

40 Years in the Desert

Volume 1
Number 1

The Further Adventures of Matthew Saroff, Itinerant Engineer

First, a note in the interest of copyright law: This publication should not be confused with the quarterly newsletter of the Hebrew-American Indian Association *Sioux and the Jioux*TM.

Sorry about you all getting a xeroxed letter, but I have always been lousy at correspondence, and this is a **little** bit more informative than a *Garfield*[®] card.

I am out on another temporary consulting gig. I am working for the Will-Burt Corp. in Orrville, OH. My contact while I am up here is as follows: My "Home" phone and address is: 321 S. Walnut St., Orrville, OH 44667 Phone (216)683-3037. My work number is (216)682-7015. Please continue to send stuff to my home in Texas: 1601 Hwy 90 W, #328, Sealy, TX 77474 Phone (409)885-3988.

I have an **answering machine** at the Texas address, and I check it **daily**, so your best bet is to call the number in Sealy.

I am in the process of designing and testing mechanical concepts for a light positioning device for emergency equipment. It sits on the flat on the top of a vehicle, and at the press of a button, it raises to vertical, the mast extends, and you can point the light with a remote control unit.

My giving you my address is a matter of trust, so please **do not give my name, address, phone number, etc. to any organization for the purpose of advertizing or recruitment without my prior consent**. Please call and ask if you think that I might be interested. My answer will very likely be yes. It is a good idea to tell me who in any organization I might be dealing with.

About one and one half months ago, I received correspondence on behalf of an organization that I have generally deal well with, but it was from the one person that I detest dealing with. I find this individual find less pleasant to deal with than a **Pit Bull, Jehovah's Witness, Tax Auditor, Ditto Head Selling Amway**.* They wanted a favor out of me. I was not as enthusiastic as I might otherwise have been, particularly since I told over half a dozen agents of this organization that I wanted **no** contact with that person. I was willing to work with the organization, but not that person.

To those of you who know what I am talking about: I am still interested in helping, please give me a call. I just can't stand being patronized by you-know-who anymore. I want to enjoy myself.

By the same token, if you don't want to hear from me, drop me a note. The post office can handle the deluge of mail.

I have purchased a **new car**. I am now the proud owner of an '84 Honda Accord four door sedan. It's got a radio (3 and 1/2 years after the last one got stolen in Boston), a 5-speed stick, AC, cruise, and power windows and doors. I like this car. Hopefully, by the time that you read this, the (Barely) rolling hulk of rust and chewing gum shall be in the organ banks (Finally!). It's nice having a car with enough power to get out of its own way. For old-times sake, I am considering painting the front passenger's side door maroon. Any thoughts on this?

For the first time in a long time, It's actually fun to drive my car again.

For all the **SCA** bums out there, it looks like I will have the opportunity to get some work done on the Mark II version of my armor (a *Lorica Segmentata*) while I am up here. After two years it seems that I may finally get a chance to put together my improved set of armor.

It seems that I may be able to get the kit done up on a **laser cutter** of all things. I should be able to get time on Will-Burt's laser cutter for a minimal fee. Talk about creative anachronism.

In a few months, assuming all goes well, I should be able to get some kits made up over the next few months[†]. They should be cheap and easy to assemble. (90% of the straps have been eliminated, so riveting has been replaced by just some wire crimping with a vice grip) I will also start working on a proper (round with a sharp peak) Near Eastern helm. I will be starting with a spun top and chase the peak into it.

If you has any suggestions how to improve this "publication", please call. I am particularly interested in finding a better title.

That's about it for now, but stay tuned for the further adventures of *Matthew Saroff, Itinerant Engineer*.

**Join the
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Fan Club**

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*I do not wish to offend the following: Pit Bulls (Which have apparently been a good breed destroyed by generations of inbreeding by the AKC), Jehovah's Witnesses (I tend to admire faith in all forms), Tax Auditors (Who perform a necessary, if distasteful, function in society), or Amway (Good soap). However, I do not apologize to Ditto Heads. Furthermore, Rush Limbaugh Wears Ladies lingerie. (No offense intended toward Transvestites or Transsexuals)

†If there are any women out there who know how to make a *Lorica Segmentata* "Female Friendly", I would appreciate it. I am using myself to prototype the kits, but I don't have the equipment to model the unique (and wonderful) differences of the female physique. For those of you who don't know, *Lorica Segmentata* is the ancient Roman armor made from overlapping plates. It looks a lot like a Lobster. Come to think of it, after fighting for a few hours in the Texas heat, I begin to resemble a lobster.