

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

§ 1 - Backstory

Aug. 7, 2002 – I left Iowa and began hitchhiking the U.S.A. with my 12 string guitar on a quest to learn to live closer with the earth and write songs documenting that journey for use in a rock and roll opera I was writing.

Spring 2003 – A friend and I met **former U.S. Armed Forces ethnobotany/wilderness survival instructor Richard "Lonewolf" Legan**, who began teaching us historical uses of native plants and trees among the high Mohave Desert for ~6 months.

Autumn 2003 – Lived on the streets in the Los Angeles metropolitan area, street performing with my guitar and foraging wild plants to survive. Developed my skills on guitar, wrote many original songs, and continued writing the rock & roll opera. Attended the Children's Hospital of Los Angeles for a year and a half to address my medical condition.

2005 – After leaving the L.A. Area I met SJSU Environmental Studies Professor Emeritus Frank Schiavo, whom I had the honor of learning from and assisting as a tour guide of his revolutionary solar home in San Jose until his death in 2010.

2010 – While reflecting on my journey I decided to return to Kern County to see if I could find and learn more from Richard Lonewolf because I realized he knew more about the skills I was seeking to learn than anyone I'd met since.

After I found him Lonewolf informed me he had not been receiving his due military benefits for many years. It was apparent from lack of food in the cupboards and living conditions that he and his family were suffering as a result, so I researched and found him an attorney (who since won his case). I invested the little bit of money I had into supplies to document his skills, and street performed with my guitar to raise funds to document his skills for use in building [his website](#), our textbook called [More Valuable Than Gold](#), and the [Wild Living Skills Database & Smartphone App](#).

2013 – I met my boyfriend, Kevin Byrd, who joined my efforts. Together we street performed and he helped support me as I continued to develop educational publications and websites to further our work. Coffee shops, truck stops, fast food restaurants, and friends' homes would serve as work spaces along with way. We usually slept outdoors and lived out of our backpacks in order to keep the projects moving forward while on a low budget.

2015 – Kevin and I were on our last legs. Street performing to earn enough to survive while living out of our backpacks had worn us down. Carrying the computer and recording equipment added additional exhaustion. Kevin was hospitalized more than once due to lack of food and exhaustion, and that Kern County has one of the highest poverty levels is one of the highest in the nation¹ made earning enough to survive noticeably more difficult than in other parts of the country.

¹ **Bakersfield.com, "Kern County child poverty hasn't slowed since end of Great Recession, report shows" BY HAROLD PIERCE (6-7-2017):** http://www.bakersfield.com/news/kern-county-child-poverty-hasn-t-slowed-since-end-of/article_896aa556-0b90-5f39-9844-c46745dafa2f.html

Summer 2015 – After listening to us perform near a shopping center in Lake Isabella, CA (where Lonewolf now lived) and hearing a bit of our story, a local man told us about a legal process called **adverse possession**, explaining that it is a procedure by which a person can gain ownership of **abandoned property**.

I began researching the procedure and asked friends in the area if they were aware of any abandoned properties nearby. Several said they personally knew people who acquired their homes in this way. One friend told us that her father helped many people get into homes using this process.

Soon it was brought to our attention by local acquaintances **Rudy and Liz Hemminger** that the house across the street from them (2232 Commercial Ave.) had been abandoned for approximately 7 years and that it might be a perfect candidate.



My hand-crafted gear after 13 years on the road. San Luis Obispo..



Soon after Kevin and I first met. Santa Rosa bus terminal.



Spring 2015. Stranded in Sacramento.

