

HINTS ON LIVING UNDER RESTRICTED CAMP CONDITIONS

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Small groups of people living in remote places with limited supplies, communication and transport often become acutely aware of differences in tastes and habits between individuals. While possibly confronted by less potential danger than a party in a small boat, a small land party has nearly equal need for a single leader who must make final decisions on camp disposition and major procedures. The writer has been as guilty as any in failing to recognize those of his own habits that were or might have been noisome or distracting to others. The text below is an attempt to suggest possible varieties of offense. Each must, of course, be weighed in the balance between its importance to the individual or the work of the expedition and its possible discomfort to other members.

The camp menu must depend on wise planning, successful transport, preservation, and preparation, often under difficult conditions. At the best it will be a kind of average in taste with little support for individual whim. If you have a small whim and will balance the needed transport and care against some small personal sacrifice in another direction, by all means make your own provision. But don't expect to pilfer the group supply to satisfy your own improvidence. If you have a large whim that involves transport don't go on such a trip. Individual tastes must in some degree be met by rotation, both in the menu and perhaps in the preparation itself. If you can't give and take in eating what other people adore, or what the existing larder provides, at least keep quiet about it. The camp leader may have to ration certain supplies and may have to invade private supplies of drugs and similar articles in emergency. Persons requiring special drugs should make adequate provision. It may not be superfluous to enjoin orderly, perhaps assigned or rotated care for wood and water supply, stoves, and lamps, outside the obvious need for such handling of cooking and k.p. duties.

A good bit of fussiness is needed in care and placing of both personal effects and group articles, flashlights, matches, perhaps firearms and the rest of the gear that may have been brought along. Some people are more gifted at this than others; the less gifted should at least help up to the point where the more zealous fusser is clearly a nuisance.

Differences in taste for ventilation and other sleeping conditions may be met by little choice, but a bit of negotiation can be a wise medium between suffering in an explosive mood and exploding in an endless tirade. People who snore may not be able to do much about it, but should be willing to accept the serious testimony of their fellows and accept such segregation as conditions permit.

Personal laundering, caring for specimens, dressing and preserving of organic materials, can be slightly or quite obnoxious to others of the party. While continuing necessary operations, try to be aware of such possibility and make any adjustment that is feasible. The practices of your craft, even those approved in this manual, may ad nauseam seem silly to someone in another craft; a great deal of fine interchange can take place but try not to let the operations get rubbed in on the other fellow because of your own enthusiastic inattention.