORTATION FREE POWER	FOOD SYSTEMS FOOD PRESERVATION MEDICINE SUPER THERAPIES RADIATION DENTAL WORK OUTDOOR GEAR WEAPONS	MONEY SYSTEMS SECURITY SYSTEMS REAL ESTATE MINING GOLD & SILVER LAST CHANCES SOURCES	\$3.00 ONLY IF YOU MENTION V.L. BY A. H. FRY 879 PARK - V PERRIS, CA 92320	

Frugarian, Boston. House now developing to act as "halfway house" back to reality. Learn about natural edenic survival, prepare yourself for move to more ecologically sound lifestyle. Work in city while learning. Develops house industry and literature, etc. Only those prepared to

deal with NOW on all levels of existence from the physical (food clothing, shelter) to the highest “heaven”, or spiritual, need apply. –Ja Hosa, c/o Laura Forti, Dorchester, MA

I will pay Finder’s Fee for very cheap land, tax land, old farms, etc. or go shares with someone. I want backcountry land, enough for cabin, garden, orchard, woodlot. Will trade trailer for big stake or van truck. Will trade custom designed/built oceangoing sailboat for farm. –PAUL DOERR, Vallejo, CA

Dear People! HOW can we find out how to process woodfire smoke to be less visible? We’ve heard of some sort of water filter. MSUT work for treehouse 25’ above ground. THANKS for any help or information!!! Blueberry, Sixes, OR

Dear Vonulife: The suggestion by the person who called you “raving paranoiacs” (by the way, around here we call it “The Paranoid’s Newsletter” – and like it immensely) about putting up your own mail box on a rural route to receive mail secretly is not practical for two reasons.

1st – *E* must not know any rural people or *e*’d never say “chances are, no one would ever give it a second thought”.

2nd – The Post offices are in charge of mail service and you just don’t get mail without their approval – an address ain’t an address unless they say so. Of course, you might be allowed to put up a mailbox by leveling with the local P.O. but that would hardly be very secret and sly. – Kathe

Note: In cities having Social Security Office, no social security card applications are given out at post offices. The applications at the S.S. offices do not seem to be mailable as they are processed by the local office as far as I can tell.

After 7 months of doing vonu, I am back into a preparing stage which while precisely what I wanted to avoid is necessary in order to make a permanent go of it. Most of the experience I gained was already covered in Vonulife or Preform-Inform; however I might warn other van-dwellers, that rain-slicked clay jeep trails in Colorado and Wyoming are easy to go up in a V.W. van, but an extreme, potentially fatal hazard coming down. During August and September I had 3 such experiences, one nearly my last experience alive, except for the timely intervention of Lady Luck. Keep on vonuing. –Brian

Salt Article Update. Well, the address of the firm I mentioned in Salt Lake City seems to get no response now, so – for sources I recommend – 1. Ordering out a sack of livestock salt from a feedstore (which is usually “raw” salt). 3. Getting the Jewish Kosher Salt from a large city’s Jewish section. 3. Going to Health Food stores and getting any salt which is in irregular granules and chunks – such salt is often labeled not for human consumption – greyish – off color and may come from France or various exotic lakeheads – but it sure isn’t heated. –Al Fry

Here is a list of selected foods in which I compare the cost to the content of protein and number of calories contained. The list is organized in terms of protein cost with best protein buy s near the top of the list. The 1st column gives the lowest price per pound for each food that is available to me at this time (Feb. 1974). All except the few supermarket prices, marked “s”, are co-op prices that I have access to as a member of a food co-op. The 2nd column gives the cost (at the given price) to buy the minimum daily requirement of protein for a 154 pound person from each of these foods. Since protein requirements are in proportion to body weight, heavier persons would need more protein, lighter persons less. The 3rd column gives number of calories in each pound of the food listed. The 4th column gives the cost (at the given price) to buy 1000 calories from each food.

[IMAGE ON NEXT PAGE]

item	price/lb	cost of MDR of protein	cal/lb	cost of 1000 cal.
rye flour	\$.11	\$.11	1486	\$.07
oatmeal	.11	.11	1773	.06
soybeans	.27	.12	1832	.15
wheat germ	.23	.13	1650	.14
soy flour	.33	.15	1914	.17
wheat bran	.15	.16	968	.15
non fat dry milk	.67	.17	1650	.41
soy grits	.39	.18		
whole wheat flour	.17	.19	1514	.11
whole wheat, hard red	.21	.21	1500	.11
cornmeal	.12	.24	1614	.07
cottage cheese	.51	.31	482	1.06
barley, pearled	.21	.35	1586	.13
brewers yeast	.83	.37	1286	.65
sunflower seeds	.57	.39	2545	.22
whole eggs	.81/doz	.42	1320/doz	.61
peanut butter	.50	.44	2641	.19
garbanzos	.43	.46	1636	.26
kidney beans	.42	.47	1559	.27
navy beans	.43	.49	1545	.28
sesame seeds	.51	.50	2559	.20
millet	.30	.51	1486	.20
turkey	.69 s		1195	.58
chicken	.59 s	.53	800	.74
whole wheat bread	.34	.59	1095	.31
milk	.35/qt s	.59	640/qt	.55
canned tuna	1.19 s	.60	895	1.33
cheddar cheese	1.25	.69	1809	.69
brown rice	.42	.76	1636	.27
ground beef	1.09 s	.88	1300	.84

These figures are adapted from "Diet For A Small Planet" by Frances Moore Lappe. She does not give figures for rye grain, whole oats, and whole corn, but I suspect they would place near rye flour, oatmeal, and cornmeal respectively. In general, the greatest protein bargains seem to be forms of rye, oats, soy, wheat, dehydrated milk, and corn. Note that dehydrated milk is really a cheap protein source despite its relatively high price per pound. However, lower down in the list we see some items that are not such great protein bargains (compared to grains). These include brown rice, milk, cheese, beans, or any mean.

If you have to pay very different prices, or if prices change greatly, you can convert the figures in this table by using the formula:

$$YC = \frac{YP \times MC}{MP}$$

where MP = my price/pound (1st column)

MC = my cost of MDR of protein (2nd column)

YP = your cost/pound

YC = your cost of MDR of protein

The 4th column shows that those food that are protein bargains are generally also bargains in terms of the cost per calories, with the exception of dairy products which are most costly per calorie. At today's prices, meats are not bargains in terms of calories or protein.

Meanwhile, I am doing the winter in a VA van and often walking in my 33 foot bus that is on a hilltop to which the road and bridge has since washed away. I planned to plant it there for a long time, so the walking in it just fine for now.

I built a 7[?] foot square building of mill end 2x4 boards obtained mostly for free and it has turned out quite sturdy. The 2x4 boards are stashed like bricks and nailed with one or two nails to the boards below. Window frames and doors are easily included. Some of the wood I got free was even 8 feet long, because of being overly soft or sappy. These panned the top at a slope, and were covered with plastic for a solid roof. From walking on that I would estimate a two or three story structure would be quite sturdy, if kept in reasonable size. There is a possibility of making each layer a little smaller overlapping to the inside than the one below it and thus ending up with a pyramid shape, with small roof required. The outside is finished with composite shingles or any type of waterproofing. Very long lasting. This is technically called "cribb construction", and is said to be very fire resistant. The walls are solid wood, 3 ½ inches thick. Thus semi rotten boards can even mixed in the mill ends without much loss. Makes good storage caches, and could be built in a ground hole with tarpaper, etc. insulate from ground contact.

Also near here is a retired college teacher lady, in an underground concrete dome she built. She found and finished a round hill top to a flattened dome shape, dug drainage around it, and laid reinforcing rod over it. She pouted and tamped concrete over this. When it set she dug out under it and put in a slab floor, and covered over the top with earth and planted grass and bushes. Only one side is cut for exposure having several windows and a door. A room further back in the underground has a root cellar function.

EVERYTHING BUT THE FEATHERS

If hard times really are coming, most of us aren't going to be able to afford to waste any food. Which means, for example, that when we buy a chicken, we'll have to eat everything – no more or this eating just the good parts and throwing away the rest.

We've got it down to where, when we buy a chicken, we get at least 3 meals out of it: chicken, giblets, and soup, and we don't throw anything away, not even the bones. To begin with, we usually bake the chicken, surrounded by vegetables, maybe potatoes and carrots and onions. Any bones, skin, or parts uneaten at this first meal are gathered together and refrigerated. We take the neck from the giblets and put it with these scraps.

Another time we'll make giblets and rice. Put some brown rice on to boil. Cut up some onions and sauté in a pan with a little oil. Cut up the heart and gizzard and put in with the onions. After that has cooked awhile, we might add some carrots or celery or other veggies. Then when the rice is about done, cut up the liver and add to the pan. Liver doesn't take long to cook. When the rice is completely finished, add it to the pan and mix with everything else. Simmer a few minutes, then serve with a little soy sauce over it.

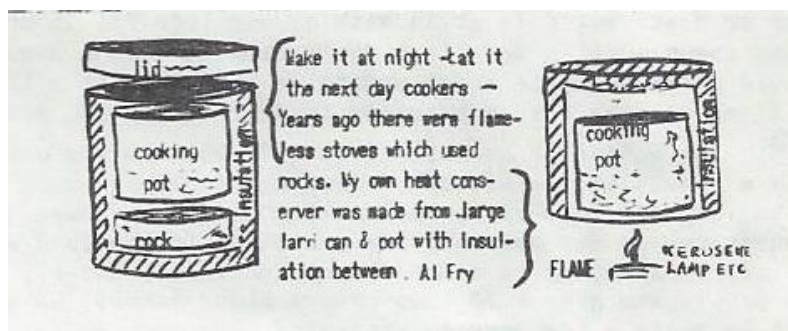
Another day, we'll get around to the soup. Put all the bones and chicken scraps in a pressure cooker. Add 2 cups of water, 1 tsp. of salt, and ½ cup of vinegar, and pressure cook for 45 minutes. The vinegar helps break down the bones. If you don't have a pressure cooker, you can cook in an ordinary pot, but then you'll have to simmer for about 3 hours. When you open the pressure cooker, if soup still smells of vinegar, boil vigorously for a few minutes with the cover removed to boil it off. Now pour the soup through a strainer and put the broth back on the stove. You'll be left with a pile of bones and meat scraps. The bones look normal, but they are soft: you'll find you can stick a fork right through them. Go through the scraps and separate all the soft meaty stuff from all the hard bony stuff. Cut meat and skin into small pieces as you go and put all the meat back into the soup.

The bones are now soft enough to eat. I haven't found any good dish to make with them, so I just take a dish of bones and eat as is. They have a rich, musky taste and are full of juicy marrow.

To finish up the soup, throw in appropriate vegetables: carrots, potatoes, celery, kohlrabi, etc. and add your favorite soup herbs. Parsley, bay leaves, oregano, whatever. Simmer until the vegetables are cooked and serve. Delicious!

Ecological eating. Nothing wasted.

—JIM STUMM



Interesting. I drove through Canyonville the day after the telephone guys got in the mudslide and was wondering how various habitats were surviving the monsoon.

Am enclosing a piece from The Washington Post which may be of interest to VL readers. The price of silver continues to go up and one wonders whether the current multiples isn't too high for the VL type purposes (i.e. will the guy at the gas station treat your silver half dollar as though it were \$1.75?). Barter and swapping among corporations is increasing – see WSJ clipping. So there will probably be lots of opportunity for brokers, traders, etc. SHADES OF THE LAST CAPITALIST. Concerning gasoline availability my experience in the last month in both the east and west is that the rural areas still have gasoline for sale (something on Sundays) even when there is no gas or long lines in the metropolitan areas.

—ERECH

[EDITOR'S NOTE: About half of this letter is illegible, but I was able to fill in most of the gaps. Some of it remains illegible and unintelligible, though. —SHANE]

If you're still publishing, I'd like to submit a short letter about the small group I'm involved with here. We are going through a lot of transitional stuff now and may be taking off ([illegible]) for Central America in a few weeks to stay indefinitely and to search out suitable spot(s) for more permanent location there. For some may be a permanent stable location, for others just one more good squat spot to add to our list of places to park. I've spent a lot of time in the area and most of us have been there one or more times. We set up a "front" in the form of a corporation there...we'll be setting up one or more nearby areas, or navigable water (thus cutting the whole automobile gas shortage problem out of our lives and will operate in [illegible] buying, selling, and some school schemes for [illegible] etc. but are definitely not Walden II or other independent anti-hill economics... we feel the need now for relocating in a more sparsely settled place away from some of the [illegible] and unpleasantness developing hereabouts. Let me hear from you!

—EL DORADO.

(Was this the short letter for publication? I assumed so, but then I wasn't sure so I took off the address. —LAN)

Dear Brother & sister nomads:
 Snow at last! - just got me feet buried and it makes a lot of difference on the drafts seeping in under the canvas - also can use my toboggan banged into existence out of a piece of corrugated sheet metal & some wire - better than commercial models by far!
 Just bend over about 6 inches at one end so it's U-shaped then crimp corners up & punch holes with nail & wire together also at tips of back end punch too holes & wire into boat shape so stuff won't fall off. I won't tip like commercial ones, and steel stuff (logs, grab etc. is not on it, but in it, makes less fastening necessary, punch by enough holes (use screwdriver) where bend in front is & run a light chain thru for pulling it will cut thru rope) - or wire or what ever's handy. You can pull a lot more than you can early! (specially chubs).
 For a year or more I have been hassling in my head the ideal stove trip for traveling, and as I am gonna be splitting in the spring with a burro as a pack animal & sheepherders stove which won't collapse is just too bulky to pack around, and the ones I've seen in catalogues (Smilie's 575 Howard St S.F. a) are good but one is too big, heavy, (and expensive - around 25 lbs. & 30 bucks) and the other is supposed to be foldable - but has cast iron top - heavy also. So I cut me down and muddled around in me head a way of making one that would not be damaged by whipping from heat so it couldn't be taken apart & put back together as many times as you felt like it, and any wreckage could be buried straight with a hammer. It's loose, but ought not to smoke. Here's the design.
 The top and bottom are two trays - each a 1" lip the top having a "collar" for the stove pipe to slip over, the collar needn't be more than an inch high, and could be less. The two ends are square pieces with a slot cut in each corner as deep as the lip of the "trays" - mostly with a square hole cut in one end piece. The door can be hinged from the side (left side if you're right handed & vice versa) - or with a catch over top on each end of top of door which would slip thru slots on front of stove, above door opening and just hang down. Now each side of stove has 4 tabs which fit thru slots on top and bottom of stove - and should be almost long enough to touch two end pieces which can be pushed back (for the front end) & forward (for back end) until they touch the ends of the side pieces, to keep as much air from leaking in as possible. I believe, if this were made with care - and of sufficiently heavy gauge steel, so that the tabs wouldn't bend too easily, out of shape, that this stove could be used for a number of years, & would require some hammering to take any bulges, but of a light hit or warpage. In order to be able to move it with out it's coming apart you could drill holes which would be above and below the trays - thru the tabs on the side pieces, and in-set nails to hang it together more permanently. It's gonna look pretty crude - granted, but it's just gotta work, & the slots are kept from being too oversized for the tabs etc. with 8 yrs machine shop, & 4 yrs silver brazing & 20 yrs electronics behind me - much of it is experimental work - and Jupiter my ruling planet! I know where off I speak (hopefully).
 A few minor details - make it about 12" wide and 4 inches longer than you expect pot you will use. The height probably a foot too. Don't make the doorway too small or you'll curse the fact that you can't burn larger pieces of wood. Have the door over lap a good inch all the way around the opening. I'd you insist on a latch for the door, you trigger it out - (you're a Vonuer!) - I don't want one, as it'll be just an unnecessary complication.
 I used a 5 gallon oil can for a stove this spring and during the no fire season this summer and just had a square piece of tin (with edges bent over and hammered down so it wouldn't cut me) a bit bigger than the round hole which was on the end already - punched some holes thru - an 1/4" tin & stuck in bent nails - "olla!" - instant king of really loose! & just popped the door shut. Put an inch of sand or ashes in the bottom so you don't burn it out. Don't let it get red hot! Now on to the

stove pipe alone. Obviously carrying around a bunch of sections of 6" stove pipe is out of the question. Fortunately, Smilie Co - and probably others, carry telescoping stove pipe which can be pulled out & they collapsed to the length of one section. I have not used it, but I goos with Smilie's old time - and tried a tube (for they have been pack train outfitters for many years) sheepherder stove, so I suspect they work ok. Find out the dia. of the largest section so you know what to make the collar fitting on yours.

Can any one tell me anything about using a burro for a pack animal? All info on that subject would be welcome - know any old timer I could correspond with who has used burros as pack animals?

Sheepers are always a problem for nomads and if you don't have a truck I sure don't recommend a tipi - for other than a season's stay in one place - also you have a lot of work ahead of you cutting, hauling, and dragging one set of poles. I know some other claim it tedious - I did for just a 10' dia tipi, and would hate to do it for a big tipi.

The earlier stove trip above, I realize is not for strict Vonuers - but shivering & this is Canada, baby! - is a worse drag - so I use a dip. Is you use buffalo chips or any good dry wood you don't get much smoke - so let your panorama be your guide.

Next trip - buy an old style Steno single burner-type stove. With a screwdriver pry up the tabs holding on the door, and discard - this is the older model with the steel sides, back, front & bottom (& top). Because it is enclosed the heat is concentrated and a small bundle of sticks (dry) will cook a meal in no time (dia. of sticks - under an inch) - just keep feeding them in. Better than a grill if it's a bit windy too. Easy to control, & put out in a hurry - just wait a bit & it's cool, ready to fold up and put back in the paper sack & back into the pack. With pots larger than the openings on top use 3 stones so flames can come up on sides of pan a bit - heats faster. Works great - I've used one with you. Saves a lot on wood gathering - no ax needed.

I reply to some of Ray's knocks against tents - for Cristobal - when you get a tent to live in - forget one made for 2 week summer camping - get of Smilie has em too, but duty too high to Canada so got Pioneer brand - Tent Tent &awning - Vancouver) one that's made for living in - like the Indians & Eskimos use & other travelers in North. I got (for one person - the two can make it in winter - 34" (if 2 are kids) in summer) an 8'x10'x2'x6'3" unbleached 10 oz. canvas (single) wall tent. No floor - tho I kinda wish I'd gotten a sod-cloth put on - anyway, it's warm enough with a stove, and banked - and a 4 wall square frame work of boards nailed to stakes driven into ground at corners. Since I have a sand floor, didn't want it all trapped in & out. Keeps snow & drafts out. It's pitched with 2 shear poles at each end of tent - eliminating a pole smack in the middle of doorway. Ridge pole slips thru two holes well reinforced at each end of peak and lays across crossed shear poles. Very sturdy. Must have ropes tied down running from brass groundnuts at ends of peak to stakes front & rear to keep it upright. These tents do not have zippers, but tie tapes (double set) and can be pretty snazzy, tho I only tie one usually. Canvas shrinks when wet, and by moving the shear poles out a bit - no adjustment of ropes is necessary, at sides. Quick & easy. Leave it a bit slack in rainy weather anyway. I got a set of 10" plastic tent pegs for compactness and lightweight. They seem to be around rocks. Very tough! There are ways of pitching a tent in deep snow - use toggles & bury under snow & stomp down. Tent weighs 23 lbs. - costs \$50 - good for years - Mildew treated & very

water proof - if you don't rub against the canvas. I have no complaints at all. For summer - a 7'x7'x18'x5'6" nylon tent - zip shut mosquito bar - & mosquito proof window in rear - but does weep thru just body condensation when cold out. I used it early this spring - no heat - damned cold for this spring or summer I am going to cut the floor out about up to 34 inches from walls. Harder to keep clean with a full sewed in floor. When moisture runs down inside it puddles up on the floor - ugh. Got it thru Simpson - scars here - 40 bucks.

Nothing new trick - At night you really don't need a flashlight to see by, but can use a candle lantern. Not those that have a hole thru the side of the can with one end cut out either - you are limited to using commercial candles for uniformity of size, plus you can't sit 'em down flat. Better'n that is to open a can of shut juice - large size - with a regular food can opener not the pointer punch kind. When used - cut a few more slits at intervals around the top. Then take whatever implement of destruction you got around - my first - and best one was made with a small belt ax, pliers & nail as top. Press down hard - don't chop. Leave about 7/8 inch lip at bottom so wax won't run out on things when melted from candle. The shape I did was a - or maybe more elongated. Don't punch holes in bottom for candle to stick on, cause it runs out when melted down - drag. The pliers are to bend back about 1/2 inch all the way around cut hole & crimp so it won't cut yer. Damned fingers when you put the candle in. Punch holes with nail to insert wire for handle - about 1/2 to 3/4 inch

from top of can down the side, but not evenly spaced from front opening, cause it's most annoying to have to hold yer hand turned in or out all the way while walking a mile or so at night. Sit the tin on some thing hold the line with ends bent up in yer hand and then stand with the wire held over the tin so the opening is clearing directly forward. Squash the holes should be punched so yer hand hangs naturally. It'll be right for both hands if it's right for one hand. Melt some wax into center of bottom & stick candle in & take a nice long walk for yerself. It'll be a lot longer on the same candle if you don't swing the lantern!

Could go into a long chatrble on how to make yer own candles, but since I don't use them any more for "house" lights - tho I did for a long time. I now use a derivation of the Eskimo soapstone fat lamp. The one I use is soapstone, but I just happened to get a good size lamp laid on me so make a bunch of 'em - kept a few & sold the rest. You can use a large oval sordine can, flat baking pan or that sort. I use asbestos for wicking and find that best - so dry, but keep experimenting. I have used sawdust which works ok! (you can even use sawdust). In my bitch lamp I can use animal fat (not from back of mks. (in Canada) - oil or wax. Watch the wax - it can go so soft if it gets too hot, so keep flame down - or Res flame away. Several small (4) in. wicks are better than one long one. I just put a hunk of wax in the tray

whenever it gets low. Mine seems to not flicker much, which is one of the big problems with any bitch lamp. Also by keeping the wick level up with the top of the tray rather than recessed down inside probably helps keep it from flickering. By putting a mirror (on tin foil) behind any of the more feeble light sources - you can greatly increase the light there from.

As I do use flashlight (beats gave me some hassles & I got pretty hyper this spring, as a result of one episode I still wouldn't rather not think about. But as I carry my flashlight in my pack, and as anyone who has carried one around probably knows - sooner or later you will find that the damn switch got pushed on by accident and when you need it a switch it on, you find it's already on - and nothing! - cut a piece of matchbook cover to fit over the end of the battery closest to the end you load on & leave it there, just taking it but & slipping it between the battery & casing when you want to use it. Leave the piece in the flashlight at all times so you will be more likely to not loose and then have to use it when it's in pocket or pack. Respect the last set of batteries around in dry place just in case.

Well nut of all this I agree about the merits of having a dog for a lover. Chick Mine - an 8 1/2 yrs old elderly gentleman, German Shepherd is excellent company, good watch dog, never barks, stays home, attacked a bear (small) upon command when it ran at us - and also carries a dog pack & pulled my winter wood to my house with harness I made - gotta eat too - she's good indoor company. Bye for now - (don't print address) J. Brill

I recently looked up in the public library here names of children who died in infancy. All Ohio birth certificates are held by Ohio Department of Health, Columbus, Ohio. The paper didn't give middle names of either parents. I guessed at one and said I didn't know the other when I mailed in an application. I will report on obtaining a Social Security card soon. I found an answering service run by a lady who holds mail for me. It costs a few dollars a month, but I have only used it two months. I pick it up from a mailbox after a phone call. I have got the birth certificate. After the birth certificate, gets me a SS card. I will try for a driver's license. I got birth certificate application from writing local city government.

I am interested in establishing contact with a network of self-sufficient people. I would like to have access to a people bank from time to time. I can supply a relatively vonu environment – interesting on many levels and with fantastic potential. I am part of an open family. Our needs usually are for competence. Assuming the world holds together, we may need someone capable of setting up a kiln and pottery in 6 months or so. I wonder if you can supply this service?

I have been many places...S*C*I*E*N*C*, Korzybski; Skinner; Rapoport; Community; Isolation; The Master Game; Delightism; The Crack in the Cosmic Egg. I am working at Steps to an Ecology of Mind. I have been here 5 years. I only meet children. I would like contact with adults from whom I could learn. I would also highly value an occasional visit from a doctor or the name of one that is consultable by mail.

My physical plant is handcraft...candles and straw predominately; a small health food restaurant; a comfortable 2 bedroom nest and proposed lodging units on the edge of the rain forest in paradise.

I am creating a recreational facility within a botanical garden...perhaps for vonuans. Money for expansion is slow. Air mail please. Surface mail takes several months to get here. BUTTERFLY, Papilote Limited, Dominica, Windward Islands.

(Air mail is very expensive to or from there. So if you write for information, I think it would be nice to enclose a dollar. –LAN)

I did much winter camping when younger so wilderness living doesn't have much appeal. Frozen toes and so forth. However, I wish you all luck who are wilderness vonuists. I find a relatively straight appearance to be a great help in getting by on the fringes. I find a compact 6 cyl. station wagon to be most economical transportation here. –JOHN MC

I just got a letter from Cheryl Buswell-Robinson of the Resurrection City People's Farm, Browns, Alabama, asking me to ask around and see if she can find out where and how her husband is. He fought at Wounded Knee, was shot, and disappeared. She hasn't seen him since. Pass the word, will you, and let me and/or Cheryl know, if anyone knows. Thanks! –Lillian Jean Bruge or Jean Wing, Los Osos, Calif.

Dear Editor,

One thing that I would like to see in vonulink and vonulife are articles on how to bury underground and protect from rust, rot, insects, etc., such equipment as various hand tools, matches, soap, shoes and clothing, firearms and ammo, etc. When things get really rough in this country then such articles as I have named above will be of far more value than gold and silver coins, Swiss bank accounts, and other visible material possessions.

Also how can one build underground simple living quarters? When heating this underground home or cooking with wood is there anyway that smoke can be neutralized or dissipated so it will not be seen or very little if any smoke odors reach the surface? I believe that an underground home and underground supply caches are two of the most important methods in Living Free. A small hut or cabin aboveground may be used as a front in case anyone comes by. But in an emergency underground living is much safer. –Joseph, Chicago (I acknowledge that I received letter and money order. –LAN)

VL,

If the writer (no name, not typed) used 2 x 2' beams under a 3/8 sheet of ply, a trailer, 4 x 8, could be made. A long tongue would fit 1 or 2 horses (if both mares, they would drop foals too) and some small wheels (small auto, wheelbarrow, garden cart, or bike with hard rubber or rope fillings) would hold it. Canvas (nylon 90¢/yd of 41" width) could be fastened on sides. Raise a pole or 2, flex nylon bows like an old Conestoga to make a tent. Flex poles could be long fishpole rods (like from Herters). The whole thing could be very lightweight. I think I sent you plans for a tent wagon much like one tribe of wagon people used. You could scale this down to any size wanted. For a 1 piece wood floor, get 1/4" ply and glue pieces staggered. Then cut off single ply edges. A donkey probably could pull. 2' pieces could even be hinged on each side of a 4 x 8 to make an 8 x 8 floor.

I'll pay Finder's Fee to anyone who can find me a very cheap piece of land, old farm, tax land, etc. –Paul Doerr, Vallejo, CA.

ECONOMY CARS

by Al Fry

As predicted earlier, small cars are becoming increasingly hard to get ahold of because of the fuel situation, so perhaps it will help if we cover them briefly. It is our opinion that: Most of the little British cars hold up only fairly well. With a BMC motor you can usually coax 60 thousand out of one but this is helped along by the fact that they really aren't hard to overhaul. The little British front wheel drive and rear engine jobs are usually good for more headaches than savings and should be avoided unless you really get a "good thing". I have seen the inside of many of them and so will you if you intend on keeping one long.

Small Italian cards are also short term deals and to be avoided unless the price is right. I once started back from Mexico City in a little Fiat and 3 dogs and half a dozen repair part later I was beginning to wonder. I probably ought to comment on the great little Alpha-R's but I've been there and am not impressed. Performance, yes, but at a cost of short engine life, and baby as far as I'm concerned, that's what cuts the mustard.

The Nordic cars are pretty fine machines generally but a little hard to get parts for reasonably if old at all. The older 3 cylinder Saabs were great but parts now – forget it. About the only way you can find on reasonably is to get a wrecked, vandalized, or sick older model and this takes time and labor.

VW's were great machines in the 50's but times change. As it is, each of the newer years has its mechanical shortcomings and crankshaft regrinders are really having good times from VW people. Use really good oil and change regularly and you should get your money's worth from a used model. I once put 50000 miles on one and sold it for what I paid for it and they do hold their value. The larger fuel injection models with computers spewers in them can frequently get 30 plus miles per gallon, but what happens after a good hundred though or so I don't know.

Another good German car was the 2 cycle BMW. The only problem was that they burned up at high speed so few of them survived long unless the owner used restraint. One of the greatest cards of the last 20 years however was the nondescript German Borgward. Even with parts long sparse and gone, I still seem them occasionally – 100 though was the rule rather than the exception.

French cars vary somewhat in quality and old Renaults seldom held up long without constant shock and new runs at 50 thousand. Still at 30 to 40 mpg there are advantages. The large Citroens aren't small cars, but I used to get 32 mpg from one and aside from oil leakage problems (a spoon of Wesson oil in the system cured mine) they are one of the best used car bargains anywhere and a super well designed automobile. Almost 8 years ago I paid a guy \$10 reward to direct me to where a small Citroen 2 CV was sitting in about 200 pieces. Now around 250 thousand miles (newer engine) later I am still lurching around the country in this car and will still be getting my 50 mpg when Detroit's best are long again turned to scrap iron. A hundred persons must have wanted this car but few have what it takes to get one of their own so too bad so sad. I paid \$150 for it as a pile of junk and since it takes several bills to get one over here from France (the French really don't care if we get them or not and detest the safety regulations) it is doubtful that one can be acquired for less than too much, or a sick or basket case.

The Japanese Datsun has an almost identical copy of the BMC engine and actually sometimes holds up a little better. Even the Toyota holds up pretty well and the only great problem with these cars is that they hold their values too well to get any bargain.

Foreign made, American name imports were once pretty bad cards but for the past 5 years or so they have been pretty fair cars. Don't pass one up if the price is right.

American small cars have come a long way – I remember going to drive-ins in a Crosly in grades school and they were strictly a short-term wish. However, my 70 year old uncle still has his little '50 Studebaker and hasn't had major trouble in 250,000 miles at least. About one in 15 of these amazing little cars were simply indestructible.

The little American Rambler Mini car had a BMC motor in it and aside from so-so styling was one of the first U.S. compacts of much merit. Aside from an occasional exception, most of the U.S. made compacts have been fairly reliable machines since then.

It will be a few years yet before some of the newer and better models are available at reasonable used car prices but one never knows when a sick or mashed up job will give him some good transportation with a little work.

While the gas shortage is contrived up to a point, there will still be a continued drive toward worldwide economic chaos so the time to get something to get down the road in economically is now. If you can make it through what is coming on a bike – fine. But for the average person it will take 4 wheels and a supply of gas to get by now, and get out when the time comes later.

There are lot of older economy cars around but to get one at a decent price you will need to get your hands greasy and make sure you are not spending your time fixing up a piece of junk. We hope this helps – don't expect the majority of these small cars to hold up as well as a large Detroit model though, they just won't do it.

Dear Vonulife People, I am not a vonuan myself since I am still living at home, but will be as soon as snow melts around here and will be moving up to Prince Rupert and Terrace Way as that's where my heart is now.

A good book to read is Bushcraft by Richard Graves (a serious guide to camping and survival), Snocken Books, New York. Enclosed with this letter are sources of information needed or pertaining to vonu life in some way. –Bruce, B.C.

"Building with Logs" Allan Mackie, Prince George, B.C. I bought this book about a year or so ago. It's a very interesting book for only those people interested in building original log cabins. It tells you everything you need to know including how to make cedar shakes (wooden roof shingles), fireplaces, foundations, lining up walls, type trees to build with and a lot more.

"The Foxfire Book", by Eliot Wigginton, 384 pages, \$3.95 paperback. Information to vonu people includes log cabin building, soap making, planting by the signs, snake hunting lore, mountain crafts and food, and much, much more. Garden Way Publishing Co., Charlotte, Verm.

Complete plans on a solar water distiller. Sun's energy converts muddy water for pure drinking. (16 gal. capacity. \$10.) Pure water, Aptos Calif.

Big camping equipment supply catalog featuring goose down bags, all kinds of backs, freeze dried foods, knives, axes, sews, folding shovels, machetes, measuring kits, propane and gas stoves, material, tents, and practically everything else that goes along with camping. They have a good catalog and their prices are low on most things. Don Gleason's Campers, Northampton, Mass.

Free catalog on lightweight equipment for backpacking, mountaineering, camping. Prices are pretty good. They also sell big list of books, plus freeze dried foods, clothes, etc. Moor & Mountain, Concord, Mass.

Free catalog on freeze dried food and backpacking and camping equipment. Prices in their last catalog I got were good but that was 2 years ago so check them out. Choasset, Mass.

Lightweight freeze-dried food catalog free. Prices were reasonable on catalog I received last year. Also sell some camping stuff. Woburn, Mass.

A good rifle for vonuans is the Armalite AR-7 explored 22 long rifle rimfire caliber, semi-automatic. The action, barrel, and magazine pack in the stock of the rifle floats both assembled or when stowed away in the stock for transport. Has a fiberglass stock. Weight 2 ¾ lbs., overall length 34 ½ inch, length when taken apart 16 ½ inches. \$59.75. Available from Toronto's biggest surplus and outdoor stores. King Sol Outdoor Stores, W. Toronto. I got their catalog for 25¢ last year. Full of surpluses bargains like N3 Air Force Parka \$25.00, snowshoes, field pants, parachutes (cargo type \$1.95) Vietnam jackets and lots more.

"Backwoods Journal", Paradox 3, New York. Bimonthly magazine on nature appreciation, wildflowers, hiking, conservation, etc. Correspondence section popular. Sample 50¢. Illustrated booklet on "Simple Living", \$1.00.

Northwest Companion Planter, Seattle, Wash. It's a magazine about organic food and agriculture for the Pacific Northwest.

Trail Camping, Canoga Park, Calif. New magazine on backpacking, canoeing, camping, etc. Gives how-to, where to find it, and equipment reviews.

(Thanks. I left out a lot of places and books you didn't say you'd seen or which have been reviewed a lot by Whole Earth Catalog, etc., or which were listed in Vonulife 73. -LAN)

MANY COMPANIES TURN TO BARTERING AS WAY TO GET VITAL MINERALS

The Wall Street Journal (Feb. 13, 1974)

...A barter economy is developing again today, possibly on a much broader scale than in the recent past, economists and businessmen say. Such forces as inflation, the energy crisis, wage, and price controls and the resulting widespread shortages of raw materials all contribute to the trend. With limited supplies available in such fields as chemicals, plastics, paper, steel, and oil, companies who do secure them are seeking "the greatest rate of return, and it may not be for dollars"...

The barter system is becoming a way of life in some shortage areas...This worries the FTC which is looking into the legality of barter deals because numerous complaints from small firms left out of trades...

Close to half of the 300 corporate purchasing managers responding to a nationwide poll taken in late January said they are bartering to secure scarce products and materials...The poll found a whole gamut of products being traded for other products rather than for cash. Purchasing managers are offering goods such as gasoline, fuel oil, polyvinyl chloride, ethylene, chlorine, welding rods, optical glass, isopropyl alcohol, magnet wires, sheet steel, aluminum extrusions, aluminum oxides, silicon carbide, polyethylene, and metal bars. In exchange they want such items as plastic monomers, benzene, polystyrene, ethyl acetate, acetic acid, antifreeze, tinplate, steel plate, and diesel fuel.

"...If a company has benzene and wants it converted to styrene monomer, we might take his benzene and return him styrene monomer." Union Carbide gets paid by keeping some of the styrene monomer "for our own use".

VONULINC 17, NOVEMBER 1974

Vonulink is published every two months as a readers' forum and supplement to vonulife. Compiled by Lan.

This is the last issue of vonulinc. To subscribers who have paid beyond this issue, I'm enclosing a refund of 50¢ for each issue remaining.

I'm stopping it because I'm no longer in a situation where I can do it easily. Also I think it's mostly filled it's main purpose.

As for vonulife, I'd like to put out another issue, but won't unless some regular publisher or distributor will make a commitment on bookstore distribution. If I print an update sheet for the '73 it will be a selection from what has been in vonulinc.

If I put out a new vonulife, I'll change my ads for it to say "1975 vonulife" (or whenever). So if you see an ad which says "1973 vonulife" or just "vonulife" it will be for the issue you already have.

I've got lots of copies of vonulife 73 left, maybe 7 or 8 thousand. If you can use 500 copies or more, I will make you a good deal on them. (They are packed about 500 in a box.)

Money-wise, vonulinc has paid its expenses and maybe a little more, which is better than most little zines seem to do. Same with vonulife. I've now paid off all the authors and other people who helped me do the 1973 issue and are still getting a trickle of orders. As for the unsold copies, it didn't cost much more to print 10,000 than to print 2,000. That's why I gambled on being able to get bookstore distribution.

I didn't take on vonulife and vonulinc expecting to make a lot of money (though I wouldn't have minded it if I had). I thought I'd enjoy batting around ideas with others who are doing things out of the ordinary, and I have, though I haven't done as much writing myself as I expected to.

In Libertarian Connection No. 46, Jim Stumm referred to what I'd written about local nets and said, "What I wonder is what activities would go on that would give these nets a reason for being. I see the desirability when thinking in vague generalities but it's not so clear when we get down to specifics." Okay, here are some specifics I can think of.

Book and zine lending. I can't afford to buy all the books or subscribe to all the magazines I would like to look over. And small libraries and even most big ones don't have a lot that I'm interested in. So I buy one thing, and a friend buys something else, etc. and then we loan and swap.

Information on something new to me. I probably already know where to go to get more information on something I already know a lot about, but for something I'm just starting to get interested in I may not even now where to begin. Library indexes sometimes help but don't cover the newer or more unusual items or else I don't know what to look up under. But as part of a net I can ask friends and if they don't know ask them to put me in touch with anyone who might know. I might be asking for the best beginning book on subject X, or the best brand to buy of Y, or the best source of Y, or what price I should expect to pay for Z.

Equipment loaning. I'd rather not buy something I'll only use one time or seldom. I might try to buy it used and then resell but I may have difficulty finding a private party who wants to sell or buy one and dealers won't usually pay but a third or half of what they sell it for. Rental outfits will rent a trailer or truck but not more unusual things (though maybe they do in big cities) and even for what they do rent they are high priced. They got an office to pay for, etc. If I go to a contractor who has the equipment e doesn't know me and doesn't trust me to take good care of it so is afraid to rent to me, and also e would like to rent *erself* along with it for \$8 an hour or so. So I check with people I know and if they don't have it maybe they know somebody who does and will vouch for me.

Food sharing. Suppose I run onto surplus peaches which I can get for little more than the time it takes to pick them. I can't eat that many. Maybe I can can them or freeze them or dry

them but maybe I'm not set up for that or don't have the time or don't like canned or frozen or dried peaches. So I distribute them to friends and they distribute to their friends. And they share their good findings with me. If I had time I might be able to sell the peaches to stores or peddle door to door, but maybe I don't. Or, an even better example, suppose somebody bags an elk out of season or without a license. There's a lot of meat on an elk. And I wouldn't want the job of peddling it.

Junk picking. Things which I have no foreseeable use for I leave some place for friends to pick over (and maybe me at a later time). And I pick over a friend's junk pile for things I need and for things I've heard that other friends of mine (who might not know the first friend) want.

These sorts of activities require that people be in close touch somehow, either camped nearby one another or with some kind of radio communication or maybe with some way of plugging into the telephone system. Or else it requires groups big enough to support a lot of go between. Or else it might be between a vonuan and conventional friends but that can get sticky. Some of the activities also require a lot of trust (the equipment loaning for example) and that takes time to develop, so they wouldn't work for people who stay in one area only a short time. I don't think these activities can be done well by mail. Too many delays. So they can't be done with all vonuans but maybe by some.

I don't hide away in the deepest woods by myself or even with my friends all the time (although I'm slow with mail sometimes I give that impression). So maybe we'll run into each other sometime somewhere. In the meantime I wish you success and joy in whatever you undertake. -LAN.



Safe water can be hard to find in lowlands where the water sits and gets stagnant. Water purifier tabs, iodine, and such will usually get the job done but there are sophisticated ways...a few years ago a little hand device with a super fine filter was advertised in outdoor mags and cost about \$30. Now I notice that Edumnds (Barrington, New Jersey) has a filter which uses a spl. silver solution to kill the bacteria. Overpriced at \$40 it is still could be very handy for a "hard" expedition...comes out at 3¢ a gal. -from Al Fry

SMALL ADS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

I handle a number of publications that are either unique or unavailable elsewhere. NEWS NOVELS are typical. #1 After the Russian Invasion - #2 Depression Guide #3&4 Russian Threat. #8 How your being used, #11 Expose of Earth Gods etc. #12 The censorship of inventions & more to come. \$1 for 1 & 2 - others 2 for \$1 - kitchen explosives primer now ready. Details for stamp. To previous VL contacts - Thanks, Fry. Perris, California.

LIBERTARIAN CONNECTION, the unique open forum for anarcho-capitalist libertarians. Life extension, self-liberation, and futurology. Sample 50¢. Dawn Enterprises, Los Angeles.

CLEARANCE SALE. 1973 vonulife only 25¢ each for box of 500. smaller numbers 50¢ each + 50¢/shipment. (this is the 70,000 word booklet which retails for \$1.) 9 older issues \$1.25/set + \$1.25/shipment. postpaid. sale ends jan.14, 1975. vonulife, pob 248, paradise, ca 95969.

SYNERGY/ACCESS is a global newsletter on futuristic communications, media, and networking. Published bimonthly by Twenty-First Century Media, Inc. Northport, New York. \$5/year.

GREEN EGG is published by the Church of All Worlds, a Neo-Pagan Earth religion dedicated to the celebration of life, the maximal actualization of Human potential, and the realization of ultimate individual freedom and personal responsibility in harmonious eco-psychic relationship with the total Biosphere of Holy Mother Earth. Single copies, \$1; subscriptions, \$7. -CAW, St. Louis, MO

Subscribe to: THE EARTH RELIGION NEWS, the only pagan tabloid magazine dedicated to the practice and study of paganism, with news, editorials, book reviews, interesting feature articles on witchcraft, magick, divination, herbs, legends, mythology, worship, rituals, etc. Subscription rates for 12 months – 8 issues, U.S. and Canada -- \$6. Brooklyn, NY.

WORLDWIDE CLUB AND MAIL ORDER DIRECTORY. Most complete listing in the world. Something of interest for everyone. Friendship, marriage, swingers, pen pals, travel, nudist resorts, stamp collecting, and more. \$3.00. Southern Publishing Company, Holly Hill, Florida. (new address and edition)

If you are a countercultural organization of 5 or more adults living together and are located in the Americas, please ask to be added to our mailing list free. Individuals and those outside the New World, please send \$2 to help with the costs. New World Communications, Cambridge, MA.

I finally got out of it – so far out, as a matter of fact, that I don't even get radio signals up here (just shortwave). I made an old school bus quite comfortable and hauled it up into the mountains, 35 miles from the nearest town. My nearest neighbor is a shepherd who roams the mountain sides with his stock. Our communication is limited to my rudimentary Spanish – he speaks no English in spite of having been here 3 years; nobody to talk to. There is plenty of wildlife though; antelopes, geese, and fish in a nearby river. So far I like it fine – but I haven't seen the winter here yet. -David, Wyoming

Spring has loosened up North Idaho for outdoor stuff and building. Did I tell you of the lady here who lives in an underground concrete dome? She simply found a mound like hilltop, sculpted it a bit, spread on reinforcing rod and concrete. Then dug out under the dome thus formed, re-earthed the top and planted. Put in a concrete floor with good drainage under, white-washed the inner roof. Sliced off one edge and put in a door. -S.

I have been thumbing it since De. 73, and just (Sept.) got back to NJ in July. It was nice and warm down south. I have been spending my time since I got back building my shell and I have now turned into a turtle. All that and inertia are my excuses for not communicating to you before this. I have finally broken the 9-5 pay as you go habit and am totally using my life as I want to.

I believe the most important thing that people can do with their lives is to communicate their ideas and perceptions to other people who want to learn what they can and help others learn who they are, or who we are really. I would like to keep in contact by mail with other people and when I get out west be part of a net if others are interested. If not I would still want to backpack about and see people.

I have become a vegetarian and am spending much of my time in the study of Eastern Rewohons (?). There are about 100 acres of dense woods across the road from where I have my truck parked at which are very nice to just sit in and dig what is not happening.

I have a Datsun pickup which has a 4' high box – homemade – resting on the top of the sides of the bed. There is an extension out over the cab and another one built up from the lowered tailgate. In the back section I have a small wood stove, which heats the camper in the winter which has a water jacket connected to a 3 gal. hot water storage tank for washing. There is also a Coleman stove with a vented wood for cooking that is all on the right side on the tailgate extension along with drawers for kitchen utensils and space for a lot of my pots and pans. Alongside the stove on the floor containers for firewood and bar garbage and stove tools. In the

middle in the back is a door out of the truck and an isle to get past the stove. On the left side I have a treadle sewing machine which I am in the process of gearing to run my mixer, juicer, generator, etc. When not in use the machine itself is stored and the base doubles as a kitchen counter on a shelf below the counter and next to the machine I store boots and socks. Above the counter I have shelves to store 5 gals. of food in mason jars.

In the main cargo space of the truck I have built a bench in a U shape up both sides and across the front about 18" wide and 2' high. Underneath the bench I have storage space for spare blankets, my papers, clothes, coats, a complete set of mechanics tools which will take the whole truck apart and put it together again, spare parts, nails, screws, hardware, carpenters tools, 12 ½ gal. mason jars with food, my flute, music and other instruments, a 1 ½ ton winch with 50 ft. of cable, a tool box with my block and tackles, sledges, wedges, pipe wrenches, etc., 3 cu. ft. of kit utensils and food processing equipment, my mixer, juicer, etc., sewing machine, extra soap, wax, and other misc. sewing supplies. In between the benches is an area about 18" x 2' deep x 4' long which I line with a pool liner to make a bath tub. When not in use the tub and a spare fit under the bench. When the tub is not in use you can sit on the bench and put your feet down. The whole bench, sides, and floor are carpeted as are the two plywood sheets which cover the tub opening to make a sleeping deck the size of the cargo area of the truck. The bottom of the larger board (18" x 30") has Formica on it and attaches to the wall about 1' off the deck at the left rear to make another table. Above the table is a utility shelf 4' long and 8" high above that is a taller bookshelf the same length. Below the table is a 4' long 12" high vent window. There is also a small window behind the utility shelf in the middle. The front 2' of the left side have a trapdoor to escape in case of fire in the rear and to allow more air in the summer. All doors and windows are weather proof and have screens. The front of the camper has an opening into the cab and doors to the storage area over the cab and is carpeted completely. In the storage area I store clothes and towels and misc. on the right side the first 2' have a complex of shelves and cabinets for drafting equipment, office supplies, books, a small writing table, and a 2' square area for a tape recorder I have yet to get. The back 4' have a 1' high vent window and shelves for 6 gals. of food in mason jars. On the back of the partition separating the stove area from the rest of the truck and high enough to get your feet underneath to sleep, is a flour mill and milling area illuminated by a candle lantern. Further light is provided by a kerosene lamp, a Coleman light, a 110 electric light which is plugged into switched outlets at either end of the truck, or a 12 volt light overhead on a 3 way switch from back or front of the camper. The 110 comes from an exterior plug with 50 foot extension cord or power converter. 12 volt comes from truck or generator.

The main part of the camper has a 2x3 frame with 3/8" plywood over it, fiberglass insulation, and Masonite inside the roof is a 1 x 2 frame with masonite and canvas stretched over it. Painted of course. The tailgate extension has a 2 x 2 frame stretched canvas outside, insulation, Masonite on the inside except by the stove where there is an asbestos board interior. The roof on the extension is sheet metal to accommodate stove and hood vent. The cab is the same except all the tools, jacks, bars, maps, etc. Sleeping bag and backpack equipment are suspended from the ceiling in hammocks.

I have the truck parked in the driveway of some accommodating people who let me use the well and plug in my cord. I do odd jobs for money when I need it. I also have a 1966 fury station wagon with a 6 cyl. engine which I store about 500 lbs. of food in and use for transportation.

For some mind blowing concepts in shelter and clothes send \$1.00 to Stephenson's, Woodland Hills, Calif. and they will send you a very informative catalog.

P.S.: Do you know where I can get "The Paper Trip" and "Gateway to Survival is Storage"? Walter Batchelor and Rev. Gormezano have moved or something. My letters came back.

Vonulife-Vonulink: (This is Rocky Mt. Hi from Adam:)

This will be mostly about horses, mules, and burros, and living nomadically in the backwoods in wall tents, primitive cabins, etc. I am currently getting some good experience with horses and have had other experience with mules in the past (Hello Donna, Hello El Dorado!).

In the northern Rocky Mts. I lived in a heavy canvas wall tent pitched over a 2" x 4" ridge pole and simple framework. I used large, heavy tarps pitched over another ridge pole under which

I stored excess tools, food, and equipment. My cooking was done in a fire pit surrounded by rocks, outdoors, about 50 feet from the tent. All food was stored outside as there were several black bear nosing around at night. I had a good dog that kept the bear and range cattle out of camp. My wall tent was about 10 feet x 12 feet. I prefer heavy canvas tents over the plastic stuff – I tried at first living under a shelter-half tarp extended on one side with clear plastic. It was noisy at night when the wind blew – also, the full moon shone in too bright for sleeping. Anyhow, I just don't care for plastic when something else is available.

Good background information can be obtained from the following: The American Donkey and Mule Society, Denison, Texas. They will sell you leaflets and reprints at about 0.10¢ each on mules and burros. For a backwoods nomad, a burro could be used to snake logs (for fire and cabin building), for hauling water, to pull a sled (in snow or over bare ground), and to ride if he's big enough. Burros range in size from kiddy size up to about that of a small mule – big ones are called mammoth burros. Donna's cart idea would probably make use of a box on two wheels with two poles on each side between which the male (burro) would be hitched. Personally, I can better use the one riding horse (mule) and one pack animal (horse, mule, or burro). The Tartars each took 4 horses on long trips...the loose animals were trained to follow the rider. The rider changed horses when necessary. Each hour a stop was made for 15 minutes for the rider to rest and to rest the horses. When a horse played out he was butchered for food. Many nomadic horseman lived on mare's milk. On long military treks, each man carried 10 lbs. of dried mare's milk in a pouch tied to the saddle. This was the first dried milk and was made by boiling milk down to solids and then pulverizing the dried cakes into powder. The rider in the morning would put ½ lb. of dried milk in a pouch and add water and then would carry it on the saddle all day...by nightfall, it would be well mixed and ready to eat (drink).

Metal shoes for horses were used by the Romans and far back beyond that time. Some of the first shoes were made of rawhide, and the Japanese made sort of boots of straw for their horse's feet. Rawhide shoes were soaked in water and then tied around the hooves...upon drying they tightened into fairly good protection. The Indians used such rawhide shoes on some occasions.

Horses do not have to be shod...it depends up on the terrain and how hard you are working the animal. However, every horseman-nomad should learn how to shoe a typical, gentle horse that has healthy feet. Mules have harder hooves than horses; burros have even harder hooves. So, mules and burros could be used without shoes in more instances than could horses. Wild mustangs developed very hard hooves from all the running they did across rocky, open country. Horses that are kept penned up on pasture or in stalls are more in need of shoes because they have not developed hard hooves.

A horse-nomad would not normally have to pack horse food...traveling through the mountains will offer enough food for riding and pack horses if you do not work them too hard. Probably each rider should have his own pack animal and know-how to throw at least one of the diamond hitches. An average pack horse (mule) can carry around 100 to 150 lbs. without getting hurt by it, if the pack saddle (cross-bar type or Decker) fits him okay. The deadweight of a pack is harder on a horse than is the shifting (live) weight of the rider.

The riding saddle can be most any kind so long as it is not too heavy. The usual roping or rodeo type saddle may weight up to around 45 lbs. That's too much leather for a nomad. Yet, I favor a western style saddle over the English pleasure-riding saddle. Also, I like a horn...it'll come in handy in many ways. Regular western style saddles can be had weighing around 33 lbs. They can also be made lighter if the custom saddler uses a lighter weight leather. I've heard of western style saddles weighing only 27 lbs. For mules, an old rebuilt McClellan saddle is very good. These can be bought used and rebuilt or rebuilt ones can be purchased from a place that deals in historic equipment for the "Blue and Gray" games that are played by horsemen in some areas today. My very first riding experiences were on a McClellan saddle and also bareback. Too much bareback riding can result in sore and swollen legs...this was a common complaint back before saddles had been developed.

El Dorado suggests using "tall giraffe-type horses"...very good. A horse that has a good walk is best for the nomad. A good walking horse can make around 6 miles per hour. Also, a good "old cow of a horse" that has mountain sense and good training is more valuable for the nomad than

a high spirited horse that has 3 to 5 fancy gaits. The nomad wants a healthy, strong, and gentle horse that knows how to be hobbled, tied out with a rope, and is easy to catch by his master. A dark color is preferred over white because it is less visible in the mountains. You should learn to trim his hooves and also shoe him if and when necessary. If you come across any history on the Tartars, and in general the very early Asiatic horseman-nomads read it...some good tips are buried between the lines.

A horse with very long and straight legs may have a better walk than one with shorter legs. Also, a shoulder bone that slopes well forward may indicate a horse with a good full-striding walk. Some horses just don't have a good walk. But, nearly any horse or mule will do the job...some will just do it better than others. Arabian horses are known for their gentleness, love for their owner, and their endurance. Many endurance races are won by Arabian horses. Many mules are known for their good easy walk...some mules will walk a good horse to death, as the saying goes. Also, mules are a little less susceptible to disease, they can thrive on poorer food, and usually can be worked or ridden to older ages than horses. On the other hand, there are fewer mules around so they are higher priced. Also, mules have the name of being more temperamental and some of them may be more inclined to kick. However, most mules are probably as easily handled as horses in most cases. Horses and mules can live up to 50 years of age and even beyond.

Beginning with the Tartars and back beyond them and on down to arctic explorers and early-west mountain men and Indians...the horse has served his master for transportation and then when the chips were down, for food. If you have mares and a stallion in your string of mounts, you could learn to milk the mares and also have a ready supply of transportation. Few horsemen relish the idea of eating their horse...but if a horse should get crippled (broken leg, etc.), he certainly should be used for food. Also, his hide would make good clothing and other leather items. The food value of a crippled horse is greater than any amount of food you could carry with you. One or two people could probably survive the better part of a year by eating one horse. Again, I don't personally advise setting out with the idea of butchering an animal that has served you as a means of transportation and as a companion.

At different times in history, men have preferred to ride stallions only; at other places, men have preferred mares. The Bedouins prefer to ride mares because they are less likely to whinny and give away their presence to the enemy. Also, mares, during battles, are said to use up less time urinating. Some riders prefer mares, others like geldings (castrated stallions) and some still prefer to ride stallions. Generally, for war mounts, stallions had more fire and spirit. But, this attribute is of little value to the modern horseman-nomad. Therefore, I suggest either a gelding or mare for general use. The same thinking probably holds true for mules...of course, the mule is a hybrid between burro and horse and can't reproduce. A mule is a cross between a burro jack (male) and a horse mare; a ninny is a cross between a burro female and a horse stallion. Ninny's are good saddle animals but very rare as compared to mules.

El Dorado mentions not wearing riding clothing, boots, etc., that were meant for "saloon musicians." That's fine...because sleazy, gaudy, fancy clothes have no place in the backwoods...they just won't do the job or hold up past the first thicket. But the American western riding boot (that is said to have come down from Spanish dancing shoes) dates back to the earliest times of well-equipped horsemen. Regular riding boots first came into the light of history on the feet of the barbarian Huns who rode west into northern Europe early in the Christian era. These boots especially designed for horsemen were then taken up by the French, British, etc. Here's the kicker...these boots are remarkably similar (in shape of heel and long slender toe) to our western riding boots of today. They had the undershot, narrow heels, built-up to hold against the narrow stirrups used back then. So, today, many of us riders are using the boot design of the good ol' Huns and I can see both good and bad. Many an ol' Cowboy who rides the rank ones uses his loose-fitting western boots as good insurance against getting hung up in the stirrups. One cowboy advises to buy western boots that can be easily slipped off, for safety. However, such western boots are impossible to walk in for any distance and the types of leathers are more for dress-up than for heavy-duty wear in the mountains. So what's the best all-around answer? Well, you could wear boots (western) for riding and carry a pair of walking shoes tied to the saddle horn. Or, use hoods over the front of your stirrups.

Or, wear lace shoes and keep them very loosely laced while riding...especially when on snow, or other places when a horse might slide down. Frankly, unless you are a rodeo rider or trainer, the chance of getting hung up in the stirrups is rather remote...but it can and does happen, always be prepared for it. Also, it probably would be unwise to wear mountain boots with Vibram soles and wedge them into the stirrups. I can see where such boots might increase the chance of hanging up in case your horse slid down. Hiking shoes with smooth soles would be better for riding anyhow. For me, in summer, wearing utility grade western riding boots while riding, and tying a pair of tennis shoes or other lightweight shoes to the saddle horn or pommel will probably be the way to go until I find some better answer. Good summer clothing for summertime in the Rockies would include blue jeans, flannel shirts (2), long handles, sweater, wool socks, broad-brimmed felt hat. Working in the snowy timber last winter my broad-brimmed felt hat saved my face a couple of times from flying sticks. Also, it stopped snow from falling down my neck. I take the sweat-band and lining out and tie heavy shoestrings or leather around the outside to adjust the size. Then, in real cold weather I wear a wool scarf, ski band, or bandana around my ears. The broad-brimmed hat is just for looks in town but in the backwoods it begins to be a necessity. Nobody, repeat nobody has improved on cotton for shirts and trousers in summer and wool for winter clothing. Leave all that sleazy knit stuff and nylon crap hanging on the store shelves if you want to be really comfortable. -Adam

SOME THOUGHTS ON VONU

by MASTER SATAN aka THOR XAVIER CHALLENGER

THIS IS A COMPENDIUM OF THOUGHTS AND IDEAS I'VE BEEN WORKING ON AND ALSO IN RESPONSE TO MATERIAL I'VE SEEN IN VL.

Someone wrote once that Vonuans can never be self-sufficient in all things, and I tend to agree. The idea was that even without self-sufficiency, many things a vonuan needs can be manufactured outside the System or purchased within the system and maintained outside the System. Also components for self-manufactured systems could be obtained inside the System and then reconfigured outside it to serve our needs. This is the area I've been working. In planning my own conversion to a vonu lifestyle, I have had to consider transportation, communications, data storage, comfort, defense, and a multitude of other areas which I was unwilling to give up in order to be vonu. Although I am not yet living that vonu lifestyle, I am convinced that I now know how to do so and what it will cost me. My present activities are devoted to earning the money to accomplish my aims.

Let's take transportation first: My answer to the transportation problem lies not in the conventional van camper. Such a vehicle is too easily subject to counter-vonu (CV) forces, has too cramped a living space (at least, one I can afford is), and is more or less subject to the restrictions of on-road travel. I considered that the only way to really escape such restrictions is an off-road vehicle. Conventional four-wheel drive vehicles are very expensive, however, and even more cramped for space. This made it clear that the vehicle that was needed had to be a "home made" or "custom" job. While this indicated higher initial cost, I estimated that it could still be built for less than a conventional vehicle, based on data available pertaining to dune buggies. So the first requirement was a four-wheel drive chassis and a reasonably powerful, but economical engine. But such a vehicle is still limited; it cannot cross rivers, and it could be chased by similar vehicles. Therefore, I decided that an amphibious vehicle would be in order; no police vehicle could chase it, no terrain could stop it short of heavy waves, storms, etc., in which case one would not wish to travel anyway. There was a precedent for such vehicles, of course; many military models existed, including a Volkswagen amphibian during WWII. And I had read where conventional Volkswagens could be cheaply modified to act as amphibians. Coupling this with the well-known dune buggy produced an inexpensive, amphibious, all-terrain vehicle. But I didn't stop there: other features were considered. Conventional amphibians are very slow: the addition of a fairly powerful outboard motor (or perhaps a propeller hooked to a drive train takeoff) might up the speed and carrying capacity on water. The use of the hydrofoil was suggested by experiments involving military amphibians; this would increase water speed.

Numerous experimental vehicles are described in the Popular Science, Popular Mechanics, type magazines every month. Features from these vehicles were considered. The recent discovery of Dr. Wankel of engine fame that a torpedo-shaped personal boat with hydrofoils could be used to travel at speeds up to 60 miles per hour through waves 10 times its length in height indicated that much could be done with the standard amphibian. Dual, large, on-off-road tires; hydrofoils; lightweight, tough fiberglass body; Lexan cockpit; motorized raisable outboard engines; all these would increase the vehicles' capacity to travel any ground.

But the problem of shelter remained. But this was simply answered: do not try to make your vehicle your home! This was the flaw of the conventional van; shelter required considerable living space as well as storage space, greatly increasing the size of the vehicle, its weight, and lowering its maneuverability. The answer was to use various shelters already being used by vonuans: plastic tents, temporary shelters of natural materials, domes, etc. But how to carry supplies and shelter? The answer had to be a trailer. But the conventional trailer is as inefficient as the conventional car. Therefore I devised a trailer which was made of lightweight fiberglass, which opened up into a maze of poles and tie-downs and plastic tents covering many square feet. This trailer was towed on strap-on boat wheels (commercially available), could be equipped with its own hydrofoils, and still carry some cargo. The trailer was attached to the vehicle by an articulated hitch would raise its towing over rough ground. It would be packed like a fine watch, permitting maximum utilization of storage space.

SO: one would have a vehicle capable of eluding the laws, capable of street operation (based as it is on conventional chassis and engines), capable of off-road travel to a degree unknown to all but specifically designed all-terrain vehicles), capable of carrying all necessary implements of survival and comfort, plus able to tow the equivalent shelter of a house with it. With the use of inflatable plastic structures, one could increase this shelter space substantially.

Such a vehicle could ease the vehicular MTH (mean time to harassment) from 1-2 years to 5-10 years, as the vehicle could go places no other could – especially bludg cars. Thus greater comfort, storage, and technology would be permitted in more remote areas, enabling more vonu and better vonu. Any such vehicle is of course still subject to the bludg (so are bikes in some areas, and even pedestrians); however, an ATV could be operated primarily off-road, thus obviating licenses and such; such a vehicle could still be driven on roads in remote areas with phony license plates, etc., or at night, with the driver confident that if spotted by police, he could immediately take to rough ground or water without fear of pursuit. I regard the design and construction of such a vehicle of great importance to the improvement of vonu; hopefully I will be able to build a prototype within a year or two, if I can acquire the funds. Such a vehicle could be built for amounts between \$3-6000, depending on the amount of home labor, the cost of new or used materials, the cost of the used chassis and engines, the amount of hired labor, the degree of all-terrain and/or amphibious capability. This is somewhat higher than the usual van camper, but consider the increased capability and benefits. Furthermore, the widespread use of such vehicles could reduce the need for highways, and other destructive and expensive systems designed for the automobile. Such vehicles could be designed to be ecologically sound, by the use of new energy sources, and by the use of low-pressure tires which cause less soil damage than horses or human feet, and of course by care in driving.

And one vehicle can serve as boat and car enabling economies of hauling, etc.

All in all, a brilliant idea – if it works – and I'm glad I thought of it!

COMMUNICATION: How about laser transceivers? Plans for homemade jobs exist that can be built for \$100 or so, with a range of up to eight miles; and improvements could be made easily. The only fault is bad weather intercepts the beams; but there should be ways around that. This would be as cheap as ham radios easily; a system could be designed around laser transceivers, cheap CB sets, etc. and the system could be used to make money during the coming Depression, servicing areas which loose service from the monopolies.

FOOD: Why hasn't anyone mentioned fish in the context of land vonu? Locate yourself near a large stream in the northern California area, use fish traps, set-lines, fish poisons, slingshots, etc. to catch large amounts of fish easily and quickly. Many books are filled with info on this; fish protein is excellent, although the calorie content leaves something to be desired.

Herter's has a book called "How to Get Out of the Rat Race and Live on \$10 a Month" and has a good deal of info on this.

HEAT: The plans for solar devices seem to be coming out of the woodwork now, since the energy crisis. It is now clear that for a few dollars one can cook one's food, heat one's water for showering, perform various handicrafts requiring heat up to 2000°, heat one's shelter and do many more things. Soon one will be able to derive electricity efficiently, and at that point vonu will really become easy. Of course, as long as these devices require direct sunlight, and as long as there are cloudy days, one must have backup systems, but efficient use of simple solar devices can cut one's costs in such areas as fuel primarily.

WEAPONS: Some comments have been made about slingshots, blowguns, etc. I am presently acquiring a number of martial arts weapons, a slingshot, some large steel balls from Herter's which they claim will kill a deer and go right through small game, when fired from a slingshot, a blowgun which is claimed to have as much penetrating power as a .22. I plan on acquiring an air rifle which is claimed to have killing power approximately equal to a .22 for up to, I guess, 50 yards, and which requires a few simple lever-action pumps to bring it up to power, plus various other devices, including silencers for the air weapons, since I believe even an air rifle is rather loud. I recently read a book on silencers, and those jobbies you see on TV are worthless; you need probably one at least a foot long to do a good job, and none will help if you bullet is supersonic. But some very good models have been made, some quieting flash and sound to the point where the weapon really does make no more noise than a hiss and the clack of the action. A number of weapons have been made especially for assassination, and I think every vonuan should eventually own a pistol or a rifle adequate to kill a human at some distance via sniping and equipped with a silencer. Silencers are expensive, starting at \$300, but there are a number of books and someone good with tools could probably build one for less than \$50. I recently read a book entitled the Poor Man's James Bond, and believe me, it is very gut level, and completely detailed on making bombs, poisons, various weaponry, incendiaries, counterfeiting, use of electronic devices to activate explosives, terrorist tricks, etc. Every vonuan should have one; it's available from Hillcrest Publications.

COMMERCE: Vonu commerce won't come about until there is not only enough vonuans to make it possible, but enough communications and especially enough need. And since the purpose of vonuism is to reduce external needs, we have one strike against us starting out. I would suggest we not worry too greatly about vonu in groups, etc. and concentrate more on maximizing the extent of individual vonu. I firmly believe that a high-technology vonu lifestyle is possible at some cost, and considerable independence from outside maintenance, but the requirements include considerable knowledge of what's possible today, and a willingness to utilize more money than most vonuans seem able to earn – say, \$5,000 to start out with instead of \$1,000. This brings up the problem of whether to make money first and then vonu or to vonu and then try to make money. I believe it is not either-or. I believe the most practical solution is to make a certain level of money first in any profession, then achieve vonu with an excellent MTH, and then develop an entirely new source of income based on vonu conditions. The usual idea is to profit and then try to vonu the profit source, and this is where the difficulty lies; particularly when one does something one likes on the outside, and is then reluctant to drop it in order to go vonu. I am earning money in various ways, and plan to change shortly to entirely new and more interesting ways; but when I go vonu, I may have to completely alter my means or even stop earning money altogether except for odd jobs occasionally. However, my ultimate goal is to return to society with the skills and ideas to enable vonu even in the heart of the society – remembering that vonu merely means relative invulnerability to coercion and does not specify how or where. It has been said that someone who utilizes deterrence without mobility is just another rival State; this does not logically follow. However, it is impractical from the point of view of the individual, since it would be difficult if not impossible for one person or a small group to develop the deterrence to withstand an entire society – without mobility, and/or concealment. Note that "and/or" – too often the choice is artificially narrowed down to "either-or"; "either" concealment "or" deterrence "or" mobility. This I think stems from the basic inability of many vonuans to think in terms of personal effectiveness, which is the main problem of the entire libertarian movement – and perhaps all movements. I am convinced that there is no reason why

someone could not be concealed at some times, not concealed at others, using deterrence at times and not at others, moving to escape at times and not at others, or using all three (a disguised vonuan with phony ID, moving along a deserted highway, is stopped by a bludg, eliminated the bludg with a silenced weapons, and disappears into the hills.) The question is one of powers and how they may be used; if you have mobility, then you need concealment and deterrence; if you have concealment, then you need mobility and deterrence; if you have deterrence, then you need concealment and mobility. If you have one, you need three; if you have two, you need one; if you have all three, you need more of everything! The real mistake is to think: “Well, now I’m hiding out in these hills, I’m vonu.” That is not the case, particularly if you aren’t hiding out in those hills permanently, which is the usual case with most vonuans; they do come close to other humans (or dangerous animals) occasionally, and each occasion is a threat to their vonu. Since my entrance into the pages of Libertarian Connection, I have stressed personal development as the only means to achieve freedom, and this is as true for the vonuan as it is for the conventional man. And personal development is not limited to meditation or a new way of thinking; it means taking advantage of everything needed to survive, and this can cover the entire field of human endeavor under certain circumstances. Anyone who overlooks various possibilities will shortly find himself in difficulty; this takes into account everything up to and including old age – which is a prime threat and should be high on everyone’s list of priorities.

This brings up the question of “psychological liberation”, since the vast majority of libertarians in this world do not possess it – including myself to an uncomfortably high degree – and unfortunately including many vonuans. Rayo asked what attitudes toward the State are most conducive to effective action. I suspect the only answer is a combination of drama – the emotional effect of fictional and non-fictional accounts of successful self-liberation – and the acquisition of the actual knowledge needed to accomplish these ends. In other words, I think if one reads books such as Harry Brown’s, the success stories of various vonuans, and other types of self-liberationists, and then proceeds to gather up all the data needed to duplicate these successes, and mixes this all up with meditation, music, and the generation of positive attitudes by whatever means, then this eventually, slowly, painfully perhaps, results in some significant change. Sometimes the change is abrupt and explosive; usually it is slow. In my case, I have spent years making one wrong decision after another; lately I feel that I have made enough progress to the point where I think I can see exactly how to achieve vonu and where I believe that with the acquisition of a specific amount of money and equipment I can do it. This has led me to try to extend the requirements and thus the time required within the System, but I know that this is itself an indication of the strength I have been given by just knowing that if I have to I can split, say, now, or a week from now. So I have the strength to hang on another month or a year, knowing that it might make things better when I do split. The attitude is: “There are still a lot of good things available to me here, and I think I’d better stay on as long as I don’t incur extra risks or hangups.” This can easily become a rationalization for non-vonu, however!

Every case is different, depending as it does on one’s personal goals. My goal is a high-techno, very mobile, uninterrupted (by bludg) sort of vonu for the whole purpose of providing me with the solitude needed to master the Martial Arts and the Hermetic Sciences and the technological sciences. From this point of personal strength, I would then dart in and out of the System, creating havoc and reaping personal profits of a material and psychic nature, while still maintaining a high level of vonu – through the acquisition of power, if you will.

My “movementist” phase was extremely short, probably because I had been involved in other movements, such as the UFO movement, and thus had firsthand experience of their ineffectiveness. On the other hand, I am somewhat predisposed to movements by “nature”, so someone without that attitude might very well eliminate the movement phase altogether. I think it would depend significantly on whether his personal environment included movementists or vonuans, or both.

As anyone is aware who has been reading The Libertarian Connection, there is a disturbing trend in that publication to advocate so-called “amoral” coercive philosophies and anti-vonuan sentiments (usually based on the “I don’t want to eat weeds” philosophy). On the other hand, it is slowly seeping out that virtually all the writers for LC have some sort of vonuan fantasy about sea-mobility, or groups of libertarians occupying the Pacific Ocean, and what not. Therefore, it

would seem that what is happening is that, as the System slowly crumbles, and as each libertarian's personal situation does not seem to greatly improve, he begins to fantasize about escape from the System on the one hand, but rationalizes his failures on the other by denouncing the feasibility of vonu. I believe that all that is needed for these individuals to take their fantasies, as Harry Browne said, and "start from zero": use these fantasies as the basic goal (if only short-term, even), and then devote their energies into actively trying to find out how to achieve these goals. This entails active research into what is physically possible in my areas: science, economics, personal finance, vonu techniques, criminal techniques, market research, etc. It costs money, but it produces psychological results like few other techniques I've used. And psychological liberation produces ideas which lead to more possibilities, and starts a reverse spiral upward to actual liberation instead of downward into depression and failure. It is slow and detailed work, but it does work.

Well, I'll just leave the rest of this page for comments by VL's editor, if he would like to use it. Anyone wishing to comment can write me. –Richard S. Hack, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

My condolences to El Dorado for the poor printing of *er* letter in last vonulinc. Usually when something doesn't print well it's because the copy was faint. But *er* copy was okay. The printer didn't expose the right amount or something. –LAN

New applicants for a social security number may be asked to prove their age, identity, and citizenship to be assigned a number. Such proof is required under an amendment to the Social Security law. The amendment is intended to prevent the issuance of more than one number to a person or obtaining and using a Social Security card number under an alias. (clipping from Al Fry)

How Does One Survive And Still Remain Free?

by Al Fry

Freedom of the mind of course is a subject more for long winter nights around a fire than here. Body freedom is another thing.

I was blessed with a little of the wander bug in me and so for much of my life I have learned some of the art of the road. The Gypsies of course are masters at this and I remember an isolated gypsy camp near my mailing address here. Where they made their stops while touring the country – trees, stream, tables, outdoor fires, the whole thing. Now they ply the country in trailers, motorhomes, etc. and are pretty hard to spot. Seems to me there were 250,000 at last count, many of them offering home maintenance and repair services, etc., others tending to become more settled. In Europe they have changed less and I recall that in the 60's there were many in caravans camping outside the city of Paris. In England, they are less conspicuous than the "street people" of London. Many of these younger people live in tents, vans, trailers, etc. on vacant lots. Others are living out of abandoned tenement buildings or even in small boats on the canals.

Anyway, one of the first rules I follow is "save that rent money". There are just too many other better things to do with it.

At the moment, I am parked under a shade tree near Riverside. The property owner is delighted to have me (if I would have had my pants on, I'd have run down a thief last week) and typically I find it an almost ideal temporary lifestyle. Strewn about my van of course are my barter items. At the moment, I have a box of hammer handles, some smashed up S&W revolvers, stacks of unusual posters, a mess of stainless steel cups, cartons of light bulbs, and a number of small antiques, etc. If I remember to throw some of these things in my little car I can usually pick up enough gas money to cover my periodic trips – and meet some interesting people besides. I still don't really apply myself though.

Friend B.B. is a better example and an inspiration. He deals from Mexico to Washington out of a camper. Last year, he was getting honey cheaply in Texas and supplying desperate health food stores up the west coast. A few months ago, he was bringing crystal rock specimens out of New Mexico (no duty). At the moment, he is wrecking a house nearby and making more than I'll make all year. He has the "natural talent" and applies himself.

Hi, Mother has been running an article each month on ham radio, including CB as a possible com web. It sounds good. CB has very short range but a ham code set should be cheap for a lot of distance. Bypass snail mail? I wouldn't care to depend on mail webs depending on drops and a lot of other people. They move, get hassled, drop out, etc.

I'll still pay a finder's fee for a small farm (20A, 5 tillable). I have found 30A in Trinity Co at \$110/acre. That's \$31,000 so I need partners to buy and split lend if I'm to get any myself.

I also want to buy or trade for farm and hand tools, blacksmith's and farrier tools, big anvil, big vise, forge, etc., honey extractor, Brobant reversing hand plow, etc.

Would routing woodsmoke through several horizontal pipes (a longer smoke pipe) allow it to cool some and deposit more tars/soot inside the pipe and so be less visible? If it works, maybe Blueberry will write me about it? (They're not subscribers, so maybe you should write to them – address last issue. –LAN)

A "rural" mailbox put up where a lot of new houses building would probably be serviced if a change-of-address form is left at the local mail.

Underground cache – use sections of concrete or clay sewer tile. Close one end with concrete. Put concrete lid in other – seal with tar – or try large diameter PVC soil pipe and close with plugs. All your non-metal in one cache so metal detector won't locate.

Simplest smials are made of scrap sewer tile 4' diameter or bigger. Line up and dig in and as dig progresses lever them all in so you don't have unguarded dirt roof over 2' long at any place.

Or use railroad tiles in teepee shape and set up more as you dig in – put cross piece on top at sides and nail (in shape of an A). Put gravel on floor. Put old boards, corrugated iron, plastic sheeting, etc. on sides to hold dirt back.

Or get plans for a root cellar and use them, or cyclone shelter. Many civil defense experts think people will be living under gourd at least part time for 5 years or more after last bomb falls in WWII. –Paul Doerr

Being a sort of junk collector at heart, I have seldom passed up anything of importance along the highways and byways. Fortunately, I have usually had someplace to put some of my goodies and for a vonu type person this is probably the biggest single problem to face. I find that the biggest single solution is to have good friends – not to take advantage of and dump flotsam on but to trade with and store things at – on the understanding that it's all to be used by persons who need it. It's not easy but with little stashes of junk here and there I seldom need to pay dearly at hardware stores – or go without.

This spring I scrounged up wire (to keep rabbits out) and started my garden on some big landowner's property – I had a friend with a well near the property and so for the water the friend gets use of the garden goodies too and I don't need to *pay pay pay*. A few people needed a storage shed last month so on the agreement that all could use it, I built the shed from big scrounged sheets of tine and by building it on skids I not only keep the tax assessor from adding it on my landowner friends taxes but it is an asset all the way to everyone. Cost: one day's work and \$5 worth of scrounging gas. A couple of days ago my friend B.B. came by with his favorite scrounging tool – a low hung car towing trailer. On it he had a tractor worth at least \$800. He has paid \$50 for it and was taking it to his junk area. I'm sure that B.B. must make at least a hundred a month from his trailer. As he walked off from where we met he picked up a coke bottle and an aluminum beer can and added it to his various stash boxes.

Being a Junkie is sort of a full time way of thought and even I have a long way to go. I'm learning though – last time I was in Mexico, I paid my gas there and back with posters I peddled to appropriate Mexican shops.

I am even hauling around junk to trade and peddle stateside now as gas prices climb. I mention these few examples because many vonu-people are missing out on getting along easier because they haven't acquired the scrounging and bartering habits.

An ex-wife of mine is in Hawaii making necklaces of sea shells – a girl I'm aware of is pressing weeds in phone books, doing interesting arrangements with them, and selling them for top money.

Natural and unnatural stuff is laying all over the landscape – all it takes to turn it into a little coin of the realm or trade materials is imagination and effort.

Clean and Convenient Sleeping Gear

by Al Fry

For years, we struggled along with sleeping bags and blankets. Both have advantages but just aren't usually worth the trouble. The big problem is body oil and dirt. Together they can ruin a sleeping bag pretty quickly. Aside from using blanket sheets in very cold weather I now use only special down comforters summer and winter. Robbing old pillows and sleeping bags usually nets me enough down for my most ambitious projects and all that remains is a lot of work on a sewing machine with nylon thread. Using dark rip stop nylon I use plenty of baffles and get together whatever size of comforter I need (single or double). After completing it I never never let my body come in direct contact with it. Instead I make a giant case with a stickum together tape or zipper near one end. By using this protective cover I can slip it off quickly and wash it with little bother. So far I prefer nylon but many persons would prefer cotton I am sure. Because nylon is so slippery I often include a big pocket on one end to capture my feet under the comforter. I find that down is unnecessary underneath and so I usually use a gaily decorated cotton print on a foam mattress. By adding tape or zippers a person can make up just about any combination of sleeping gear from these little comforters and keeping it all clean is so easy.

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Alternatively: want to volunteer to help with **rekindling VonuLife**, as mentioned in the foreword, whether contributing ideas, articles, etc.? I'm thinking 1 mega-issue a year, like *VonuLife*, March 1973, starting in 2025. The same topics are of interest in the modern day: shelter, communications, wilderness survival, breakthrough energy, building the parallel economy, international mobility, low-risk legal interstices, interpersonal relations, proxy merchant services, etc. A little philosophy and theory is okay too, but mostly solutions.

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