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# The Long Tom

*Adventures of the North Texas District FCF*

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*Avoiding Traps and Snares*

*The Frozen Camp*

*1994 Brush Poppin'*



## GREETINGS FROM THE ROADRUNNER

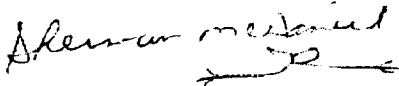
Another year is here, a year closer to the Rapture. We are hoping for great things in the Shawnee Trail chapter.

This year began with two great natural disasters - the earthquake on the West Coast and the record breaking cold spell in the Northeast. We know these things are a sign of the times. In times of crisis we have the greatest opportunity to be a witness for Jesus Christ.

Hope to see many of you at Brush Poppin'. You will be blessed by the fun and fellowship. Hope the weather will be more favorable this year. Our true and faithful members can endure any kind of weather.

Awaiting his return,

Sherman McDaniel



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### Classified Ads

**Covered Wagon:** This is an authentic replica of an early pioneer covered wagon. The canvas is in great shape, the overall condition of the wagon is excellent and it comes with a trailer to haul it with. You can have this fine item from yesteryear for the low price of \$1450. If you are interested call Sammy Kellum @ 214/313-0972.

**16' Teepee:** This teepee is in fine shape. It has a canvas floor, a liner, and a door. If your feeling a little wild this is the shelter for you. The canvas, the poles and the stakes can be yours for \$800. If you are interested call Sammy Kellum @ 214/313-0972.

***A special thanks to Clifford Hathaway for the donation of all his FCF gear to the Shawnee Trail Chapter of FCF.***

# The Frozen Camp, or How I woke up with Sore Ribs

*A true story by David Wills*

Ordinary. That's how we figured the camp-out would be. Of course, we're generally optimistic about these things, but we're teachable. The weatherman had projected a possible freeze, and the wind had robbed a half tank of gas as we plowed 180 miles north to the camp.

We arrived, late as usual, and pitched camp. It was cold, all right, and getting colder. We couldn't get set by nightfall. No problem: We lit lanterns and kept on.

We'd brought our little wood stove, extra blankets and a second tent for the children. We gave them ample bedding so they would be warm enough in their tent, and Mom and I could have a little privacy. OK, OK, we conceded to keep the baby, in his own cot of course. (Yeah, right!)

The canvas tent seemed hospitable enough with half a grocery store fire log lit in the stove. We spread our blankets over our foam-padded cots and thought seriously about snuggling. Wrong again. The baby woke up, Mom picked him up, and he vomited. Next to my pillow. Swell. But wait, there's more: He managed three additional upchucks over the next hour or so, each in a new place. He fell asleep for the night on a rare dry spot.

Wind clawed its way through the flaps. The cold air kept the aroma of partly digested baby supper somewhat subdued. I'm optimistic, remember? It did smell better beforehand, I have to admit.

A half fire log burns ninety minutes. By nine we were working on the third chunk. I'd taken the easy road and sawed them before I went to bed, stacking the cuts near the stove, and a box of matches on top of the pile. I could find them by touch.

<sup>1</sup>  
*Note from Editor: Mr. Wills is obviously referring to his family here and not himself.*

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# AVOIDING TRAPS AND SNARES

Trapping was a very important part of the history of the United States. Frontiersmen would hazard their lives to go out in the wilderness and trap beaver and other valuable furs.

Several years ago while trapping in Louisiana with my wife's uncle we began to hear an eerie noise ahead of us as we were trapping down the creek. Nearing this horrible noise we came upon a raccoon that had been injured in a trap several days before. It was dying slowly and was in great pain. Animals have been known to chew a foot off to escape from a trap or snare.

Like that raccoon, we humans are always getting caught in traps. Traps are situations or circumstances that can lead to premature death or that can hinder us from reaching our full potential. There are traps that can lead us into Satanism, false religions, cults, drugs or alcohol. We've seen what can happen to those trapped in cults in the case of Jim Jones in Guyana and more recently in the case of the Branch Dividians led by David Koresh. "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the ends thereof are the ways of death." -- Proverbs 16:25

There are other traps that are not fatal, but they can cause great hindrances to us and keep us from reaching our full potential. We can become trapped by bad habits, poor health, overload of debt, and many other things that can weigh us down. These traps can be set by Satan, by our own doing, or they could be circumstances over which we have no control. Satan isn't concerned how we get trapped as long as he can destroy or hinder us. "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us." -- Hebrews 12:1

There are several things that we can do to avoid these traps. First, we must seek God's will and provision for our lives. "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." -- Psalms 23:4

Second, we need self control and self discipline. It takes discipline to exercise in order to keep our body physically fit, to budget our money, or to drive the speed limit. I believe those who were never taught discipline have a hard time disciplining themselves. We need to discipline ourselves to read God's word, to fast and pray. "And he said to them all, if any man will come after me, let him

deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." -- Luke 9:23

Third, we should give a positive yes or no to questions that we are asked. I've heard it said that when a lawyer is defending someone accused of a crime he will select jurors who cannot give a yes or no answer to a question because these people can be swayed easily. "But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation." -- James 5:12

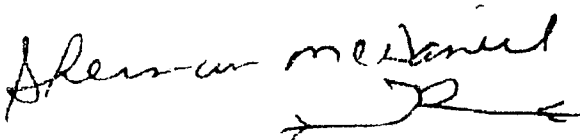
Fourth, we could make a vow to God what you would do for Him if He set you free, but you must be sure to pay up. "Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than those thou shouldest vow and not pay." -- Eccl 5:5

Fifth, we must be on the alert for the attacks of Satan at all times. We must be just as cautious as we would be in a war zone, looking high, low, and ahead for the traps that Satan might have waiting for us. We must know our weapons and how to use them. "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds." -- 2 Cor 10:4

Sixth, keep a right spirit of attitude. We shouldn't hold bitterness within us toward God, people, or circumstances that have happened to us. "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me." -- Psalms 51:10

Think what we could do if we were free from the traps that hinder us from doing a work for God. But, you might ask, what could I do? When I was a young boy beginning to learn multiplication, I couldn't understand how you could take a number, regardless of how big it was, and multiply it by zero it would come out to zero. I thought you should still have at least as much as you started with. It doesn't matter how much God wants to bless and multiply your effort, if your input is zero the outcome will be zero. Let us do what we can to see the Kingdom of God go forward. "I must work the works of Him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work." -- John 9:4

By Sherman McDaniel

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sherman McDaniel". Below the signature is a decorative horizontal flourish with a central loop and arrow-like ends.

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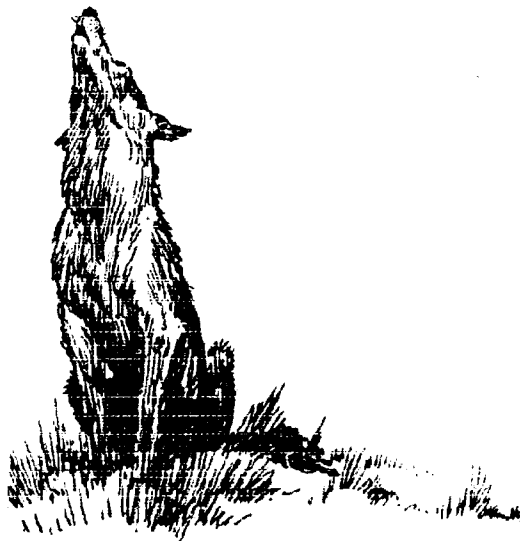
By midnight, the real cold hit, and all five kids had folded into every possible spot. In *OUR* tent. There was nowhere that somebody wasn't covering, I fretfully defended the hot stove from blankets and kid toes with a dwindling wall of firelog chunks.

By matchlight, the place looked like a war zone news photo: Bodies, clothing, blankets and sundries had exploded across our tent from wall to wall. Of course, no one could move, but maybe the shared body heat would help. Compromise. This tent isn't designed for seven.

I know how long a firelog lasts, like I said: an hour and a half. At each burnout, the tent temperature dropped, and I woke right up. Not from the cold, mind you... I had blankets, coats, my knit cap, and ample baby stuff to keep me cozy. There was an automatic **kerchunk** of my wife's elbow and an accompanying, "Put some more wood on the fire." Macho through and through, I pretended to be asleep the first time. **Kerchunk!** I earned myself a second shot.

After that, I got moving before that SCUD elbow could get me twice. There's a lot of hours in a winter night. About twenty, I think. Maybe I can arrange the heater on her side of the tent next time.

For now I'm trying to design a device that will load firelogs by itself. Like I said: optimistic. But I rub my ribs and learn.



# BRUSH POPPING 1994

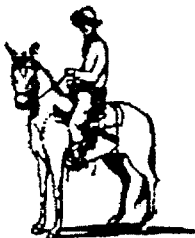
## The Texas Rangers

This year we will be saluting the men that made the Republic of Texas a safe place to live and raise a family, the Texas Rangers. The Texas Ranger was a self sufficient man that could *"ride like a Mexican, trail like an Indian, shoot like a Tennessean, and fight like a devil"*. All the events will keep the previous statement in mind!

You will need to practice on knots, be good with your knife, out shoot a Tennessean, be able to throw a lance with accuracy, start a fire with flint & steel and keep it going. There will also be some questions asked regarding the early Rangers (referenced from "The Texas Rangers" by Walter Prescott Webb). Medallions resembling the Texas Ranger badge have been ordered. Bring an extra \$5 to if you wish to purchase one.

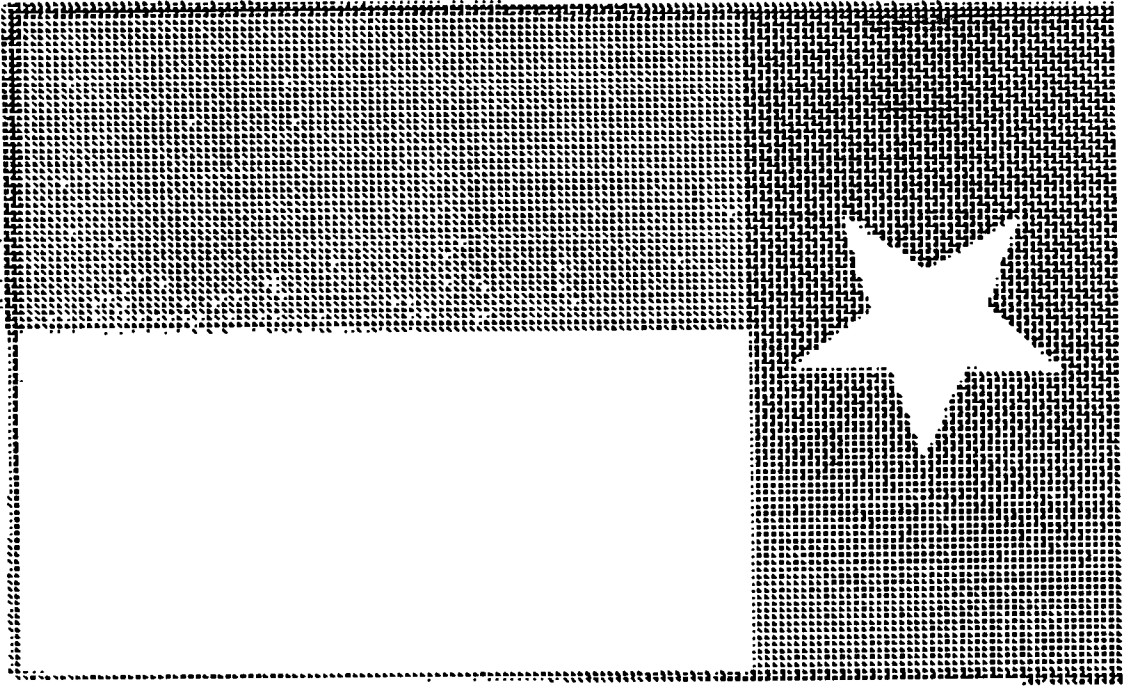
Old timers need to bring a good FCF gift for a young buck (You will be awarded 1 point on your score card for each dollar you spend on the gift!). Saturday afternoon the young bucks will draw numbers for a blanket give-away of the gifts the old timers brought.

Friday night there will be a friendship stew cooking for all who come. Registration will be \$7. The events will open at 9:00 a.m Saturday. You can do them at your leisure. We have some great prizes and the competition will be stiff. Come on out and have some fun!

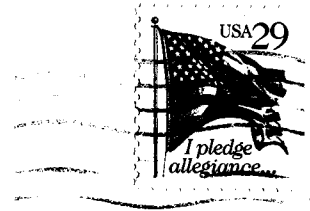


March 11, 12  
at  
Lakeview Camp





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