HOW TO LIVE IN THE WOODS; HERE IS EXPERT ADVICE ON PLANNING, OUTFITTING, AND MANAGING THE CAMPING EXPEDITION

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How to live in the woods; here is expert advice on planning, outfitting, and managing the camping expedition by Homer Halsted

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HOMER HALSTED

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Here Is Expert Advice on Planning, Outfitting, and Managing the Camping Expedition

by HOMER HALSTED



Illustrated by Don Greame Kelley

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FOREWORD

There is no apparent need for an elaborate introduction to this little book on camping. Better writers have long since portrayed all the joys of life in the open and I could add nothing in the way of inspiration.

Assuming that you already have the urge to seek recreation outdoors, I shall attempt to tell you how, rather than why, and hope for the best. You may take to the woods to dodge the sheriff or hunt buried treasure, for all I care; my interest is in your preparation for the excursion.

Sadly enough, most of us have inherited more pioneer spirit than pioneer skill and are too strongly inclined to the belief that Nature's bounty may be ours for the taking. We are apt to rush into the forest with lots of enthusiasm and little judgment, to return, sometimes, with sour recollections as principal souvenirs of our expeditions.

It is one thing to dream of pungent campfires beside sparkling waters and something else again to cook over them. It is pleasant enough to imagine yourself conquering the wilderness with little besides gun and ax, but most disillusioning to discover that bad weather and insects may neither be shot nor chopped down. Old Mother Nature is a catankerous hussy, at times, and works a lot of little jokers into the bargaining for her delights. The starry-eyed tenderfoot has little chance of besting her, without a few aces up his sleeve.

So far as I remember, the Swiss Family Robinsons were the only historical campers ever to be fully equipped by



their biographer. The others appear to have set forth on their adventures with nothing much more than leather pants and rugged constitutions, evidently ordained to sleep on the soft sides of rocks and eat whatever they could tear loose from the fauna and flora. Maybe that was hot stuff, in those good old days, but if you try it, the result may be distress or big trouble with conservation officers.

There is no reason for the modern woodsman to make an endurance test of his occasional outing, or to devote a major share of his all-too-brief vacation to the business of providing decent comfort. He can, if he will, equip for fun and convenience, with things the old-timers never dreamed of, and gain a deal of enjoyment in the doing. I aim to outline the details, so far as my limitations permit.

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