

CHRISTMAS 2018

In the next few days (as I write this), we will be enjoying our staff Christmas potluck, which lasts one day, and then some. We get so much food that even after some staffers take their creations home at the end, there is still enough left to last most of a week. Of course, we keep it cold and safe. (How could you even ask that question?)

We changed our Christmas dinner get-together from a more or less formal sit-down dinner to the potluck, which then includes everyone, regardless of schedule. Staffers can include family members if they wish, which gives the rest of us a chance to meet them. I bring my two kids, Rocky and Maggie, er, well, I guess I don't, since the health department might frown on that idea. Rats. Think how they could clean things up!

Some of you may remember how a few years ago (seems like five but in reality is more than ten!), we caught a shoplifter on the day of the potluck. The guy was a veteran, and on his way to Texas, probably for the holidays. The weather was raw, windy, and cold.

We brought him up to the staff room to await the sheriff, where we had all that food laid out, with great aromas, and several staffers chowing down. Some of us started feeling uneasy about him just sitting there watching us eat all that good food, and especially when we realized that what he attempted to shoplift wasn't cigarettes or liquor or some tool or toy. It was food he could eat now, because he was hungry: a package of lunchmeat, a can of beans, maybe something else. Wow. What a challenge.

Between the gal who was

the attendant at the potluck, the security man, my dad Ernie Gommel, and a few others of us, we couldn't stand just letting him sit there hungry while we pigged out. We gave him a plate and let him eat his fill of all the goodies there were, and then Gommel gave him the items he had shoplifted.

There was something mysterious going on with that little incident, and even the sheriff was softened to the point of taking him to Victorville to the bus station to continue his trip to Texas. Several of us shed tears at the time, and we still cannot tell the story without tears. Quite a few people who read our account of the story on this page also said they wept as they read it.

What was going on? Why did it create so much response in so many? We still look back at that in wonder. Was God involved? (Yes, He's involved in EVERYTHING, and something that profound and mysterious has to have something of Him in it!) Our mysterious shoplifter disappeared off the face of the earth after that, even after he had promised to get in touch with us on his way back. Was he an angel in disguise? Is that a stupid question? Is there such a thing? I suspect so.

An aspect of this little story that is not mentioned much is the involvement and spirit of the staffers themselves. I am amazed at the staff that God has sent to us, very special people with character, and with care and good hearts for our community and customers.

Quite a few have been here well over 10 years, some even at or near 30 years, and so they had the opportunity to learn the spirit of this mission to Lucerne Valley directly from Gommel. They do an amazing job of passing that on to the younger and shorter term staffers. We especially hope

to help those who work here to grow and mature and relate to others in genuine care for them.

A number of people comment at how different this place feels when they first walk in. We sure hope so, and we hope it's a difference in warmth and spirit, a difference in smiles and a difference in the helpful spirit in the staffers.

On the front of this ad you will find the names of all who work here, arranged by their home department. A great majority of them live here in Lucerne Valley, but some travel 25 to 30 miles each way to come wait on you customers.

I am grateful to God for these special people He has sent. They are what make this place so special. Merry Christmas!

Linda Gommel

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

From the Web.

CHRISTMAS GRACE

The whole family bowed their heads and young Benjamin began saying Grace, thanking God for all his friends, naming them one by one. Then he thanked God for Mummy, Daddy, brother, sister, Grannie and Grampy. Benjamin then began to thank God for the food.

He gave thanks for the ham, the stuffing, the cranberry sauce, the Christmas pudding, the Yule log, the mashed potatoes and even the honey butter. Benjamin paused, and everyone waited. . . and waited.

After a long silence, he looked up at his mother and asked, "If I thank God for the Brussels sprouts, won't he know that I'm lying?"

ECHO RECYCLING

On the Northeast side of the parking lot.
Open Mon. - Sat. 9AM - 4PM
 Closed from Lunch Noon to 1PM.
 Closed Sunday

Aluminum CRV **\$1.70/lb**
#1 Plastic CRV **\$1.24/lb**
 Pricing good thru December 26, 2018

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

LVEDA Meeting

(Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association)

TUES. JANUARY 8, 5 PM.
at the Senior Center

Our monthly LVEDA meetings are a great place to find out what's happening in Lucerne Valley. Learn about any updates on many local issues including solar, wind power, roads, septic, fire fees and more.

L.V. School Board Meeting

Thursday, Jan. 10, starts at 5:30PM.
 At the Alternative Education Center,
 8560 Aliento Rd up Highway 18.

SERVICES AT CROSSROADS CENTER

LUCERNE VALLEY MARKET & HARDWARE 248-7311

WASH N SHOP COIN LAUNDRY 248-7311

FIRST MOUNTAIN BANK 248-2717

DR. ASHOK MELVANI M.D. 248-1070

ECHO RECYCLING 760-617-5407
 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.

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).

TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THOSE WHO SPONSOR THIS STORE; SEE <http://thenewlight.net>

I have put the following poem in this space before, but I cannot resist doing it again. This is Mary's response to the news that she would bear a baby as a virgin, an unthinkable breach of the morality and culture of the time (and should still be!). Instead of despair at "What will they think of me? What will they do to me?", she responded with humility, joy, and obedience to God. What an example to us! Luke 1:46-55 New Living Translation (NLT)

Mary's Song of Praise

"Oh, how my soul praises the Lord.

*How my spirit rejoices in God my Savior!
 For he took notice of his lowly servant girl,
 and from now on all generations will call me blessed.
 For the Mighty One is holy,
 and he has done great things for me.
 He shows mercy from generation to generation
 to all who fear him.*

*His mighty arm has done tremendous things!
 He has scattered the proud and haughty ones.
 He has brought down princes from their thrones
 and exalted the humble.
 He has filled the hungry with good things
 and sent the rich away with empty hands.
 He has helped his servant Israel
 and remembered to be merciful.
 For he made this promise to our ancestors,
 to Abraham and his children forever."*