

**Robbed by Kern County Sheriff's Deputies  
Testimony by Alexandra Wilson**

**§ 5 – Repaired and Improved  
the Property  
throughout winter and spring,  
making the *house a home***

We continued to make **repairs** and **improvements**, turning the **dilapidated** property into a beautiful home. Some initial progress is documented throughout the following pages.

**Uprooted the invasive shrub roots that were growing toward the water pipes beneath the house.**



*Removed invasive shrubs from all 4 sides of the property; notice the long root aimed directly under the house - see page 7.*



*Notice that the shrubs surrounding the house are "aimed" inward, with roots headed toward water pipelines.*





*Example of the long root structures of these plants*



**Mended the leaky main water pipeline:**



*The main line to the water supply before we mended it.*



*After mending the pipeline using plumber's tape from L & M Lumber.*

**Right:** We replaced the hinges and filled the cracks in the wood to fix the broken front door.

**Fixed the front door:**





## **Picked trash out of the backyard for *months*:**

In approximately five days we filled 3 black garbage bags with debris picked up from the back yard, most of which was mixed in with the soil. This was an ongoing job we continued to work on throughout our time on the property.



*Pulling trash out from the soil in backyard.*



*"Pirates of The Caribbean" was even found in the yard!*



## Cleaned the firepit and disposed the burned garbage:



*We pulled grasses and emptied the contents from the firepit. It was apparent the previous occupants burned their garbage here. See page 13 to view how the firepit looked when we first discovered it.*



*Closeup of the burned garbage.*



*Removing the burnt garbage using a wheelbarrow.*





*Removing the burnt garbage.*



*Restoring the firepit.*





*Backyard in process of being cleaned.*



*Disassembled the wooden contraption previously shown on page 10.*



**Gathered rocks from around the property,  
then organized them for use in landscaping:**



2-9-2016

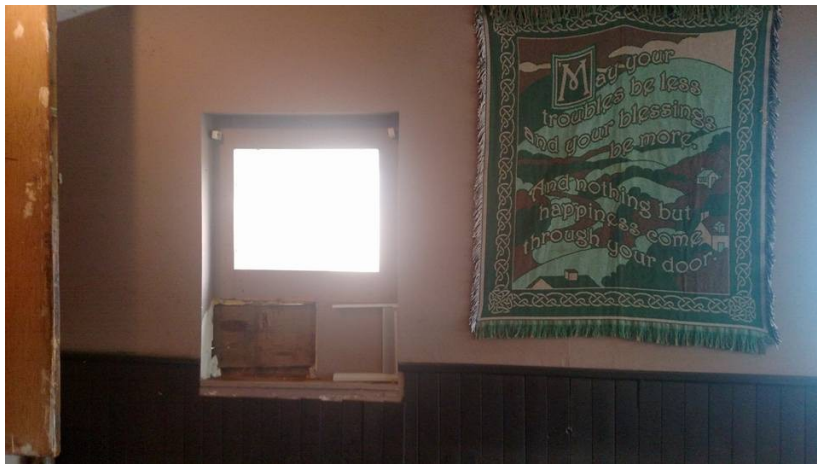


## Installed an air conditioner

An air conditioner was donated to us by **local veterans and friends Joshua Vanetten and Amanda Hoffman-Ferguson**. We met them at the Ridgcrest Pow Wow and they appreciated and wanted to help support our work.



*Before installation.*



*Same window shown from inside the master bedroom.*



*With air conditioner (see photo of window as first discovered on page 9)*



**Scraped and cleaned the blue paint off the east bedroom window:**



*4-8-2016: About to scrape the paint off, then clean it with turpentine.*



*Mr. Byrd scraping the window.*



**Removed the disgusting carpet, *stained the floor:***



*Dirty carpet as discovered.*



*From another angle.*



*Removing carpet from the stairs.*



*Hauled to local dump.*

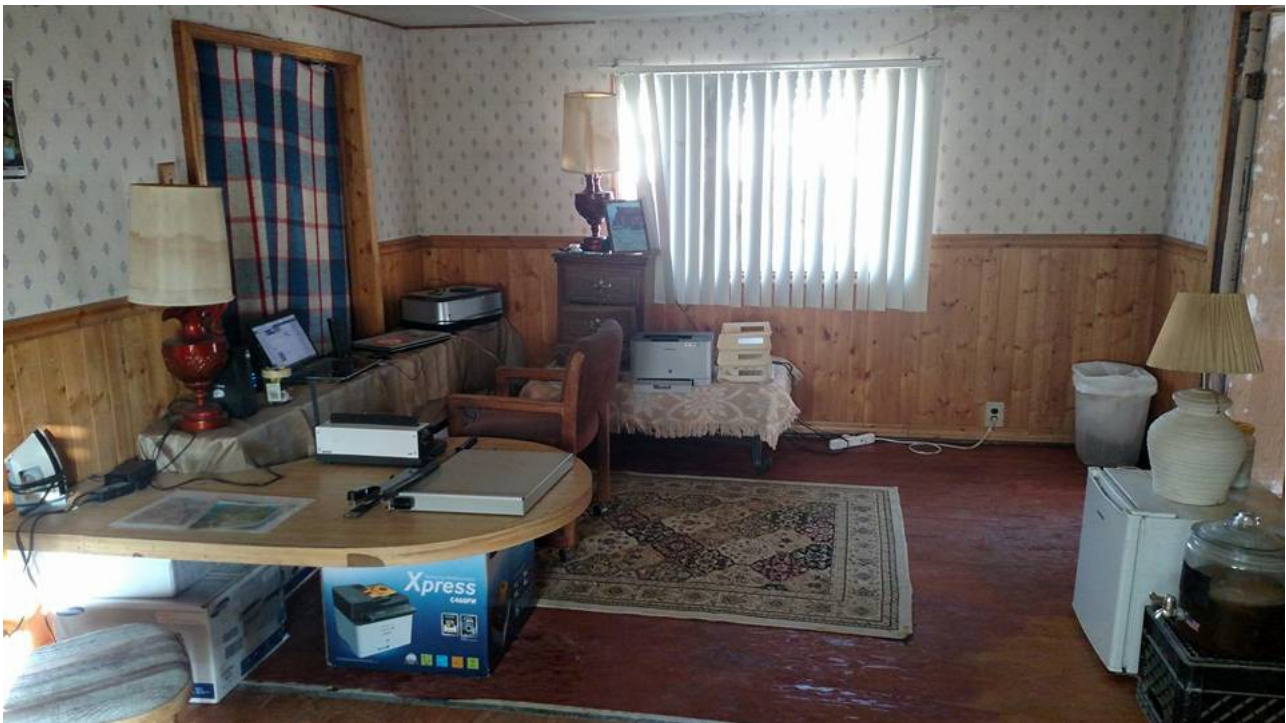




*We applied a cherry red stain purchased from local hardware store.*

### **Turned the living room into an office:**

Many pieces of furniture and other material items were donated to us by friends and neighbors, and supporters of our work ([www.WildWillpower.org](http://www.WildWillpower.org), [www.KernRiverCoop.com](http://www.KernRiverCoop.com)). Also we assisted people with general labor and in turn were gifted various items – many shown throughout the following pages.



*This room shown previously on page 25.*

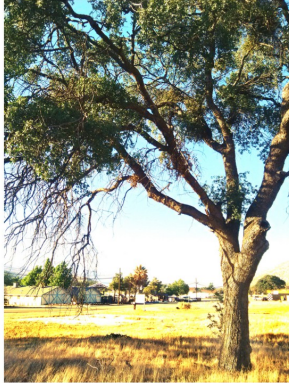






# Pages from More Valuable Than Gold:

Oak Evergreen or Deciduous Tree/Shrub {*Quercus sp.*}



Oaks tend to like full sun—often found in open spaces & especially on hilltops. The term “Live Oak” is used to describe evergreen Oaks; most are deciduous, however.

## Oak {*Quercus species*}

**Habitat:** Oaks are a prominent tree (sometimes shrub) in temperate zones in both the northern and southern hemisphere. In North America, they tend to grow on hilltops & hillsides because they require a lot of sun—generally depending upon squirrels & humans to spread & bury their acorns (or to plant cuttings—in the case of humans). Humans & Oaks evolved closely alongside one another prior to the agriculture era.

**Description:** Oaks leaves vary according to species, but generally hold the “classic Oak” shape—just as acorns have a “classic” shape.

**Edible:** All acorns (Oak nuts) are edible, but most species must have the tannic acid removed or they will be too bitter to be palatable; White Oaks—for instance—have a very low tannic acid content, & can be eaten from right off the tree. There are at least 4 traditional ways to leach the tannic acid, which are all fairly simple to perform AND require very little fuel; conventional (modern, typical) cooking techniques (stovetops, etc.) generally make processing acorns impractical & fuel intense.



Black Oaks have the most pronounced “classic Oak leaf shape”, although most Oaks have similar leaves.

5

Oak Evergreen or Deciduous Tree/Shrub {*Quercus sp.*}

Before harvesting—during around August (often)—Oaks drop their first batch of acorns. This first batch tends to have holes in them from pests. After this initial drop is the time of year when native people (would) annually rake the leaves & “bad acorns” together into circles, & then control burn them, replenishing the soils. These fires also kill the larvae of both Acorn Moths and Acorn Weevils (beetles) by burning them during their dormancy period. These pests can infest & consume more than 95% of an Oak’s acorns! Most Oaks tolerate light fires, & annual burning in this manner eliminates the buildup of fuel—gathering (clean burning) Oak branches as firewood also helps to prevent out-of-control AND unintentional wildfires.

A month later, the Oaks drop their second batch of acorns; the raking & control burning has now made collecting them easier than sifting through leaves to find both good and bad acorns mixed together.



Many Oaks have much smaller, less-pronounced leaves, but still the same classic shape.



Acorn flour contains all 9 essential amino acids, & thus is a complete protein; there are many kinds of Oaks {*Quercus sp.*}

6

California Buckeye Deciduous Tree/Shrub {*Aesculus californica*}



Although poisonous raw, the nuts have been used as food for thousands of years; here is a ripe nut.

**Edible:** Many botanists will tell you that the nuts were used by Native Americans to stupify fish. Some of the other plants that were traditionally used to stupify fish include Black Walnuts, Mullein leaves, Pokeweed berries, & Soaproot bulbs. The nuts of the California Buckeye—like all species of Buckeye—are poisonous when eaten raw due to the presence of the chemical aesculin (from the genus name “*Aesculus*”). They can be processed into a nutritious flour that has a higher starch content than potatoes.

## California Buckeye {*Aesculus californica*}

**Habitat:** California Buckeye is found growing in the Sierras & along coastal ranges—usually on dry hillsides.

**Description:** As a tree or shrub, California Buckeyes generally growing up to ~25 feet tall. The clustered flowers are arranged in a conical shape, & are cream to white color. The shape of the nut—with the outer hull still intact—resembles a pear. After the hull dries & falls to the ground, it is a smooth, shiny, reddish-brown nut. California Buckeyes produce an average of 4.4 tons of nuts per acre. Oaks produce even more nuts per acre.



They often have somewhat rounded tops & pale, greyish-white branches.

37

California Buckeye Deciduous Tree/Shrub {*Aesculus californica*}



The flowers are toxic to bees, but native pollinators love them! Apiaries shouldn’t be planted near these.



The hardy nuts can often be seen sprouting near their parent tree—they’re vigorous to grow.



~A month before the nuts ripen.

Different species may require different ways of being processed—the method described in this book is particularly applicable to *A. californica*, as that is the species the authors are experienced with.

To make the nuts edible, first they must be de-shelled & then cut into quarters—it is best to wear gloves to protect the hands from the aesculin. Next, they are placed into a Steam Pit until they have the consistency of boiled potatoes—which usually takes ~24 hours. See next page for instructions on constructing & utilizing a Steam Pit.

38



**Continued to improve the living room/office:**



*2-9-2016*



*2-9-2016*



**How it looked shortly before we were defrauded:**



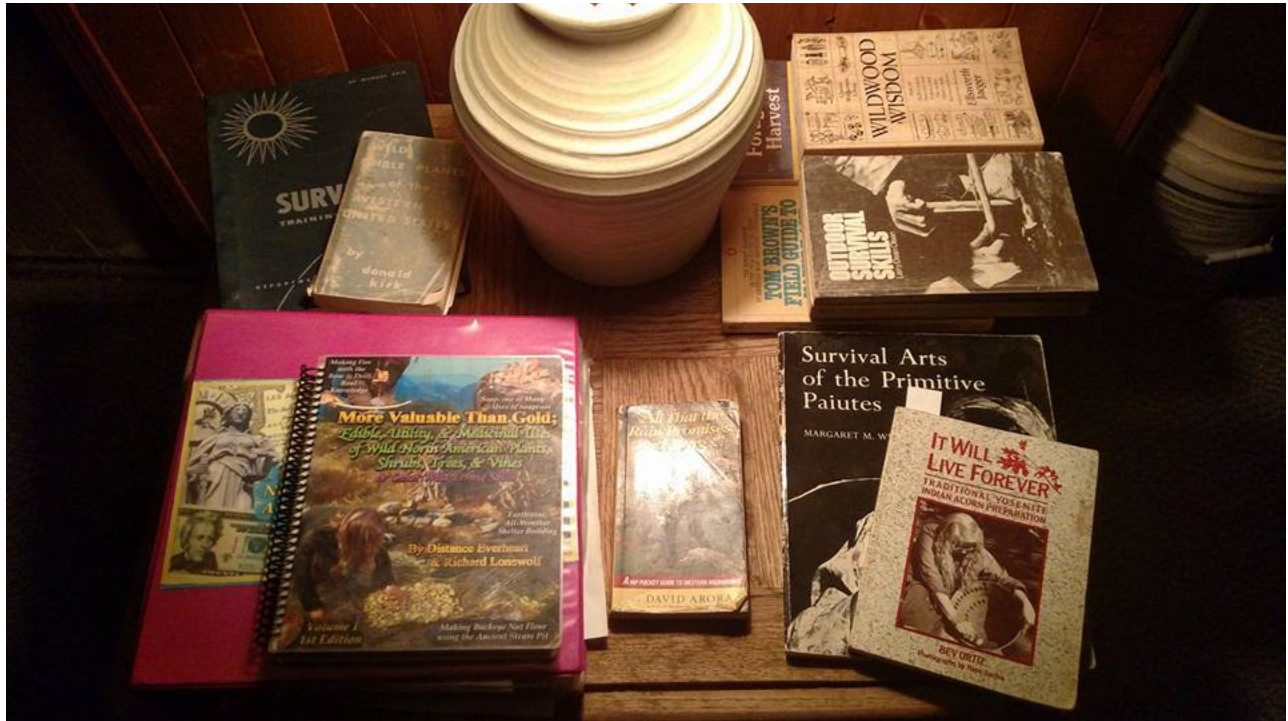
*The last photos we have of the office space before we were dispossessed.*



*One of the last photos of the living room as we left it. The television and entertainment center gifts from **our neighbors Adam and Renee Forker**. We purchased most of the items.*



**Some items we were coerced to leave on the property:**



*Our collection of ethnobotany and survival books, lamp, and coffee table.*



*This painting was gifted to use by **our neighbor Mark** after we helped him haul furniture and other large items.*





*Another painting we were gifted from Mark following the work.*



*Another painting we were given by Mark. He inherited many of these paintings from a friend who had recently passed. He appreciated that we were creating a community garden.*



*Closeup of original painting on left, with signature by "C.M. SCOTT".*



## Other items in the living room we were forced to leave behind:

Three printers, a great deal of paper and ink, and other printing and office supplies:



A jar of kombucha tea was in our living room, and was also taken from us by **Kern County sheriff's deputies**. Lid shown on page 65.



Our paper cutter we ordered offline.



## We turned the entryway into a “regrowth room”:

The new refrigerator on the right was given to us by **local friends and business owners, Jennifer and Ray Colley**. The table contained soup cans we used for sprouting seeds to be transplanted into the garden, a juicer (bottom photo), and vegetable starts (onions, celery, and beets). We purchased the ornate candle holders on the wall from the local thrift store. This room was previously (partially) shown on pages 24 and 29.





## Master bedroom:

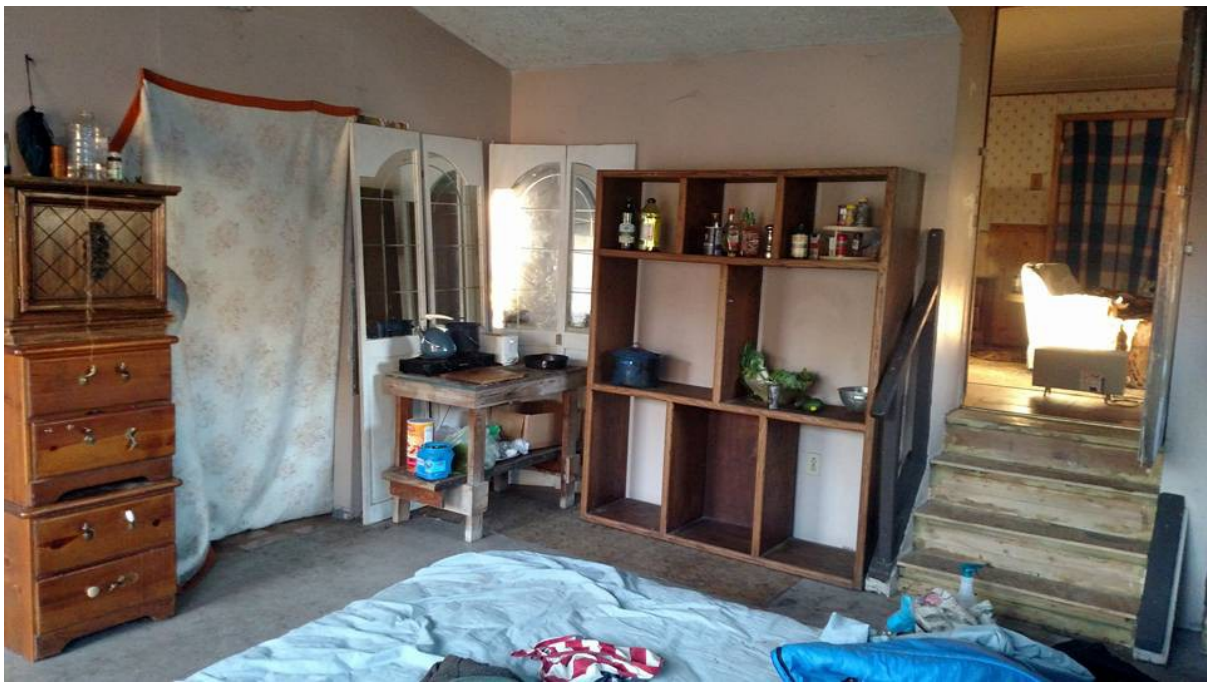
Previously shown on pages 28–29 and 36–37.



*2-9-2016 (before air conditioner was installed)*







*We purchased many of the items including furniture form the local thrift store.*

### **Front bedroom:**

This room was previously shown on page 38. The hanging blanket is the backside of the horse image shown on page 39 – we purchased the blanket at the thrift store. The bed was a gift from **our neighbors Ginger and Angela**. The sleeping bag was purchased offline. I installed the shelves.





## Back porch:

A solar shower, rollerblades, ornate coffee table, shelves, and body care products – we were coerced by **Sheriff's deputies** to leave all this property behind. Photo at right taken at a later date. This porch was shown previously on pages 13, 15, and 17. The shelves were given to us by **neighborhood friend Nicole Tenario**.



## Other items kept behind the house:

**Left:** Solar panel given to us by neighbors **Adam and Renee Forker**.

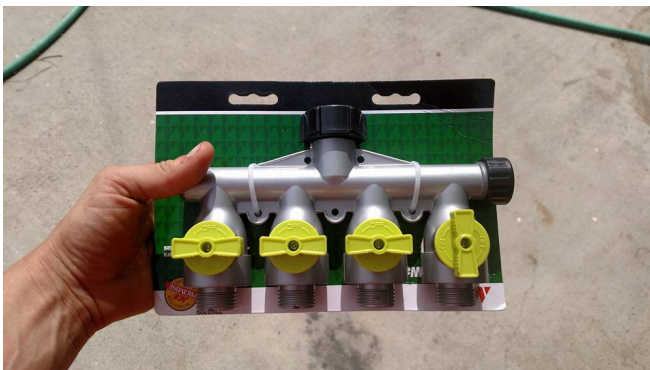




This bench was also given to us from **neighbors & friends Adam & Renee Forker** when they moved out from their house. We used it as an outdoor dish washing station.



These drip hoses were given to us by **our friend and neighbor Mark**. Kevin purchased the hose splitter and sprinkler. Our several regular garden hoses aren't shown.





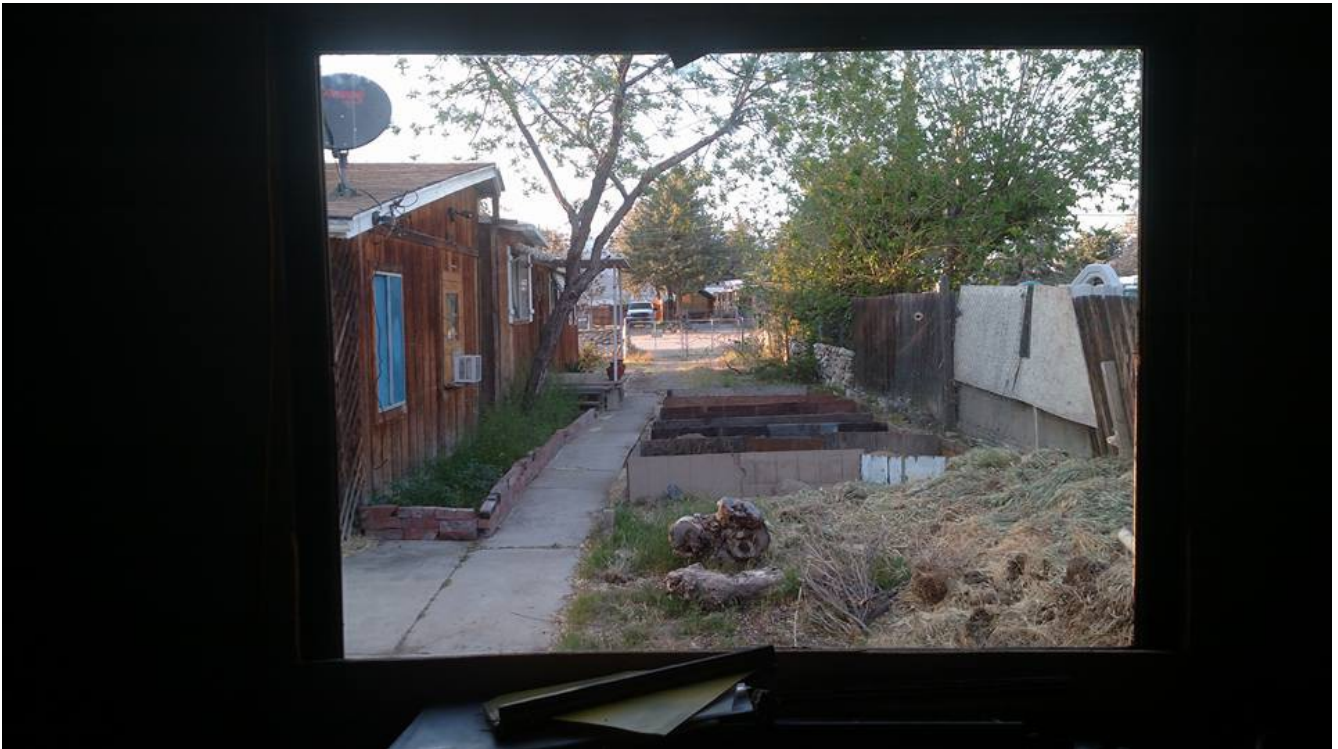
## Replaced creepy window on front of rear building:

See page 18 to view how it looked when first discovered. We purchased the Plexiglas at L & M Lumber (local hardware store).



*Cutting out the window with a Swiss Army knife.*





*Looking out newly-replaced window.*



*Got window replaced. Hanging planters gifted from **Renee and Adam Forker**. Glass table in foreground from **neighbor Mark**. Ladder built by us to access the rooftop.*



## Rear building:

Our friend **Danial Wulff** helped us patch up this hole. Before, during, and after photos. Kevin purchased the patchwork blanket from the local thrift store.





**Our neighbor Mark** gifted us the bed, headboard, and two wooden night stands after we helped him with yard work and hauling heavy furniture. We purchased many of the items shown from the local thrift store.



Below is the door which once read "STAY OUT" in red paint shown on page 18. Kevin purchased the hanging bar, shelves, and electric stove. Our entertainment center to the right is a different one than those that are shown on pages 64, 70, and 71.





## Rear building, south rooms:

Previously shown on pages 20–22, the meat locker doors shown on those pages previously covered the large doorway to the left. The large wooden box was being built into a soundproof recording studio which was further in the making at the timer we were **dispossessed**. I have written and perform around 40 original songs. This would have been my first time to have the opportunity to take my time recording my first albums. The tapestry on the left was purchased at the local thrift store. Our ornate hanging light can hardly be seen in this photo.





Previously shown on pages 22–23, this room is where we processed grains for bread making and nut oils. The utilitarian shelves were gifted to us by **our neighbor Mark** after he inherited them. He was a big fan and supporter of our work and we became good friends. The shelving was used to store organic and native seed packets we intended to sell at a later date when we opened Kern River Wildharvesting Cooperative ([www.KernRiverCoop.com](http://www.KernRiverCoop.com)), however **Kern County sheriff's deputies** coerced us to leave behind almost everything shown in this room. An oil press, “World's Greatest Nutcracker” de-sheller, and grain mill are attached to the workbench.

