

The Independent American
The Magazine For

A Free Life

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~There is no truth of which I am afraid~

Modern Rifle Choices For The Modern Mountain Man
by Corceigh Green

The American continent was opened in the early 19th century by a hardy breed of men who could range the mountains and prairies, carrying what they owned on their backs and not only survive, but thrive in the newly opened lands. These were the mountain men. Their survival skills were geared to trapping, hunting and living off the land. They could walk into the wilderness with a rifle, possibles bag, knife, axe and the clothes on their backs and carve out a living. Such skills are the basis of all survival skills today.

An Independent American may find him or her self away from home or shelter for many reasons. As this year's hunting seasons are approaching, many of us will head into the woods and mountains after game. Every year, many hunters get turned around or lost. Other incidents also crop up, such as hurricanes or earthquakes that can turn Americans out of



their shelters as well. The skills of the mountain man are still very valuable in today's life. One piece of equipment that all mountain men found most necessary was his rifle. While the mountain man relied most heavily on trapping for providing meat, it was the rifle that provided big game and protection from bear, other predators and defense from enemies.

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About This Issue



Corceigh Green: junior editor

September and October are here again. Autumn is right around the corner. Leaves will soon begin to turn and hunting seasons will open across America. Many Independent Americans will be taking to the outdoors in search of game for their freezers. With this issue, *The Independent American*, offers it's second hunting themed issue.

This issue also marks a milestone for *The Independent American*. It marks a full year of theme issues put together by our staff and writers. We began our theme issues last year at this time with a hunting theme. The response we got was so favorable that we decided to follow it up with another theme issue. Our November/December issue was released as a "You and Your Rights" theme. Like eating potato chips, we just couldn't stop with a couple of theme issues. Our themes turned into an entire year of productions and we've had a lot of fun bringing those issues to you.

Coming full circle to another hunting issue we at *The Independent American* have decided that we will continue to bring you theme issues, though not necessarily the same themes we've

been running or in the same chronological order. It just worked out that way this time. We will probably run issues on the same themes we have covered in the past, but there is always more to learn and cover on these subjects. Look for new themes along the way as well.

Hunting is a major method for many Independent Americans for obtaining meat for the table. As September and October arrive so do hunting seasons. This issue has a lot of information on the subject of hunting. Last year we published a lot of articles on big game hunting and we have more articles on big game in this issue. Big game is only a small part of the season's hunting activities, but is very important. Much of the season's hunting activities will come in the form of small game. While big game will fill much of the freezer, small game will supplement your table fare and extend your meat supply through the year, so this year we have concentrated on bringing you some articles on small game hunting.

Our first entry to our hunting theme concerns survival firearms. When venturing out into the woods, marshes, plains or mountains, Independent Americans need a firearm they can depend on. In days gone by trappers would rely on their mountain rifles to sustain their rights when the chips were down. In the front page article, *Modern Rifle Choices For The Modern Mountain Man*, we consider what attributes a modern mountain rifle must comprise. What features should a truly modern mountain rifle have to make it a reliable all around survival rifle? How do your ideas stack up to a modern mountain rifle? Can your rifle survive any condition? Read the article and ponder if you might need a modern mountain rifle.

How are your skills with the shotgun? Bird hunting brings meat and variety to your table. A grouse or two between a few days of venison chili will be a welcome break. Ruffed grouse are plentiful, but they like wooded areas and are hard to hit. On page we present the article, *Can You Hit A Ruffed Grouse?.*

This article presents techniques to increase your chances of taking home a few birds for the table.

In the column, *About Plants*, we discuss *Small Game Plant Sources Of The West*. What do western terrains and the plants growing on them tell you about the game species there and where to begin hunting them? You can learn a lot about the game in your area from the plants growing there. Do you know what the game you are after has been eating? Where they have been eating it and how to find out? You will when you finish reading this article.

Glenn Boman covers some subjects of great concern in his column, *Firearms And Survival*. Glenn begins with some shooting and picks for hunting cartridges and loads that work for him. Hunters must be ready for the upcoming season and you need to know how your loads will perform this season. Glenn has also noticed the plight that oil prices are causing and that winter is on it's way. Should we be worried? Read up and prepare for what could be.

The column, *Info-Line*, delivers lots of information about dressing, cleaning and preparing small game. Here's how to clean that bird, pluck a duck or goose and skin a squirrel or rabbit. You'll also find some delicious recipes you'll want to try out this season.

We're not going to ignore big game either. Though we have covered a lot of big game last year, there is always more to cover. Like how to *Rattle Up A Deer This Year*. Ever wonder how successful professional hunters get the big bucks to come running for the money shot? Sure there are scents and calls, but early in the season while some bucks may still be in the rut, good technique at rattling tines will bring in the big bucks in a hurry. Subsistence hunters who learn to rattle will also get more shots in the season. Try this technique this year and you could be bringing home meat for the table.

You've made your shot and you've bagged your meat. Good for you. I hope you have a nice sharp knife or, preferably, knives. After skinning and dressing that game you are going to need to sharpen those knives. You do know how to sharpen a knife don't you? Do you have some sharpening equipment? Stones, a file or some sharpening sticks? This issue's column of *Projects For Home And Life* details a quick study on knife sharpening and the equipment necessary.

We also have articles of other interests in this issue. Douglas Paul Bell writes his reviews of movies and books that is of interest to Independent Americans.

Hari Heath tells it like it is in his *Brushfire News* look at *The Senate And Your Guns*. Despite the NRA and letter writing campaigns to your **choke** "representatives", Americans continue to lose ground when it comes to your Second Amendment Rights. Here's an overview of the Senate experience.

On the same subject Pug Mahone rails against the infringements of Americans' Second Amendment Rights in his column, *The Kiss Off Commentaries*. Be warned, Pug is still worked up from our last theme issue and links the attacks on America's Second Amendment with resistance to tyranny. You will read some very controversial opinions here!

Of course, we have much more to present to your including our ongoing series on the home or community manufacture of smokeless powder. Just in case!

As always, may you never need the information herein, but may it prosper you and see you through any situation.



(Continued from page 1)

Today, most Americans rely upon their rifles for hunting and sporting purposes. In every Independent American's battery, however, there should be at least one modern mountain rifle that can serve as big game gatherer, defense rifle and protection from predators under survival conditions.

What constitutes a modern mountain rifle? This should be a rifle that you would have no qualms about staking your life on. This means reliability in all kinds of weather and the ability to stand up to a certain amount of neglect and abuse. In the day of the mountain man, innovations in firearms design were improving reliability. The favorite rifle of the mountain man was the Hawken rifle. Several innovations made this rifle popular. It sported a half stock, making the rifle lighter and a percussion ignition system, which was less susceptible to wet weather and rain. It would fire more reliably and was more easily carried across gorge and ridge.



Hawken rifles, like this Thompson Centerfire Hawken replica were favorites of the mountain man due to their innovations.

We have much more innovations to consider today. Our search will be for a modern mountain rifle that can serve a modern mountain man or Independent Americans. Our search needs certain criteria for which our rifle must meet. The first among these is it's cartridge.

The cartridge the firearm chambers is probably the most important aspect of the modern mountain rifle. Your mountain rifle, like the mountain rifles of old, will be geared toward taking big game, defense against predators and, when necessary, defense against aggressive humans. Your mountain rifle must be capable of downing the largest animal in the neck of the woods you plan to set back into. That's not all, however. Your cartridge

must also be versatile and capable of taking smaller species of big game without wasting too much meat. A .300 Winchester Magnum will take that moose and defend against that charging kodiak, but will hit that small black tail deer too hard and waste an enormous amount of meat.

That doesn't mean the .300 Winchester Magnum is wrong, however. In areas where you can expect to run into more moose, elk and grizzly than deer, you may want to have this cartridge in your mountain rifle. In areas where this cartridge could prove more useful on the larger game, but you are just as likely to run into smaller, deer sized species, you may load this cartridge down somewhat for the smaller species.

You don't have to get fancy when looking for cartridges. The most versatile cartridge yet designed will celebrate it's 100th birthday next year in 2006. The .30-06 started life as the .30-03 in 1903. It was improved in 1906 and adopted as the U.S. .30 caliber cartridge for the '03 Springfield rifle.



The .30-06 cartridge is versatile in it's range of projectile weights and powder charge. It can throw a cast 25 grain bullet with a small powder charge for plinking or a 225 grain Core-Lok jacketed soft point loaded for moose. The .30-06 can handle any game on the North American continent. With the right load it will handle moose out to a couple of hundred yards, with lighter loads handling deer or the even smaller javelina without wasting meat. I'd hate to face a charging grizzly with anything less than a .300 Winchester Magnum, but the .30-06 will drop a griz with a good moose load and I have

certainly risked carrying only the .30-06 in griz country plenty a time without worries.

Generally, I chamber a .30-06 load of 55 grains of IMR 4350 under a 180 grain Nosler Partition bullet in what I think of as my mountain rifle. This load is designed to take elk, mule deer and white tail. It will also take moose out to 150 to 200 yards. If necessary, it also serves as a defensive round against predators from human to grizzly. In my State of Idaho, it is illegal to hunt grizzly and moose tags are by drawing and are a once in a lifetime opportunity, so I have not worked up the heavy 200 grain and above bullet loads. Since elk and deer are plentiful, however, my 180 grain bullet loading serves well for a north Idaho mountain rifle.

Due to my scope and rifle combination, my mountain rifle will shoot the same point of impact for several different bullet weights and loads. This means I can carry different .30-06 loads for deer or elk. A lighter 160 grain ballistic tip load is perfect for whitetail and it will bring down the deer without overkill and wasting meat.

Due to the .30-06's versatility, I highly recommend this cartridge for your mountain rifle. This does not mean other cartridges are not of use. While no other cartridge is more versatile than the .30-06, other cartridges can take big game and are suitable as mountain rifle cartridges. If the largest game in your area is deer, any high powered rifle cartridge will work for you. In fact, as long as you consider the limitations of your cartridge, many high powered rifle cartridges will take elk as well. I have seen elk taken with the 7 MM Mauser, which is not considered a power house.

Cartridges that have proven themselves suitable for elk and deer include most large game cartridges such as the .270 Winchester, .280 Remington, 7X57 MM Mauser, .308 Winchester, .30-06, 8 MM Mauser and, I am certain, a score of other cartridges. Because some of these cartridges *can* take elk doesn't make them *optimal* for taking elk. For

example, the .308 Winchester can be loaded to lob a 180 grain soft point spitzer bullet on top of 47 grains of AA 2700 powder downrange for 2470 FPS at the muzzle. This velocity will drop off at closer ranges than with a .30-06 charged with a 180 grain Nosler Partition on top of 57 grains of IMR 4350 powder, which slings the bullet out at 2715 FPS. The '06 retains more of it's velocity downrange due to it's case capacity and ability to handle slower burning powders. This becomes much more apparent when you begin to load for 200 grain and over bullets.

As mentioned, however, taking into consideration the cartridge's limitations, elk can be hunted and taken out to 150 yards with the .308. Some could push that out to 200 yards, but certainly not beyond. 7MM Mauser users should definitely stay within the 150 yard range limit. The moral is to know your cartridge and what it can do for you and how it's different loadings work within your mountain rifle. Be realistic on cartridge selection. While it's true that new loadings and bullet designs for the .223 Remington/5.56 NATO will allow it to take whitetail at the proper range, this is the utmost, upper limit of the cartridge's potential. The smaller, mid-powered cartridges firing light weight bullets are not versatile and should not be considered for your mountain rifle. Your mountain rifle cartridge must be able to take a variety of large game and stop the largest predator in your neck of the woods.

This brings us to choices that Independent Americans have in the selection of a mountain rifle. These choices are numerous and of very good quality even in the bargain rifle category. Before we look over what is available, let's examine the characteristics that set the mountain rifle apart from mere sporting or hunting rifles.

The gap between a mere sporting or hunting rifle and a rifle built for endurance, hard use and extreme conditions, yet able to retain a sportsman's accuracy is decreasing vastly. This helps the Independent American a lot,

giving him or her greater variety in choices and calibers in mountain rifle styles.

First consider climatic conditions. You may live on the plains or in the desert valleys where humidity or wet conditions are too few to consider, but this is not what you are acquiring a mountain rifle for. This is a rifle that you will place on the truck seat or over your shoulder to make your way through some bad conditions and help you to survive through the worst you can imagine. For this, the finish of your mountain rifle should be very resistant to the wettest, coldest, hottest, ice packed, mud packed, sand blasted or salt marsh climate you might encounter in these united States. Now imagine that you may not be able to conveniently stop and clean your rifle for a few days of running.

That's a little different than a hunting camp and it makes your rifle's finish very important. A synthetic stock and good corrosion resistant finish is necessary. Stainless steel is a good consideration as well as a parkerized finish and others like the various coated or bake on finishes. Remember that any finish is merely corrosion resistant, so this is not an excuse for neglect. It only helps during times when immediate cleaning is not possible, but it *does* give you that leeway.

A synthetic stock will not warp due to heat and cold or wet conditions as may wood stocks. Synthetic stocks are also less susceptible to rough handling and they are resistant to a variety of weather conditions and corrosive elements.

Since your mountain rifle should chamber a cartridge capable of reaching out to 500 yards or beyond for big game (as the .30-06 will) you may as well have the means for seeing your target at that distance. A scope will help accuracy greatly. There are very good quality optical products on the market today. Some cost an arm and a leg, others have a bargain price, but can match quality with the most expensive.

The most expensive scope I own is a Leupold Vari-X. It can be found for sale in the \$130 range. I was fortunate and bartered several days work building a house in trade for mine. This has proven to be a very accurate piece of equipment and sits atop my mountain rifle. Other scopes I own and can recommend is the BSA series. I have a BSA Mil-Dot 4X-16X variable scope on top of one of my rifles that works very well. This scope retails in the \$80 range. I like the Mil-Dot option which makes ranging very easy with a slide rule (see *The Independent American* November/December 2004 *Finding Your Range With The Mil-Dot Master*). I have owned several Tasco scopes as well which sell in the \$30-\$40 range. They have proven bright, accurate and reliable. If you are operating on a strict budget, the Tasco scopes will work very well without the frills and still give you what you need.



A Mil-Dot slide rule in conjunction with a Mil-Dot scope will help your shooting abilities quite a bit.

If the rifle/scope combination you choose allows you the option to keep your iron sights or use them in conjunction with your scope, do so. You are envisioning a mountain rifle for possibly rough conditions. Those conditions may conspire to knock your scope out of operation. Your back-up will be your iron sights.

Another criteria our mountain rifle must meet is that it must be a repeating firearm. Modern mountain rifles not only need provide us with game, they must defend us. Single shot muzzle loaders like those of our predecessors were fine in their time, but modern innovations allow us to be better armed against multiple targets.

There are different types of actions that allow

a firearm to eject a spent round from its chamber and insert a loaded round to fire. A semi-automatic action performs this function without any assistance from the rifleman. This helps the rifleman if engaging multiple targets, but the action can be hard on brass, lose brass easily and is not as inherently accurate as other action types.

The lever action is quick and accurate, but not well suited to firing prone. Break actions are accurate, but generally afford only one shot while some break actions afford two shots in a double rifle configuration. Pump actions can be considered and are reliable. The most prolific action type in existence on the market is the bolt action. Bolt actions are strong, inherently accurate and easy to operate in all positions. The bolt action is easy on brass, doesn't lose the brass by ejecting it automatically and is capable of re-chambering rounds until the magazine runs dry, which is usually 4 or 5 shots in most rifles. For action type, the modern mountain rifle should incorporate the bolt action operating system.

Our mountain rifle is not a full blown battle rifle intended only for defense or resistance. It is intended exactly what the first mountain rifles were intended for. It is for occasional defense or resistance, to provide you with game, to be there when you need it, taking the rigors and abuse of harsh conditions. For this reason we can forego the convenience of a semi-automatic action and choose a bolt action which will save your brass for reloading and prove more accurate when hunting.

You have a couple of ways to go when choosing a mountain rifle. The first is to start with a military surplus rifle and build your own on its action and barrel. I did this with one of the Spanish Model 1916 Mausers that had been converted at the arsenal from 7 MM Mauser to .308 CETME. Unfortunately, this was advertised as a .308 Winchester, which was too much cartridge for the rifle. I bought a small ring Mauser synthetic stock and an after market trigger group. After cutting the military sights off and modifying the stock to fit and

installing a Tasco scope, then the trigger group, the rifle shot very well! Unfortunately, I learned these rifles were not strong enough to handle the .308 Winchester. One day at the range, the chamber weakened enough and left a broken case in the chamber. I salvaged what I put into the rifle and put it away for good. If you buy a Model 1916 Spanish Mauser, make certain it is in its original 7 MM Mauser chambering.

Military surplus rifles that are chambered in cartridges that are common and powerful enough to serve as a mountain rifle are the '03 Springfield, '03-A3 Springfield and the P-17 Enfield. These rifles chamber the .30-06 round and would be preferred for building into a mountain rifle. They are tough, will handle the '06 round well in all its loadings and are accurate. Advanced Technologies sells synthetic stocks for them. They are no longer as numerous as they once were, but are still available through the Citizen Marksmanship Program (CMP).

There are a good deal of Mitchell and Yugo surplus Mausers on the market for great prices. Their actions are similar to the Springfields'. In fact, the Springfield action was based on the Mauser action. These are quite strong and accurate with many surplus Mauser actions being utilized to build rifles chambered for the .300 Winchester Magnum. They are usually chambered for the 8 MM Mauser which is a good cartridge and can be loaded to take deer, bear, elk and moose. Commercial loadings are usually loaded below what the cartridge is capable of. Handloading will help this cartridge quite a lot. Slug your barrel first and determine the best bullet size for your rifle.

The Swiss K-31 is a unique military surplus rifle that utilizes a straight pull bolt. A simple pull backward on the bolt handle to eject the case, then a straight push forward to charge the chamber is all that is necessary to operate this rifle's bolt action. It chambers the 7.5 Swiss cartridge, which is potent enough for elk and is helped enough by handloading to take moose within reasonable ranges. To my knowledge

there is not a synthetic stock on the market for this rifle, though the supplies of these rifles are increasing and that may change soon.

The French MAS-36 is another strange looking rifle. It has a forward swept bolt handle and a large, tubular bayonet lug extending from the forestock. It's cartridge, the 7.5 MAS (not to be confused with the 7.5 Swiss) is also potent enough for mountain rifle duty in North America.

Some military surplus rifles I would recommend passing up for use as a mountain rifle. These would be the rifles chambered for the obsolete rimmed cartridges. This can be specifically applied to the Enfields chambered for the .303 cartridge. The reason here is due to the loading of the rifle. Because of the rim on the cartridge's head, the Enfield's magazine *must* be loaded via a stripper clip with the cartridges arranged in a specific order. This makes installing a scope in the conventional position unlikely. It also makes loading the firearm without a stripper clip problematic unless you want to fire your rifle single shot, which negates some of the advantage of a modern mountain rifle. Rifles chambered for the 7.62X54R incorporate a magazine stop which allows the magazine to be loaded without a stripper clip, so a scope can be easily installed, but the cartridge is rimmed and can pose some mechanical problems. For myself, I prefer a modern rimless cartridge for smooth operation and less chance of malfunction.

Your other option in obtaining a modern mountain rifle is to buy a commercially manufactured rifle. The better manufacturers that produce rifles of good quality suitable for mountain rifle duties are Remington, Winchester, and Weatherby with Ruger taking a second place in quality, but providing some fair bargains. Weatherby rifles are somewhat expensive. They are of excellent quality, but are equaled in quality by less expensive rifles. If you opt to buy a Weatherby, make certain it is chambered in a commonly available cartridge like the .30-06 or .300 Winchester Magnum.

The mountain rifle I have opted for is the Remington Model 700 ADL with a synthetic stock, parkerized finish topped with a Leupold Vari-X scope and chambered in .30-06. This has worked exceptionally well for me. After my first session at the range with this rifle, I stopped looking for other firearms as a personal hunting or mountain rifle. I had found the



rifle/scope combination I wanted!

Remington manufactures other rifles that would be well to considered also. The Remington Model 788 has proven to be an extremely accurate rifle. It was the low end, bargain priced, plain Jane rifle, but it did not skimp on quality. I own one of these rifles and find it's accuracy and operation to be unsurpassed. Mine sports a wood stock, Tasco scope and is chambered in the 6 MM Remington cartridge. The 6 MM is not suitable as a mountain rifle cartridge because it will not take elk, moose or grizzly, but it is a fine deer rifle. With a synthetic stock and a chambering in .308 Winchester, the 788 would make a good consideration for a mountain rifle.

Remington also made a Model 650 chambered in the .350 Remington Magnum. This rifle was the epitome of the mountain rifle. It sported a laminated stock, vented rib and a deep blue finish. The .350 Remington Magnum was not exactly a powerhouse, but would take any game in North America including grizzly and moose and was still useful for black tail deer. The Model 650 was a pleasure to shoot. It's recoil amounted to a gentle push, the rifle was accurate and could stand up to mountain rifle duties. Unfortunately, this rifle was discontinued and the cartridge is obscure. If you find a used one in very good to excellent

condition I'd highly recommend it's purchase.

Remington introduced the Model 600 a couple of years ago to replace the popular Model 650. These are available in a wide variety of cartridges. I have not yet shot one, but if they stand up to the quality of Remington's other rifles and shotguns, a model 600 in .30-06 with a synthetic stock would be a good consideration.

Winchester has offered it's Model 70 both pre and post '64s for many decades. With the exception of a few years of the post '64 models, Winchester Model 70's have proven to be of high quality and have quite a fan base. They possess great accuracy and offer a wide variety of cartridge chamberings. These rifles have proven themselves as hunting rifles and with the right accessories such as a synthetic stock and good corrosive resistant finish they will prove themselves good mountain rifles.

Ruger rifles are bargained priced, so are affordable to more Americans. The most popular Ruger suitable for a mountain rifle is the Model 77. I find the Ruger M-77 a bit second rate compared to the above mentioned rifles. Their accuracy is adequate, but just don't have the edge of the other rifles listed. The workmanship is fine, but is still lacking behind the other rifles listed. If you opt for a Ruger, an after market stock or at least bedding the existing stock and floating the barrel will help the rifle enormously.

Accessories other than a scope or synthetic stock must include a sling for ease of carry. A possible bag in the form of a butt pack or space in a back pack should include a small, portable reloading press like the Lee Hand Press, reloading dies for your rifle's caliber, primers, at least a pound of powder, a score of bullets, a lead bullet mould for casting bullets and a lead ladle for melting and pouring lead. There must also be space for a cleaning kit, oil, solvent and grease.

Much of the above supplies presupposes caching wheel weights and other lead sources

along several sights on a supposed retreat area, but that is another article. For now, we can see that a modern mountain rifle should possess a cartridge capable of taking all large game within the rifleman's area and ideally within the North American continent. It should also be resistant to the weather and climate, be accurate and take a certain amount of abuse. You have a certain amount of choices in looking for a rifle to serve as your mountain rifle or even modifying the rifle you have now. As hunting seasons approach, now is the time to start this project.



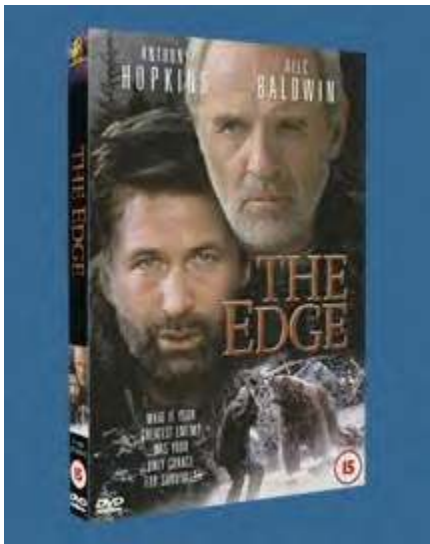
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Media Reviews

by Douglas Paul Bell



The Edge

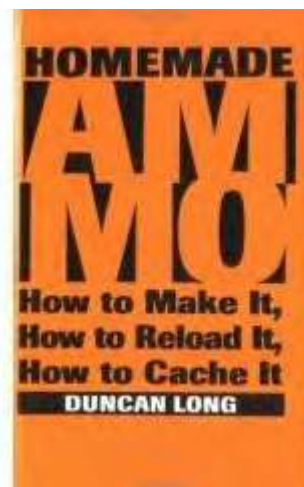
20th Century Fox Pictures, 1997. 120 minutes. Starring Anthony Hopkins and Alec Baldwin.

The Edge is an outdoor adventure movie set in the modern day Alaskan wilderness. The movie opens as a group, a model played by Elle MacPherson, her billionaire husband Anthony Hopkins, a fashion photographer, Alec Baldwin, and their set specialists fly into a remote Alaskan outfitter's cabin. This is done to provide a photo setting for some ads that are going to be displayed in a fashion magazine. When there, the group learns that

they must be on guard for the numerous grizzlies that call the area home.

It is not long before the photographer grows unsatisfied with some of the nuances of his ad photos and decides to go in search of a Native American Alaskan guide to get the perfect shot. He brings the billionaire husband and a set hand with him and hires a pilot to fly them to find the guide. On the way to the even more remote area, their plane crashes into a lake and some real wilderness survival adventure begins. After surviving the first night by building a fire and lean-to, the group of survivors decide to trek out of the wilderness because no-one knows where they are. During this trek, they find they are being hunted by one of the grizzlies in the area. This leads to some great survival adventure and some very chilling scenes including a very well done bear attack.

There are some sub-plots between Alec Baldwin's character and Anthony Hopkins's character and twists in the story that I won't ruin for you. The outdoor settings, the animal handling and the adventure survival story-line make this movie highly entertaining. Beside being entertaining, you may even learn a thing or two. Buy or rent this movie. It is well worth your time!



Homemade Ammo

reviewed by Douglas P. Bell

“Homemade AMMO - how to make it, how to reload it, how to cache it” by Duncan Long (Paladin Press, POB 1307, Boulder, CO 80306, 1995, 92 pages, 5 1/2” x 8 1/2”) *is*, how to put this, vintage Duncan crap. It does not cover how to “make” ammo in any meaningful way (it doesn’t cover the manufacture of brass at all except to say “the task is next to impossible”). barely is on the legal side of “reloading”, and the caching section is laughable.

While reading this book, the “Duncanisms”, stupid stuff that Duncan either makes up, is the only person to have heard of it, or obviously is having his leg pulled by those who do know what they are talking about but Duncan has no clue about is legion. There is also a new batch of cartridges that only Duncan has heard of, just. like in his other books.

Speaking of his other books, Duncan does endlessly in this one. Barely a page goes by where he doesn’t mention at least one of his other books, which gets tiresome in a hurry. The only possible reason anyone would want to buy this book is as fire starter, as there is no other use for it, at least none that come to mind.

Lorien House

reviewed by Douglas P. Bell

The two books from Lorien House, “Nature’s Pantry” and “Survival Workbook” are both by David Wilson (Lorien House, POB 1112, Black Mountain, NC 28711,) are both interesting booklets that should be given a gander by survivalists who want to fill out their libraries.

“Nature’s Pantry” (1972, 5 3/8” x 8 1/4”, 27 pages, \$5.00) has “100 wild edible plants alphabetically listed, each with full description, food, preparation and folk medicine properties” and is “assembled by hand”. While I didn’t count the number of plants listed in the book, I did count the number of plants included in the black and white line drawings: 102. For a lousy five bucks and a buck and a half for postage on any size order, I don’t see how you can pass this one up!

The “Survival Workbook” (1989, 8 1/2” x 11”, 49 pages, \$15.00) at first blush seems a bit over priced at \$15.00 for a 49 page book that is copied on one side only, but then some thing are worth the cost. This book takes you dropped naked into the wilderness in the spring or summer and takes you through Day One, Day Two, Day Three, Project: Fire, Project: Clay Bowl, Project: Baskets, Project: Cultivation, Project: The Hunt, Project: Rope, Project: Weather, Autumn, Winter, Appendix I: Water, Appendix II: Fire, Appendix III: First Aid & Self Defense, Index. If you’re walking buck naked into the wilderness to live, then you need this book!

Real Farm

reviewed by Douglas P. Bell

“Real Farm” by Patricia Tichenor Westfall (Avon Books, 1989, 160 pages, 5 1/4” x 8”) is not a survivalist book, it is however, an excellent book, warm, rich, funny, on moving to the country and having no idea what you are doing there. If you are thinking of moving to the country, read this book and then ask yourself “why?” You should give it some thought first, and this book gently and warmly tells the tale of two who didn’t. A wonderfully easy and endearing book to read when you are tired and the cares of the world are just too much.

Black Powder Loading Manual

reviewed by Douglas P. Bell

“The Gun Digest BLACK POWDER LOADING MANUAL revised and expanded edition” by Sam Fadala (DBI Books, 1991, 8 1/4” x 10 5/8”, 320 pages) is an excellent book for the black powder shooter or anyone who wishes to learn more about black powder guns and shooting. It has 15 chapters and the contents are also broken down into loading data by make and model of gun, such as the various muzzle-loading rifles, handguns, shotguns and blackpowder metallics. An interesting note is the book also uses black powder as two words and

blackpowder as one word in various places, so either spelling should be correct.

CIA Special Weapons & Equipment
 reviewed by Douglas P. Bell

“CIA Special Weapons & Equipment - Spy Devices of the Cold War” by H. Keith Melton (Sterling Publishing Co., Inc., 387 Park Ave. South, New York, NY 10016-8810, 8” x 10 1/2”, 128 pages,) is a listing of the items the author has found and researched for 17 years and were used during the 1950’s and 1960’s during the Cold War.

Many of the items, such as the “Deer Gun”, were basically copies of the WWII weapons, in this case the WWII “Liberator”, while others, such as the “Rod Pencil” and “Hollow Coin” are or were available to the public for a time. Some of the items are truly unusual however, such as an explosive flour that can be baked into bread!

If you are interested in the weird and wonderful spy devices that were used during the Cold War then this is your book. A must have book for the mad scientist and spy buff.



Thomas Jefferson : We must not let our rulers load us with perpetual debt. We must make our election between economy and liberty or profusion and servitude. If we run into such debt, as that we must be taxed in our meat and in our drink, in our necessities and our comforts, in our labors and our amusements, for our calling and our creeds...[we will] have no time to think, no means of calling our miss-managers to account but be glad to obtain subsistence by hiring ourselves to rivet their chains on the necks of our fellow-sufferers... And this is the tendency of all human governments. A departure from principle in one instance becomes a precedent for [another]... till the bulk of society is reduced to be mere automatons of misery... And the fore-horse of this frightful team is public debt. Taxation follows that, and in its train wretchedness and oppression.

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Can You Hit a Ruffed Grouse?

By William Hamden Foster

From *The Sportsman's Year Book* 1940

SUCCESSFUL hunting of the ruffed grouse can be numbered among the arts. It requires a combination of woodsmanship plus an ability to shoot. A volume could be written on the habits and tricks of these crafty, scheming masters of organized retreat. Another volume could be written on the incidents in which their smartness has put the experienced grouse hunter and his dog to shame. This article must, therefore, treat briefly of grouse hunting and confine itself more to the wing shooting problems, once fair shots are obtained.

There is no mistaking the fact that the grouse is a difficult bird to get into the game pocket. Yet if, in the manner that live pigeons are started from the traps of the few remaining "flyer" shoots, grouse could be launched into the open on command, the average wing shot, after he had watched a few go, would make a surprisingly high score. The grouse is a heavy bird, albeit strong of wing. The speed with which he starts is exaggerated by the commotion. The failure to shoot well on grouse, which the novice attributes to an inability to cope with speed, is more likely due to the partial paralysis of panic, a kindred disease of "buck fever."

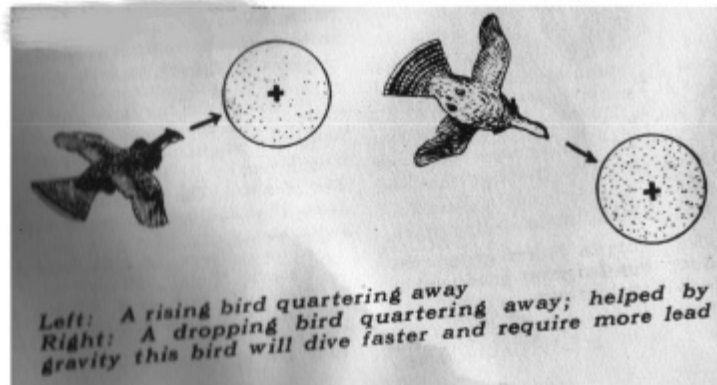
In these days few men are so callous that they can retain a normal mental state and remember all the precepts of wing shooting tactics as the grouse bursts out of the cover at the unexpected moment.

Regardless of how many years a grouse hunter can think back on, the first few birds of each season are likely to roar to safety leaving the holder of a warm gun half blind with excitement. If experienced upland shooters are so affected, it is small wonder that the novice is even more appalled and concludes that he has shot at nothing less than an unhittable comet.

Such is the thrill of grouse shooting. Such is the fascination that makes one wily partridge, out-manuevered and brought cleanly to bag, a prize that surpasses the limit of less artful game.

In the natural course of grouse hunting events the bird will sooner or later offer every kind of shot known to man. He will fly away from you, at you, climb up, dive out of a tree almost straight down. He will skim a field, or come out over the top of high cover. He will shoot around a clump of trees or a knoll, or drive into a dense growth with a twist

or a side slip or a flare or a dip. His uncanny ability to navigate, and the awful chances he takes, produce a



complement of wing shooting problems offered by no other bird.

The reason why there are a number of grouse alive today is that they live in cover and utilize it in their escape. If all grouse shots were in the open, closed seasons would be protecting the remnants the race long since. For the experienced grouse shot, those occasional open shots are considered easy. It is the ability of the grouse hunter to calculate on a mark that is only partly visible, or even invisible, that determines his everyday success. The fact that the grouse dashes for a mask of cover to shield its retreat, that makes it necessary to change the method of shooting to meet each situation. This in turn demands versatility in gunpointing on the part of the shooter.

The Quick-Swing Shot

Regardless of what the angle of shot presented may be, for the shooter who has the bird within range in the open, or even where the course of its flight may be followed through cover, the gun should be swung along in advance of the line just enough to allow for the flight of the shot from the muzzle of the gun to the mark, and kept swinging while the

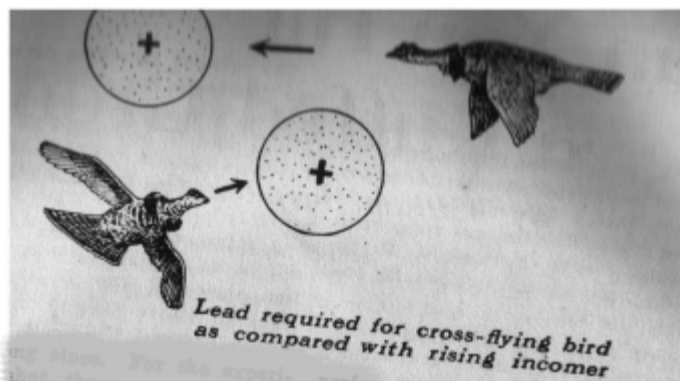
shot fired, or swung rapidly ahead and the trigger pressed as the muzzle goes by the mark. These are the styles of shots adopted by successful shooters on the skeet fields of the nation. Such shots can be designed as quick-swinging, and are the most reliable.

Although the bird may be clearly seen in the open, the thing that curbs the quick-swinging shot is the fact that the shooter may be standing amid such thick growth that he has no opportunity to swing before his gun barrel hits an obstruction. There are thousands of grouse who can thank their existence to the fact that the shooter, swinging perfectly for a clean kill, had his barrel checked by a sapling at the instant of fire, causing a hitch the result of which was shooting behind.

The Fixed Aim Shot

The shooter who attempts to shoot from a place where no swing is permitted must, perforce, adopt a different style. He must raise his gun and point it, without swing, far enough ahead of the bird to allow not only for the flight of the shot but for the physical and mechanical operation of firing the gun as well. Scientific tests have furnished figures on the time that it takes an average human to react to an impulse, the time it takes him to pull a trigger, the time it takes a lock to operate, and the time it takes a charge of powder to ignite.

Those are items that do take time and must be allowed for if the mark is changing position, but when the gun is not. This method of shooting, because of the variation in the time occupied by



certain divisions such as the pulling of the trigger, is far less reliable than the quick-swing method. Roughly, the lead required by a fixed aim shot would be double that required when the gun was

being swung with the mark. The fixed aim method should be resorted to only when it is impossible to swing.

The Snap Shot

The above applies to cases where the flight of the bird can be seen long enough to permit a thorough, though brief, calculation. In grouse hunting the density of the cover often enough precludes anything more than a flash sight of the bird. For instance, a bird may be heard to flush well within range but entirely obscured from sight. At a certain break in the cover a flashing glimpse may be had, but not great enough to allow for anything more than an idea of which way the bird is headed. Or perhaps, the shooter stands in a cart road or gap in the cover, with the warning that a driven grouse is headed this way. He has no way of knowing just where or when it will appear, but suddenly it bursts into view, visible for only a few feet.

In such cases, if the shot is worth while at all, and, incidentally, most grouse shots in range are, the gun must be thrown up ahead of the mark and fired on the instant. This is the fixed aim shot over again, but with no time for calculated pointing. It is merely an instantaneous guess at the point where the shot and the bird would meet, and an attempt to put the pattern there. The snap shot has to be used in grouse shooting, and many birds are accounted for, by this method. It represents the supreme test of gun and human coordination.

Choice of Pointing Method

The one thing that marks the finished grouse shot is his ability to choose, in the split second at his disposal, the type of shot he will make. If he is in the clear himself, he should swing along ahead of the bird and shoot while he is doing so. At the same time he must control himself according to range. If there is no danger of letting the bird get out of sight, the shot should be made at from twenty-five to thirty-five yards. This allows ample time for calculation, allows the pattern to

open up to where it will cover but not tear, and altogether is the surest way of getting a grouse. The fixed aim method should be used only when the situation is forced and the same applies to the

snapshot, to an even greater degree.

Most poor and disappointing shooting in grouse cover is due to the adopting of the less efficient style, when there is really time to reduce the hazards by the far more reliable swing. The average hunter, startled into violent action by the sudden flush of the game, seems to respond naturally with a yank and a bang. But that is not the way to shoot grouse, and the really successful ones are those who can train themselves to take things a little easier, and make the most of the opportunity offered, sketchy though it be.

Going-Away Shots

We hear a lot about deer hunters and even rabbit hunters using a white tail of the running animal as a guiding mark. The tail of the grouse is equally important as a guide to holding. If the bar made by the fanned tail passes across the round ball of the body, you can hold right on, guarding against overshooting from not getting the face down to the comb. If the tail shows above the back of the bird is either traveling above the eye level or else is pitching down. In either case it must be shot under, depending on how great the angle of decline is. Again, if the tail shows below the body then the bird is rising and must be held well up on.

The extreme case of a diving grouse is one that comes out of the midriff of a tall pine for a flight close to the ground. Such a bird must be held under an almost unbelievable distance, and incidentally,

necessitates a horizontal lead combined with the vertical. Here again the bird's appearance can be used as an indicator. Should the tail show above the back and the bird show its side, such a bird would have to be shot to one side of, as well as below. Since the different types of shot earlier in this article require different leads, and since different shooters vary in responsiveness in mind and muscle, no general prescription can be made to apply.

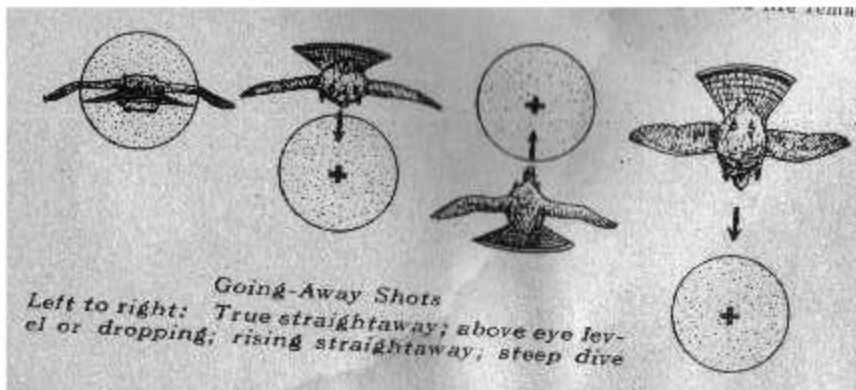
Successful shots say they lead a bird three times its apparent length, but since their method of swinging and the distance is not known, such a rule is of little general value. Yet, on a quartering or a cross-flying bird at thirty yards range and near the start of it's flight, this formula might be somewhere near right, providing the shooter was swinging his gun with an even lead. It would fall short, considerably short, if applied on a driven grouse coming off a hill with a two-hundred-yard start.

Cross Shots

A grouse that starts near the shooter and goes across, is usually rising and must be held well up on, but with moderate lead, since the actual speed is deceptively low. In contrast to this, is the bird that has a fair start. Then liberal lead must be allowed, for a grouse gathers speed, once under way, up to a point where it has an entirely different rating than the flushing bird with all its thunder.

Incoming Shots

Low incomers should be passed up. They are too dangerous and usually too close. On the other hand, one of the prettiest of all grouse shots is the driven bird



furnishes one of the hardest shots in the whole category.

A going-away grouse may not confide it-self to all up and down change of direction alone. It may be swinging to the right or left as well. This

that shows first as an indefinite streak and then bursts into clear view over the top of high cover. This shot requires lead of a curious sort. The line of flight must be followed, but before the trigger is pulled the gun must be swept up and ahead. If the bird is coming directly overhead the mark is

actually obscured from view by the gun muzzle at the instant of the shot.

Daisy Cutters

A grouse has an ingenious trick of flying through heavy woods, or across open fields, skimming the ground. The shot thus offered is a difficult one with the tendency to neglect the lead and overshoot. More often than not, the ground skimming bird has a good start, and should be held low on and well ahead of.

Driven Birds

Two partners forging through covers side by side often find their joint efforts unproductive so far as getting shots go. Every opportunity should be taken to hold a council of war from which one man will be delegated to go ahead and post himself where he can intercept the bird when his companion drives it out. This sort of teamwork represents one of the niceties of grouse hunting and a practice followed by the more experienced. Give driven birds a liberal lead, and, if coming in, shoot at what seems a long distance.

Incidentally, a grouse is usually nearer than it appears, as one can prove by estimating the distance of each bird dropped, and then pacing the distance off. When it can be seen, an incoming grouse should be shot at between thirty and thirty-five yards. It will be considerably nearer when the charge hits it. If an incomer is much under twenty-five yards it should be passed up.

There are times when it is better to turn round and take such a shot going away. However, the turning around should be done before the bird goes by, for it requires a maneuver that is faster than the tired hunter can usually perform, and often enough the new outlook is nothing more than a blank wall of cover with the grouse nowhere to be seen.

Grouse Shooting In Thick Cover

This discussion of grouse shooting has so far dealt with shots where the flight of the bird can be clearly seen, or at least followed through partly transparent cover. Many grouse are downed that were invisible when the shot was fired. Even light shot has a surprising way of penetrating opaque cover to such a degree that it is advisable to take a chance on a bird whose position can be approximated, which is known to be in range even

though it cannot be actually seen. One of the errors is often committed, in trying to shoot a grouse through cover, is to stop the gun and shoot at the point where the bird has disappeared. The spot where the bird goes out of sight is thus peppered while the real mark may be several yards along its line of flight. The ability to swing the gun along the imagined course, as established by the last glimpse of the bird, is the only secret of this form of shot.

Following Birds That Are Shot At

An experienced grouse hunter develops a sort of sixth sense that tells him when he has shot in the right place, whether or not he has seen his bird hit. If shooting at a bird that cannot be clearly seen, always listen intently for the thump of the bird hitting the ground. Also watch for drifting feathers. If the direction of the shot looked good, make it a practice to hunt carefully where the bird should have fallen. A good dog will almost without fail indicate if the bird is down. It is just as important to follow the line of flight well beyond where the bird would normally stop, for grouse have a habit, when hard hit in the body, of flying as long as their strength and life remain.



Rattle up a deer this year

By PETE CZURA



From *Popular Mechanics* 1968

Deer “rattling” is almost a forgotten art, but with a pair of antlers and a little practice anyone can bring a buck on the run

THE ART OF CALLING DEER IS as ancient as deer hunting but only a handful of sportsmen know about the “rattling” technique, which can be one of the most productive systems to bag your deer.

To become a “rattling” deer hunter is simple. Take a pair of deer antlers, cut them apart, and when you are afield just slam them together to make it sound like a pair of bucks battling.

Bucks hearing this commotion will come lickety-split toward the sound of the antlers being banged the idea of whipping the winner and acquiring another doe.

Battles among bucks are common, especially the breeding period—the rut—which begins with the first chilly nip in the fall. Ruts generally last 6 weeks but have lasted as long as 8 to 10 weeks.

Pick a set of heavy-beamed antlers for your rattling. The sounds of such a pair being banged together will carry the greatest distance. After have picked a likely spot to hunt, pound antlers together, twist them back and forth a few times, then slam them together again. Fiesty bucks don't back off

and keep crashing at each other when battling. After their initial fierce clash, live bucks then rake their antlers back and forth, heads lowered, struggling to obtain a good position in order to render a crippling blow.

Choosing the right kind of rattling antlers can be important. Successful deer “rattlers” have found that mule deer racks are better for this kind of work than white-tailed antlers, because the muley racks are straighter, whereas the white-tails have inward curve, and these make it tough to slam them together properly to imitate a buck battle.

To prepare “rattling” antlers, saw them off at their base on the deer's head and then let them season—dry out. A set over a year old will most likely have a phony ring. And to make your chore of toting your rattlers easy, when heading afield, tie your two “rattlers” together with a cord and sling them over shoulder for easy transportation.

Russ Tinsley, author of *Hunting the Whitetail Deer*, says, “Contrary to popular belief, antlers should not be rattled together with the tine points facing each other, as they appear on the deer's head. Rather, the points go in the same direction, with the curve of one antler banged against the curve of the other.”



The ideal method for rattling is simply to make certain that the points of the antlers are in the same direction when being banged together to simulate contact. After you hit them together be sure to twist them back and forth.

use heavy antlers

“Avoid using a set of light ‘rattling antlers,’ Tinsley recommends. “They will more likely bring in only small bucks. For mean, belligerent, big bucks, use heavy antlers and whack them together slowly, but with great force.”

When rattling up your deer it’s important to remember that if you want to score you must get your quarry to hear your rattling. The sound of your imaginary buck fight won’t carry over 400 yards most of the time. This means you must pick a spot where you know big bucks hang about. A still, clear, cold morning is the best time to make your rattling calls carry.

“Deer react to rattling in different ways,” says Tinsley. “An eager one might plow right in on you, with blood in his eye. A more wary one might sneak around, looking and listening, reluctant to come closer. Often, in this case, a hunter should beat the antlers on the ground and slam the brush, to give the impression of a heated fight. The idea is to work on the buck’s emotions until he can’t stand it any longer.”

Rattling your trophy buck within gunshot range works best when the open season on deer corresponds to the rut and a high ratio of bucks exist in the area you plan to hunt. In the western part of the country, where many trophy bucks are taken annually, “rattling” is becoming more popular among sportsmen since dense brush prohibits hunting deer by any other method. But it can be just as productive in the woods of the East.



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About Plants



Small Game Plant Sources of the West

by Corceigh Green

Last year *The Independent American* ran a hunting special. We had a lot of fun with that issue and this column ran an article on deer browse in the western United States. I thought I'd follow up this year with an article on stalking small game through the observation of plant life in the west.

While large game hunting is very popular and should be, most successful subsistence hunters have concentrated on smaller game varieties to put meat on the table. Actually, the subsistence hunter should concentrate on all forms of game in his or her area. In the west, there are many similarities in the way we stalk large game and small game. The most important aspect of the stalk is in finding water, then food sources. I'll refer the reader back to *The Independent American* September/October 2004 issue of the About Plants column as to what plants to look for when finding water in specific areas of the west.

When looking for water you'll want to pay attention to the terrain and plant density and lushness. The darker and greener of plant color and the greater the density of plant growth is a sure indication of water. Sharp, narrow depressions in the terrain with lush

plant growth visible is a sign of running streams or rivers.



Steep sided, depression formations on terrain like those above could be harboring water like the river below.



Sources of water are essential for finding game in most areas of the west.

Pay attention to areas around water. Like large game, you will be looking for small game trails and sign like scat or plant life that has been nibbled or chewed on. When hunting chukar, grouse, dove or pigeon, look for patches of sandy or graveled areas for tracks or wing impressions caused when the bird dusts itself. Birds may be hunted over a greater expanse of land than just close to water holes. This is due to the range afforded by flight.

Many bird species like dove and pigeon are dependent upon grain plants for their fodder. This places farmlands growing crops like wheat, corn, barley, rye and other grains prime hunting lands for winged game. Fields next to stands of trees, especially tall, leafy varieties like poplar or cottonwood and pines or firs offers cover and perching areas for dove and pigeon. Dove and pigeons will visit their favorite watering holes in the morning and evenings. They take a lot of water to get

them through the warm autumn days. This makes their stomachs a bit heavy, so that they prefer to fly in short hops between stands of trees that provide cover from predators and perches off the ground. Finding dove and pigeon flyways depends on finding a frequented grain supply and a watering hole, then finding some stands of trees between the two. Hunting these stands in the early morning hours and an hour before dark will yield your best dove and pigeon shooting.



This stand of birch and fir along an old country road close to a river and between a grain storage makes an excellent stand of trees for dove shooting.



Irrigation ditches create excellent small game habitat. Notice the lush green growth along this ditch's banks.

Irrigation ditches also provide excellent habitat for small game. Water running through these ditches provide lush growing conditions for plants which feed all kinds of game. Plants in arid western regions to look for along irrigation ditches are thistles, whose young tender leaves feed rabbits, grouse, quail, chukar, pheasants and even larger game varieties. In the late summer and fall, thistle varieties produce seeds from flowers which bloom throughout the summer. These seeds are highly favored by birds of all varieties and eaten as grain by ground squirrels, chipmunks and rabbits. You are quite likely to find grouse where thistles bloom within expanses

of sage. Next to farm land growing wheat, grains and corn, pheasants will be found along irrigation ditch lines and edges of fields where thistles grow providing food and cover.

This northwest Russian thistle patch will



provide grouse, pheasant, squirrel, song birds and mice with seed and greens. Deer browse the tender young leaves in the spring before they develop spines.

Clover provides not only nice ground cover in waste areas, but food for many small and large game species as well. In my neck of the woods, you are not likely to cut out the crow of a grouse without finding clover leaves. Small game birds need greens in their diets. Clover varieties are one of the many plant species that provide this. They grow throughout spring and summer and continue to grow through the autumn as long as the weather remains warm. Clover's ability to grow in poor soil and along the sides of rocky, dirt roads helps to ensure a green leafy food source for small game, especially birds. Rabbit, deer and turkey also take advantage of clover.

Clover provides very good nutrition for game. The plant brings up minerals from the soil and stores them in an absorbable form in their leaves. This and the vitamins stored in the plants make clover a good small game food source and the little critters know it.

Other leafy green vegetation are necessary for small game to flourish as well. Plantain, dandelion, shepherd's purse, purslane, violets

and wild lettuce are all herbaceous plants to seek out when stalking small game. Plantain is especially needed for bird species. Not only does plantain provide vitamins K, C and bioflavinoids, but the leaves of plantain provides needed calcium for laying eggs.

Dandelions provide the small game critter with vitamins, potassium and phosphorus necessary for a critter's functions. The blooms of the dandelion which bloom from spring to fall provide an anti-bacterial action, helping to keep the critter healthy. Seeds of the dandelion provide essential oils and carbohydrates to help the small critters and birds grow.

Shepherd's purse leaves are very high in vitamin C and provide fodder throughout the spring and summer. The seeds of shepherd's purse provide more essential oils and carbohydrates for small critters and birds.

Violets provide broad leaves that provide not only vitamins and minerals, but contain the highest concentration of sugars than any other broad leafed green. Large and small game alike seek out wild violets. Wild violets will grow in dry conditions in the summer months, but need wetter conditions in the spring. Their presence usually indicates a water source. They also like the shade and cooler temperatures of the inland northwest mountains.

Purslane is another plant high in mineral concentrations. They grow in waste areas and dry conditions where many other plants fail to thrive. The entire plant is edible and eaten by human and animals alike. The herb has a coolant effect and is pleasant on hot summer days.

Wild lettuce is a favorite of all game animals. The many varieties of wild lettuce provide a full spectrum of vitamins. Depending on the soil's composition, wild lettuce will also provide a wide range of bio-absorbable minerals. Where lettuce is found, you will find rabbits. Lettuce is a favorite food of this

delicious member of the rodent family. Wild lettuce varieties grow in most areas of America. In the west, wild lettuce found growing next to stands of shrubs or plants that make good cover and those growing next to sources of water are good indicators of game.

Wild strawberries are also indicators of small and large game. Game birds and song birds alike love the great tasting berries as do rabbits and squirrels. Rabbits will also nibble on the leaves as a source of nutritious food. Because of the growing conditions where strawberries thrive, they like areas that are cooler and a bit moist, they are indicators of other plant life growing in the area that will attract game as well.

Small game critters need cover as well as food and water. Small game are prey for many species of predators, not just humans and they are hunted year around. This makes cover essential for the little critters. Because of this hunting pressure put on small game, finding food and water sources isn't always enough to find game. You will have to scout out areas with plants providing cover near food and water sources before your hunt will be successful.

Plants providing cover can be as simple as thickly growing thistles or burdocks lining a ditch or hedge row. Pheasant and rabbits frequent such habitat. Saplings of young growth forests provide cover for grouse, rabbits and squirrel while letting through enough light and rain to encourage the growth of food plants. This creates good habitat for small game hunters. Nothing beats hunting grounds bordering dense forests in the mountain northwest, however.

Dense forests in mountainous areas harboring springs, a few logging roads which provide dust and grit for birds, some selectively logged areas providing young growth areas and patches of berry shrubs and fruit trees provide the best all around game habitat. Such areas are home to spruce, blue and rough grouse, snowshoe hare and pigmy rabbits.

In such areas there are two important plants to look for. The first is the snowberry. Snowberries are densely growing, woody plants preferring to grow in hedge-like, closely clumped patches. They will overrun areas, crowding out many other plants and are nearly impossible to pull from the ground by hand. The hedges of snowberries grow to around thigh high. Their leaves are deciduous providing shade in the summer, yet their woody stems are so densely growing that they still provide excellent cover in the winter.

Snowberries provide a double treat for birds. Not only do they provide the excellent cover mentioned, they provide food as well. The snowberry blooms in mid to late summer. The blooms have a purplish tinge before opening. When open, the blooms fade to white. In the early autumn (during bird season) the blooms develop into waxy, white berries which keep well through the winter. The color of the berries gives the appearance of miniature snowballs abundantly clinging to the densely growing branches. Humans should avoid these berries as they are toxic to mammals. Birds, on the other hand, can and do readily digest these white berries in great quantities. Patches of snowberries are prime grouse lands. However, grouse aren't the only beneficiaries of the snowberry. Snowberries are very prominent when the crow of the grouse is opened and are just as prominent in the crows of the non-indigenous turkeys of my area. The occasional pheasant that wanders into the mountains will also feast on the berries as will all of the mountains' song birds.



Snow-berries Grow in thickets and provide shelter

and food for small game birds.

The other plant that must never be overlooked when hunting small game is the huckleberry. Huckleberries are a member of the blueberry family and the sweet, purple fruit resemble small blueberries. Huckleberries also grow in patches, usually in select cut areas that are not dense with trees, but still has the look of a forest. They do not grow as densely as snowberries and provide shelter only in the summer as their deciduous leaves fall from the plant in mid autumn. Humans, bear, birds, rabbits and squirrels all love the berries and flock to them. During hunting season small game will be found in huckleberry patches in the mornings and evenings. In cooler weather small game may be found in such patches at any time of the day.

By applying your knowledge of your environment and the relationship of your region's animal life to the plant life, your hunts will become more successful. To put the above knowledge into perspective, it is important in the west to find adequate sources of water and scout the area for signs of game. Locate cover and sources of food to find likely small game habitat and you will soon be putting meat on the table.



Benjamin Franklin : When the people find they can vote themselves money, that will herald the end of the republic.

Benjamin Franklin : Democracy is two wolves and a lamb voting on what to have for lunch. Liberty is a well-armed lamb contesting the vote!

Info-Line



Recipes For The Hunting Season

original text by Corcceigh Green

Autumn is once again closing in upon us. September opens with hunting season in many parts of the country. In the mountain northwest September 1st brings grouse season. Other areas will see dove and pigeon season as September opens. Many other areas list rabbits as varmints which may be hunted year around. Whether you take to the field to supplement your table fare or for the sport you will need to prepare your game to make a palatable feast.

Culinary experts have perfected some very delicious recipes regarding game species. After a day of winging, rabbit hunting or if you've taken that elk that will provide you with a winter's store of meat, a few good recipes will be in order to ensure that you enjoy your meals. No longer is wild meat relegated to acquiring a palate for the gamey taste. The preparation and care of your game meat will make a lot of difference in it's palatability. A lot has already been presented to that end in our last hunting special. [*The Independent American* September/October 2004] For care of big game meat refer to our last hunting issue.

This issue we will focus on some care of the small game meat and recipes for many different game animals.

The care of grouse, pheasant, dove and pigeon

Typically, the game bird is placed in the game bag or hunting vest after shooting. This is usually fine on cooler fall days. In the early autumn, however, temperatures can turn warm fairly quickly after

sunrise. It is prudent to limit the amount of time your game spends in warm temperatures before cleaning. On especially warm days it may be necessary to drive your game to a refrigerator after bagging a few birds or after a certain amount of time is spent afield.

Grouse, pheasant, dove, and pigeon are different than game birds like duck and geese in the respect that they are quite easy to skin with the feathers on. To remove the skin and feathers, pinch with your fingers and thumb a section of skin with feathers on the center of the breast. Use your other hand to do the same on the skin next to the section of skin you've just pinched. Now pull apart. The skin, feathers and all, will rip apart and come off. The skin may come off in sections, but you will soon get the hang of removing skin and feathers quickly. Remove the skin and feathers from the breast first, then work toward the back, then drum sticks.

With the skin and feathers removed from the drumsticks, break the "knee" area where the drumsticks become the scaly feet, then cut the feet away with a knife. Now remove the craw. This is done simply by pulling it from the body. I always open the craw to see what the game has been eating, so that I know what to look for when hunting. Cut the head from the body. I always leave a bit of neck on, but it is not necessary if you do not desire this. Next pluck the skin and feathers from the wings. It is not necessary to pluck the entire length of the wing. Leave the wing tip alone and merely break it at the joint and cut it off. There is no meat there to waste.

Toward the tail the skin and feathers are not easily removed. This is alright as you might like to save the tail feathers as a trophy. Merely grasp the tail feathers at the fatty portion of the bird's tail and cut the tail feathers, fatty tail portion and all, from the body. Spread out the tail feathers and you will find you have a very nice trophy from your game bird.

With the feathers and skin removed, it is time to gut the game. First, find the section where the breast meets the abdomen. This will look like a horizontal, V shaped slit covered with a thin layer of skin. Use a knife to cut along this slit. Lift the breast upward, then reach inside toward the neck and grasp the esophagus. Pull downward and remove the guts. You may have to reach in several areas to ensure all of the innards are easily removed. You will find that the area of the vent or where the colon meets the buttocks will remain in place. Simply cut around

this area near the pubic bones and the innards will fall free.

Next inspect the neck to ensure that the upper esophagus and trachea are removed. If they are not, pull them out from the neck. Here is a secret to help keep your bird from tasting gamey. Reach with your finger into the upper breast near the neck. With firm pressure against the back, pull downward toward the bottom of the breast, removing the lungs and kidneys. You will have to repeat this on each side of the breast. As you pull down with your finger you should feel the ribs firmly on your finger's pad

Wash your bird thoroughly inside and out and be sure to remove any feathers that had been pushed into the meat by shot. You may use tweezers for this if necessary. This method provides a clean, superior tasting bird.

Ducks and geese

The care of duck and geese are very similar to the care of grouse, pheasant, dove and pigeon when cleaning. The big difference between them is in removing the feathers and skin. The skin of ducks and geese is very tough and is not easily pulled apart or away from the body. The skin can be left on or skinned away conventionally from the bird, but in either case the feathers must be plucked.

To pluck the feathers you may simply grasp them with the hand and pull them from the body. Remove all of the large outer feathers and the down until you are left with some fairly clean skin. There will be small pin feathers left on the skin that are impossible to remove. You may burn these off with a candle or blow torch.

Another option is to buy yourself one of the many apparatuses on the market made for plucking chickens and ducks. Most of these gizmos work by dunking the bird in wax, then holding it in a bucket that uses a set of whirling brushes that grasp the feathers and pulls them out. These are much more convenient and a lot faster than plucking the feathers by hand. If you are an avid waterfowl hunter, you may wish to invest in one of these. Of course, you will still need to burn the pin feathers off afterward.

To reduce the gamey taste of duck and geese, soak the bird in white vinegar and a pinch of salt in the refrigerator overnight before cooking.

Squirrels and rabbits

You may think of squirrels as being a tedious animal to skin and clean due to their size, but this is far from the truth. If you are primarily concerned with the meat of squirrel and are not concerned with the pelt, squirrels are one of the easiest animals to skin. Like grouse and pheasant, the skin of squirrels is quite soft and will readily pull apart and away from the body.

To skin squirrels in this manner, make a slit with a knife in the skin in the middle of the squirrel's back that intersects the line of the backbone at a 90 degree angle. Grasp each side of the slit and pull apart. The skin will pull off like a glove. Clean the squirrel as though it were a miniature deer, [*The Independent American* September/October 2004].

Rabbits are very similar to squirrels in respects to skinning and cleaning. While rabbit pelts make excellent fir lining for mittens and hats, one may skin the critter in the exact manner as squirrel mentioned above if you have bagged a lot of rabbit for the freezer and don't have the time or patience to remove the pelt for tanning.

Recipes

Brandy-Orange Barbecued Grouse

Yield: 2 servings

- 2 grouse
- 1 tb vegetable oil
- 2 tb lemon juice, divided
- 1/4 ts ground ginger, divided
- 1 salt and pepper to taste
- 1/4 c orange marmalade
- 1 tb brandy

Prepare covered outdoor grill for cooking at least 1/2 hour before grilling. Rinse grouse and pat dry; with kitchen string tie drumsticks together. Rub grouse with oil and 1 tablespoon of lemon juice; sprinkle with 1/4 teaspoon ginger and salt and pepper to taste.

In a small bowl, combine marmalade, brandy, and remaining ginger, set aside. Grill, covered, 5-6 inches over medium-hot coals 50-60 minutes. After 40 minutes, brush grouse with brandy-orange sauce. Cook until juices run clear when thigh is pierced, basting 3 to 4 times. Serves 2 to 4

Venison Steaks With Scotch Sour Sauce

Yield: 4 servings

2 tb butter, divided use
 1/4 c finely chopped shallots
 5 cranberries, crushed
 1/4 c scotch whiskey
 3/4 c orange juice
 2 tb lemon juice
 2 tb red currant jelly
 1 ts dijon mustard
 2 ts cornstarch
 2 tb water
 4 venison porterhouse steaks

Combine 1 tbsp. butter, shallots and berries in a 2 cup glass measure. Cover with vented plastic wrap. Microwave on high for 2 minutes. Add Scotch whiskey and microwave on high 1 minute or until boiling. Stir in orange juice, lemon juice, jelly and mustard. Microwave on high 2 minutes or until boiling. Combine cornstarch with water. Stir into sauce; microwave on high 1 minute or until boiling; set aside. Preheat a microwave browning dish according to the maximum time given in manufacturer's directions. Rub remaining 1 tbsp. butter over surface. Immediately, press venison onto hot surface. When brown, turn over. Microwave on high 2 minutes or to desired doneness. Do not overcook. Serve immediately with sauce.

Hasen Pfeffer

Yield: 1 servings

1 lb rabbit, deboned
 1 water
 1 salt & pepper
 1 ea bay leaf
 1 c sour cream
 1 vinegar
 1 ea onion, sliced
 1 ea cloves
 1 butter

The rabbit meat should be placed in a jar and covered with equal parts of vinegar and water. Add one large sliced onion, salt and pepper to taste, clove and bay leaf. Let the meat soak in this solution for 2 days, then remove the meat and brown in hot butter, turning it often. Gradually add some of the sauce in which the meat was pickled. Let simmer until meat is tender (about 30 minutes). Just before serving, stir 1 cup of thick sour cream into the sauce.

South Texas Duck Gumbo

Yield: 4 servings

8 c water
 3 ducks, mallard-size filleted
 and cut in pieces
 1/2 c oil, unsaturated veg.
 4 c flour
 1 tb salt
 1 tb pepper
 1 c celery, sliced 1/2 thick
 1 c carrots, thinly sliced
 1 c bell peppers, sliced
 1 c onion, yellow sliced
 1 c okra, sliced 1 thick (opt.)
 1 cn tomatoes, 16 oz. peeled
 1 cn soup, chicken rice 10 oz.
 2 chicken bouillon cubes
 2 tb worchestershire sauce
 2 bay leaves, whole
 1 ts tabasco sauce
 2 tb salt
 1/2 ts black pepper
 1/2 ts cayenne pepper
 1 ts fillet seasoning (opt.)
 1/2 c oil, unsaturated veg.
 1 flour

Bring water to boil in 1 1/2-gallon pot while preparing other ingredients.

Heat oil over medium heat in large skillet. Shake flour and seasonings in bag; add 10-12 pieces of duck and shake until lightly floured. Brown in preheated pan 5 minutes. DON'T OVERCOOK.

Remove duck from pan, drain on paper towel. Repeat until all meat is browned. Discard remaining flour.

Saute vegetables in meat skillet until onions brown lightly. Add duck and stir-fry 10 minutes.

Dissolve cubes in 8 c boiling water. Add chicken rice soup, tomatoes and seasonings. Add sauted vegetables and duck. Cover and cook 45 minutes at low to medium heat.

To make roux, heat oil to medium hot in skillet. Sprinkle 1/4 c flour into oil and stir. Continue adding flour a little at a time until flour/oil mixture is dry (10-12 minutes) and light brown. DON'T BURN. Remove from heat. Cool 5 minutes. Add 2 c hot duck soup and stir over heat until mixture thickens. Return roux to soup after soup cooks 45

minutes. Cover and cook 30 minutes, stirring occasionally. Remove from heat, set aside 20 minutes. Serve over short-grain rice.

Dove Monterey Style

Yield: 5 servings

- 10 dove breasts
- 24 oz ginger ale
- 1/2 ts rosemary
- 1/2 ts parsley flakes
- 1/2 ts sage
- 1/2 ts thyme
- 1 ts seasoning salt
- 1 ts pepper
- 1/4 c margarine
- 1 1/2 c light corn syrup
- 2 fresh limes
- 2 large oranges

Wash doves and pat dry. Marinate in ginger ale in bowl in refrigerator overnight; drain. Place in baking dish. Sprinkle with mixture of rosemary, parsley flakes, sage, thyme, salt and pepper.

Melt margarine in double boiler. Stir in corn syrup and juice of limes and oranges. Grate lime rind and cut orange rind (orange part only) into fine strips. Add to double boiler. Cook until heated through. Pour over dove breasts. Bake at 350 degrees for 40 minutes.

Brunswick Stew

yield: 1 serving

- 4 to 6 squirrels
- 4 ea onions, med, diced & sauteed
- 4 ea potatoes, diced
- 8 c broth (from parboil)
- 1/2 c butter
- 8 oz cream style corn
- 16 oz lima/butter beans, can
- 2 cn tomatoes
- 1 cn okra (if available)
- 2 tb worcestershire sauce
- 2 ea bay leaves
- 2 ts salt
- 1 ts peppercorns
- 1 ts red pepper, dried

Parboil squirrels; remove meat from bones. Save broth. Cut squirrel meat into chunks, flour, and brown. Add all ingredients to a large pot and simmer slowly for about an hour with the pot covered. When meats are tender, check if seasoning

adjustment is needed. Add water to thin if required. Serve in soup bowls. A dash or two of tabasco can be substituted for the red pepper.

Modify ingredients according to availability.

Chinese Honey Goose

6 servings

1 whole goose

----HONEY SYRUP MIXTURE----

1 lemon

water: 1 cup

honey : 1 tablespoon

dark soy sauce: 1 tablespoon

rice wine or dry sherry: 1 cup

If the goose is frozen, thaw it thoroughly. Rinse the goose well and blot it completely dry with paper towels. Insert a meat hook near the neck. Using a sharp knife, cut the lemon into 1/4-inch slices, leaving the rind on. Combine the lemon slices with the rest of the honey syrup ingredients in a large pot and bring the mixture to a boil. Turn the heat to low and simmer for about 20 minutes. Using a large ladle or spoon, pour this mixture over the goose several times, as if to bathe it, until all of the skin is completely coated with the mixture. Hang the goose in a cool, well ventilated place to dry for 4-or-5 hours, or hang it in front of a cold fan for about 3 hours in either case, the longer the better. Once the goose has dried, the surface of the skin will feel like parchment. Preheat the oven to 475F. Meanwhile, place the goose on a rack in a roasting pan, breast side up. Put 2/3 cup of water into the roasting pan. Now put the goose into the oven and roast it for 15 minutes. Reduce heat to 350F and continue to roast for 1 hour and 10 minutes. Remove the goose from the oven and let it sit for at least 10 minutes before you carve it. Using a cleaver or sharp knife, cut the skin and meat into pieces and arrange them on a warm platter.



Projects For Home And Life



Knife Sharpening Tips For Hunters

by Corceigh Green

Knife sharpening is an extremely important project for hunters. I am bewildered by how many times I have seen a hunter head for camp with only one hunting knife (usually brand new) and absolutely no knowledge in the skills of sharpening the edge. Small game hunters out on a day's foray need not concern themselves with more than one sharp knife. Small game hunters, however, usually cross over to big game hunting in season and no matter how many knives are carried by a hunter, that knife has to be sharp.

Hunters must have sharp knives when they head for the field. No matter how many knives you are carrying, you are going to dull them over the season. Whether skinning small game or skinning just one elk, your knives

will dull performing the tasks. It is foolish to throw away such tools when they become dull. The hunter has two choices when faced with dulled hunting knives. One is to pay a professional grindsman to have them sharpened. The other more practical is to sharpen them yourself.

Sharpening your knives is far more practical since you can do it in the field where your knives actually dull and where you actually need them. A hunter can easily dull a good knife just skinning the hide off an elk. And skinning is not even half the job. When butchering your game, you will easily dull several knives and you cannot go into town to have them sharpened leaving your semi-butchered game in the field.

YOU must sharpen your knives on the spot. This means beside carrying several knives, you'll also need to carry some sharpening equipment. Sharpening equipment for the field may include flat metal files, sharpening stones, sharpening sticks and some of the new sharpening tools that use hardened metal "sticks" on a handle with a hand guard.

My preferences are for the old fashioned Arkansas wet stones. I've used them all my life, am used to them and they've always worked well. I am also never without a flat metal file. For really dull blades or blades that are nicked or damaged, a file will reshape and sharpen up a blade very keenly and quickly. Oil for the sharpening stones rounds out my kit. For carrying, I wrap the stones in a sock and slip them into another sock with the oil. A medium sized flat metal file is carried next to the stones in a pack or pocket. With this kit I have never been without a sharp knife.



All the hunter needs in the field in the way of sharpening knives. A file, a medium stone, a hard stone, honing oil, an old sock to use as a cloth and to wrap the stones in and new condition tube sock to store the whole kit.



The kit ready to be packed

I have not used the ceramic sticks. I can see where they would be most handy with some unusually shaped blades, however. I have also had no use for the knife sharpeners with the handles and hand guards, but have seen people who could pass an Arkansas stone better than they could use one to sharpen a knife with one of the new fangled gadgets. If you have never used any other method to sharpen a knife, the new gadgets are exceptionally easy to learn and use and I'd recommend picking up a couple. Another plus with these gadgets is that they do not need to be wetted, so you need not pack oil with you. To use one, merely hold the knife, blade up, on a hard surface and run the gadget firmly along the blade from the ricasso to the point. It takes only a few strokes to sharpen a dull blade and you can put the knife back into action quickly.

The flat metal file is also as quick to get a blade sharp and back into action. This takes more skill than with the new gadgets,

however. The angle at which you run the file along the blade is very important. With one of the new gadgets all you need do is keep the gadget straight up and down on the blade. The file must meet the edge of the blade at the angle of its bevel. Determine this by placing the file on the knife's edge and tilting it onto the bevel so that the file is resting on the bevel, but not the side of the blade. This is usually around 20 degrees, but some knives will vary.



Find the correct angle for your file to engage the blade in order to sharpen.

To sharpen, run the file along the blade in the exact angle you have found. Start at the beginning of the blade near the ricasso and firmly run the file toward the point, maintaining its position with the bevel. In the same motion, push the file higher up the bevel toward the side of the blade while maintaining the file's contact with the bevel. Do not allow the file to contact the side of the blade. If you see scratches along the side of the blade you have not properly maintained the file's angle.



Don't forget to do the other side of the blade, too. Run the file in the direction of the arrow.

Many curved blades may be difficult to maintain the angle of the file to the bevel. If you are having difficulty following the curve

of the blade, slow down and run the file along the blade until encountering the curve then reposition your hands so they can engage the task more comfortably and continue up the blade. Count how many strokes you made with the file. You will have to match the exact number and method on the other side of the blade. Usually just a few strokes are necessary. Between five and ten should suffice.

I like to use the file for sharpening only when the knife becomes very, very dull. It will leave a rough edge unless finished with a stone and/or strop. Sometimes the file is quite handy, however, as skinning and butchering large game can dull a knife severely. In the field, a file will bring a very dull edge back into action quickly.

Whether I have worked a blade with a file or not, I prefer to finish or sharpen a blade with natural Arkansas stones. Other stones work as well, but I find that ceramics just don't stand up too well. Diamond stones do work fairly well, but are a second to the natural stones.

Natural stones must be wetted to keep grit from abrading knife blade and stone alike. Honing oil helps to float the small pieces of grit which are scraped from the stone away from the blade and off the surface of the stone. This makes carrying oil with your stones necessary. Mineral water also helps. Oil is superior, however. You may find water about on your hunting grounds and water does help to preserve your stone, but it is a poor substitute. Water cannot float the grit off the surface of your stone. It merely helps to wash some of the grit away, but will not stop abrasion.

To sharpen a blade with a stone place several drops of honing oil on the stone and smooth over the stone evenly. Next, find the angle of the bevel to the edge as you had with the file. Begin with the blade facing away from you, then, maintaining the angle of the edge to the stone, firmly slide the blade forward toward the stone's opposite end as if you were

cutting a slice of the stone off. You may work sections of the blade for this as well. Count the number of strokes you make with the blade. Again you will have to match the exact number of strokes and technique you used for the opposite side of the blade.



With the blade at the correct angle, slide the blade forward as though you were cutting a slice of stone from the surface.

When you are finished with the first side of the blade turn the blade over so that it is facing you and place the blade at the correct angle on the opposite end of the stone. Sharpen this side of the blade by sliding it along the stone's surface toward you. Again maintain the same firm pressure and act as if you are cutting off a slice of the stone.

I hold the stone in my hand while performing this because you can't always use a boxed in stone holder in the field. A boxed in stone holder is merely a wood frame that fits snugly around the stone and keeps it from moving on a bench. You won't find flat hard surfaces in the field, so I never use the holders. I prefer to have a good feel for the task using free hand techniques. This provides better performance in the field.

There are different coarse stones to use when sharpening knives. If you are only buying one stone, buy the coarse stone. This will put an edge on your knife quickly in the field. These may also be described as medium stones. The hard stones will put a keener and more polished edge on your knife and I use these to

put a good quality edge on my knives before I take to the field. In the field, however, I use only the medium stone to get the knife back in action faster.

When you have put an edge back on your blade and you are finished with the task of sharpening your knives you will have to put your stones away. They must be stored properly and safely. First your stones must be cleaned and the grit and oil removed from their surfaces. To do this wipe down the surface of your stones with a cotton cloth or paper towel. Be sure to get all of the oil off. When dry, wrap your stones in cloth and store.

Ceramic or hardened metal sticks are another method we will look at. As with the stones, pass on the ceramic sticks. In my opinion, they just do not last long enough and are a poor second. The hardened metal sticks are of better quality. These actually amount to something like big round files, but will be worked a little differently than the flat file. To use these, find the angle where the edge meets the stick. The blade should be positioned high on the stick with the edge facing the direction of your hand. In a slicing motion, pull the blade downward along the stick. Switch sides so that the other side of the blade contacts the stick in the same manner and in the same slicing motion, pull the blade downward along the stick. Make certain that you do both sides of the blade the same amount of times and in the same manner. If you have a large blade and must sharpen your blade in sections, make certain each section is run along the stick the exact same number of times and in the exact same manner.

You will probably have noticed, on television, that many chefs do this very quickly. If you are a novice to sharpening knives, do not attempt any of the above techniques quickly. Always begin using a slow, deliberate motion. This will eliminate mistakes and train your muscles to perform a superior technique every time you sharpen a knife. You will become faster as you practice this, but speed and

quality only come with slow, deliberate practice.

I am astonished by how many times I've seen people trying to imitate what they've seen on television when sharpening a knife. More knives are dulled further by people who *think* they can sharpen a knife because they saw someone do it on television. Learn proper technique from someone who knows how to do it. A sharp knife is necessary during hunting season and as an efficient survival tool as well. Knowledge of knife sharpening skills are absolutely essential if you have plans to take to the field. If you have a dull blade in the house, get to practicing already!



Ready to skin griz!

"Patriotism means to stand by the country. It does not mean to stand by the president or any other public official save exactly to the degree in which he himself stands by the country. It is patriotic to support him insofar as he efficiently serves the country. It is unpatriotic not to oppose him to the exact extent that by inefficiency or otherwise he fails in his duty to stand by the country. In either event, it is unpatriotic not to tell the truth whether about the president or anyone else-save in the rare cases where this would make known to the enemy information of military value which would otherwise be unknown to him."

-Theodore Roosevelt-

Firearms And Survival

by Glenn Boman

Getting Ready For The Hunting Season

I got to do some shooting this past Tuesday morning at the wildlife management area range.

I was using my Remington 700 "Youth" model in .308 Winchester topped with a Tasco Silver Streak scope in 3X-9X-32MM configuration. The most accurate load I could find for that little gem was 50 grains of IMR 4350 powder, once-fired Winchester sized and trimmed cases, Winchester standard large rifle primers, and the 150 grain spirepoint Winchester bullet. I got a one-inch group at 100 yards with the scope set for 7X...all my rifles have the scope on 7X power. I know that the 7X setting reduces my field of view, but I like to be "up close and personal" when I pull the trigger! Besides, it forces me to hold the gun steady...at 7X, the "buck fever" shakes can really be magnified if you don't do your part. The Little Remington is no longer than my Ruger 10/22's and weighs about the same or less. It is the most compact centerfire rifle I have in .30 caliber and has the short bolt action unlike my 30-06 rifles. If you have a .308, you might want to try loading up some of the above rounds...they beat out three other powder combinations with all else being exactly the same. Of course, you know that every rifle/firearm has its own preference of loads...heck, this load even beat the Winchester factory load! I did not chronograph the load, but according to the loading books, it should be right at 2,700 FPS or so...fine for my neck of the woods.

I went out yesterday and set up my deer feeder for the season and set it to release 1&1/2 pounds of shelled corn at sunrise and at dusk...went back today and all the corn on the ground was totally gone. I also placed a mineral and a salt block at the site and topped

them off with cherry Kool-Aid to attract the deer...yes, I said cherry Kool Aid! HA! I "make my own" deer attractant this way using various fruit flavors of the kool aid like cheapo stuff I get at the local Dollar General 10/\$1. It works! I will have to take it down before hunting season, the feeder that is. I cut down three smaller oak trees that were not doing good as understory trees and made a large tri-pod, lashed them together and hung the feeder from the center of that rig with ropes so I could lower the feeder to fill it from time to time.

I have not done as much shooting as I would like partly due to the hectic schedule my wife and I have and partly due to the hot weather. The one redeeming thing about this summer is that it has rained a lot which is unusual for this time of the year down here. The woods are dark and deep out where I have the tree stand and I walked around some hills trying to figure out some of the intersecting deer trails and how the deer would come toward the permanent tree stand that I built and set up last year using treated lumber. I will put my portable stand on top of one of the hills overlooking the bottom where a tiny stream/spring runs all year around. From the proposed site, I can see three sides of the hill and down into the sloping areas all around those sides. To tell the truth, I'm not much of a tree stand enthusiast! This may sound weird considering the fact that I'm setting up some, but the truth is, I'd rather stalk the woods and "happen up" on my game. I guess it comes from years of gray squirrel hunting...stalk and spot/spot and stalk until I can get my shot off. All the deer I've taken were taken this way...maybe that is why I love it so. The last deer I took was a small buck at 30 yards with the Ruger Redhawk in .44 magnum. One shot put him down and a finishing shot through the lungs brought him to bag. I really like handgun hunting in all its forms except for the handgun "rifles" that some people use. If I'm going to shoot a .308, 30-30, etc. it is going to be in a rifle. I know that S&W has now produced their proprietary .50 caliber magnum and the .460 round for their

handguns, but I don't know of anyone who needs that kind of power at \$2 a shot! Maybe if I was in Alaska or the northwest where the big bears see me as prey, I'd go with those calibers. I have a load for the .44 magnum that will shoot through the biggest game on our continent, at least I believe so. It is the 335 grain hardcast flatpoint slug from my SSK mould. Push that bullet with 20 grains of H-110 and get an honest 1,350 FPS and the momentum alone is practically unstoppable in big game. I would penetrate to any vitals even after breaking bones. Cast from wheelweights with some 95/5 tin/antimony solder wire mixed in and it doesn't lead the barrel and the bullet doesn't deform very much on hard targets. I use a magnum primer with H-110 powder as per the company's advice and a very stiff crimp as well.

Dick Metcalf, a gunwriter by trade, is an expert on handgunning for game. Years ago, he switched to the 180 grain hollowpoint bullet in his .44 magnums because he'd never recovered a .44 magnum 240 grain bullet from deer...they had all passed through. I have never recovered a 240 grain bullet on deer either! He also used the Colt Python Hunter edition complete with scope and 125 grain JHP bullets on deer at 100 yards and under and had great success. I suspect bullet placement is the key with any round used on game. Come to think of it, I have never recovered a .22 long rifle hollowpoint from any squirrel I've shot! I mostly use head shots so that may be the reason as well. Back to the 125 grain hollowpoint in the .357 magnum. According to Evan Marshall and Ed Sanow, that round is the top "manstopper" round of all law enforcement rounds ever used on the bad guys. I think that with that round, they listed it as a 96% one shot stopper on thugs and criminals in shootouts. Deer are seldom bigger than a large man, so Dick Metcalf had something going here with almost perfect bullet placement using the Python's scope and steady rests, his success rate was perfect. I have only shot one deer with the .357 magnum round. It was using a Ruger Security Six with four-inch barrel and handloaded

softpoint bullets being pushed with about 15.5 grains of 2400 Powder and a magnum primer. I hit the deer in the shoulder at 25 yards, but it only wounded him and he got away to be taken the next day by another hunter in the same vicinity where I'd shot him. The bullet was the 158 grain Speer softpoint and I'm sure it did the job it was supposed to do, but probably hit the shoulder flesh or bone and did not hit the vitals...obviously the case since he lived another day. I should have aimed slightly behind the shoulder for a lung shot, but that was years ago and with youth, buck fever can sometimes get the best of our judgment and shot placement, too.

A friend asked me recently by email if I would hunt deer with a 9MM semi-auto. I told him that I would since the deer around here are only "average" in size...usually less than 175 pounds, but there are the occasional exceptions like the 235 pounder I took back in 1999. The 9MM should be loaded to P+ levels and use only the 124 grain JHP bullet. The 147 grain bullets are too slow and really do not function to my satisfaction even in the hollowpoint configuration. With the 124 JHP bullet I use Unique powder and standard primers in once-fired cases. Again, I load it to P+ levels, so won't state my "defense/hunting" load here. At modest ranges, say under 40 yards, the 124 JHP like the Speer Gold Dot or the Hornady XTP will do the job on a deer with proper bullet placement. I have never taken a deer with that caliber, but may try it this season after I fill the freezer first with more "trusted" firearms. Yes, it will take a deer in my estimation, but I'd want something larger for the deer out west or in the mid-west where there are some bruisers well over 200 pounds.

A quote I saw recently is one you will like. Our forefathers desired "No taxation without representation." Now it seems that "taxation with representation is no better"!!! HA!

Getting Prepared For The Worst This Winter

“Oil is going to reach \$100 a barrel by winter.”, This was a statement reported by one of the “news“ services on the radio. It was a quote by one of Bush’s cabinet members. When the energy crunch hits this winter, we might face a scenario similar to what survivalists thought they might face during the turn of the century. You know, the Y2K scare. “I’ll just go back to the way it used to be.” So stated one of my associates who was contemplating what the future might hold.

Well, folks, it isn’t that easy to go back to “the way things used to be.” Let me tell you some reasons why. My folks and grandparents, aunts and uncles, all grew up during the depression era. Everyone was in the same situation for the most part.. .poor, without luxuries, and worked like the proverbial “dog” just to get the fields to feed them. If you owned a good mule or better yet, a good pair of mules, you were rich by most standards here in the deep south. Everyone I knew in my past (as listed above) was living on a homestead and except for the occasional bag of coffee, sugar, or “store bought” cloth, they were without money and other non-necessities. Folks worked from “daylight ‘til dark” for 50 cents a day.. .and it wasn’t child’s play either! For those people who dream about the going back to the “good old days“...well, as my Father says, “We are living in the GOOD old days right now!”

Sure, there were some stresses that were not the kind we often face today, but generally speaking I’d probably choose mine today rather than the ones related to whether or not my kids had something to eat tonight or not. So, where are we in this thing called back to the land movement? Survival in style? Homesteading in the boonies? Overcoming the winter’s energy crunch? Surviving the next Great Depression? We are at the point where we must honestly take a considered look at what we really want for our lives come what may; how we can get there from where we currently are; and, what will make the transition acceptable so that we can get

there?~ I remember one disgruntled student who once ran away for several days and then returned to my classroom... I asked him about his causing so much concern for everyone, etc., but the one thing I remember that he said was in response to my questions about where he ran away to. He said, “When I got there, it wasn’t where I really wanted to be after all.” I suspect that as we plan for “survival” we had better take a hard, long look at my former student’s response!

There are simply too many factors to consider when facing the future of uncertainty, making plans to survive whatever comes, and doing it in style while remaining reasonably sane! HA! There are a few that may or may not strike you and cause the wheels to turn within your cranium. So, here goes. The first thing I would remind everyone of is that one may not possess even primitive technology with which to manufacture even simple useful items and tools. So, unless you own your own personal blast furnace, get your metal objects while you still can. You know the things, guns, knives, hammers, push-plow points, nails, wire, screws, hinges, fish hooks, and a zillion more things!

I would also recommend that a person have a good library of useful literature such as good books, magazines, and other reading material. The “how-to” books will often come in handy as time goes by and necessities to increase comfort begin, to surface. Having a good source for reference as to how to build, make, etc. will make things go smoother in any transitional period such as waiting for the world to mend again. I would also include some of the classics for your own enjoyment. . .I like to periodically read Henry David Thoreau’s *Walden*, for example. For me, Bibles and related reference works is a must have on my library shelves. If the “romance” novels fill your fancies, then have some of these on hand as well.. .but they’re not for me. I would make some suggestions as to what I’d have in my library shelves out in the boonies during hard times: gardening books (especially on organic gardening), alternative

building styles (pole, log, adobe, etc.), “survival” type writings on all aspects of wilderness survival, other varied skills, personal interests, and a good set of reference encyclopedias for fixing shelters, cooking, and living back of beyond. So, a good library would be helpful and very useful unless your head is chocked full enough already and you need no more information.

Having a means of communication with others of like mind and circumstance would be nice unless you are Rambo. Some types of devices such as army field phones, “homemade” telephone lines between settlements, smoke signals, sky rockets.. .yes, I said skyrockets! I know a group in Louisiana that plans to alert everyone within a large area of “trouble” by the use of large skyrockets that go skyward, explode into beautiful nighttime “4th of July” type displays. This might be fine at night, but what about during the day? They have the “salute” type rockets that climb skyward and explode with a loud “BANG!” for that. This might work for those who are under attack and have the time to remember “display or bang?”, light the fuse, and hope people are looking skyward to see or turning their ears to hear so they can get the warning. CB radios, shortwave radios, and similar electronic devices would be very nice to have, but they can be triangulated by those properly equipped to find you and your location pinpointed with little trouble! So I recommend the old-fashioned battery and wire phones with much cable.. .army surplus works great and can be laid for miles across any terrain. But, to each his own. Maybe one would have a “drop point” where written messages could be left in a hollow tree, submerged mayonnaise jar in a lake, or other non-noticeable place. Any interruption on the normal pattern of communication would signal that all is not well from the other folks. Then, there are the “line of sight” way with flashlights, laser beams, sun and mirrors, handheld flags a la the Navy’s signal corpsmen, and many other ways you can think of. If your “friends” are in close proximity and you want to keep in touch, you’ll have to

invent some effective way of communicating.

If there is a “must have” manufactured item that you simply can’t live without, then I suggest that you stock up now if you foresee dire days ahead when all the factories will close up shop due to lack of energy. Of course, there isn’t enough room in a three page column to list even a basic “must have” list since everyone’s favorite items would need to be included to make everyone happy. It goes without saying that if there are habits that must be fed then these will probably be must have type items: cigarettes, chocolate, or whatever. If things go down the tube, you’ll learn the hard way why it is difficult to go “cold turkey” on a long-time habit like smoking, etc. During such time, have mercy on trespassers to your domain! HA! (No, I don’t smoke.) I do have a three meal and snacks in between per day habit that I’ll have to go “cold turkey” on, I suppose... sounds tasty just talking about it! HA!

Of all the things related to hyped doomsday scenarios meant to sell dried food packs, perimeter alarms, gas masks, guns & ammo, chemical/biological suits, and all the rest of the “survival” stuff, perhaps the most important “advice” I am willing to take for myself and also am willing to give to you is this.. .be well prepared for any short term upheaval, moderately prepared for a half-year chaotic time, and fairly well prepared for an extended period of hard times. Note, however, that this is a minimum piece of preparedness advice. For those who are prepared for anything well into the next 5 years or more, good for them!

Something that is never mentioned in any of the literature on survivalism, etc., is the mind set that I will here describe as being mentally and emotionally prepared to accept the consequences of one’s actions even under survival conditions. Ever dealt with battle fatigue? What about facing your family if you should have to “knock off” a villain with your AK-47 some dark night? Then, there is the other side of the coin that no one likes to

consider.. .what would your family do if the villain won? Your family.. .what would they do? Unpleasant to think about isn't it? What about capture? Well, like I said, these things are not pleasant to think about, so go deep enough into the woods, mountains, and wilderness so you'll never be discovered.. .but, then, how will you carry all that equipment... darn!

Finally, I end this treatise with what I am going to do about an energy crisis, economic chaos, nuclear attack from North Korea, or an invasion of killer bees from Mexico.. .among other things. I'm going to be doggone well prepared for fairly long term existence under most any circumstance barring the villain winning any confrontation! Then with all joking aside, I'm going to sit back, wait, keep my eyes open, look for signs of the hatching of our worst fears, and with a mind set that my wife likens to some rock called Gibraltar, I'm going to see what happens. Who knows, for those who are prepared, it just might be an interesting "look-see"! Not to be too flippant about such things, and not neglecting the many down sides, it could be VERY interesting to be watchfully waiting as things unfold on to the scene.. .you know, sitting on my cabin porch with the Mini-14 in hand, smoke rising from my chimney and bacon cooking on the woodstove... just watching the dark smoke cloud in the east as Birmingham burns.. .just waiting.. .wondering if I should stand watch tonight, set out perimeter flares, or just wait for the villain to come.. .well, right now, I'm going to eat my bacon with coffee and biscuits and homemade jelly. My son-in-law and son can eat when they return from patrolling the security rings around our place. My wife might have to take off her Beretta 9MM in order to sit in the rough chair comfortably, but the girls can watch out the windows until they can eat in their turn. Bacon? you think.. .how did he have bacon at a survival retreat? Well, that is another story for another column on "salt curing pork."

Until then, take care. Be prepared.



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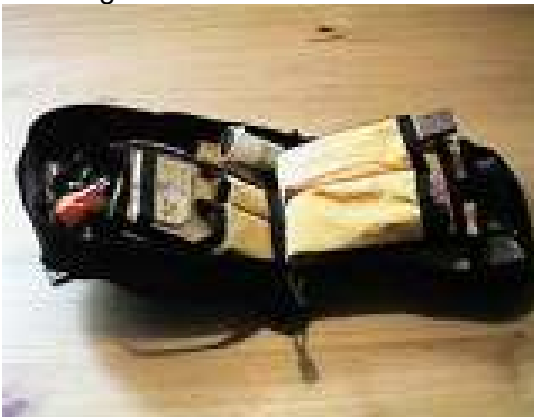
Live Free Or Die



by Tom from New England

<ticom@digivill.net>

Autumn is here, and that means hunting season. Whatever game you seek, a small contingency kit is always a useful thing to bring into the field with you just in case your day outing runs into the unexpected. The following is an example of a contingency kit that fits into a small package, and can be placed inside a backpack. It's designed as a general-purpose kit that can be of use in a wide variety of situations and environments. The kit was originally built around a U.S. Military vehicle first-aid kit box, and was later transferred to a [Spec-Ops Brand](#) "Pack-Rat" pack organizer. It contains the following:



- Signal mirror
- [Inova](#) 24/7 light with spare batteries
- Emergency Fishing Kit
- Gill Net
- Magnesium block fire

- starter
- NATO Lifeboat Matches
- Space Blanket
- Small Bic Lighter (2)
- Trioxane fuel bar
- Emergency Fishing Kit
- Straw-type water filter
- Mini folding saw with wood and metal blades
- Roll of trip wire
- Dental Floss
- Small Sewing Kit
- Wooden "tongue depressor" wrapped with duct tape, first-aid tape, and electrical tape
- Gauze Pads
- Band-Aids
- Antibiotic Ointment
- Muslin Bandage
- Package of Single Edge Razor Blades
- "Spark-Lite" Aviation Survival Fire Starter
- Survival card set (5 cards)
- Swiss-Tech Utili-Key
- Swiss-Tech folding pliers
- P-38 GI Can Opener
- Fox 40 Whistle
- Safety Pins (2)
- U.S. GI Pocket Knife
- Frog Gig spear head
- 4-5' length of piano wire
- Color Field Guide to Common Wild Edibles, by Bradford Angier
- FM 21-76-1, Multiservice Procedures for Survival, Evasion and Recovery



Hurricane Katrina is now over, and the Gulf Coast region must begin the long process of recovery. The news media has been talking about the broad negative economic effects of Katrina. First and foremost is the increase in the cost of petroleum products, and the possibility of shortages and rationing. The Gulf Coast is home to a significant portion of the country's petroleum industry, and Katrina has disrupted their operations. The price of gasoline always goes up right around this time of year. Long-time readers of this column might recall back in the Summer of 2003 I talked about consumer complaints regarding the price of gas reaching **\$2.00** a gallon. Now in the Northeast we have passed the \$3.00 a gallon mark. Among having to deal with the problems in the Middle East, the Chinese driving up prices by buying all they can, and now heavy weather in the Gulf of Mexico, America has to come up with an effective long-term energy solution so we are not as dependent on petroleum products. One part of the answer is to "grow our own". We can not only domestically produce our own Biodiesel and Alcohol fuels (Ethanol and Methanol), but it can be done on a small scale by individuals and small businesses. It is also a form of renewable energy.

This latest disaster in what appears to be a recurring trend of situations and instability on the country should serve as a wake up to call to any

American with a modicum of perception. All the government will do is open up a "disaster shelter", cram you into it with thousands of other sheeple after confiscating anything they think you shouldn't have, and keep you there until "it's safe". You will have become a refugee with little to no control of your self-determination and future. As things progressed, even the Superdome became unsafe and its refugees were forced to seek shelter elsewhere. Civilization has broken down in the city, and New Orleans is overrun by what can be best described as savages. As I write this, FEMA and the National Guard have pulled out of the city and active duty Federal troops are coming in to restore order. While I don't expect to wake up many more people than those who have already become aware of our country's declining situation, I do hope that the rest of you take this as a sign to intelligently evaluate your contingency plans and existing preparations. Once the death of New Orleans at the hands of Hurricane Katrina and its own people is played to the end, take the opportunity to use it as a learning experience. In talking with the editors, the next issue of *The Independent American* will tackle the topic of disaster preparedness, just in time for that interesting winter weather many regions of the United States is known for.

The right of a citizen to bear arms, in lawful defense of himself or the State, is absolute. He does not derive it from the State government. It is one of the high powers" delegated directly to the citizen, and `is excepted out of the general powers of government. 'A law cannot be passed to infringe upon or impair it, because it is above the law, and independent of the lawmaking power." [Cockrum v. State, 24 Tex.394, at 401-402 (1859)]

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Magazines For Your 1911 Pistol

written by Douglas P. Bell



The heart of any repeating firearm is the ammunition feeding system. This may be in the form of a magazine tube, fixed magazine, detachable magazine (often called a “clip”), en bloc clip, or other feeding device, such as on full automatic weapons, linked ammunition. What ever it is called, or however it works, the firearm isn’t going to be much good with out it.

To give you a brief idea what each one is, the tube magazine is just that, a tube, and is often found in .22 rifles or on lever action rifles. This tube may be in the stock, like on the Browning Auto-22 or Remington Nylon 66 or under the barrel like on the tube fed Marlin .22’s, Remington 552, or centerfire Winchester 94. The fixed magazine is attached to the gun and not normally detached, such as on the SKS or M1 rifle (which uses enbloc clips) and most centerfire bolt action rifles. Detachable magazines are the magazines or “clips” used in most repeating pistols and military rifles, like the Colt 1911 .45 Auto, Browning Hi Power, M-14, M-16, AK-47, etc. Other feeding devices would include drum magazines such as the Thompson submachine gun (Tommy gun of gangster lore) uses or the helical feed magazines found on the Calico rifles, both of which are just spiral feed detachable

magazines.

Since we are most concerned with firearms suitable for survival use here, we can limit ourselves to those firearms that are most conducive to that end. Also due to limited money, time and space, we can not test all the firearms and/or magazines that are likely to be found useful, so we must limit ourselves to specific firearms, in this case the 1911 Government Model auto pistol, such as the Colt, Springfield Armory, Auto-Ord, Fed Ord, Kimber, etc.

Because we are going to use some terms that not all readers might be familiar with, a quick run down might be in order. First, the follower is the part that the cartridge case rests on and pushes the case up so it will feed properly out of the magazine. The floorplate or base is the bottom of the magazine and can be either welded in place or removable. The base pad or bumper pad is an extension either added to or in place of the base that extends the base to make seating the magazine (pushing the magazine in far enough in that locks in place) easier or more positive. The base pad generally doesn’t protect the magazine when it is ejected, except in weighted models where the magazine falls base first due to the weight of the pad. Standard capacity 1911 Auto magazines hold seven .45 ACP rounds or nine 9mm/.38 Super cartridges. Most common extended capacity magazines generally hold one more round of ammunition, although some may hold two, and some can hold up to 30 rounds or more.

Since the “Colt-.45 Auto is almost a generic term for these pistols, Colt “made” (actually Colt “marked” as Colt doesn’t make their own magazines) would be a good place to start. The good thing about these magazines is that they are normally of very high quality. The down side is that they are some what hard to find when compared to the various other magazines. Remember that genuine blued or stainless “Colt” magazines will have the Colt trademark “Rampant Colt” stamped on the floorplate, and not just marked “Colt”. Some

after market magazines are marked "COLT 45 AUTO" and are not real Colt magazines.

Metalform magazines are also a high quality magazine and competitively priced as the saying goes in either blued or stainless. While the Colt magazines have the "standard" capacity for each caliber, Metalform magazines are available in either standard or "extra capacity", which means they have room for an extra round.

Pachmayr 1911 auto magazines are all stainless and are made in Italy. These mags have the Pachmayr "Lion" crest stamped on the side and have a black neoprene base pad. The good thing about these magazines is that they are no more expensive than the stainless Colt magazines and work very well. The down side, if you want to call it that, is the base pads aren't thick enough to do you much good over the standard flat floorplate when seating the magazine, at least in my experience.

Wilson-Rogers 1911 auto magazines are also a "stainless only" magazine and work quite well too, but as Bill Wilson is a well known pistolsmith and shooter this is not surprising. These magazines are available in either standard or extended capacity, and have a plastic "self lubricating" follower as well as standard or extended length detachable base pads. If you get a Wilson-Rogers magazine, get the extended length base pad model for easier seating.

The Shooting Star 1911 auto magazines come in either blued or stainless and are all "extended capacity". Available with or without a base pad, these are rather unique magazines. They are both very high quality and currently not much more than the various no name after market magazines. Available in either blued or stainless, with or without a base pad, and with "extended capacity" (they hold one more round than standard capacity magazines, in this case eight .45 ACP cartridges), these have to be the best buy currently available on the magazine market

today. While the Shaw base pad is rather light weight due to being hollow, most other base pads normally being solid, this allows you to add lead shot to the pad to add a slight additional weight. After trying every magazine listed in this article, these magazines with base pads are my personal favorites.

As to the rest of the various .45 Auto magazines on the market, such as Springfield Armory (now Springfield Inc.), Auto-Ordnance, Federal Ordnance, COLT 45 AUTO marked, military surplus, mil spec, etc., all seem to work about the same for me. Some do, some don't. Generally you have to take your gun out and try each of the various magazines in it. In general, I've had very good luck with Springfield magazines, pretty good luck with the Tom Forrest Inc. (POB 326, Lakeside, CA 92040) COLT 45 AUTO and "no name" mil. spec. mags and the worst luck with Fed Ord (the mags are now being sold under a new name as Federal Ordnance is out of business). Like I said though, you have to take each magazine out and check to see if it works through your gun, and that includes the "name" mags as well, although I've yet to have a name magazine fail if everything else was working correctly.

Several of the better brand extended length magazines, in the nine to eleven round capacity range, I've tried have worked very well. However I'm always running in to people with extended length magazines, from 15 to 30 rounds, that they claim work flawlessly, at least when it isn't possible to actually test the magazine. My advice is to avoid the extended length magazines and not to worry about it. If you really need more firepower than the standard seven or extended capacity eight round magazines give you, either go to a high capacity frame such as the Para-Ordnance or Shooting Star, get more or better training, or get a high capacity 9mm.

Since the 1911 Government Model auto is also made in 9mm Luger, .38 Super, .40 S&W and 10mm, it might be worth while to give

you an idea about those magazines as well. First off, factory Colt magazines are hard to beat in any caliber. They cost the most and are normally of the highest quality. Next would be the Shooting Star magazines in .38 Super or 10mm. All the Metalform magazines I've tried in .38 Super and 9mm have worked excellently as well. They should, Metalform makes Colt magazines as well. Wilson-Rogers magazines in 10mm and .38 Super are also very good. I'm especially happy with the 9mm Luger mag I got from Springfield Armory that has an unique, heavy sheet metal "X" shaped follower, although I'm not too thrilled with the SA .45 magazines I've tried. I use .38 Super magazines for both the 9mm and .38 Super, it saves both time and trouble looking for the magazines and it works just fine.



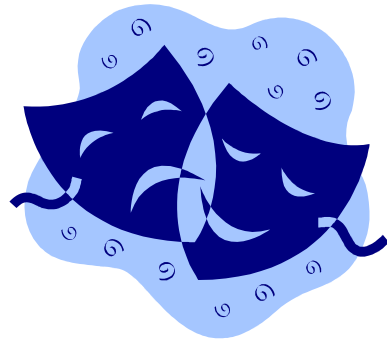
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THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE IS OFFERED FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY! The manufacture of any explosive or primary initiator is a dangerous undertaking!

DO NOT attempt to make or use any of the compounds detailed in the following text without formal training! Injuries or loss of life is possible if accidents occur! The Independent American, it's staff and/or writers are NOT responsible for the actions of others.

Single Based Smokeless Powder Formulae Part II

Since we began this series of articles, We have been announcing that our purpose for disseminating this information is to ensure that Americans will have access to ammunition when (not if) traitors in Congress, State legislatures or the corporate federal government were to ban or excessively tax ammunition into non-existence. In June of 2005 our concerns were proven founded when California legislature voted to ban certain types of ammunition. The ammunition types banned can no longer be owned, sold or bought in the Mexican province of California. Before California seceded from these united States of America there were many American Citizens living in the State. Those Citizens are now living under a foreign government which feels no need to honor the Rights of it's subjects.

The subjects living under the criminal government of the Mexican province of California are being systematically disarmed. Americans have a large supply of firearms. Enough to arm every man, woman and child in these united States. On the surface, this may seem enough to help Americans keep their other Rights and ensure they are never

disarmed. There are, however, two elements in the Second Amendment formula that is in short supply. One of those elements is the courage and will to use the Second Amendment option when necessary. The other element is ammunition. Currently, Americans have not purchased ammunition in bulk necessary to keep their firearms operating for longer than hunting season, let alone fight a guerilla war for the restoration of their Constitutional Republic.

If you have been following this series of articles, you already know that there are many components necessary in making smokeless powder. To obtain or manufacture these components will require a group or community of like-minded individuals. While it is possible for an individual to obtain these components, then manufacture smokeless powder, it is definitely NOT recommended! The manufacture of smokeless powder requires intense concentration and profuse amounts of time! To avoid accidents always work in manufacturing teams.

For an explanation of the components listed in this article, refer to *The Independent American* March/April 2005. When using substitutes it may be necessary to experiment by tweaking the portions of components used. When you find the right formula or formulae for your particular community or group, do not deviate from the formula and retain as exact proportions of components in making each batch as possible. Read or re-read the preceding entries in this series of articles to know what you are working with and why. **Also, follow ALL safety instructions! Maintain a clean, dry and well ventilated work area! DO NOT WORK AROUND OPEN FLAMES!!! I'm NOT KIDDING!!!**

In our last installment on single based smokeless powders we detailed how to manufacture a single based smokeless powder for .30 caliber, high powered cartridges such as the .30-06, .308 Winchester/7.62X51 NATO, .300 Winchester Magnum and all the way up to the .375 H&H Magnum. While the

.30-30 is more in the mid-powered range, the powder covered in the last issue can work in the .30-30 cartridge as well.

In this installment, we are going to concentrate on manufacturing single based smokeless powder for mid-powered cartridges for the .223/5.56 NATO, 7.62X39 and the 5.45X39, plus a myriad of the lighter weight .22 caliber and 6.8 mm cartridges. This powder will also work in some pistol cartridges like the .44 Magnum. The method of manufacture will be extremely similar to the rifle powder detailed in our last installment with the exception of the proportions of the components. This single based powder will also be extruded, but your extruder press (see *The Independent American* May/June 2005, *Making Cordite*) will need smaller extrusion holes in the bottom board. We will get to this at the extrusion process.

Single Based Smokeless Powder For mid-powered carbine cartridges

Materials required:

- 1 large, glass mixing bowl
- 1 measuring cup
- 1 electric hand mixer or non-electric hand mixer or professional mixing machine
- 1 "cider" extruding set-up (See *The Independent American* May/June 2005 *The Manufacture Of Cordite*)
- 1 glass water spray bottle
- 1 rock tumbling machine
- 1 exacto-knife
- finely powdered graphite
- Nitrocellulose/guncotton (See *The Independent American* January/February 2005)
- potassium sulfate
- ethyl or methyl centralite
- dibutyl or diethyl phthalate
- ether-alcohol (See *The Independent American* March/April 2005)
- dinitrotoluene
- diphenylamine or acetone diphenylamine
- potassium nitrate

As before, begin by preparing your

nitrocellulose. If you remember our last article, you know that nitrocellulose should be stored moist. You will need to dry your nitrocellulose out in the same manner. Remove the nitrocellulose from it's storage jars with wooden tongs or chopsticks. If the nitrocellulose is wet, **VERY CAREFULLY, BUT GENTLY**, squeeze some of the water out. If the nitrocellulose is not wet, **DO NOT SQUEEZE!!! Nitrocellulose is an explosive and can be detonated through friction, pressure, flame and static discharge!!!**

Place the nitrocellulose in a measuring cup and compress, **NOT TOO FORCEFULLY!** Measure out 6 cups. Place the 6 cups of nitrocellulose in glass jars with moistened desiccant. Place the glass jars no less than three feet from an infrared electric heater. Check the desiccant periodically. When the desiccant is dry the nitrocellulose is ready for use.

1. Place the nitrocellulose in the large glass mixing bowl. Measure 1/2 cup ethyl centralite in the measuring cup and slowly pour it onto the nitrocellulose. Mix the nitrocellulose and ethyl centralite together with a spatula. Set aside the large glass bowl while preparing your ether-alcohol.

(See *The Independent American* March/April 2005 for instructions on the preparation of ether-alcohol.)

2. Measure 4 cups of ether-alcohol. Pour 1 cup at a time evenly and slowly over the nitrocellulose.

Warning! Work in a well ventilated room preferably with a fan powered exhaust system. DO NOT WORK AROUND OPEN FLAMES!!!!!!

3. Allow 5 minutes to pass, then gently stir the nitrocellulose/ether-alcohol colloid with a spatula or glass rod. Your nitrocellulose is

now safe to work with, but is still **VERY FLAMMABLE!**

4. Set your mixer on the lowest setting and begin mixing the nitrocellulose/ether-alcohol mixture. **BE certain NOT to splatter the mixture out of the bowl!**

[Thoroughly mix the colloid. Work with two people. One should operate the mixer while the other operates a spatula to move the colloid mixture from the sides of the bowl, back into the area being mixed.]

Continue this operation for an hour.

5. At the end of one hour, pour 1/2 cup of acetone diphenylamine slowly into the colloid while continuing to mix. Continue to mix for another hour.

[See the last installment in this series of articles for an explanation of how to acquire acetone diphenylamine.]

WARNING!!! diphenylamine is highly carcinogenic!!! Wear rubber gloves, hazmat suit and respirator!!! DO NOT ALLOW ANY MATERIAL TO CONTACT YOUR SKIN! TAKE SPECIAL CAUTION WHILE MIXING!

6. At the end of one hour, dissolve 1 1/4 tablespoon of potassium nitrate into 1/2 cup of ether-alcohol. Slowly pour this into the mixture while continuing to mix. Continue to mix for one hour.

7. At the end of one hour, dissolve 1 tablespoon of potassium sulfate into 1/2 cup of ether-alcohol. Slowly pour this into the mixture while continuing to mix. Continue to mix for one hour.

Read procedure 7 carefully! It calls for potassium SULFATE here. NOT potassium NITRATE!

8. Measure 1 1/2 tablespoon dibutyl phthalate

in the measuring cup. Pour the dibutyl phthalate slowly into the mixture while mixing. Continue to mix for 1/2 hour.

9. Measure 1/4 cup dinitrotoluene. Slowly pour the dinitrotoluene into the mixture while continuing to mix.

10. If your mixture is becoming pasty at this point slowly add 1/3 cup ether-alcohol while continuing to mix.

11. Repeat step 11 if mixture is still too dry. If mixture is readily workable go to step 12.

12. Continue to mix for at least 1/2 hour or longer until mixture becomes pasty.

13. Prepare your extruding press (modified cider press see The Independent American May/June 2005) for operation. The holes in the bottom of your press should measure 1/32" in diameter.

14. Press the mixture (this is called extruding) through the holes in the press.

15. Cut off lengths of the mixture with the exacto-knife and place on cookie sheets.

16. Quickly cut the lengths to 1/16" long.

[It is necessary to cut to proper length quickly before the powder dries as the powder becomes brittle when dry.]

[Discard or store in a different location lengths of powder that are not uniform with 1/16" in length. the non-uniform lengths may be used in making explosives.]

17. Continue steps 15 to 17 until the mixture has been completely extruded.

18. Fill one rubber barrel from the rock tumbler 1/4 full with finely powdered graphite.

19. Place a layer of the extruded powder on top of this and follow with another thick layer

of powdered graphite.

20. Repeat steps 18-20 until barrel is 3/4 full.

21. Top off the barrel with finely powdered graphite and seal.

22. Place barrel on tumbling machine and start. Allow the tumbler to run for 1/2 hour.

23. After 1/2 hour stop tumbler, remove and unseal the barrel being careful not to spill the contents.

24. Poor a thin layer of the graphite and powder on a cookie sheet.

25. Winnow the contents of the cookie sheet by lightly blowing on the contents to separate the powdered graphite from the extruded powder that is now coated with graphite.

[Your powder is now coated with graphite and will be the same color. Do not touch the powder as your skin oils and salts will degrade it. If you must move the powder use tweezers or spatulas. Do not remove the graphite coating from the powder.]

26. While winnowing remove the graphite from the cookie sheet and save in coffee cans for re-use.

27. With the winnowed powder on the cookie sheet, winnow again by tossing the powder no more than a couple of inches off the sheet, then repeat steps 25 and 26. When the powder grains look uniformly smooth go to step 28.

28. Poor the powder from the cookie sheet into metal cans for storage. Place desiccant in with the powder (**NOT LOOSE**) and seal the metal cans.

When you have stored this batch of powder, begin preparing more nitrocellulose and follow all of the steps again until you have manufactured enough powder to supply everyone in your group or community with the necessary amount of ammunition needed.

Keep the proportion of components used as exact as possible. **THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT!** To help keep your powder uniform, mix equal amounts of the several batches you will make together in the tumbler and tumble for 1/2 hour. This should mix the powder together thoroughly and create a single uniform batch.

The above method of single based smokeless powder manufacture will yield a powder suitable for mid-powered cartridges. It should work well with the 7.62X39, the .223 Remington/5.56 NATO, the 5.45X39 and the smaller .22 Hornet and similar cartridges spitting light bullet weights.

ALWAYS test your cartridges in a rifle with a strong action, preferably a bolt action or break action before testing in your semi-auto. After firing check the barrel for bloopers or obstruction. Check the cartridge for signs of pressure. Also check the bolt face, chamber and throat and bore for wear, erosion and pressure.

When loading, begin with 20 grains for the 55 or 60 grain bullet in the .223 cartridge. If you have cycling problems, increase the load by 0.3 grains at a time. Begin with 22 grains for the 5.45X39. Begin with 25.5 grains for the 7.62X39 with a 123 grain spitzer bullet.

If you have problems with pressure or with cycling your semi-auto, reduce the amount of dinitrotoluene used to control the rate of burn. Substitute the 1/4 cup used with 1/8 to 1/6 of a cup. In fact, as mentioned in our previous articles, dinitrotoluene may be extremely hard to come by for Independent Americans. It may be substituted with ethyl or methyl centralite or vinsol resin. When substituting with vinsol resin, double the mixing time and be absolutely certain that your vinsol resin is dissolved in ether-alcohol to a watery consistency and that the vinsol resin is mixed **THOROUGHLY** into your mixture! Use the same measure of vinsol resin as you would with the dinitrotoluene. If you have problems with pressure when using vinsol resin, reduce

the amount used.

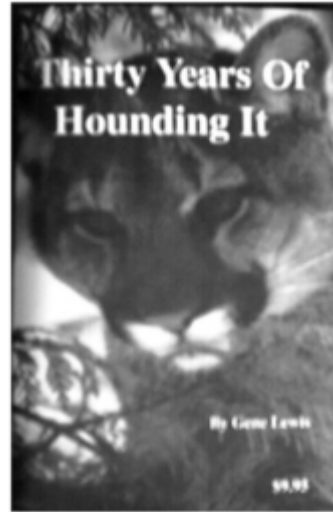
Dibutyl Phthalate can be easily substituted with diethyl phthalate, which is much easier to come by through the health food industry as an agent to denature alcohol. It may also be used as a substitute for dinitrotoluene if necessary. When substituting diethyl phthalate for dinitrotoluene, use 3/4 cup diethyl phthalate in step 9 and increase the amount of potassium nitrate used in step 6 to 1 3/4 to 2 tablespoons.

Grain size is another factor. If you are experiencing too much pressure, decrease your grain size. This will create a faster burning powder and produce less pressure. Larger grain sizes will produce a slower burning powder and greater pressures.

Manufacturing smokeless powder, even single based smokeless powder is difficult undertaking. Make sure you have the support of a group or community. We will continue our series of articles on community manufactured smokeless powders in our next issue with part III of Single Based Smokeless Powder Formulae. Until then, keep your powder dry and stock up on ammo and other needfuls.



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By Hari Heath

The Senate and your guns

All creatures in the universe have a right to defend themselves. Being armed and trained in the defense of one's own home or country has traditionally been a civic responsibility. Only when government fears its people does it actively pursue disarming them. Our own Senate is aware of the historical implications of disarmament and yet, the federal government is going forward with its campaign to discourage and criminalize the possession and use of firearms among the law-abiding citizenry. Regardless of what your modern mind has been conditioned to think about guns, gun laws and the right to keep and bear arms, a historical fact remains:

Unarmed people are at the mercy of those who wield weapons.

Many liberty-minded Americans realize the pivotal importance of the Right to keep and bear arms. The ongoing infringement of that Right has many of us justifiably “up in arms.”

It would seem there is an overt design to destroy our Rights because a simple investigation would reveal the obvious: the Bill of Rights enumerates the right of each citizen to possess and bear arms; the courts have recognized this right as a fundamental right antecedent to the Constitution; and in spite of clear unambiguous language declaring that the “Right to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed,” infringement is the current and continuing course of action for the Congress and administrative agencies.

Among the evidence that this infringement is an intentional act is a 1982 Senate Report: The Right to Keep and Bear Arms. The Subcommittee on the Constitution of the Committee on the Judiciary, United States Senate, Ninety-Seventh Congress, Second Session published this report (U.S. Government Printing Office, 88-618 0 WASHINGTON: 1982). The cover lists Strom Thurmond, Joseph Biden, Edward Kennedy, Orrin Hatch, Robert Byrd, Robert Dole, Howard Metzenbaum, Alan Simpson, Dennis DeConcini, Patrick Leahy, Max Baucus, Arlen Specter and others as members of the committee, which published this report, therefore, they should know what the Right to Keep and Bear Arms means.

The report is quite favorable to the recognition of the individual's Right to possess arms. It details the history of the Right, even the duty, of bearing arms. Its historical analysis begins with examples of English laws requiring an armed citizenry. The American colonial and revolutionary era is covered along with pertinent facts about our nation's founders and their attitudes regarding an armed population. There is also a review of early and contemporary court rulings on the subject. An appendix exemplifies a broad cross section of case law on many aspects of the Right to Keep and Bear Arms.

A concluding section details the “Enforcement of Federal Firearms Laws From

the Perspective of the Second Amendment.” It begins with a brief discussion of the 1934, 1938 and 1968 federal firearms acts. The bulk of this section provides many stories of BATF abuses (circa 1982) and accompanying statistics.

History of the Right in Britain

The report begins with laws from the reign of Alfred the Great (872 A.D.) which required “all English citizens from the nobility to the peasants were obliged to privately purchase weapons and be available for military duty.” Even after the Norman conquest, the right and duty of arms possession was retained. Under the Assize of Arms of 1181, “the whole community of freemen between the ages of 15 and 40 were required by law to possess certain arms.”

“In 1253, another Assize of Arms expanded the duty of armament to include not only freemen, but also villeins, who were the English equivalent of serfs. In 1285, Edward I commanded that all persons comply with the earlier Assizes and added that 'anyone else who can afford them shall keep bows and arrows,’” the Senate report explained.

The report cites a few examples of ancient “weapons control” laws, since they predate the invention and use of the gun. “In 1279, it was ordered that those appearing in parliament and other assemblies 'shall come without all force and armor, well and peaceably.’

“A 1328 statute of Northampton ordered that no one use their arms in 'an affray of the peace, nor to go nor to ride armed by day or night in fairs, markets, nor in the presence of the justices or other ministers.' English courts construed this ban consistently with the general right of private armament as applying only to the wearing of arms 'accompanied with such circumstances as are apt to terrify the people.’”

In 1503, Henry VII limited the shooting of,

but not the possession of crossbows to certain wealthier landowners, with an exception for those who “shote owt of a howse for the lawfull defenses of the same.”

By 1511, Henry VIII increased the land ownership requirement for shooting crossbows while expanding the requirement of longbow ownership, requiring all citizens to “use and exercyse shootyng in longbowes, and also have a bow and arrow contynually” in the house. “Fathers were required by law to purchase bows and arrows for their sons between the age of 7 and 14 and to train them in longbow use,” the report states.

In 1514, the limitations on crossbow shooting was extended to include firearms, but by 1533, the property qualifications were reduced, and eventually King Henry repealed the entire statute.

The report further informs our Senate that “the later Tudor monarchs continued the system [of an armed citizenry] and Elizabeth added to it by creating what came to be known as 'train bands,' selected portions of the citizenry chosen for special training.

“These trained bands were distinguished from the 'militia,' which term was first used during the Spanish Armada crisis to designate the entirety of the armed citizenry.

“The militia continued to be a pivotal force in the English political system. British historian Charles Oman considers the existence of the armed citizenry to be a major reason for the moderation of monarchical rule in Great Britain; 'More than once he [Henry VIII] had to restrain himself, when he discovered that the general feeling of his subjects was against him... His 'gentleman pensioners' and his yeoman of the guard were but a handful, and bill or bows were in every farm and cottage.’”

Similar to our current Orwellian “Patriot Act,” Charles II “opened his reign with a variety of repressive legislations, expanding the definition of treason, establishing press

ensorship and ordering his supporters to form their own troops.

“In 1662, a Militia Act was enacted empowering officials 'to search for and seize all arms in the custody or possession of any person or persons whom the said lieutenants or any two or more of their deputies shall judge dangerous to the peace of the kingdom.' Gunsmiths were ordered to deliver to the government lists of all purchasers. These confiscations continued under James II, who directed them particularly against the Irish population.”

Colonial Gun Laws

The senate report continues with colonial history. “In 1623, Virginia forbade its colonists to travel unless they were 'well armed'; in 1631 it required colonists to engage in target practice on Sunday and to 'bring their peeces to church.' In 1658 it required every householder to have a functioning firearm within his house and in 1673 its laws provided that a citizen who claimed he was too poor to purchase a firearm would have one purchased for him by the government, which would then require him to pay a reasonable price when able to do so. In Massachusetts, the first session of the legislature ordered that not only freemen, but also indentured servants own firearms and in 1644 it imposed a stern six-shilling fine upon any citizen who was not armed.

“When the British government began to increase its military presence in the colonies in the mid-eighteenth century, Massachusetts responded by calling upon its citizens to arm themselves in defense. When British troops seized a militia arsenal in September, 1774, 60,000 citizens took up arms.”

Constitutional debates on the Militia “Following the revolution, but previous to the adoption of the Constitution, debates over militia proposals occupied a large part of the political scene. All of the proposals called for a general duty of all citizens to be armed,

although Baron von Steuben and others also emphasized a 'select militia' which would be paid for its services and given special training. In this respect, this 'select militia' was the successor of the 'trained bands' and the predecessor of what is today the 'national guard.'

“A Connecticut writer complained that 'this looks too much like Baron von Steuben's militia, by which a standing army was meant and intended.' A Pennsylvania delegate argued, 'Congress may give us a select militia which will, in fact, be a standing army -- or Congress, afraid of a general militia, may say there will be no militia at all. When a select militia is formed, the people in general may be disarmed.'

“Richard Henry Lee wrote, 'should one fifth or one eighth of the people capable of bearing arms be made into a select militia, as has been proposed, and those the young and ardent parts of the community, possessed of little or no property, the former will answer all the purposes of an army, while the latter will be defenseless.’”

The report confirms what many proponents of the individual's Right to keep and bear arms proclaim: “The suspicion of select militia units expressed in these passages is a clear indication that the framers of the Constitution did not seek to guarantee a State right to maintain formed groups similar to the National Guard, but rather to protect the right of individual citizens to keep and bear arms. Lee, in particular, sat in the Senate which approved the Bill of Rights. He would hardly have meant the Second Amendment to apply only to the select militias he so feared and disliked.

“When the first Congress convened for the purpose of drafting a Bill of Rights, it delegated the task to James Madison. Madison did not write upon a blank tablet. Instead, he obtained a pamphlet listing the State proposals for a Bill of Rights and sought to produce a briefer version incorporating all

the vital proposals of these.”

Madison's original article to secure the right to keep and bear arms read: “The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed; a well armed and well regulated militia being the best security of a free country; but no person religiously scrupulous of bearing arms shall be compelled to render military service in person.

The militia clause was later placed in front of the clause proclaiming the people's right and the conscientious objector clause was removed so that it finally read as: “A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state; the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.”

The report further states that: “the Senate in the process [of drafting and adopting the Bill of Rights] indicated its intent that the right be an individual one, for private purposes, by rejecting an amendment which would have limited the keeping and bearing of arms to bearing 'for the common defense.'

A lawful Right

George Tucker published an 1803 edition of Blackstone annotated to American law which followed Blackstone's British citation of the right of the subject “of having arms suitable to their condition and degree, and as such as are allowed by law.” Tucker cited the Second Amendment and added “and this without any qualification as to their condition or degree, as is the case in the British government.”

William Rawle published View of the Constitution in 1825 and noted that “under the Second Amendment the prohibition is general. No clause in the Constitution by a rule of construction be conceived to give Congress a power to disarm the people.”

Joseph Story in his Commentaries on the Constitution “considered the right to keep and bear arms as 'the palladium of liberties of the republic,' which deterred tyranny and enabled

the citizenry at large to overthrow it should it come to pass.

In 1822, the Kentucky Court of Appeals struck down an 1813 concealed carry statute as violation of the state constitutional protection of the right to keep and bear arms: “And can there be entertained a reasonable doubt but the provisions of that act import a restraint on the right of the citizen to bear arms? The court apprehends it not. The right existed at the adoption of the Constitution; it then had no limit short of the moral power of the citizens to exercise it, and in fact consisted of nothing else but the liberty of the citizen to bear arms.”

The Georgia Supreme Court reviewed a ban on the sale of pistols in *Nunn v. State* (1 Ga. 243,251 (1846)). Its ruling stated, “the right of the whole people, old and young, men women and boys and not militia only, to keep and bear arms of every description, and not merely such as are used by the militia, shall not be infringed, curtailed, or broken in on, in the slightest degree; and all this for the important end to be obtained: the rearing up and qualifying of a well regulated militia, so vitally necessary for the security of a free state.”

Could it possibly be made any clearer to our current Senators what the Second Amendment really means?

National Guard and the Militia

The Senate report states, “the 'militia' itself referred to a concept of universally armed people, not to any specifically organized unit. When the framers referred to the equivalent of our National Guard, they uniformly referred to the 'select militia' and distinguished this from 'militia.' Indeed, the debates over the Constitution constantly referred to organized militia units as a threat to freedom comparable to that of a standing army, and stressed that such organized units did not constitute, and indeed were philosophically opposed to, the concept of a

militia.

“That the National Guard is not the 'militia' referred to in the Second Amendment is even clearer today. Congress has organized the National Guard under its power to 'raise and support armies' and not its power to 'Provide for organizing, arming and disciplining the Militia.'

The modern National Guard was specifically intended to avoid status as the constitutional militia, a distinction recognized by 10 U.S.C. Sec. 311(a).”

Federal firearms laws

The report addresses some of the federal firearms laws that were then in effect. It begins with the 1934 National Firearms Act (NFA) which covers fully automatic weapons (machine guns), rifles and shotguns with a barrel or overall length less than certain minimums and silencers (suppressors).

As the report states, “since the Act was adopted under the revenue power, sale of these firearms was not made subject to a ban or permit system. Instead, each transfer was made subject to a \$200 excise tax, which must be paid prior to transfer; the identification of the parties to the transfer indirectly accomplished a registration purpose.”

The Federal Firearms Act of 1938 “placed some limitations upon sale of ordinary firearms. Persons engaged in the business of selling those firearms in interstate commerce were required to obtain a Federal Firearms License (FFL), at an annual cost of \$1, and to maintain records of the name and address of persons to whom they sold firearms. Sales to persons convicted of violent felonies were prohibited.”

Again, an indirect registration purpose was accomplished while a Right began to be converted to a licensed “privilege,” under the guise of regulating interstate commerce.

Thirty years later, the Gun Control Act of 1968, “worked a major revision of federal law.” It “imposed limitations on imported firearms, expanded the requirement of dealer licensing to cover anyone 'engaged in the business of dealing' in firearms, whether in interstate or local commerce, and expanded the record keeping obligations for dealers. It also imposed a variety of direct limitations upon sales of handguns. No transfers were to be permitted between residents of different states (unless the recipient was an FFL holder), even where the transfer was by gift rather than sale.”

Persons convicted of any felony, except business related felonies (white collar crime); persons subject to a mental commitment order or finding of mental incompetence, drug users and other categories were ineligible to purchase from a FFL dealer.

Federal enforcement

Enforcement of the 1968 GCA was delegated to the Department of the Treasury, which in turn gave the responsibility to the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division of the Internal Revenue Service. The government's gun control business boomed with the new laws and by July, 1972, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF) became its own bureau of the Department of the Treasury. The general infringement of our firearms rights became administratively enshrined since that time.

BATF abuses

The Senate report extensively exposes a number of BATF abuses and misconduct. Several Senate hearings were held in 1979 and 1980. The report states, “based upon these hearings, it is apparent that enforcement tactics made possible by current federal firearms laws are constitutionally, legally and practically reprehensible.”

The primary objective of the 68 GCA was “limiting the access of felons and high risk

groups to firearms.” But two members of the Illinois judiciary testified, “they had been totally unable to persuade BATF to accept cases against felons who were in possession of firearms, including sawed-off shotguns.”

The Bureau's own figures showed that the percentage of its arrests of felons and persons selling to them dropped from 14 percent to 10 percent of their firearm cases. The BATF later stated that, “55 percent of its gun law prosecutions involve persons with no record of felony conviction and one-third involve citizens with no police contact at all.”

The Subcommittee on the Constitution received evidence that the “BATF has primarily devoted its firearms enforcement efforts to the apprehension, upon technical malum prohibitum charges, of individuals who lack all criminal intent and knowledge” and “evidence received...demonstrated that Bureau agents have tended to concentrate on collector's items rather than 'criminal street guns.’”

The report details routine BATF conduct, where gun collectors are enticed into making a few sales to undercover agents and then charged with engaging in the business without a license, which can result in a felony conviction for a crime which they had no knowledge or intent they were violating, preventing their future firearms ownership for life, while the BATF confiscates their entire collection even before they are convicted. “In several cases, the agents refused to return the collection even after acquittal by a jury.

“In several cases, the Bureau sought conviction for supposed technical violations based upon policies and interpretations of law which the Bureau had not published in the Federal Register as required by 5 U.S.C. Sec. 552. In these and similar areas, the Bureau has violated not only the dictates of common sense, but 5 U.S.C. Sec. 552, which was intended to prevent 'secret lawmaking' by administrative bodies.”

And this was 1982. Currently, being a FFL holder allows federal agents to search your home or business at any time, imposes immaculate records-keeping requirements and compliance with so many regulations a large, bound volume is required to list them all and which the violation of even one sentence contained therein could result in a felony conviction and the banishment of an FFL holder's Right to keep and bear arms for life.

Has the federal government forgotten what the Georgia Supreme Court said long ago, that the Right to keep and bear arms “shall not be infringed, curtailed, or broken in on, in the slightest degree?”

Infringement in the first instance, under the guise of revenue and interstate commerce, has led to the next instance of regulating local and private sales, which are now managed by an agency the U.S. Senate acknowledged as abusing its statutory authority.

Continuing infringement

Beyond commerce and revenue, the federal government has progressed by leaps and bounds in its continuing infringement of the Right to keep and bear arms. Mere accusations resulting in a state domestic protection order can ban ownership of firearms, under federal law; federal misdemeanor sentencing guidelines can include probation terms which prohibit firearms possession, even when the “crime” was only a non-violent regulatory violation.

Waiting periods, background checks, limitation of magazine capacity, import bans on certain firearms, prohibitions of various firearms configurations and outright bans of others litter the federal law books and regulations. While pretending to be for benevolent purposes they have but one malevolent design: The absolute infringement of the Right to keep and bear arms and, once that is accomplished, the destruction of all else that Americans hold dear.

From a moral, freedom-lover's perspective, the Senate report reveals an abominable history against the Rights of human beings. But we are often inclined to view and understand things according to our personal matrix of perception and preference. When we fail to perceive a subject from the perspective of another's matrix we can fail to understand them.

By what matrix do our current Senators perceive the subject? From an amoral "tyrannists" perspective, the report is an ancient road map showing the path to conquest and subjugation of the people, letting our Senate know they are right on course with their agenda. Remember, they have spent a lifetime questing for power, and its acquisition has not always been by moral means. If we try to understand them through their matrix, rather than our own, we can then reconcile the discrepancies between the contents of this report and current congressional conduct.

What is Congress up to today? The following bills are but a few of the current gun related legislation of the past few years.

On the negative side

Gun Show Background Check Act of 2003 (H.R.260) To extend background checks to gun shows. Child Gun Safety and Gun Access Prevention Act of 2003 (H.R.76). SNIPER Act of 2003 (S.1983) So No Innocent Person Ever Repeats the Sniper Tragedy Act of 2003.' Homeland Security Gun Safety Act of 2003 (S.969). Crackdown on Deadbeat Dealers Act of 2003 (H.R.1540). 50 Caliber Sniper Rifle Reduction Act (H.R.4292) To ban the transfer of 50 caliber sniper weapons, and otherwise regulate the weapons in the same manner as machine guns.

Technological Resource to Assist Criminal Enforcement (TRACE) Act (H.R.776). Bullet Tracing Act To Reduce Gun Violence (H.R.24) To require ballistics testing of firearms manufactured in or imported into the

United States, and to provide for the compilation, use, and availability of ballistics information for the purpose of curbing the use of firearms in crime.

Gun Show Loophole Closing Act of 2004 H.R.3832) (S.1807) To require "special firearms events operators" to notify "the Attorney General, in writing, of the date, time, duration, and location of the special firearms event, and the special firearms event vendors planning to participate;" at least 30 days beforehand, and "verify the identity of each special firearms event vendor participating in the special firearms event by examining a valid identification document (as defined in section 1028(d)(2)) of the vendor containing a photograph of the vendor" and "require each special firearms event vendor to sign a ledger with identifying information concerning the vendor; and notify the vendor of the obligations of the vendor under this chapter; notify each person who attends the special firearms event of the requirements of this chapter, in accordance with such regulations as the Attorney General shall prescribe.

If any part of a firearm transaction takes place at a special firearms event, or on the curtilage of the event, it shall be unlawful for any person who is not licensed under this chapter to transfer a firearm to another person who is not licensed under this chapter, unless the firearm is transferred through a licensed importer, licensed manufacturer, licensed dealer, or a special firearms event licensee. A special firearms event licensee shall not transfer a firearm at a special firearms event.

Iris Scan Security Act of 2003 (HR 1171) To provide grants to law enforcement agencies to use iris scanning technology to conduct background checks on individuals who want to purchase guns."

On the positive side

States' Rights and Second and Tenth Amendment Restoration Act of 2003

(H.R.276) States are the proper authority, rather than the Federal Government, to classify Domestic Violence offenses. Section 658 of Public Law 104-208, commonly referred to as the Lautenberg amendment, oversteps Federal authority, violating States' rights, because no nexus has been shown to exist between Domestic Violence and interstate commerce.

The Lautenberg amendment does not deal with a subject delegated to Congress under article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States and is therefore unconstitutional under the tenth amendment to the Constitution, as interpreted by United States v. Lopez. The Lautenberg amendment oversteps Congress's power to regulate commerce as delineated by the Commerce Clause of the United States Constitution.

District of Columbia Personal Protection Act (S.1414) To restore second amendment rights in the District of Columbia. Citizens' Self-Defense Act of 2003 (H.R.648) (H.R.2789) To protect the right to obtain firearms for security, and to use firearms in defense of self, family, or home, and to provide for the enforcement of such right.

Expressing the sense of Congress with respect to the Second Amendment. (H.CON.RES.179) Expressing the sense of Congress with respect to the Second Amendment: Whereas our forefathers developed a Bill of Rights to protect the rights of individuals; Whereas the right to bear arms is a cornerstone of our individual freedoms guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution; Whereas gun ownership is an integral part of our free society today; and Whereas in the ruling of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit reaffirmed the Circuit Court's prior ruling in *Hickman v. Block*, 81 F. 3rd 98 (Ninth Cir. 1996) that the Second Amendment does not confer an individual right to own or possess arms: Now, therefore, be it Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of the

Congress that the Second Amendment to the Constitution of the United States guarantees individuals the right to bear arms.

Second Amendment Protection Act of 2003 (H.R.153) To restore the second amendment rights of all Americans. Firearms Heritage Protection Act of 2003 (H.R.357) To prohibit civil liability actions from being brought or continued against manufacturers, distributors, dealers, or importers of firearms or ammunition for damages resulting from the misuse of their products by others.

A new standing army

While your rights are diminishing, there are exceptions. The police are allowed to purchase and possess machine guns and silencers, exempting them from the 1934 NFA.

Your local supermarket carries magazines displaying the latest in tactical weapons technology for modern day "law enforcement." This new "select militia," or standing army is already on patrol and increasingly uses enforcement strategies aimed more at regulating your conduct than protecting you from genuine criminals.

Our founders were quite concerned about the establishment of a "select militia" stating that it "will, in fact, be a standing army." Consider the fact that we have more policemen employed by New York City than we have troops currently deployed in Iraq.

How many "Special Weapons And Tactics" (SWAT) teams exist across America? Nearly every local jurisdiction has at least one. And this is just the standing army from our regular police forces.

We have entered the age of Homeland Security, of federal, state and local police and the battle cry of "terrorism, terrorism, terrorism!"

Simultaneously, Congress' full fledged assault

on the Bill of Rights continues unabated, the Senate's 1982 report on the Right to Keep and Bear Arms be damned.

Note:

The Bill of Rights was a single amendment to the Constitution with 10 articles, all ratified December 15, 1791. We used the popular misnomer, the "Second Amendment" herein, as it is commonly referred to. Correctly stated, the Right to keep and bear arms is covered in the Second Article of the First Amendment.

While this misnomer deserves noting, it pales in comparison to the "missing Thirteenth" titles of nobility Amendment, the militarily imposed "ratification" of the so-called Fourteenth Amendment, the provable non-ratification of the "Sixteenth Amendment" and the serious questions regarding the validity of the "Seventeenth Amendment."



Thomas Jefferson : We must not let our rulers load us with perpetual debt. We must make our election between economy and liberty or profusion and servitude. If we run into such debt, as that we must be taxed in our meat and in our drink, in our necessaries and our comforts, in our labors and our amusements, for our calling and our creeds...[we will] have no time to think, no means of calling our miss-managers to account but be glad to obtain subsistence by hiring ourselves to rivet their chains on the necks of our fellow-sufferers... And this is the tendency of all human governments. A departure from principle in one instance becomes a precedent for[another]... till the bulk of society is reduced to be mere automatons of misery... And the fore-horse of this frightful team is public debt. Taxation follows that, and in its train wretchedness and oppression.

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The Legal Papers

From the Revelation Law And Procedure Group
by Christopher Dilts

Understanding The Fair Debts Practice Act And The Fair Collections Reporting Act Part VI

We continue the narration of The Fair Debts Practice Act and The Fair Collections Reporting Act with Iowa's version of the Consumer Credit Code and Prohibited Practices. For those of you not living in Iowa, you will have to look up your own State's Credit or Consumer Codes. Use the Iowa Codes listed here as a template and replace the Code numbers and sections with those of your State's. Some research in a law library or on the internet will be necessary for you. For ease of research, type your State's name in parenthesis and law, codes, or statutes also in parenthesis into a Google search engine to find the web page of your State's statutes, then bookmark it. You will need to refer to the myriad of codes frequently.

Iowa's Consumer Credit Code 537 article 7 Debt Collections

537.7101 Short title.

This article shall be known and may be cited as the "Iowa Debt Collection Practices Act."

537.7102 Definitions.

As used in this article, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. "Administrator" means the person designated in section 537.6103.
2. "Creditor", for the purposes of this article, means the person to whom a debtor is obligated, either directly or indirectly, on a debt.
3. "Debt" means an actual or alleged obligation arising out of a consumer credit transaction, consumer rental purchase agreement, or a transaction which would have been a consumer credit transaction either if a finance charge was

made, if the obligation was not payable in installments, if a lease was for a term of four months or less, or if a lease was of an interest in land. A debt includes a check as defined in section 554.3104 given in a transaction in connection with a consumer rental purchase agreement, in a transaction which was a consumer credit sale or in a transaction which would have been a consumer credit sale if credit was granted and if a finance charge was made, or in a transaction regulated under chapter 533D.

4. "Debt collection" means an action, conduct or practice in soliciting debts for collection or in the collection or attempted collection of a debt.

5. "Debt collector" means a person engaging, directly or indirectly, in debt collection, whether for the person, the person's employer, or others, and includes a person who sells, or offers to sell, forms represented to be a collection system, device, or scheme, intended to be used to collect debts.

6. "Debtor", for the purposes of this article, means the person obligated.

537.7103 Prohibited practices.

1. A debt collector shall not collect or attempt to collect a debt by means of an illegal threat, coercion or attempt to coerce. The conduct described in each of the following paragraphs is an illegal threat, coercion or attempt to coerce within the meaning of this subsection:

- a. The use, or express or implicit threat of use, of force, violence or other criminal means, to cause harm to a person or to property of a person.
- b. The false accusation or threat to falsely accuse a person of fraud or any other crime.
- c. False accusations made to a person, including a credit reporting agency, or the threat to falsely accuse, that a debtor is willfully refusing to pay a just debt. However, a failure to reply to requests for payment and a failure to negotiate disputes in good faith are deemed willful refusal.
- d. The threat to sell or assign to another an obligation of the debtor with an attending representation or implication that the result of the sale or assignment will be to subject the debtor to harsh, vindictive or abusive collection attempts.

e. The false threat that nonpayment of a debt may result in the arrest of a person or the seizure, garnishment, attachment or sale of property or wages of that person.

f An action or threat to take an action prohibited by this chapter or any other law.

2. A debt collector shall not oppress, harass or abuse a person in connection with the collection or attempted collection of a debt of that person or another person. The following conduct is oppressive, harassing or abusive within the meaning of this subsection:

a. The use of profane or obscene language or language that is intended to abuse the hearer or reader and which by its utterance would tend to incite an immediate breach of the peace.

b. The placement of telephone calls to the debtor without disclosure of the name of the business or company the debt collector represents.

c. Causing expense to a person in the form of long distance telephone tolls, telegram fees or other charges incurred by a medium of communication by attempting to deceive or mislead persons as to the true purpose of the notice, letter, message or communication.

d Causing a telephone to ring or engaging a person in telephone conversation repeatedly or continuously or at unusual hours or times known to be inconvenient, with intent to annoy, harass or threaten a person.

3. A debt collector shall not disseminate information relating to a debt or debtor as follows:

a. The communication or threat to communicate or imply the fact of a debt to a person other than the debtor or a person who might reasonably be expected to be liable for the debt, except with the written permission of the debtor given after default. For the purposes of this paragraph, the use of language on envelopes indicating that the communication relates to the collection of a debt is a communication of the debt. However, this paragraph does not prohibit a debt collector from any of the following:

(1) Notifying a debtor of the fact that the debt collector may report a debt to a credit bureau or engage an agent or an attorney for the purpose of

collecting the debt.

(2) Reporting a debt to a credit reporting agency or any other person reasonably believed to have a legitimate business need for the information.

(3) Engaging an agent or attorney for the purpose of collecting a debt.

(4) Attempting to locate a debtor whom the debt collector has reasonable grounds to believe has moved from the debtor's residence, where the purpose of the communication is to trace the debtor, and the content of the communication is restricted to requesting information on the debtor's location.

(5) Communicating with the debtor's employer or credit union not more than once during any three-month period when the purpose of the communication is to obtain an employer's or credit union's debt counseling services for the debtor. In the event no response is received by the debt collector from a communication to the debtor's employer or credit union the debt collector may make one inquiry as to whether the communication was received. In addition a debt collector may respond to any communications by a debtor's employer or credit union.

(6) Communicating with the debtor's employer once during any one-month period, if the purpose of the communication is to verify with an employer the fact of the debtor's employment and if the debt collector does not disclose, except as permitted in subparagraph

(5), information other than the fact that a debt exists. This subparagraph does not authorize a debt collector to disclose to an employer the fact that a debt is in default.

(7) Communicating the fact of the debt not more than once in any three-month period, with the parents of a minor debtor, or with any trustee of any property of the debtor, conservator of the debtor or the debtor's property, or guardian of the debtor. In addition, a debt collector may respond to inquiry from a parent, trustee, conservator or guardian.

(8) Communicating with the debtor's spouse with the consent of the debtor, or responding to inquiry from the debtor's spouse.

b. The disclosure, publication, or communication of information relating to a person's indebtedness to

another person, by publishing or posting a list of indebted persons, commonly known as “deadbeat lists”, or by advertising for sale a claim to enforce payment of a debt when the advertisement names the debtor.

c. The use of a form of communication to the debtor; except a telegram, an original notice or other court process, or an envelope displaying only the name and address of a debtor and the return address of the debt collector, intended or so designed as to display or convey information about the debt to another person other than the name, address, and phone number of the debt collector.

4. A debt collector shall not use a fraudulent, deceptive, or misleading representation or means to collect or attempt to collect a debt or to obtain information concerning debtors. The following conduct is fraudulent, deceptive, or misleading within the meaning of this subsection:

a. The use of a business, company or organization name while engaged in the collection of debts, other than the true name of the debt collector’s business, company, or organization or the name of the business or company the debt collector represents.

b. The failure to disclose in the initial written communication with the debtor and, in addition, if the initial communication with the debtor is oral, in that initial oral communication, that the debt collector is attempting to collect a debt and that information obtained will be used for that purpose, and the failure to disclose in subsequent communications that the communication is from a debt collector, except that this paragraph does not apply to either of the following:

(1) A formal pleading made in connection with a legal action.

(2) Communications issued directly by a state bank as defined in section 524.103, a state bank chartered under the laws of any other state, a national banking association, a trust company, a federally chartered savings and loan association or savings bank, an out-of-state chartered savings and loan association or savings bank, a financial institution chartered by the federal home loan bank board, an association incorporated or authorized to do business under chapter 534, a state or federally chartered credit union, or a company or association organized or authorized to do business under chapter 515, 518, 51 8A, or 520, or an officer, employee, or agent of

such company or association, provided the communication does not deceptively conceal its origin or its purpose.

c. A false representation that the debt collector has information in the debt collector’s possession or something of value for the debtor, which is made to solicit or discover information about the debtor.

d. The failure to clearly disclose the name and full business address of the person to whom the claim has been assigned at the time of making a demand for money.

e. An intentional misrepresentation, or a representation which tends to create a false impression of the character, extent or amount of a debt, or of its status in a legal proceeding.

f. A false representation, or a representation which tends to create a false impression, that a debt collector is vouched for, bonded by, affiliated with, or an instrumentality, agency or official of the state or an agency of federal, state or local government.

g. The use or distribution or sale of a written communication which simulates or is falsely represented to be a document authorized, issued or approved by a court, an official or other legally constituted or authorized authority, or which tends to create a false impression about its source, authorization or approval.

h. A representation that an existing obligation of the debtor may be increased by the addition of attorney’s fees, investigation fees, service fees or other fees or charges, when in fact such fees or charges may not legally be added to the existing obligation.

i. A false representation, or a representation which tends to create a false impression, about the status or true nature of, or services rendered by, the debt collector or the debt collector’s business.

5. A debt collector shall not engage in the following conduct to collect or attempt to collect a debt:

a. The seeking or obtaining of a written statement or acknowledgment in any form that specifies that a debtor’s obligation is one chargeable upon the property of either husband or wife or both, under section 597.14, when the original obligation was not in fact so chargeable.

b. The seeking or obtaining of a written statement or acknowledgment in any form containing an affirmation of an obligation which has been discharged in bankruptcy, without clearly disclosing the nature and consequences of the affirmation and the fact that the debtor is not legally obligated to make the affirmation. However, this subsection does not prohibit the accepting of promises to pay that are voluntarily written and offered by a bankrupt debtor.

c. The collection of or the attempt to collect from the debtor a part or all of the debt collector's fee for services rendered, unless both of the following are applicable:

(1) The fee is reasonably related to the actions taken by the debt collector.

(2) The debt collector is legally entitled to collect the fee from the debtor.

d The collection of or the attempt to collect interest or other charge, fee or expense incidental to the principal obligation unless the interest or incidental charge, fee, or expense is expressly authorized by the agreement creating the obligation and is legally chargeable to the debtor, or is otherwise legally chargeable.

e. A communication with a debtor when the debt collector knows that the debtor is represented by an attorney and the attorney's name and address are known, or could be easily ascertained, unless the attorney fails to answer correspondence, return phone calls or discuss the obligation in question, within a reasonable time, or prior approval is obtained from the debtor's attorney or when the communication is a response in the ordinary course of business to the debtor's inquiry.

6. A debt collector shall not use or distribute, sell or prepare for use, a written communication that violates or fails to conform to United States postal laws and regulations.

We will continue the narration on The Fair Debts Practice Act and The Fair Collections Reporting Act next issue with samples letters requesting verification of debt.

For case law concerning Validation of Debt contact The Revelation Law And Procedure Group through:

Douglas Paul Bell
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"You seem... to consider the judges as the ultimate arbiters of all constitutional questions; a very dangerous doctrine indeed, and one which would place us under the despotism of an oligarchy... The Constitution has erected no such single tribunal."
-Thomas Jefferson-

"It will be of little avail to the people that the laws are made by men of their own choice if the laws be so voluminous that they cannot be read, or so incoherent that they cannot be understood; if they be repealed or revised before they are promulgated, or undergo such incessant changes that no man, who knows what the law is to-day, can guess what it will be to-morrow. Law is defined to be a rule of action; but how can that be a rule, which is little known, and less fixed?"

-James Madison- Federalist Paper 62

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Nanny! Nanny! Nanny!

The Kiss-Off Commentaries



by Pug Mahone

More on resistance

This magazine did a fine job on a resistance issue in the last two months. I did my best to get some points across. This issue's column is not necessarily a continuation on the subject of resistance, but one could certainly think of it as such. The corruption and criminality of federal and state governments are continuing to cascade. There is much to write about and much to prepare for before we are forced into a physical war of resistance. Like it or not, that is exactly what is coming. That or tyranny. I wrote something about solutions in the last issue when I commented on what form physical resistance should take to be successful. I intend to delve a bit further into this later in this column. First, I'm going to point toward some of the criminal actions that federal and state governments are taking. These crimes perpetrated by governments point toward what forms tyranny will take in the new Amerika. This will, in turn, point to some logical tactics that we the people must employ in order to defeat such criminal tyranny.

Gun control (more properly termed Citizen control)

Kalifornia is leading the communist way in Citizen control for Amerika. The sleazy parasites making up Kalifornia's state legislature and bureaucracies are very concerned with the invasion of America from south of the border and the suppressive laws and taxes imposed on Citizens. All of which is aided or perpetrated by the sleazes in the legislature. Their concern is not in ending the invasion and corruption. Their concern is in removing the ability of Citizens to put and end to their crimes. This means they must perpetrate further crimes by unlawfully disarming Citizens.

Kalifornia's Gropenfurter has signed in a law banning .50 BMG caliber rifles and .50 BMG ammunition. When the rest of the country allowed Klinton's mis-named "assault weapons" ban to sunset Kalifornia continued to violate their Citizen's Rights with numerous "assault weapons" unlawful legislation of it's own. Unlawful bans on detachable magazines, bayonet lugs, pistol grips, semi-auto actions and flash suppressors were just a few of the violations conjured into existence to help the truly stupid feel safer from the Citizens they wish to rule.

Kalifornia has created the most bloated welfare state associated with the U.S.. It bleeds it's coffers dry, while trying to support it's failed socialist/communist programs. To spend more on failed programs, the parasites must tax more. In a communist society, you certainly don't tax the privileged. The poor do not have anything to be taxed. This means it is the middle class working sucker that has to be drained of yet more of his/her living. Someone must pay for the waves of illegal invaders crossing the purposefully unprotected borders without a livelihood to support themselves in what was once America.

Resistance to this system is beginning to grow. Citizen groups like the Minute Men are

calling attention to the invasion across our border. Tax protest groups are calling attention to the fact that the 16th amendment was never ratified and Americans are being unlawfully and unnecessarily overly taxed. Violations of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights have become rampant as terrorist within America's own governments have attacked Citizens and blamed the attacks on foreign terrorists which were founded by the CIA. Our Bill of Rights are no longer in affect. Try to exercise your 4th Amendment Right and demand a search warrant at an unlawful traffic check point.

Kalifornia is not the only former American State with massive violations of the American Constitutional Republican form of government. Most municipalities across Amerika require Citizens to acquire a license before exercising their Right to bear arms. The CCW or concealed carry weapon permit is not, as some would think, a means to exercise your Second Amendment Right to keep and bear arms. Citizens do not need permits to exercise Rights. The CCW is merely a means of registering gun owners and telling the "authorities" who is actively carrying guns. You do not need permission from the government to exercise a Right.

Beyond the CCW, states like Massachusetts, New Jersey and Maryland have also crossed the line regarding gun ownership. Washington, D.C. also known as the Amerikan murder capital, has one of the worst statistics in the country for crime. Like other cities with huge numbers of crimes the district of criminals also has some of the worst gun laws in the country. The contrasts in America between areas of the worst criminal activities including murder and areas of relative safety is paralleled in it's laws. Areas that have produced drastic declines in crime are those that have lessened the violations of their Citizens' Right to keep and bear arms. Those areas that have become more tyrannical or have refused to decrease their tyrannies have been rewarded with more crime.

But crime is not what gun control is about. Gun control is about Citizen control. The parasitical sleazes in state and federal legislatures are not making the same mistake over and over again by attempting to control crime by violating the Second Amendment. They violate the Second Amendment in order to disarm Citizens who would fight back when pushed to the wall. The parasites do not want armed Citizens that have had their wealth sapped from them and their country stolen away from under their buttocks. That is what gun control is all about.

What would happen if Americans woke up and saw the real world for what it really is? What would happen if Americans recognized that many statutes on America's law books actually violated their Rights and were only color of law and not real law at all? Now, what do you think would happen if Americans stopped obeying unlawful edicts and statutes? What would happen if more and more Americans stopped renewing or obtaining a driver's license? What would happen if Americans exercised their Right to own property and stopped paying property taxes or income taxes. What if Americans began living as free Citizens the way our forefathers set up this country to be?

I can tell you what would happen. Those that have usurped American governments, American authority and have worked to destroy American freedoms will try to force Citizens to re-accept them as their masters. They will call out any armed forces loyal to them or bring in mercenaries and UN troops to sweep Americans off the streets and off their properties and into prisons or relocation camps. If those Citizens are disarmed before they wake up the job of the parasites to retain power will be easier. It's that simple.

At one point American gun ownership was a crucial obstacle to the tyrannical parasites. Unfortunately, American gun ownership is not as crucial as it once was. There is an old Irish bull which states that one situation

which may be improved, but not bettered is a wooden sword in a coward's hand. You may improve the situation by replacing the wooden sword with steel, but the situation is no better. The problem isn't the ineffectiveness of the weapon. The problem lies with the hand of the coward.

Many writers have commented on the fact that the most law abiding group in the land is American gun owners. Well, let's think about that for a second. It is true that American gun owners generally don't rob, rape and pillage. Those that use guns in crimes tend to steal them then get rid of them, so are not really gun owners. Real gun owners tend not to even run red lights. Herein lies the problem. American gun owners tend to accept any dumb piece of legislation that violates the Rights of Americans as law. Such is not the case.

I know I keep saying this, but I'm going to keep repeating until it sinks in. Congress, Senate or state legislatures have NO authority to pass a statute that violates the Right or Rights of a Citizen despite the assertions these parasites make about their excrement being *assumed* constitutional until challenged in one of their tribunals. That is just one more example of the pure, unadulterated BS these parasites wrap their regulations in to block you from access to your Rights. American gun owners have swallowed the con of obeying "all of the laws" that they meekly obey statutes that violate their Right to keep and bear arms. Want to force gun owners to purchase permission to exercise their Right to carry concealed and create a backdoor registration of those most likely to be carrying? Fine, pass any half baked statute and gun owners will worship it like scripture. And there lies the problem. Life sucking parasitical politicians can pass any legislation they like and expect it will be obeyed because "law abiding" gun owners will line up to kiss their butts.

In the back of every gun owner's mind, that person knows that he or she holds the power

to retain the freedoms gained for this generation by our forefathers. He or she knows that with every piece of unlawful legislation more of that freedom incrementally dies. Yet, gun owners do nothing in action to retain those freedoms. They don't disobey unlawful statutes and wide spread civil disobedience has never reared it's head.

From this well behaved obedience to every tyrannical edict we can see how American gun ownership is no longer crucial. Life sucking leaches like Ted Kennedy and Diane Feinstein will continue to incrementally disarm spineless Americans, but this is proving unnecessary. American gun owners as a group, the one group of Americans most likely to protect American freedom, have proven they will not lift a hand in anger to protect that freedom. Like the coward with the wooden sword political parasites may force less effective weapons into the hands of Americans, but in the end there will be no difference in the results. Whether the weapons are effective or not the contest depends upon the hands that wield the weapons. If those hands are the hands of cowards the battle will be won by America's enemies before anyone ever takes to the field. Gun owners are quite content to contribute dollars to keep their skeet guns, but their hands and backbones are absent from the field when physical action is required.

At present American gun owners still have effective weapons to work with. In what kind of hands they find themselves is another question. The time is now here when we will have to find out.

What must be done to retain our Rights

Our Rights have been under attack for some time. Americans have been moaning about the loss of freedoms, but, thus far, have failed to put any of this moaning into action. Action is what is needed now. I'm not talking about prying an extra buck out of your wallet and sending it to the NRA, either. I hate to be the

one to break this to you, but the NRA is part of the problem. The leadership takes your money alright, but compromises your Rights at every turn. A Right must NEVER be compromised! When a Right is laid aside, tyranny grows. Ask a representative of the NRA if they have ever recommended civil disobedience when an unlawful statute is passed. They will never recommend any action except complete obedience to what is perceived as authority.

That is not the action Americans need to take now. Americans must be in a position to ignore unlawful statutes. Like the unpopular 18th Amendment, civil disobedience is often the only tool useful to bring down ordinances enforced against the will of the people. Especially if those ordinances are unlawful statutes which violate an enumerated Right.

At the moment Americans are in no position to enter a battle of wills through civil disobedience. Most of the population are not prepared for the civil war this action will bring. When Americans begin to ignore statutes and enforce their Rights in the face of government tyranny, government will send out police, national guardsmen, the regular armed forces and mercenary UN troops to murder and imprison patriotic Americans. Americans must be strong enough to resist at this point, so several things need to be prepared for before the civil disobedience phase can be successfully launched.

Number one among the preparations to make is to lay in several good caches of ammunition. After reading some of the articles in this magazine about making your own ammunition and knowing that sleazy parasites would like nothing better than to make ammunition "illegal" as they did with .50 BMG ammunition in Kalifornia, I have laid in some hefty supplies for myself and suggest every American do so. Americans must go beyond this and cache supplies all over their areas for the use of several bands of patriots and individuals. Extra weapons may also be necessary. Food, medical supplies,

canteens and water filters and clothes are next.

Get the word out. Most Americans are cowed into silence through the terrorist threat of being arrested for speaking out against government sponsored crimes. That doesn't keep you from leaving leaflets in crowded places, material in parking lots or mass mailing publications like this magazine from post offices around the country with fake return addresses. If you can't talk about this with your best friend it's time to look for other friends. If you are reading this magazine, chances are you already know some people to get together with. Patriotic Americans need to increase numbers and educate their neighbors as to what a Constitutional Republic really is. Mail a copy of the Constitution and Bill of Rights and the ten planks of the communist manifesto for contrast to everyone you can think of. Get yourself a copy of The Juror's Handbook and make copies of these and send them off too.

What is described above could be called the preparation and information phase. When enough Americans have made preparations and informed enough of their neighbors the disobedience phase may begin. Ignore unconstitutional statutes. If you are chosen for jury duty, do not shirk it! If the accused is charged with a violating a statute that has no force of constitutional law, vote not-guilty even if the accused has violated the unlawful statute. If you can only hang the jury, do so. If you cause the trial to drag on that should be fine with you. What is more important? Justice or convenience? How convenient would justice be to you when you are hauled before an unconstitutional tribunal?

The feds will counter this with something akin to martial law, whether declared or not. Those employing the tactic of civil disobedience will be declared "enemy combatants" and rounded up to be imprisoned without trials. This is where self defense and community defense will come in. Tyrants will not relinquish usurped powers. They will

attack and attempt to murder those who threaten their usurped “authority”. Any force, foreign or domestic, that opens fire on Americans will have to be resisted by force.

As I wrote in the last issue, you can’t face down a well equipped army. First, get out of the way of the army. Get into the woods and out of the way areas. Fade back and conduct guerilla warfare. Hit back at their homes while they sleep. Take out corrupt and tyrannical judges and “officials”. Use incendiaries, explosives and anything convenient. Draw a line at corrupt “officials” and good statesmen, though. Make sure that no innocent blood is spilled by our hands.

Also beware of enemy tactics. Government has already perpetrated terrorist events like the Oklahoma City bombing. If they can take out targets that benefit them, yet make it look like patriots killed innocent Americans, government has and will do so again. Oklahoma City accomplished a propaganda coup for government, but the Alfred P. Murrah building also held the records of government activity at Waco, Texas. This was government’s practical purpose for demolishing their own federal building. It destroyed the Waco records and kept them from being subpoenaed and investigated by people who wanted to know the truth. The same crime will be perpetrated again by government. To prevent this, patriots will need an intelligence gathering organization constantly watching and clandestinely filming targets that may be of government interest. Whenever U.S. marshals or BATF agents do not show for work you have a good clue that something bad is happening. Make sure to film the faces of everyone going in and out of the building and print them out as flyers if you have evidence that they had a hand in blowing up a target.

Government, through your tax dollars, can bring an unlimited amount of firepower against Americans in any one or two flashpoints in America. When government crosses the line and attacks Citizens who

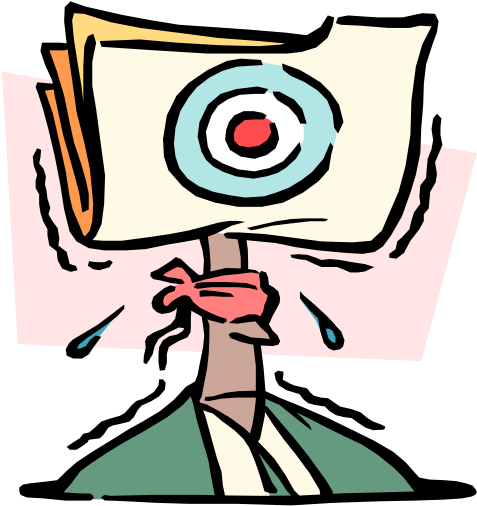
refuse to turn in their firearms or obey an unconstitutional statute, Americans in the rest of the nation must come to the defense of the entire nation. We must not think of the fighting as being far away and not our problem. Americans must immediately begin support of Americans under attack. Begin this support by stop paying taxes. Cut the beast off from it’s money supply. Next get those extra supplies of ammunition, guns, meds and food to Americans who can use them. Drive right to areas bordering occupied zones and deliver them to patriots who can smuggle them to the right people.

When government expands occupied areas by setting up road blocks and zones of martial law, shoot up targets of opportunity and force government to expand the combat zones even further. Within weeks government should no longer be focusing it’s considerable might at one pinpoint. The focus will be wider spread and government tyranny will be spread thinner. Within months America could become a quagmire like Vietnam. Within years America may once again be restored as a Constitutional Republic populated by a free people capable of governing themselves.

This will be a bloody turn of events and the price will be high. If the price had been paid when it would not have been so costly our situation would not be so perilous. In the end, the price will be worth the restoration of freedom and our republic.

**I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG
OF THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA, AND TO THE
REPUBLIC, FOR WHICH IT
STANDS; ONE NATION,
UNDER GOD, INDIVISIBLE,
WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL**

Doug's Two Cents



by Douglas Paul Bell

Ah, another wonderful day here in the Big Red One. The on going court case I had with the collection agency, which I won repeatedly (the court ruled in my favor) before the court over turned itself repeatedly, was finally settled, for now. I lost. Of course they also did not refute all the things I was pointing out, and the legal maxim of if it is not refuted it is admitted goes into effect here. Of course the judge ignored that, as I kept pointing it out, except to tell the scum that they were not refuting the things I was pointing out. The judge finally ruled that even though the scum had committed fraud on the court, it didn't matter, as long as the right side won, meaning not me. My Constitutional Rights were also ignored, first when I used them and the judge refused to rule on them, and again when I re-filed and the judge said that it didn't matter, he would ignore them anyway. Ain't justice grand?

As I mentioned in the last issue, I was thrown out of my house at gun point on May 20th, 2005 and was living on the streets until a person I know took me in, for a price of course. It doesn't help he is an alcoholic and smokes like a chimney, acts like a 3 year old most of the time, wakes me up at 2 AM, 3 AM, 4 AM, 5 AM, 6 AM (I can't sleep, so I

came out where you are sleeping to turn the radio up full blast. WELL MAYBE THE REASON YOU CAN'T SLEEP AT NIGHT IS YOU SLEEP ALL DAY! I didn't sleep all day, I was up from noon till one, and then wondered around all night when you were trying to sleep. WELL IF YOU WANT TO DRINK AND SMOKE, WHY DON'T YOU GO BACK IN YOUR ROOM INSTEAD OF WAKING ME UP?! That never occurred to me! - that is an actual conversation!) and can't figure out why no one wants to be around him when he is totally self-centered and obnoxious. Still I shouldn't be too hard on him, he is the only one to help me in my hour of need.

If I didn't mention my Kimber was stolen, I should. No great loss there, the gun was junk, but they also took all the gear with it, the holster, magazine pouches, electronic ear muffs, the ammo, the parts, the tools, the accessories, the magazines, all of it. Now THAT hurt! Just one more joy to getting thrown out of the house. Oh yes, the po-LICE don't investigate house break ins, don't investigate gun thieves, don't investigate car thieves, what DO they investigate? Well, all I can say is don't rob a donut store!

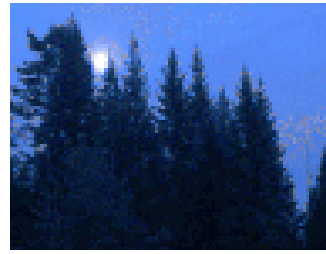
Now I am looking for a place, with low rent housing, it only took TWO years for my "number" to come up Yes, a TWO YEAR waiting list, unless you are a black violent criminal, (is that redundant?), or some sort of sports star. A black violent criminal basketball "hero" got into a place with an 18 month waiting list in less than a week and paid \$10 rent on low rent housing when it clearly states that the minimum low rent payment is \$50, but I digress. Anyway, I was approved for a one bed room place, but found a two bedroom place that is perfect for me as far as location, size (real estate speak for one bedroom: cozy - you can touch all four walls, usually at the same time. Most people call these "closets". Small - you can touch two walls with your arms outstretched. Spacious - slightly smaller than a prison cell, but not enough room to actually use it as a prison

cell. Large - two single beds will just fit in the room, provided the door opens out), takes cats, and only \$25 more than I was approved for. HOWEVER....(you ever notice that there is always a "however"?) it will cost me nearly 50% more! Wonderful, live on the streets for months, it takes low rent housing 6 weeks to finally get around to approving me after my number came up, I find a place that is perfect, but can't afford it as it is \$25 more, which means I won't be paying less than \$250, I'll be paying over \$420! And people wonder why I am not in a great mood all the time.

Ever so much fun looking for a new place. The one bedroom apartments are often 300 square feet, some smaller, some larger, but the vast majority are TINY! Found one two bedroom place, great location, HUGE amount of room, reasonable (for here) price. Put in application and waited a week. Called, oh that place was rented! Found another place, 800 sq feet, very reasonable, need to call. The drunk also wants to move to another town and rent to me, OK, but if you sign up as a low rent housing rental, you can't move back for a year! That knocked him right out of his drunken stupor! I MIGHT go for it, but it will not be what he thinks it will, he can't just move back, he can't get more than fair market (the places are giving one and two months rent to get the apartments filled, and there is a house right across the street that has been empty for at least four months because they want too much for rent) and that depressed him. Gee, hmmm.



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Thomas Jefferson : I am not among those who fear the people. They, and not the rich, are our dependence for continued freedom. And to preserve their independence, we must not let our rulers load us with perpetual debt. We must make our election between economy and liberty, or profusion and servitude. If we run into such debts, as that we must be taxed in our meat and in our drink, in our necessities and our comforts, in our labors and our amusements, for our calling and our creeds, as the people of England are, our people, like them, must come to labor sixteen hours in the twenty-four, give the earnings of fifteen of these to the government for their debts and daily expenses; and the sixteenth being insufficient to afford us bread, we must live, as they now do, on oatmeal and potatoes; have no time to think, no means of calling the mismanagers to account; but be glad to obtain subsistence by hiring ourselves to rivet their chains on the necks of our fellow sufferers. Our land-holders, too, like theirs, retaining indeed the title and stewardship of estates called theirs but held really in trust for the treasury, must wander, like theirs, in foreign countries, and be contented with penury, obscurity, exile, and the glory of the nation. This example reads to us the salutary lesson, that private fortunes are destroyed by public as well as by private extravagances. And this is the tendency of all human governments. A departure from principle in one instance becomes a precedent for the second; that second for a third; and so on, till the bulk of the society is reduced to mere automatons of misery, to have no sensibilities left but for sinning and suffering. Then begins, indeed, the bellum omnium in omnia, which some philosophers observing to be so general in this world, have mistaken for the natural, instead of the abusive state of man. And the fore horse on this frightful team is public debt. Taxation follows that, and in its train wretchedness and oppression.

Notes From All Over

by Doug and Cathy Joury

Our Fearless Leader

While at the world famous Pendleton Round-Up, in Pendleton, Oregon, September 13-18, 2004 our fearless leader (the governor) was suppose to attend the Friday September 17th performance. The governor's festivities were spoiled, however. The headline appearing on Saturday's East Oregonian reads: "Bomb threat spoils governor's Round-Up." The sub heading reads: "Public not evacuated as search confirms hoax." According to protocol the governor had to be evacuated. Okay. Fine! But can anyone explain why his life is so much more important than the lives of the public who pays his salary?

It seems a little ridiculous that the governor's Round-Up was spoiled. I can only imagine how spoiled the "publics'" Round-Up would have been had there actually been nine bombs as the article stated the threat. Hello Sept. 11! Didn't the authorities learn anything?

It is ironic that the very people this man is suppose to lead are abandoned at a hint of trouble. Whatever happened to the precept that the captain goes down with the ship? Are the supposed leaders of this country demi-gods that their lives are to be protected above the safety of the public?

After the incident I was talking to some people who were seated in the stands directly behind the governor. They had no idea what was going on. The secret police quietly informed the governor and he got up and left the Round-Up grounds, leaving several thousand of his constituents behind, uninformed of the threat to their lives.

Was this just a drill, or another test of the emergency warning system that the people of Umatilla County have been subjected to for

the past several months-turned into years? Doesn't the government ever get tired of perpetuating hoaxes on American citizens? Mount Saint Helen's is erupting again. Do the secret police have Kulongoski hidden away in some not so secret shelter?

I read an article in the Oregonian a few years ago about an underground shelter in Baker City, Oregon, for key city government officials in the event of a national disaster. It is several stories underground, and it is definitely not open to the public. But once again, our fearless leaders will be notified in advance and their rooms will be ready and their tables will be set. But we are not invited.

If you're afraid of your own shadow you shouldn't be governor. If you're a leader you should stand and lead. But apparently this isn't the time for heroes. But could you really expect a mere governor to be a hero?

Psssst....governor. I think there's trouble, please step this way.



"Resolved, that the several States composing the United States of America, are not united on the principle of unlimited submission to their General Government; ... and that whensoever the General Government assumes undelegated powers, its acts are unauthoritative, void, and of no force... That the government created by this compact was not made the exclusive or final judge of the extent of the powers delegated to itself; since that would have made its discretion, and not the Constitution, the measure of its powers; but that as in all other cases of compact among parties having no common Judge, each party has an equal right to judge for itself, as well of infractions as of the mode and measure of redress."

-Thomas Jefferson-
Kentucky Resolution 1798.

What's In The News

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 8/31/05

Contact: Michael Marcavage
REPENT AMERICA
1-800-3-REPENT, Ext. 4

ACT OF GOD DESTROYS NEW ORLEANS DAYS BEFORE "SOUTHERN DECADENCE"

PHILADELPHIA - Just days before "Southern Decadence", an annual homosexual celebration attracting tens of thousands of people to the French Quarters section of New Orleans, an act of God destroys the city.

"Southern Decadence" has a history of filling the French Quarters section of the city with drunken homosexuals engaging in sex acts in the public streets and bars. Last year, a local pastor sent video footage of sex acts being performed in front of police to the mayor, city council, and the media. City officials simply ignored the footage and continued to welcome and praise the weeklong celebration as being an "exciting event". However, Hurricane Katrina has put an end to the annual celebration of sin.

On the official "Southern Decadence" website (www.SouthernDecadence.com), it states that the annual event brought in "125,000 revelers" to New Orleans last year, increasing by thousands each year, and up from "over 50,000 revelers" in 1997. This year's 34th annual "Southern Decadence" was set for Wednesday, August 31, 2005 through Monday, September 5, 2005, but due to massive flooding and the damage left by the hurricane, Louisiana Governor Kathleen Blanco has ordered everyone to evacuate the city.

The past three mayors of New Orleans, including Sidney Bartholomew, Marc H.

Morial, and C. Ray Nagin, issued official proclamations welcoming visitors to "Southern Decadence". Additionally, New Orleans City Council made other proclamations recognizing the annual homosexual celebration.

"Although the loss of lives is deeply saddening, this act of God destroyed a wicked city," stated Repent America director Michael Marcavage. "From 'Girls Gone Wild' to 'Southern Decadence', New Orleans was a city that opened its doors wide open to the public celebration of sin. May it never be the same," he continued.

New Orleans is also known for its Mardi Gras parties where thousands of drunken men revel in the streets to exchange plastic jewelry for drunken women to expose their breasts. This annual event sparked the creation of the "Girls Gone Wild" video series.

"Let us pray for those ravaged by this disaster. However, we must not forget that the citizens of New Orleans tolerated and welcomed the wickedness in their city for so long," Marcavage said. "May this act of God cause us all to think about what we tolerate in our city limits, and bring us trembling before the throne of Almighty God," Marcavage concluded.

"[God] sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust". (Matthew 5:45)

Call To Prayer

On the heels of hurricane Katrina, Louisiana Governor Blanco has asked for a day of prayer for the survivors of Katrina. After considering the press release from Repent America it is apparent that prayer is not enough for the city of New Orleans.

When the judgments of God are brought against a land that land must turn away from the sin which brought those judgments. Repentance and prayer are necessary. New Orleans is not the same place. It shouldn't be, but should New Orleans turn from sin as it's

economic trade and follow the Commandments of God, New Orleans may once again become a viable community.

Press Release Date: 8/30/2005

Contact: Denise Bottcher or Roderick Hawkins at 225-342-9037

Governor Blanco Announces Day of Prayer

"As we face the devastation wrought by Katrina, as we search for those in need, as we comfort those in pain and as we begin the long task of rebuilding, we turn to God for strength, hope and comfort.

"I have declared August 31, 2005, a Day of Prayer in the State of Louisiana.

"I am asking that all of Louisiana take some time Wednesday to pray. Pray for the victims and the rescuers. Please pray that God give us all the physical and spiritual strength to work through this crisis and rebuild.

"Please pray for patience for those anxiously waiting to hear from family members or to get word about their homes. Pray for the safety of our hard-working rescuers and those they are bringing to safety.

"I know, by praying together on Wednesday, that we can pull together and draw strength we need; strength, that only God can give us.

"In my prayers, I will also thank God for the strong and resilient people of this state and how they are working to meet this challenge."

Petition online for impeachment of 5 supreme court judges

An online petition for the impeachment of the 5 treasonous supreme court justices is being circulated. The petition states: "We, the undersigned, consider the Supreme Court ruling in Kelo v. New London, 04-108, rendered June 23, 2005, not only unacceptable, but to be in criminal violation of the Justice's oaths to uphold, protect and

defend the Constitution of the United States. Be advised that We the People regard elected officials to be our public servants. Failure to take action against the Justices specified shall be considered support for the decision rendered in the aforementioned case, and will result in our resolve to ensure your defeat in the next election. Being from myriad political and ideological spectra, we are united in our belief that our right to own property is inalienable."

The petition may be viewed or signed at:

<http://www.petitiononline.com/lp001/petition.html>

The tyrannical CAFTA agreement has been passed through the House of Representatives and the Senate. Though this agreement would have the force of a treaty, CAFTA was not ratified in the Senate as such. CAFTA was merely passed as though it were ordinary legislation making it's implementation unlawful.

CAFTA will bring American Law into conformance with foreign law and will bring about the regulation and outright banning of alternative medicines.



The recent tragedy caused by hurricane Katrina is foremost in the news and in the minds of Independent Americans across our land. For the past several days we have been inundated with scenes of this great tragedy.

We, at The Independent American have been affected by the scenes of devastation as well. Survivalists across the nation have been warning Americans of the possibilities of such disasters for many decades. Survivalists have been preparing for themselves and their families, but most of the American mainstream have spurned such efforts and neglected to make provisions for themselves. The recent tragedy of Katrina must now suggest to Americans that survivalism or survival preparations should be a common practice throughout the country.

In the next issue (November/December) of The Independent American we are going to run a disaster preparation theme issue. It is time for Americans to review the basics of preparing to survive the unexpected. Our next issue will cover the preparations that most Americans should have already made. These preparation should most definitely be made PRIOR to such a disaster happening!

The knowledge to survive is as old as mankind. It is out there for anyone to find. That a disaster such as Katrina has caused such widespread calamity is a statement against the intelligence of Americans who should have known what to expect and how to deal with the subject. The chaos, the lawlessness and the death was absolutely unnecessary if Americans still had the common sense that God gives the dumbest of amoebas!

We are going to attack this problem in our next issue. Preparing for and surviving a disaster is basically common sense. The Independent American is going to re-address the preparations every American should have already made or should be making now and we will be covering the techniques to survive disasters in the future. If one lesson is clear it is that YOU are responsible for your safety and survival. And YOU are also responsible for the safety and survival of those who depend on you. Governments cannot handle this for you. No-one else can do it for you. YOU are responsible to prepare. We will tell you how. All you must do is roll up your sleeves and prepare for yourselves and families.

