

Ball of String

This is a ball of string. (Duh!)



This is a ball of string that has run a super-market/hardware store/shopping center for 50 years:



The first ball of string is neat and pretty, everything in its place. It's how we thought running a store would be: neat, attractive, and simple. The second ball of string is how it really works.

That mess of string is how the store operates in the background, or so it feels to us sometimes. When we look at the big picture, we are amazed and shocked at the complexity of this one little business sitting in the desert, minding its own business.

You may think it's the first ball of string, all smooth and neat. Some new staffers have trouble adjusting to the work here, because they find it much more involved than they ever imagined.

A good place to start is to show you how many suppliers we must deal with to bring you the variety of merchandise we have in the store. On the list nearby are 103 suppliers requiring ordering, receiving, and stocking onto the shelves. We cheated a little by adding UPS and FedEx since they bring mostly items from suppliers already listed but still create an interruption at the back door.

Most of those require our Receivers to stop

what they are doing, clear the floor of their boxes that might be in the way of customers, and hurry to one of the two receiving doors to check in the merchandise. Sometimes the driver/salesman stocks his own items; mostly our staffers must do that.

Then of course, the paperwork must go to the office to be checked for pricing and then paid. Both of those simple-seeming tasks require their own dedicated software program that must be updated at times, troubleshooted, learned, operated, yada, yada. And that doesn't include much time spent on other suppliers' apps or the internet to find and order stuff, or emails that flood our inboxes.

Each department requires special training, whether produce, meat cutting, Deli Café cooking, or selling wood stoves. The cashiers have intensive training to learn how to operate the frontend computers and especially how to handle those things that are mandated by the governments. And then someone has to keep track of those mandates.

We are blessed by God with a great staff who, for the most part, like what they do and get along well with each other. There is lots of teasing and laughter among them, which translates to a warm and happy spirit to the customers. (Yeah, I hear some of you, we're not perfect at that!)

Other complexities involve insurances of several types, security, support agreements for each of the software systems, the solar stuff, the water system, our great tenants, putting the ads together, maintenance of aging facilities, and more I'm probably forgetting. Oh, and inspections, regulations, and reportings demanded by various agencies, my favorite things (NOT!).

A temptation is to consider and decide on new ideas – "oooh, look at this cool thing we could do" – and then our ball of string becomes this:



Maybe not so neat looking. More overwhelming. DO NOT TOUCH ANOTHER BALL OF STRING, YOU IDIOT!

You just wouldn't believe what happens within these four walls. . . and the parking lot. . . and the back yard . . . and the Wash n Shop . . . and the tenants . . . and, and, and.

When we first started this in 1975 (or in 1967 at the Hitchin Post), things were MUCH simpler. We never would have imagined it could get so complex. It would be much less if we could keep the nosy, intrusive, bureau-

Mark your Calendar for
MEGA SWAP MEET
Sat. June 7
8am to 3pm

LVEDA Meeting
 (Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association)

Monday, MARCH 31st
5:00 pm at the Moose Lodge
 on Foothill Road, just west of Tradepost Road.

- ✓ Reports from our **County, State and Federal representatives.**
- ✓ Progress reports from **County Sheriff's Dept., CHP and Code Enforcement.**
- ✓ Update on Animal Control policy changes to reflect our issues.
- ✓ Road projects and Caltrans' notices
- ✓ Solar projects
- ✓ Update on Community Center upgrade and Museum
- ✓ Tourism and our economy.
- ✓ Gas prices.
- ✓ Dave Rib's "farewell".

Is something bugging you?
COME TO THE NEXT MEETING TO EXPRESS YOUR OPINION!

cratic government agencies mostly out of it, but alas, that is not to be.

Why did God want us out here doing this? Because, that's why. But thank God, He put us here to serve this "Town of Characters", way out here in the "Middle of Everywhere"! We get to be out of the rushing torrent of freeway traffic, away from the creeping crud of urban decay. We get to enjoy our spectacular sunrises and dramatic sunsets. We get to have a little space instead of postage stamp houses or apartments. We get to have critters and gardens. And yes, weeds. Lots of weeds.

Thank God for this little town. Thank God He put us all here.

Linda Gommel

7UP/RC BOTTLING	CENTRAL PET	FORNEY INDUSTRIES	MATHER BROS ICE CO.	SELKIRK METALBESTOS
AIRGAS (DRY ICE)	CHAINS REQUIRED	FOUR SEASONS G.M.	MCKEE (LITTLE DEBBIE)	SERVICE TOOLS
ALBERT'S PRODUCE	CHAMPION COOLER PARTS	FRESHKO PRODUCE	MISSION FOODS	SO. GLAZER'S WINE & SPIRITS
ALEX'S NURSERY	CHRISTIAN BOOKS	FRITO-LAY	NEBO TOOLS	SOUTHERN MOTORCYCLE
ALTA DENA DAIRY	COCA COLA BOTTLING	GAMZ U.S.A.	NETHERLAND BULB CO	SUNSOFT, INC.
AMAZON	COPPERFIELD CHIMNEY	GENZ GUIDES BOOK CO.	NOTIONS MARKETING	SYSCO RIVERSIDE, INC.
AMERICAN BOOK COMPANY	CORE-MARK	GOLDEN GROVE TRADING	NTP DISTRIBUTION	TENACE INCUBATION BEV.
ANC MAGAZINES	COUNTRY EGGS	GREEN GARDEN PRODUCTS	OTTIMO DIPPIN' DOTS	TENDER HEIFER SNACKS
BAD BEAR SPORTS WEAR	DEANN GARDNER SNACKS	HALLMARK MARKETING	PACIFIC STIHL	THE EPOCH TIMES
BAIT LADY BAIT AND TACKLE	DESPERATE ENTERPRISES	HARBOR DISTRIBUTING	PEPSI-COLA	TOBY ENTERPRISES
BASS PRO SHOP	DIAL MANUFACTURING	HILLMAN FASTENER	PRIMITIVES BY KATHY	TONY'S FINE FOODS
BATTERY SYSTEMS, INC.	DIAMOND VISIONS	IMPERIAL DADE	PURCHASE POWER STAMPS	TY INC.
BIG BEAR TRACTION	DICKIES CLOTHING	INTEGRITY PARTS CO.	R & S BEVERAGE COMPANY	UNIFIED GROCERS
BIG ROCK SPORTS LLS	DISCOUNT ROCKETRY	J & B IMPORTERS	RED BULL DISTRIBUTION	UNIFIED NATURAL FOODS
BIMBO OROWEAT	DO IT BEST	JEFF & TONY'S	REEVES INTERNATIONAL	US FOODS
BIMBO NATURE'S HARVEST	EMERY JENSON DIST.	JOE HERNANDEZ COMPANY	REGENCY FIREPLACE	USA TODAY NEWSPAPERS
BIMBO TAKIS	ENGLAND'S STOVE WORK	KOLE IMPORTS	REPUBLIC NATIONAL DIST.	WALMART
BON SUISSE ICE CREAM	ESSICK AIR PRODUCTS	LARSEN SUPPLY	RIBOLI FAMILY WINES	WESTERN FOODS
BURTON + BURTON	EVERGREEN ENTERPRISES	LEANIN' TREE, INC.	RUG DOCTOR	YANKEE PUBLISHING
CALIFORNIA HOBBY	FARMER BROTHERS COFFEE	LUCERNE VALLEY MUSEUM	RUSSELL STOVER CANDIES	UPS AND FED EX
CARSON HOME ACCENTS	FLOWERS BAKERIES	MASTER LOCK CO.	RUSTIC IRONWERKS	

On The Lighter Side of Serious Stuff . . . from the Web

I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THIS FLAG...

...NOT THIS ONE!

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HE DIED OF NATURAL CAUSES.

YOU PUSHED HIM OFF A ROOF.

GRAVITY IS NATURAL.

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PASSED

PARENTS BILL OF RIGHTS ACT

R REPUBLICANS 213

D DEMOCRATS 0

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IF YOU REPEAT A LIE OFTEN ENOUGH IT BECOMES PALESTINE

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LVM Commentary - March 27 - April 2, 2025

Chuck Norris hunts with a blindfold and gives the deer a gun to give them a sporting chance.

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VANCES WITH WOLVES

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