

INVENTORY TIME AND EMPTY SHELVES

Today is Thursday, the day before our most planned traumatic moment in the store: the annual inventory. I think that our staffers would unanimously agree that this inventory is our least favorite event in the entire year.

So why do we do it? We import a team of 15-20 (hopefully) people to spread out into the store and count every little item on every shelf, every nook, and every cranny (what is a cranny anyway?). And I assure you that there are many many shelves, nooks and crannies around here! We do it because we have to. Your friend and ours, the IRS, requires that businesses like ours do a physical count of product at least once a year.

Maybe if "they" knew how much of a guess it turns out to be, they would be less demanding about it. Or, on the other hand, knowing the IRS, if they knew how difficult it is

to get an accurate count of such a mishmash of stuff like ours is, they would require us to buy some expensive equipment and install expensive procedures that wouldn't produce any better results, but at least they would feel better that they exercised their AUTHORITY over us!

Maybe after tomorrow, when the little inventory gremlins invade to do their counting, we can all return to normal life, whatever "normal" is anymore. I guess

"normal" these days is huge empty areas on the shelves, and smaller holes dotting the aisles EVERYWHERE, to the extent that I can barely stand to walk down most of the grocery aisles.

Aisle 12 (bread) – breakfast rolls look empty. Two bread companies cannot bake stuff.

Aisle 11 (freezers) – burrito section empty half the time. Taquito section empty for weeks!

Aisle 10 (crackers and chips) – lck, ick, ick. I can hardly describe how awful that looks! If Nabisco has been baking without much problem all these years, what changed to make it so much of a struggle just to get Oreos, Chips Ahoy, and Premium Saltines?

Aisle 9A (Juice, canned goods) – **HUUUGGGGGGGGGG** empty space where the Capri Sun pouch drinks are supposed to be. Who's drinking all of that sugar water (aka "belly wash"), anyway? What happened that the manufacturer can't make enough anymore?

Aisle 9B (pasta, sauces, salsas, pickles) – one of the better aisles, sort of.

Aisle 8A (Cereal, breakfast snacks, granola bars) – fruit snacks wiped out, Quaker Oatmeal gone, Carnation Instant Breakfast not to be found. So Linda goes to the UNFI (grocery wholesaler) Harbor to look at the list of fruit snacks and granola bars. Nada ting. Well, nothing that we normally carry, but look!

[OOPS, GOTTA GO. INVENTORY PEOPLE HERE TO "MAP THE STORE"! To be continued.

OK, back now. They're down there placing section tags all over the place, with section numbers so that we can compare each section's dollar numbers with last year.]

Aisle 8A, continued. There are some neat sounding items in brands we haven't carried before, and they are IN STOCK at UNFI, so let's try them! Now it doesn't look as bad as it did, but still, it's plenty empty. ("Plenty" empty??

Aisle 7B (Baking mixes, oil and vinegar, spices, flour) -- I just walked it and it looked ok. But not until we finally got in some white vinegar gallons that were totally out. Who uses so much white vinegar?

Aisle 6A (Baby food and diapers, misc. paper products, Cheep section) -- Oops, I haven't paid attention to that aisle.

Aisle 6B (Paper towels, Bathroom tissue, trash bags, etc.) -- I'm sure you know the story of bathroom tissue. It's not on the shelf because it's in everyone's closets and garages! Actually, we usually have a relatively good supply of that but sometimes the shelves don't look like it because we get behind in rearranging the shelves multiple times per week. For some reason, plastic forks and spoons have gone AWOL, and paper plates are impossible. You cannot count on having the same stuff to sell from week to week.

Aisle 5A, 4A, 3B, 3A, 2A, 2B (Hardware and variety aisles.) -- That all belongs to Sir William, so I don't pay much attention to them. Not that I would know what I was looking at, anyway!

Aisle 5B (Cleaning and laundry products) -- This aisle has been one of the most challenged from the first day of this Panic-demic. Along with TP, everyone had to have gallons and gallons of bleach, miles and miles of sanitizing wipes, and bottles and bottles of disinfecting cleaners. So what does Oven Cleaner have to do with sanitizing and disinfecting? I dunno, but we have mucho trouble getting that, also.

Aisle 4B (pet food) -- Other than my love for my own doggies, I would NEVER step into this aisle again! It's AWFUL, AWFUL, AWFUL!!!! Some brilliant soul decided that dogs and cats don't need canned foods in this time of "crisis!", and so we can get

plenty of dry dog and cat foods, but getting the canned stuff requires many, many hours on the computer searching for items on Amazon

From our wholesaler -- 10-28-21

Attention all Ad Group Retailers: Because of the Covid-19 pandemic and the resulting disruption to inventory, production of products and promotions, it is more important than ever to review all ad alerts and bulletins to stay current with frequent updates that may impact product availability and promotions. . . .

- 5. 11/10 Ad Update
- Delete Charmin Bath Tissue - no replacement
- Delete Kellogg's Cereal - no replacement
- Delete Bounty Paper Towels - no replacement

and Walmart.com. They are the only reason we have a sort of a supply of canned pet foods. I cover my eyes if I ever have to walk down that aisle.

Aisle 1A&B (Soda, Gatorade, waters, teas, Coke, Pepsi, etc.) Another scream into the night and maybe into the day, too. I almost cannot walk that aisle! For months, we have been fighting the Gatorade wars, the Sparkling Waters battles, along with iced teas, gallon water, and even the cases of 24/.5 liter bottled water! Go to the website. Look up all of the codes. When is this one coming in? How about that one? Order extra of the one people don't choose, just in case that's all that's left?

Beverage boxes (uh, beverages are in them 😊) – the out-of-stocks from the beer and soda companies are enough to drive you insane. WHO is consuming all that beer and soda now, and why only 1½ years ago it was basically fine?

You no doubt have heard that the supply chain is a disaster. Some clueless people have accused us of using the virus and surrounding issues like the supply chain as an excuse for doing a poor job at the store. Uh, no. I could go into the factors that have disrupted the supply chain, creating this horrendous out-of-stock situation, but then that would take another whole article, and Kathryn is probably going to kill me for this one.

Hopefully this inventory will be much faster than recent ones, since you don't count what's not in the empty spots (deeply profound, no?). And even better, we can thank God that we have as much as we do and not fuss too much (Linda)!

Linda Gimmel



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Sounds like a contradiction to me. Duhhh.)

Aisle 8B (Ramen, soup, coffee, tea) -- Shield your eyes! Half the time the ramen is empty, empty, empty! Gotta go to the UNFI Harbor and look to see what the supply looks like. Some coming in in a few days. Some in a week or more. Some never again. Place multiple orders with dates to match their expected arrival at the warehouse. Ditto the canned soup. Yesterday there were about 10 cans of Campbell Chicken Noodle soup left on the shelf! Really?? Might as well close up if you don't have Campbell's Chicken Noodle soup.

Aisle 7A (Health and Beauty Care). Looks pretty good, but problems getting pain relievers like Tylenol and Excedrin. Protein drinks hard to get. Thank goodness for Amazon and Walmart.com. Both have some suitable substitutes for our normal items, and both have bailed us out numerous times.

challenged from the first day of this Panic-demic. Along with TP, everyone had to have gallons and gallons of bleach, miles and miles of sanitizing wipes, and bottles and bottles of disinfecting cleaners. So what does Oven Cleaner have to do with sanitizing and disinfecting? I dunno, but we have mucho trouble getting that, also.



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Victims of the unsafe 'Covid vaccine'

Teens Who Died Too Young After COVID Shot



The human carnage is being hidden by Big Pharma, Big Government, Big Business, Big Media, and Big Tech. Yet the documented facts show tens of thousands of Americans dead and millions injured by the "Covid vaccine" And it's just the tip of the iceberg. Ten months into the worldwide "Covid vaccine" rollout, the data show deaths are up for all causes and up for adults age 30 and older who've been injected with the "Covid vaccine." In the United States, the Vaccine Adverse Events Responding System (VAERS) lists twice as many deaths following "Covid shots" for the past 9 months as deaths following all vaccines for the past 30 years. -- SaveCalifornia.com

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

From the Web.

THE PLUS SIGN

Little Tommy was doing very badly in math. His parents had tried everything, tutors, flash cards, special learning center; in short, everything that they could think of. Finally in a last ditch effort, they took Tommy down and enrolled him in the local Catholic School.

After the first day, Little Tommy comes home with a very serious look on his face. He doesn't kiss his mother hello. Instead, he goes straight to his room and starts studying. Books and papers are spread out all over the room and Little Tommy is hard at work. His mother is amazed. She calls him down to dinner and to her surprise, the minute he is done eating he marches back to his room without a word, and in no time he is back hitting the books as hard as before. This goes on for some time, day after day, while the Mother tries to understand what made all the difference.

Finally, Little Tommy brings home his report card. He quietly lays it on the table and goes up to his room and hits the books. With great trepidation, his mom looks at it and to her surprise, Little Tommy got an 'A' in Math. She can no longer hold her curiosity. She goes to his room and says: "Son, what was it? Was it the nuns?" Little Tommy looks at her and shakes his head. "Well then," she replies, "Was it the books, the discipline, the structure, the uniforms, WHAT was it???" Little Tommy looks at her and says, "Well, on the first day of school, when I saw that guy nailed to the plus sign, I knew they weren't fooling around."

QUICK CURE

A woman went to her doctor's office where she was seen by a young new doctor. After about four minutes in the examination room, the doctor told her she was pregnant. She burst out screaming and ran down the hallway.

An older doctor stopped her and asked what the problem was. She told him her story.

After listening, he had her sit down and relax in another room.

The doctor marched down the hallway to the first doctor and demanded, "What's the matter with you? Mrs. Smith is 59 years old, has four grown children, seven grandchildren and you told her she was pregnant?!?"

The new doctor continued writing on his clipboard and without looking up said, "Does she still have the hiccups?"

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- FIRST FOUNDATION BANK 248-2717
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- AT THE SERVICE COUNTER In the store
 - COPIES
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 - PACKAGE EXPRESS -- UPS only
 - PAYMENT STATION SCE, Frontier & Verizon
- PRESCRIPTION DELIVERY 242-4900
 - Rancho Drugs -- Tues. 11AM, Wed. & Fri. 2PM

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