

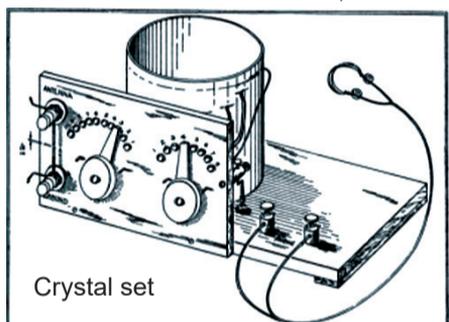
## EKK! I'M TRAPPED!

Help! I'm trapped and I can't get out! Electronics everywhere! These devices and electronic gizmos are running my life! I feel like I'm in technology jail!

On a personal level, I've become more and more surrounded, enmeshed, completely captured by the devices I use. Of course, I have what I think are good reasons for each one. They keep me functional in this fast-moving busy life of helping to keep this store stocked and running more or less smoothly. But I can still hear Gommel (my dad who started this whole enterprise), who still sits on my shoulder nattering at me all the time. He would DIE to see how we are in the grip of electronics everywhere.

We think of our cell phones or computer tablets as our first personal encounter with electronics, but really, the whole thing started a little over a century ago, and has now gained speed like you wouldn't believe. When my dad was born in 1921, telephones were still a marvel and mostly used party lines, with a person at a switchboard connecting the caller to the callee (is that even a term? – No.) I gather that the operator often knew the callers and they could gossip and chitchat between them.

Radios were in their infancy, and my dad built a little crystal set when he was a kid so that he could listen to radio. That's what kids did with their time back then,



Crystal set

learning and doing and getting good at stuff. (He would also tear apart his bicycle and put it back together again.) Television was not available yet and programming was being created, often springing from radio dramas.

When I came into the world (drum-roll, please), in 1949 (yes, that makes me OLD), televisions were just starting to invade and infect household living rooms, and unless you were insanely rich, there was only one TV per household that could afford it. I remember at the age of 4 or so, we visited our neighbor to see one of the earliest color TVs, and it turned out to be a black and white TV with plastic color bands across the screen. Amazing but disappointing. A few years later, my Grandma and Grandpa Gommel got an RCA color TV, and we thought it was wonderful.

Throughout the 50s and 60s, it seemed that TV and radio were here to stay . . . forever. Nothing would change since everything was perfect. Cars had become much more reliable. Houses were warm and comfortable. We could buy just about anything we needed and have enough left over for fun stuff. Little did we know that the foundations were being laid for the prison in which we now find ourselves.

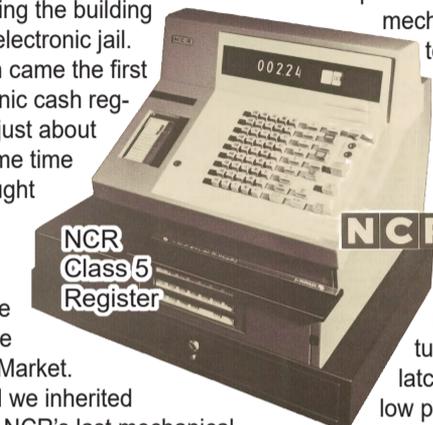
At college (1966-1970), I had a portable stereo and a typewriter, using erasable bond paper, so when I made a typo, all I needed was a pencil eraser to remove it and correct it! Wow! The height of convenience. In 1967, we bought the Hitchin Post Market in Reche Canyon, Colton, and used big old NCR mechanical cash registers (with seemingly 1000 keys on them!), and for bookkeeping, we had mechanical adding machines. I had a tank of an adding machine, a Hermes, that would crank out lots

of calculations, but with much effort and noise. I loved it. Alas, the age of electronics overtook us and we bought our first electronic calculator, a Ricoh, without a paper tape (big mistake!). I really loved that, and have never found a calculator as perfect as that one was ever since (except for the paper tape).

In our little Snack Shop, we started out with a Dar-San infrared sandwich warmer, with their pre-made sandwiches in a cellophane or plastic wrap that went right in the oven and came out just brittle enough to unwrap the sandwich. The star of the show was a steamer, a table top tank about 12X15" that had a steamer pan that heated up hot dogs in minutes, including the bun. Super. Add into that our old fashioned soda fountain that made the best milkshakes, and what more could you want for good quick food? Well, a microwave, that's what. We got a Sanyo microwave oven as soon as they were available. All of this was beginning the building of the electronic jail.

Then came the first electronic cash registers, just about the same time we bought Leo's Market and it became Lucerne Valley Market.

At LVM we inherited



NCR Class 5 Register

NCR's last mechanical cash registers, the Class 5, a workhorse that did almost everything. Reliable. No technician needed. But at both stores (we had both from 1975-1981) we replaced the good old workhorses with TEC electronic registers, that simply did electronically what the mechanical registers did.

Simple. Reliable. No technicians needed. And then we got a bigger, fancier TEC for LVM, that could do more things. Get the direction?

Guess what happened in about 1980? Some brilliant soul came up with the bright idea of scan bars on products that electronic scanners could read for quick checkout at the supermarket. In 1982, Sir William (Lembright) and I both worked at the brand new Safeway in Hesperia (Main and I St.), and we were the third Safeway in Southern California to scan groceries. I got to be the scan coordinator and so learned what was involved: shelf tags with prices showing; scan bars on products, and a data base in a computer of all of the items, their descriptions, and their prices. See how complex it all became suddenly? The framing of the jail building taking shape.

In 1983, we bought used DTS scanning registers with which we hoped to scan, but our wholesaler, Certified Grocers, wasn't ready with scan support yet, and so we just used price lookups for a few key items and for produce. These never worked too well and so we replaced them with NCR 2126, the best little scanning register ever, but of course, since it was so simple and solid, we had to replace it with the 2127, and then the new and wonderful ISS45 V7, then ISS45 V8, and now the ISS45 V8 in new, prettier clothing, called NCR Encore. All NOT simple, NOT worry free, and requiring mega technical support, a server computer, all kinds of federally mandated security, and state-mandated functions for all of the state's programs and on and on. This picture tells it all. It is an actual picture of the final steps of our 100% electronic upgrade that we have been installing for the last few weeks!



From my dad's crystal set to this!

The above doesn't touch what technological advancement has been done to cars, which now have computers with varying levels of sophistication, requiring auto mechanics to be computer technicians as well, but equipped with technologically advanced testing equipment. My Itty Bitty City (Ram ProMaster City – such a dumb name!) is relatively simple, but still it tells me the temperature, when a door isn't latched, when a tire has low pressure, what my average mileage is on a certain trip, how much gas is being consumed each moment in real time, and many more things. Fortunately I can turn most of it off.

Then there are our smart phones. First the mobile phone was a heavy Motorola the size of a shoebox, and we had one because of the cost and the size of it. It seemed like a good way for the boss to keep in touch with the store. But then the mobile phones shrank to the size of a pocket, the cost plummeted, the cell phone networks expanded, and all of a sudden EVERYONE had to have one. Now instead of going to a phone to make a call, the phone is with you and in a sense you are chained to it. We can't live without the cell phones, which are now smart phones and are basically mini tablet computers that can make phone calls, take pictures and videos, and many other useful things. We went from the first phones with a live operator on party lines to these pocket sized jailers in about 80 years. I find that my Google Pixel 4a phone is essential to my continuing to work and function somewhat normally, since it has captions on phone calls and any video and audio,



plus it connects wirelessly with the hearing aid, making it possible to hear the phone call. Wow.

But it doesn't end there. Now there are smart watches that will pair with the smart phones, and you can make phone calls, receive and send text messages, and best of all (NOT), your smart watch monitors your heart rate and the weather and many more things, including whether or not you have moved from your desk in X minutes. "Time to get moving", my watch tells me, with an image of a walking person, and it vibrates on my wrist. As soon as I get up from my chair, it tells me "Great. You are active again!" I am so happy

that my watch approves of my activity! The bars in the windows of the jailhouse are almost complete, and we are now tied to our cars, phones, and watches!

Think "they" don't have ways to monitor our movements through those devices? How many times have you and your family agreed that when the time comes that "they" are going to come after us, the first thing we must do is to throw away our phones and watches, and maybe park our cars where we aren't. And why would "they" ever come after us? Because some of us refuse to

comply with their (unconstitutional) mandates. Some of us are refusing the "vaccine" and "they" are determined to get us all or get rid of us. And what about those of you who have "smart TVs"? Or Alexa or Cortana or whatever his/her/its name is? That's allowing potential electronic surveillance right into the rooms of your house!

Look at the complexity it requires for man to build the modern Tower of Babel in the effort to compete with God's Creation! My little description above barely scratches the surface of all that we have done to try to create heaven on earth. And all because most people arrogantly think that we don't need God; that our creative power is equal to His; and that He's really just a myth for weak-minded people anyway. And now we create this "vaccine" as the first step to a new creation called a trans-human, a blending of a human with technology to improve the human body, and to provide a way to inject electronic gateways right into the body's cells.

Really?? Do we think that God will not intervene as He has before? I think He WILL intervene, and probably sooner rather than later. And then after much suffering and tribulation in this world, that Day will come:

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son. But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."

(From Revelation 21)

Doesn't that sound great, compared to all this frustration, uncertainty, ugliness, and strife? Wouldn't you just love to be there with God eternally? Wouldn't you give everything to get out of this jail we have built, and to be there in God's kingdom? I would, and I can't wait!

Linda Gommel