



climbed up to the top – no one was there! Keep looking! Look in the brush all around. Look for foot prints around the tank!

By this time we could hear the sirens of the Colton Police and the Fire Department as they came across the valley below on Mount Vernon Ave. We were getting nervous. Oh, no! We called the cops

both Gommel and Barb are gone, but the other three of us remaining still laugh at that story whenever we think of it, and we still feel the painful embarrassment we felt that day when facing the “first responders” who came so promptly to save . . . a palm tree on a windy day.

*Linda Gommel*

and there’s no one there! Where did he go??

Worse, we heard the beat, beat, beat of a helicopter approaching. Surely they didn’t send a helicopter?? Well, yes, they did.

All we could do was stand and wait. Wait for doomsday when we had to confess that no one was there and we didn’t know where he went. That was the worst 15 minutes of our lives.

Soon there was a police car, a fire engine, maybe an ambulance, and the helicopter overhead. Red faces all around. Aaaaargh!!!!

“There was a man hanging off this tank and we can’t find him. Really! There WAS a man hanging there!” We begged them to believe us.

“Where were you when you saw him?” they asked us.

“We were playing volleyball on our volleyball court, over there,” as we pointed up the ravine the two THOUSAND four hundred sixty feet. That volleyball court was waaaaay far away, and looked soooooo small! Did we ever feel stupid!

The police officers and others who came were very gracious as we profusely apologized. They readily dismissed our embarrassment and calmed our horrified feelings and then departed.

We piled back into the vehicle, and returned to the volleyball court. Looking down the ravine at the water tank again, two THOUSAND four hundred sixty feet, the man was there again!! There he was, hanging from the water tank, so we piled into the vehicle again and drove down there again, but this time we didn’t call anyone. (As in “Duh”!) We walked all around the water tank. We found nothing, except one lone palm tree located just north of the tank, waving its fronds freely in the wind, so that the idiots 2,460 ft south on a volleyball court could only see the waving palm fronds and not the tree.

Bet you never thought a palm tree could be mistaken for a man! Yes, this really happened. It’s not made up. “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” (John 20:29) Better yet, blessed are those who see something unbelievable and do a little investigation before calling out the police and emergency services!

P.S. 55 years later (over half a century!),



**The date: early 1970s**  
**The place: Canyon Ridge Estates, Reche Canyon, Colton**

This story is the sad tale of a bunch of idiots who made utter fools of themselves on a warm and sunny Southern California afternoon.

As the name implies, Canyon Ridge Estates means Canyon RIDGE(S) Estates! It was (and still is) a pleasant middle-class housing tract built on the steep ridges between Reche Canyon and Grand Terrace.

A group of us following God together bought a house there, which property included a deep ravine with a STEEP slope where we planted some fruit trees. Since we enjoyed playing volleyball together (I use the term “playing volleyball” loosely), we leveled a spot at the bottom of the ravine, big enough for a volleyball court. That ravine ran down the hills as far as we could see and provided a vista over the San Bernardino Valley that on clear days was spectacular.

About a half mile below the court (that’s two THOUSAND four hundred sixty feet, to be precise) was a water tank belonging to the housing tract. We never thought much about it, until one day.

On that one day we were playing volleyball on the court when one of us noticed the water tank, and hanging off the top of the tank was a man! (Or a woman. Who knew? We were still sexists back then!) We all looked down that two THOUSAND four hundred sixty ft. and sure enough, there was a man hanging there off the water tank!

This required immediate action! We ran up the steep path to the house. Gommel (my dad) got Barb (my mom) out of the house and told her to call the police! He instructed Bill to get an extension ladder, which unfortunately was down at the Hitchin Post, our store at the time. So Bill brought the only ladder he could find, a small step ladder. We all piled into our vehicle (a van or a pickup – can’t remember) and drove down to the water tank on a dirt road that started from our driveway.

When we arrived, we piled out, and looked up, and there was no man! What?? “Bill, get the ladder (you know, the 2-3’ step ladder)” At least that little ladder made it possible to reach the ladder that was attached to the water tank. Bill

## LVEDA Meeting

(Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association)

**Monday, July 28th**  
**5:00 pm at the Moose Lodge**  
on Foothill Road, just west of Tradepost Road.

LVEDA provides an important community forum recognized by County, State, and Local Representatives. Supports real economic development consistent with our rural goals. Opposes projects that harm our land-use integrity and quality of life.

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

## NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN UP

**Sat, August 2, 2025**  
**8 a.m. to Noon (or until full!)**

### AT Lucerne Valley Market & Hardware

32946 CA-18, Lucerne Valley

San Bernardino Code Enforcement and Solid Waste Management Divisions will be providing **BULKY TRASH collection containers for the FREE disposal of accumulated trash, e-waste, and tires.**

**WE WILL ACCEPT:**  
Household trash, bulky items, green waste and vehicle tires, (we do not accept concrete.)  
Urban Conservation Corps will be present to accept electronics: (TV’s, COMPUTER MONITORS, VCR’s, STEREOS, CELL PHONES, MICRO-WAVES & MORE)

**WE CANNOT ACCEPT HAZARDOUS WASTE.**  
This includes motor oil, and oil filters, anti-freeze, gasoline, drain cleaner, pesticides, fertilizers, fluorescent lights, wood preservatives, pool and hobby supplies, auto/furniture polish, paint thinners, paint products, medications or similar products.

**For current information, please call the Household Hazardous Waste Program**  
**1.800.OILY.CAT**  
**(1.800.645.9228)**

**SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY**  
Cosponsored by San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors, Lucerne Valley, and San Bernardino County Fire Protection District



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

**NYC IS ON THE VERGE OF ELECTING AN**

**ACTUAL COMMUNIST.**

PATRIOTPOST.US: THE BEST HUMOR, MEMES, & CARTOONS

Cain killed Abel with a rock, The Lord didn’t get rid of all the Rocks. He blamed Cain, not the rock. We have a sin problem, not a gun problem.

PATRIOTPOST.US: OBJECTIVE AND UNCENSORED ANALYSIS

**September 11, 2001: “Never Forget”**

**June 24, 2025: “We Forgot”**

PATRIOTPOST.US: ANALYSIS FROM OUTSIDE THE BELTWAY

**HOW IS THIS OK?**

**AND THIS IS NOT?**

PATRIOTPOST.US: OBJECTIVE AND UNCENSORED ANALYSIS

**I tripped and fell today... Most people would blame Donald Trump but I know it's actually because of climate change.**

PATRIOTPOST.US: THE BEST HUMOR, MEMES, & CARTOONS

**DEAR, DEMOCRATS:**  
**PLEASE KEEP FIGHTING FOR WIFE-BEATING, ILLEGAL ALIEN, MS-13 GANG MEMBERS.**  
**SIGNED,**  
**THE 2026 MIDTERMS**

PATRIOTPOST.US: THE BEST HUMOR, MEMES, & CARTOONS

**LOL! CHECK IT OUT, THEY'RE INSTALLING DROP BOXES NOW!**

**ICE**

PATRIOTPOST.US: THE BEST HUMOR, MEMES, & CARTOONS

**Gain of Fauci**  
**@DsclhopesIsBack**

**NEW: Kathy Hochul and Nancy Pelosi's eyebrows on pace to reach Mars before Elon Musk**

PATRIOTPOST.US: THE BEST HUMOR, MEMES, & CARTOONS

**Ayatollah Proudly Announces Iran Has Destroyed 14 Bunker Buster Bombs With Its Nuclear Facilities**

PATRIOTPOST.US: THE BEST HUMOR, MEMES, & CARTOONS  
**LVM Commentary - July 17 - 23, 2025**

I spent 30 minutes talking to them to learn more about their culture until the barman told me they were umbrellas..

PATRIOTPOST.US: THE BEST HUMOR, MEMES, & CARTOONS

**That Face You Make...**

**...when Trump smokes all the Iranian nuclear facilities your pallets of laundered cash paid for.**

PATRIOTPOST.US: THE BEST HUMOR, MEMES, & CARTOONS

**What people say they hate**

**What people really hate**

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