

CRISES!

Today is Tuesday, and I was supposed to write this article last week, and then yesterday, and then at the latest, this morning. But somehow, as you might understand after reading this, events took an "interesting" turn that swallowed up any spare time and then some.

These events were somewhat traumatic, as you will see, so please as you read this, have your violins ready. I expect a full violin concerto to accompany my stories of woe. I have changed the names to protect the innocent – oh, wait! That's Dragnet. Or 77 Sunset Strip. Or something.

THE WASH N SHOP COIN LAUNDRY

Two weeks ago, we finally realized that the hot water boilers and pipes in the Wash n Shop Coin Laundry were in serious trouble. They were installed 30 years ago, when we built the laundry (1987), 30 loooong



years during which the hard water minerals could accumulate inside the pipes and virtually close them up. We had learned the "hard" way (so to speak) that this buildup needed to be removed by an acid bath run through the pipes periodically, which we did several times over the years.

But (there always is one, isn't there?) certain sections of pipe were inaccessible to the acid bath and just continued to build up more and more mineral over all that time. In recent months, Cliff, the maintenance man, has had to work harder and harder to keep the water flowing. Customers were commenting that the water wasn't hot enough, even though the boilers were heating seemingly as they should. But then they steamed and built up pressure and the pipes in the boiler room leaked and fixes to the leaks wouldn't hold. We started

to wonder if the whole thing would soon blow up.

When we decided that we had to DO something about it, we called Hitt Plumbing in Apple Valley to come look at it and recommend what we should do. In the few days that passed while they were preparing estimates of 4 options, the boiler room got noticeably worse, so we told Hitt that we couldn't wait to do something fancy and expensive like replace the boilers and storage tank. We just needed to urgently replace all the pipes before someone got hurt.

The repair necessitated our closing the laundry, but for only one day, right? We HATE doing that to customers. Three guys from Hitt came and worked all day Wednesday, but as they were finishing up, several leaks developed that had to be repaired. Oops, it would be sometime Thursday morning before we could open the laundry, inconveniencing customers even further. It was around midday on Thursday that the Hitt guys and Cliff pressurized the system and watched one joint blow through two repairs. Oh foo!!

Rather than trying a third time to fix the joint, which connected the new copper pipe to old PVC (not rated for hot water), we decided that we had to take a good part of Friday

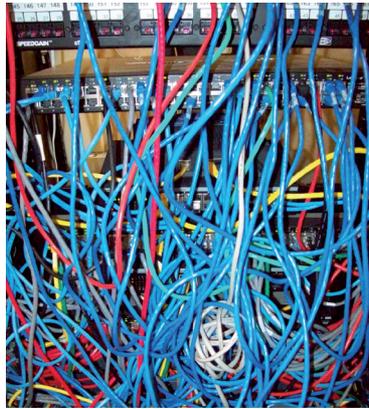
to replace all of the plastic pipe with copper, adding time, customer inconvenience, and substantial cost to the whole project.

But oh, what a relief to know that the boiler room is now quiet, dry of leaks, and running at a normal pressure. You don't feel like the boilers are about to launch into orbit.

COMPUTERS, AGAIN

So we come to this morning, Tuesday, January 23. I was sitting at home, minding my own business and preparing to come to work, when the phone rang at 5:45AM, and Bob told me that the daily reports had not printed during the night as they should have. Uh, oh. This could be a simple glitch easily fixed, or it could mean computer malfunction – call the support tech – spend hours running back and forth from the front to the back of the store, yadda, yadda.

Well guess what? It was worse than even that. The main switch in the back office had failed during the night, so that there was no internet and no communication between any of the 25 (yes, I said 25!) computers in the store. We couldn't reach our network people until 8AM, so Kathryn, our in-house



computer guru, brought out every spare router/switch she could find and plugged in only the most essential things, like internet access, connections for the registers, etc.

Then double disaster happened when Kathryn plugged in an unlabeled cable, which turned out to be the crucial connection to the registers. Since we didn't know that the connection to the front was on that cable, we panicked when the gals in the front called back to us to tell us that the registers were acting funny and couldn't be used to check out the customers!

Working out that problem took about 45 minutes more, requiring much patience on the part of customers as we had to write prices on paper, add sales up on a calculator, and handle everything manually.

Finally at about 10AM, our network tech arrived with a new router/switch and replaced the failed one, which of course had just passed its warranty period by a month or so. Isn't that the way?

Do you remember an old "I Love Lucy", in which Lucy and Ethel worked in a candy factory, and they were assigned to an assembly line, to wrap the candies as they came by on a conveyor belt? They kept up with the candies for the first few minutes, but then the belt sped up a little so that they had to work faster. The conveyor belt sped up even more, and knowing that they were in BIG trouble if they didn't get every single piece of candy wrapped, they tried to grab every

piece, and they'd hide some in their pockets, or pop them in their mouths, and soon candies were flying everywhere.

Do you ever think that our technology-driven lives are like that every day? There are so many things coming at us from every angle, that we can't keep up with them. We can't wrap them up with solutions, but instead place them on stacks of paper here, or hide them in a drawer there. And then we hold our breath, hoping that the regulators and bureaucrats don't come by to see that we aren't able to deal with stuff. Ethel and Lucy were really funny, but I don't feel like our lives are a laugh like that.

"Jesus Calling", the book by Sarah Young, recommended that we thank God no matter what our feelings are, and He will give us joy, no matter what the circumstances are, as an act of spiritual obedience. I try to remember that especially after days and weeks like these, because there is so much for which to be thankful to Him! I just need to remember it often!

Linda Gommel

ECHO RECYCLING

760-617-5404

On the Northeast side of the parking lot.

Open Mon. - Sat. 9AM - 4PM

Closed for Lunch Noon to 1PM.

Closed Sunday

Aluminum CRV **\$1.70/lb**

#1 Plastic CRV **\$1.24/lb**

Pricing good thru Feb. 8, 2018

SERVICES AT CROSSROADS CENTER

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WASH N SHOP COIN LAUNDRY 248-7311

FIRST MOUNTAIN BANK 248-2717

DR. ASHOK MELVANI M.D. 248-1070

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On the north side of the store.

AT THE SERVICE COUNTER In the store

• COPIES • FAX SERVICE
• PACKAGE EXPRESS -- UPS only
• PAYMENT STATION SCE, Frontier & Verizon

PRESCRIPTION DELIVERY 242-4900

Rancho Drugs – Tues. 11AM, Wed. & Fri. 3PM

ST. MARY HEALTH VAN 760-946-4240

Every Thursday except December
8:30AM - 3:30PM in our parking lot.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

LVEDA Meeting

(Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association)

TUES. FEB. 6, 5 PM.
at the Senior Center

- Our new Sheriff Sgt. will present an update on the County's marijuana regulations.
- Status of our Lucerne Valley Community Plan.
- Proposed new commercial businesses in town.
- Any updates on water, solar, wind power, roads and more.

GOT ROCKS?

Rockhounding is a great family hobby here in the High Desert.

LV Museum and History Association is hosting Mining Supplies and Rock Shop owners Cyndy Mandell and Lois Papner of Hesperia.

Free program open to the public. Saturday Feb. 3 from 3-5 pm. at LV Community Center between Pioneer Park and Library.

Light refreshments available. Bring the kids, too. For info go to www.LucerneValleyMuseum.org

L.V. School Board Meeting Thursday, February 8, starts at 5:30PM. At the Alternative Education Center, 8560 Alioto Rd up Highway 18.

King of the Hammer Schedule

Friday 2/2 - Hammertown Opens

Saturday 2/3 - 4600/UTV Qualifying

& King of the Motos Night Race
Sunday 2/4 - King of The Motos Day Race

Monday 2/5 - 4500/4800 Qualifying.

EFi Shootout in evening

Tuesday 2/6 - 4400 Qualifying

Wednesday 2/7 - Can-AM UTV Race

Thursday 2/8 - Smittybilt Every Man Challenge Race

Friday 2/9 - Nitto King of The Hammers Race

Saturday 2/10 - Genright KOH Experience Trail Ride. R/C Car Event

This all takes place in Johnson Valley. For more information and live coverage go to <https://ultra4racing.com>

LIMITS & MULTIPLE PRICING

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).