

# Firearms And Survival

by Glenn Boman

There are perhaps several “key” words in the vocabulary of the survivalist/homesteader that we would all do well to examine more closely in our preparations for living. One of those words is resourcefulness. The more “preparation” one seems to make for what may seem to be the inevitable, the more realizes that it will be the resourceful person who will see tomorrow’s daylight rather than the ones who own every gadget conceivable, but who lacks resourcefulness. I know of no complete definition of this word, but I do have some ideas that I’d like to share with you.

Resourcefulness means, at least partially, the ability to adapt one’s skills, knowledge, and abilities to overcome obstacles. One writer once referred to this ability as the “farm boy mentality” or the “put it together with baling wire” ability. We may remember, if we are of a rural background, how our forefathers and perhaps even we ourselves had to adapt to all kinds of situations and circumstances to make things work, get the job done, or recycle our limited resources before the liberal elite ever heard of the term “recycling” as it is today known. I can personally remember how the canning jars were recycled ever year for years.. even today, some of my grandmother’s jars from early in this century sit on my pantry shelves more as decoration piece-s than working glass due to their shades of green and blue. Tin cans were forever used to store things or cut apart to be used as metal roofing shingles on the chicken house. Baling twine was roiled into balls and used for whatever needed to be tied up. Nails were never thrown away, but were straightened and re-used for construction... I even remember how nail were salvaged from burned down barns, houses, etc. to be put into old buckets of crankcase oil to keep them from rusting so that they could be used later in rebuilding! There was no real need for garbage pick-up on the farm since all trash was either burned when needed in the old 55 gallon oil drum that was kept out back for such purposes. Useless glass objects like old ketchup bottles were sometimes thrown into some nearby ditch or used to hold pepper sauce for putting on the garden produce to spice things up a bit. Fertilizer bag strings were similarly saved as were burlap bags, plow lines, leather pieces, old horseshoes, and many other items considered to be disposable in our current day.

Flour sacks provided material for making shirts and dresses, quilt covers, and I still have some family quilts stitched together with string from the sacks themselves! Somehow, this all speaks to me a reverential resourcefulness that

required little money, but much in the way of adaptability and making do with the things at hand. Our throw-away society is the worse off for not being more resourceful.

It is without debate that much of what was once taken for common sense is today a severe lack of such things as described above. True, progress can be good for all of us, but it is increasingly difficult to overcome the forced dependency upon such things as the power grid, delivery systems networks and networking, and the corporate supply lines that tend to feed, cloth, and shelter us. While some see these things as a freedom from the old headaches and demands of hard living, there are those of us who also see dire consequences should such things be interrupted, curtailed, or in case of the system’s failure for any number of reasons. Under such circumstances, it is the resourceful person who can and will have prepared himself to overcome in spite of such inconveniences. One may not save crooked nails or put together quilts with flour sack strings, but overcome he will in his own imaginative way(s). Pity the person who cannot live apart from enticements of the various systems that have brought comfort to our lives and, yet, at the same time brought dependency which some would call enslavement. A friend of mine in Colorado is into juvenile delinquent rehabilitation programs in a big way. Most of his clients are youthful street gang members or have in some way run afoul of the law in urban settings. He takes them to the rugged mountains to hundreds of square miles of nothing but wilderness to “re-educate” them. These young punks, when deprived of their dependent systems back home, become totally helpless in their new environment. The code of the streets and fierce gang loyalty quickly breaks down into more “acceptable” behavior patterns that largely incorporate cooperation, new abilities, and resourcefulness.. all of which are needed when the big bears take to the food caches in camp in the dead of night! His success rate is among the highest of any program to rehabilitate youthful offenders. Why? Making kids resourceful in ways that they never even dreamed of; showing them an alternative way of life; giving to them skills necessary for both rugged individualism and cooperation toward a common desirable goal; and, making them think about life in new ways and escape the entrapments and systems dependency they all have one way or the other. He often

has them beg him to stay on even after the program is completed.. .a program that incorporates restitution, work, adventure, and all the above mentioned conditioning facets of the program. Some have, and are now working as aides. One he has even adopted as his son! Boys that knew only the streets now know themselves in light of the greater whole and have often become what most prisons only can hope for. . . rehabilitated! This is not to say that he had no failures, but Only illustrates that in some ways, survivalism is in some ways related to the development of resourcefulness and rugged individualism as it corresponds and relates to adaptability and the lessening of systems dependency.

To achieve survivalist status, one must possess necessary skills. These skills can be learned academically or experientially.. .or, both ways. For example, many urbanites have forsaken the concrete jungles only to wither and die in the rural setting that for them promised some relief from the "rat race". Where rats race is often dependent upon where one runs the marathon in hi~ own life! Promises of tranquility by pastoral settings is far from the reality of such a life as perhaps some of you can attest. By facing the realities of one's own situation, by practicing skills, and by experiential knowledge, one can achieve and overcome those forces that seek to subdue him. The bottom line in this paragraph is that preparation on less than a fantasy level is necessary whether surviving, homesteading, or just simplifying one's life toward the essential rather than the gaudy complete with frills and bells. The essential life demands resourcefulness and all that it implies in all areas of one's life.

I hope that I haven't bored you with this dissertation and that you can begin to see that there is indeed room for all of us to improve ourselves as we seek the powers, equipment, abilities, and attitudes necessary to be overcomers. Good luck to us all!



## ADVERTISEMENT



**North Woods Traders** presents old time radio programs on compact disk formatted for your compact disk music player. 5 disk collections - 2 episodes per disk for \$27. Single disks for \$7 each.

The Red Skelton Show 5 disk collection (10 episodes) #RS-5  
Single disks #RSS-1, RSS-2, RSS-3, RSS-4 or RSS-5 (2 episodes each)

The Jack Benny Program #JB-5 or single disks #JBS-1, JBS-2, JBS-3, JBS-4, JBS-5

Amos & Andy #AA-5 or single disks #AAS-1, AAS-2, AAS-3, AAS-4, AAS-5

The Martin&Lewis Show #ML-5 or single disks #MLS-1, MLS-2, MLS-3, MLS-4, MLS-5

Gunsmoke #G-5 or single disks #GS-1, GS-2, GS-3, GS-4, GS-5

Have Gun Will Travel #HG-5 or single disks #HGS-1, HGS-2, HGS-3, HGS-4, HGS-5

For complete list of products send SASE to:

**North Woods Traders**  
P.O. Box 211  
Fernwood, Idaho 83830

For order send money orders with order numbers to:

**North Woods Traders**  
P.O. Box 211  
Fernwood, Idaho 83830