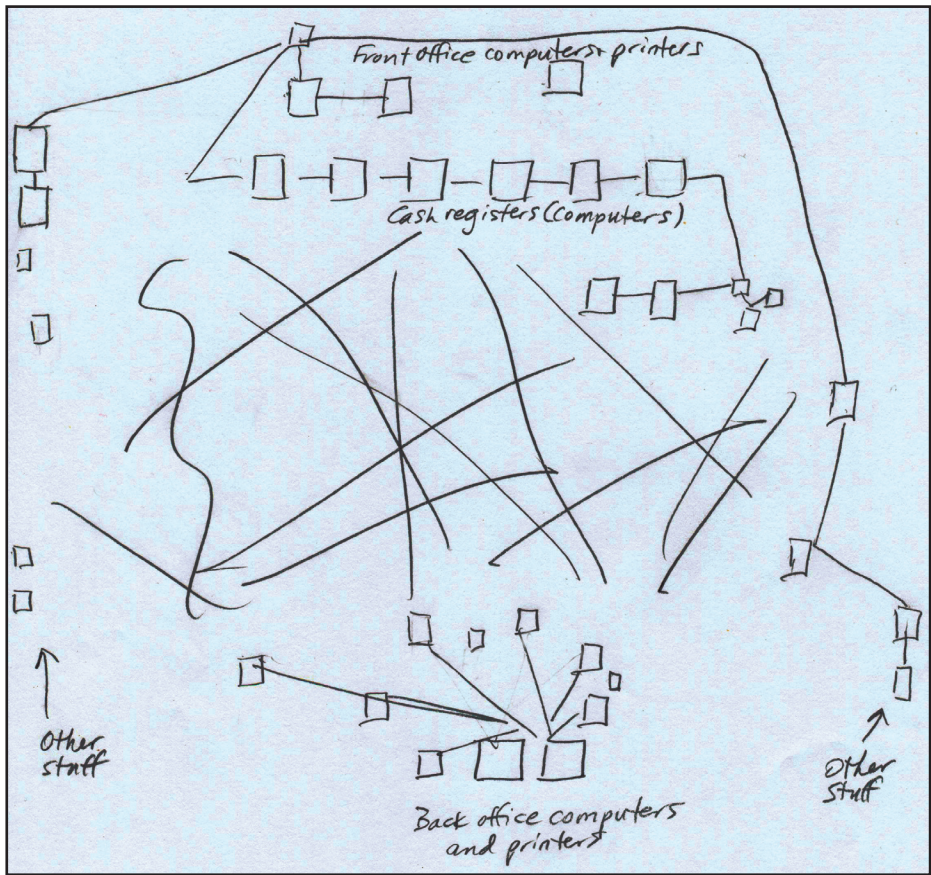


COMPUTERS^J YIKES

This week (9/27-10/1) has been . . . interesting. We reached the culmination of all of our inter-related projects being upgraded to the latest and greatest. The trick is that we are talking about electronics and software.



Oh. Ugh! Yes, "Ugh" is right! Or more accurately, "UGH!!!!!"

For a year, almost exactly, we have been trying to learn a new software that supports the scanning in the cash registers. A year?? Really?? That's what we say, too. What in heck took a year??

A number of factors contributed to the ridiculously long time it took us to finally implement the software. 1. The freeze and resulting power outages in Texas last winter that affected our training and support guy for several weeks. 2. The same guy's wife brought a new baby into the world (how dare she do that in the middle of our project!). 3. Our support gal Leslie had personal involvements that delayed us for weeks. 4. The virus stuff forced us to do most of the work remotely so that people could not come here to do the training and installing. 5. We had a series of vacations that happened back to back, and more. I began to wonder if God was trying to tell us something, and I still don't know for sure.

Then we have had to face the issue of the aging of the store's electronic infrastructure (Do those big words make me sound smart?). The cables between the computers, the registers, the servers, and other devices were in some cases

going on 40 years old. And as the years passed, and new ones were installed, rarely were the old cables removed, creating a terrible mess of new and old wiring, with almost none of it labelled.

So we decided we had to redo the cabling and clean up all of the mess. One of our regular network support guys did the rewiring, a side business for him,

while he also wore his other hat as one of the network techs doing our back office computers. They replaced and "upgraded" virtually every computer in the store. (You know how you sometimes accuse the store of moving products just to keep you guessing? That's what Microsoft does with software upgrades – moves icons and other things around just to drive us crazy!)

Finally, our cash register people had to replace and upgrade all of the registers and their server in the back office.

All of that had to work smoothly with the new scan support software. Yeah, right!

Thursday morning was D-Day for all of that to be working together, or so they hoped. Well, no. To no surprise at all, there have been a series of glitches requiring hours of support guys' time in the servers to figure out why this or that function locks up or kicks us out or . . . As of this writing, things have not yet settled down.

This reminds me of when we got our first computer. The year was 1979, Apple had not yet come out of Steve Jobs' garage, and yet we decided we needed a computer for bookkeeping, never mind that computers weren't ready for us. So we bought an early PC from an account-

ing instructor from VV College, believing that he had it ready to go. Suckers! He spent weeks occupying a desk in our front office at the old store, writing programs for accounting, which were, in fact, pretty good. But it was raw and unrefined, plaguing us with glitches and roadblocks multiple times a day. Even in those early years, we could see the handwriting on the wall about computers.

Thus ended the era of mechanical cash registers, calculators, and adding machines. In 1983, when we opened the store in this new building, we put in electronic scan-ready registers, and it's been quite the ride ever since. These new and wondrous systems never seemed to live up to their billing. We'd be told, "It will do this or that wonderful thing", and often this or that thing just didn't work or wasn't ready.

Now, in 2021, it seems that everything is now electronic, and computers rule the world. Can we live without our "smart" phones? Or our home computer or tablet? Do you see yourself getting nudged, or even shoved into the world of electronics by companies who no longer want your checks in the mail? Pay your bills online! It's sooooo much easier!!! And then so many spend hours every day on their "phones", whether on Facebook or watching video or reading email. E-mail! No letter in a scented pink envelope delivered to your door anymore, just silly emojis.

So where is all of this taking us? It's kinda scary, actually. Here is an excerpt from an article on artificial intelligence from American Thinker that should make you very concerned.

September 28, 2021

ELON MUSK'S CRUSADE TO SAVE YOU -- BY DESTROYING YOUR HUMANITY

The most unnerving element of artificial general intelligence is that this hypothetical mind will be completely alien to legacy humans. . . . machine learning and algorithmic output is a form of cognition with similar objectives to the human mind -- at least for now -- but it arrives at solutions by far different cognitive pathways. As artificial intelligence teaches itself about the outside world, it develops its own "personality". . . To the extent that AI will surpass human intelligence -- or is believed to do so -- we run the risk of creating alien minds [using computer software] that will rule over us, or perhaps destroy us altogether.

. . . To survive in

the coming world, we'll have to adapt ourselves to an AI-human [intimate association]. Musk insists this transformation will be "optional." At the same time, he foresees a computer-dominated environment ruled by advanced mathematics and quantum processing. In that scenario, the only real alternative to bio-enhancement is to be crushed underfoot by the Machine.

Musk is certainly right about one thing. **We're being thoroughly conditioned to take the next evolutionary leap.** "Today, if you don't bring your phone along, it's like you have missing limb syndrome," he tells Rogan. "We're already partly a cyborg or an AI symbiote. . . . Hence the need to replace screen-gazing and thumb-typing with full brain-computer interfacing."

These people want to create a class of superior beings who are no longer fully human, and who will rule over us rubes and eliminate the resistors, one way or another. Think deadly "vaccines" that are actually experimental gene therapy.

But God! ". . . then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. (Gen. 2:7) "When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God. Male and female he created them, and he blessed them and named them Man when they were created." (Gen. 5:1-2)

Do we think we should be messing with what God Himself created? This is not just band-aids and fixes. This is messing with the very essence of humanity. This is thinking that man can create a better creature than God Himself did. I kinda doubt that God overlooks this kind of arrogance. So let's step off of this Highway to Hell, and side with the Almighty Creator of the Universe and of our bodies and of our souls!

Linda Gammell

From Psalms 139

O LORD, you have searched me and known me!
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.
You search out my path and my lying down
and are acquainted with all my ways.
Even before a word is on my tongue,
behold, O LORD, you know it altogether. . . .
For you formed my inward parts;
you knitted me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
my soul knows it very well.
My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
Your eyes saw my unformed substance;
in your book were written, every one of them,
the days that were formed for me,
when as yet there was none of them.

SIX LITTLE STORIES

Contributed. From the Web.

Well worth the 30 seconds to read!

1

Once all villagers decided to pray for rain.

On the day of prayer all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella.
That's FAITH.

2

When you throw babies in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them.
That's TRUST.

3

Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning, but still we set the alarms to wake up.
That's HOPE

4

We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future.
That's CONFIDENCE

5

We see the world suffering, but still we get married and have children.
That's LOVE.

6

On an old man's shirt was written a sentence 'I am not 80 years old; I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience.'
That's ATTITUDE.



Dear life, when I said, "Can this get any worse" it was a rhetorical question, not a challenge.

The future is shaped by your dreams, so stop wasting time and go to sleep!

ON THE PORCHES AT THE STORE

SATURDAYS, Oct. 9, 16, & 23, 9A-Noon, HALLOWEEN TAILGATE TRICK OR TREAT SPONSORSHIPS & TAILGATE SIGNUPS, by L.V. Roadrunners. The Tailgate Trick or Treat will be held on October 31 in the parking between the Library and Senior Center. Come sign up!

- Lucerne Valley Market
- "Do it Best" Hardware
- Wash n Shop
- Crossroads Center

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Please, unless otherwise indicated, ON AD ITEMS NO MORE THAN 6 TOTAL (including all flavors or varieties) OF ANY ITEM, PER FAMILY, DURING THE AD PERIOD, AT THE SALE PRICE, except in produce and meat, which are limited to normal retail quantities, or which carry limits specifically stated. Sorry, we must reserve the right to further limit or refuse sales.

ON MULTIPLE PRICING, when purchasing items in quantities more or less than the multiple stated, the register is built automatically to charge the "each" price times the quantity. (Example: Price of item is 3/\$1. The price of: one = 34¢, two = 68¢, three = \$1, four = \$1.34, five = \$1.68, six = \$2.00).

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