

Order of The Iron Test Pattern



Volume 2

Newsletter

Number 1

News! When it happens you'll see it happen, even if we have to make it happen!

January 22, 2003

This is your Newsletter and your input is, of course, most welcome.

(Things printed in **blue** type are links to the related subject matter.)

Progress Report

Happy New Year! Just a little late in getting this newsletter out, but then it's better late than never. As we slip into the New Year, things have been going, but going slowly. We've increased our membership from the 246 we received back in September of this past year to 323, as of today, so we could say that we are "Surviving!" We had predictions of exceeding our 2400 membership of a few years back, but it may take us a week or two more. One new member actually gave a companion membership, with certificate and lapel pin, to a fellow SURVIVOR where he works. (Wonder what he had against him?)

We've really done well on visitors to our website. We've had over 3350 DIFFERENT visitors since we launched it just four months ago. The counter service that we have on the website only counts an IP address once. If we could only get some of these folks to join and invest in a certificate to hang on their wall and a lapel pin to do what ever with, we'd really be setting well.

Most all our new members have asked for a certificate. We have instituted an "aural," as opposed to verbal, guarantee to go with each: People will walk up to it and say "What in the h...l is that?" and it will attract flies, but we do not specify in which order that will occur. Thanks to our new member and Galactic Tycoon, Philip M. Kane (retired Engineer, FCC guy and attorney) for the legal clarification on our guarantee.

We're looking for additional uses for the **Oitp** lapel pins. The **Oitp** lapel pins make for nice tie tacks, but not too many folks wear ties anymore. Our founder, Father Bob (Bob Vendeland), says they will **not** hold up your pants, so don't even try.

We still have nearly all of our pages on the website just waiting for sponsors. We are eternally grateful to the folks at [DSC Labs](#) up in Canada for taking our front page. If you have need for a test pattern, and who doesn't, please patronize them.

We've added a couple of business cards to the [Business Card Page](#) of our website, but that only helps us to maintain the presence of the website and doesn't really go very far pay any of the bills. Several have asked what it costs to post a business card. Well, it's only \$100.00 a year and you get bragging privileges that go along with it.

We just received, and paid for, 400 new lapel pins (the minimum order) with the inscription "SURVIVOR" on them. We still have a few of the lapel pins with "COMMANDER" emblazed across them, but when they're gone, we will not replace them.

We will need to get some more medallions for the certificates, but we can hold off on that for a while. That will cost us nearly \$500 for the 400 minimum order. Any one know where we can get the same quality, but for a better price? We did find a place in Pasadena, CA who will sell us a minimum order of 100, but the cost would be nearly \$3.00 each. HELP!

NAB is just around the corner. We've asked several exhibitors if we could hold our annual **Order of the Iron Test Pattern** Survivor Recognition meeting in their both. We've gotten some promising "Maybes." Will keep you posted on this.

In this light, Father Bob sent us the following:

<u>Inter Era Memo</u>
To: The Exalted Sagacious Pixel -- Third Era Order of the Iron Test Pattern
From: Bob Vendeland Marshal Ex-Meritus* -- First and Second Eras Order of the Iron Test Pattern
As you plan for the Annual NAB meeting of The Order this year I would like to share with you one recurring comment that I have received after the successful (in the convention hall), but necessarily un-grandiose Second Era meetings. A number of Survivors (with long memories) asked us to plan for First Era type NAB dinner meetings at sit down locations where bull could be exchanged freely and in more relaxed surroundings.
At the time we had many more survivors than we do today and the financial contribution made by each of us defrayed most of the costs. I don't know if you personally still have the time to organize such a party, nor do I know if we have enough interested and solvent surviving "Survivors" who could pony up the necessary funds to have such a party. Why don't you poll us to see what we all think about the whole idea?
Bob Vendeland
*without merit

So what do you think? Please let us know: Editor@OITP.org

Taking it on the Road

We plan to see many of our fellow SURVIVORS after NAB. The folks at Tech-Notes have decided to do their Road Show again after NAB 2003 and we'll be going with them. You can see what they did last year on their [website](#). They do the Road Show in an effort to take at least some of the new technology from NAB to the grassroots engineers that didn't make it to the big one in the desert.

To make it happen, they're looking for companies who would like to get their word out to the masses. So far, five of the ten underwriters from this past year have said they'll go it again with them in 2003. The Road Show hopes to take this new technology to thirty or more venues. (Last year they went to thirty-one.) If you have any thoughts on this, [please let them know](#).

The deciding factors to do this again this year were many. First, they got a lot of good support at the more successful venues. If you were to give them an overall grade, they say it would be seven-five percent or more. There were originally thirty-three venues scheduled last year, but they had to cancel Orlando, FL and Chicago. They're working on this year's trip now, so who knows what will happen?

They learned that the more successful venues were where when they did the Road Show in conjunction with the local SBE and/or SMPTE Chapter/Section. If you're part of one of these, or similar organization and would like them to visit your area, work with your Chapter and/or Section; [please let them know](#) ASAP as they're putting their schedule together now.

Things will kick off just after NAB 2003. They'll travel south through California, then head east along the southern part of the country, head up the east coast, after Florida, and they plan to be in New England sometime in early to mid June; then they'll begin heading for the west coast across the northern part of the country. The plan is to jog up-into or down-into the heartland venues from whichever route is closest, finishing off sometime in July.

With a Road Show of this type, keep in mind that it is not always possible for to hold the Road Show on the same days you might hold your local meetings, so they need your flexibility to be able to keep the Road Show schedule. We've been told that they would have no problem holding the Road Show in conjunction with any other local activities, so long as they can expose the most engineers to the technology they'll be taking with them. Please keep in mind: this is an educational effort, not a sales shot.

The exciting part of all this is that they have announced that they plan to meet with the SURVIVORS of the broadcast industry, our dear fellow members of the **Order of the Iron Test Pattern**, as they cross the country. That, within itself, should be a lot of fun and we're looking forward to it.

Last year's schedule and information is still on their website, but they are in the process of creating the new pages for this year's trip, but they won't be up for another week or two, so please contact them directly so you can be included in this effort.

Tech-Notes – Road Show
1980 25th St.
Florence, OR 97439-9717
(541) 902-2424 Office
(541) 503-217-0712 Fax
E-Mail: Info@Tech-Notes.TV

Gee that address sounds familiar. Wonder why?

Where to stay at NAB2003

The NAB2003 housing office is now open and making hotel reservations has never been easier! We urge you to make your reservations as early as possible!! NAB2003 room blocks sell out quickly!

Hotels will not accept direct reservations and any correspondence sent to hotels or NAB directly may result in substantial delays in processing your request. All reservations are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact:

NAB2003 Housing Office
c/o EXPOVISION
3141 Fairview Park Drive
Suite 550
Falls Church, VA 22042
PHONE: (888) 622-8830
FAX: (703) 205-0235
E-Mail: nabhousing@expovision.com

The Passing of a friend & an associate

DAVE HILL Passes Away

As reported in a special e-mail to our readers, it is with the deepest regret that we pass on to you the passing of a very dear friend and associate, David Hill. Dave was only 64, Saturday, December 21st. He was a longtime BABEs (Bay Area Broadcast Engineering Society), SBE Chapter) participant and rep for Larcen.



Dave was very pleasant, well read and could carry on an intelligent conversation about nearly anything. He found joy in music, reading, and fine dining. He truly enjoyed his work and would go to great labors to rectify problems for his customers.

From the initial diagnosis of a brain tumor until the time of his death was just 8 weeks. He leaves a daughter, Anita, who is an RN. He looked forward to what special treat she would bring him each afternoon during his therapy.

Dave was a rare gem of a person. His positive spirit will live long in the memories of those who knew him. Dave is well known for his work with Harris and, of late, Larcan. Dave held the dignity of Admiral in the Order of the Iron Test Pattern, having survived in the broadcast business since 1958.

Memorials may be sent to public TV or radio - KCSM, KQED, the National Brain Tumor Foundation or Mills-Peninsula Hospitals Foundation. There will be a memorial service on January 25th at 11 AM. It will be held at a private residence: 1205 Tartan Trail Rd., Hillsborough, CA, 94010.

THOMAS L. MANN's Obituary

Television and radio broadcasters mourn the passing of a leader in broadcast technology, Thomas L. Mann, 53, in Palm Springs on December 19, 2002. Mann was President & CEO of Weyrcliffe-Century, Ltd.



Prior to founding Weyrcliffe-Century, Mann served as Vice President, Engineering and New Technologies for USA Broadcasting, Inc. where he was responsible for design and construction of a \$26 million multi-station, multicast Group Operations Center at Ontario, CA, the first large-scale digital central-casting facility in the United States, linking 13 owned television stations to one master control center for origination of 128 program streams. The massive fast-track project was completed in 120 days.

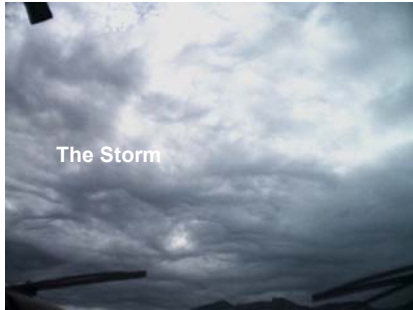
Before joining USA Broadcasting, Mann was Vice President and Partner in Cavell, Mertz & Davis, Inc., an engineering consulting firm based in Washington, DC. His tenure there included a design and construction management agreement with the Hearst Corporation

A slice of life -- Small market Chief Engineer

(Editor's note: Many of you have been retired so long that you may have forgotten what it's like to be in the trenches. The following is a story submitted by one of our very new members, Commodore Tim Hershiser, Chief Engineer of several stations, translators, etc. in and around Eugene, OR, Tim, like most engineers in the smaller markets, wares many hats and does many odd jobs. What else is new? In an effort to not let you forget, here's a slice in the life of a modern day, small market TV engineer. We'll print more, if we get them.)

KLSR\KEVU ENGINEERING 2\14\02

Thursday afternoon I received a call that the Closed Captioning for KEVU was off. I checked the monitor in the Break room and confirmed it was out. I started to head upstairs to check KEVU's



VITS inserter when I was told there were abnormal noises in the front open area. The sound turned out to be the metal roof flexing in the wind making its own thunder. The next thing I hear is KEVU and OPB are off. By the time I got to Master Control, KEVU-23 was back (on generator) but OPB remained off. KVAL-CBS and several FM stations that are also located on Blanton Heights came back on generators. Next KLSR-34 and 57 went down. The operator got the 34 standby transmitter up on the generator. On Coburg Ridge the KLSR-57 transmitter (and KHWB-TBN in the same building) come back on automatically

on that generator. Also at that site KEZI-ABC, KMTR-NBC, plus several more FM stations, a city of Eugene building, paging and cell phone buildings all come back on line with their respective generators. Spore's Point loses power; KEVU-65, Metrocall, B.P.A. communications, Verison, and some other users go down. KEVU-65 and Metrocall do not have backup power and stay down. The other users come back up on generators. (A Metrocall engineer later drove down from Salem with a portable generator.) At the studio satellite dish #7 was blown out of alignment. I realign it but before I can get back in the building it is blown out of alignment again. Hansen Butte in Cottage Grove loses power, all the TV translators and cable feeds go down for Cottage Grove including KLSR-54, KEVU-47, and KOBİ's translator. I later learned that at around 3:30 PM Glenada Hill in Florence went down knocking out all the translators and cable feeds for Florence including our KLSR-52 transmitter. Also by 3:30 KCBY-CBS and our KLSR-63 transmitter in Coos Bay had already been on their respective generators for half an hour. KLLU's 200 ft. tower in Reedsport blew down. Thursday night power was restored to Hansen Butte, 54 and 47 were back on in Cottage Grove.

Friday morning I got a wakeup page at 1 AM. We had a tower light \ power failure alarm from Walker Point. The Master Control Operator called the FAA and me. Three hours later the backup batteries at Walker died killing the Fox and UPN feeds to Florence and Mapleton. Power was restored to Glenada Hill in Florence sometime Friday morning. At 7:30 AM I realigned satellite dishes #3 and #5 on the roof. Dish #7, our 14ft Paraclips had been moved over 90 degrees off alignment. At 8:30 we got the main 34 transmitter back on. Ickabod called to say he had the propane tanks for the generators at Blanton topped off (We didn't know how long they would be running). I learned the KEVU feed to Carter was off in Coos Bay. Redrtonix sent a crew to check on a problem they had in Port Orford and our problem with KEVU at Waterboard Hill. I then went to Walker stopping at the Oregon State Forestry in Veneta on the way to pick up a wood cutting permit. I proceeded to cut my way up to the transmitter site. I was surprised to find 1 ½ to 2 feet of snow at the top. I was having some difficulty getting through the snow but was able to add some wood "ballast" and made it to the top without chaining up. I got the links back up about 12:30 PM. I had to manually spin one of the 100-watt amp muffin fans to get it to start. I tried calling Blanchly Lane Electric but it took me over 3 hours to get through. I could not get an open cell phone circuit to even call an operator. (I later found out that a tree had knocked out power to one of the cell phone sites

and another tree had smashed the site backup generator so the other cell sites had to take up the slack plus there were probably a lot of phone line out so more people were using their cell phones.) When I did finally get a circuit I could not get through to Blanchly Lane Electric. (They seemed to be busy for some reason.) I eventually learned that it would be several days before power could be restored to Walker. I unplugged the generator and the site inverter took over. I drove to Knechts in Eugene and purchased some flexible exhaust line then picked up Paul at the studio and drove back to Walker. We unloaded the generator and wheeled it into the building where I jury-rigged the exhaust to blow out the window and hooked up the building exhaust fan. Fortunately it was in the upper 20s outside so the building wasn't getting excessively hot. We got back to Eugene around 9 PM.



Saturday about 4AM the generator at Walker ran out of gas and the site switched back to batteries. Around 5 AM the power was restored to Blanton. According to the operator logs, sometime between 2 AM and 7 AM channel 57 went down. Power was restored to the 63 site in Coos Bay. Around 6:30 the inverter batteries at Walker died again. At 7 AM I arrived at Walker and refilled the generator. I manually spun the amp fan to get it going again. The KLSR auxiliary link would not turn on the final stage. I worked on it for a while then it came on again. I cut my way down

the power line route on the hill but I could not determine where the power problem was from the road. I got back to the studio just before noon and help a lady pick up the Crossfire tape. While I was helping her Dennis from KHWB paged me. He informed me that our 57 transmitter and his channel 59 were off. I called our diesel supplier but the number was disconnected. (I later found out our account had been lost when a new company took over so they didn't notify me of the phone number change.) I loaded our 55-gallon fuel drum and drove over the Coburg Road Chevron station where I had gotten diesel fuel periodically in the past. They had changed ownership also and had dropped diesel fuel. They directed me to a different gas station that carried diesel. At that station EWEB was in the middle of replacing their broken power pole. They said the Texaco at Gateway had diesel. I finally arrived at the Coburg Ridge site with fuel at around 1:30 PM. KMTR had just taken delivery on 600 gallons of fuel and KEZI got 150 gallons before the delivery truck ran out of fuel. Dennis Hunt from KEZI said the truck would be back Monday and gave me the fuel company's new number. There were 5 diesel generators running up there, I couldn't hear or breathe. Our fuel tank indicated empty but the generator was still running. Dan Mooney was there and said he had just reset the main building breaker. I surmised that the generator might have stalled due to low fuel, which led to the tripping of the building breaker. After refilling our fuel tank I had lunch then returned to Walker to refill the generator there. 57 and 59 went down again later that night. At the site I discovered the main building breaker and contacts in the power panel had burned which probably caused the earlier trip. I played musical breakers in the power panel and installed a new main breaker. The transmitters were back on at 11 PM.

Sunday power was restored to Coburg Ridge around noon. Power was restored to Walker around 4 PM. (I later learned The BPA line to Blanchly-Lane Electric was still out but they were able to back feed our site from the other side of the hill.) At 8 PM the answering service informed me the Closed Captioning had not been working on KEVU since Thursday. I thought "Oh yeah, I started to fix that and was interrupted." I drove to the station and reprogrammed the Leitch VITS inserter which restored Captioning.

Monday morning I returned to Walker with Joe to replace the defective amp fan and pick up the generator. We took the generator to Spore's Point and hooked up the KEVU-65 transmitter. 65 was back on at 12:30. Redtronix replaced the power supply for the KEVU microwave receiver at Waterboard Hill in Coos Bay and KEVU was back on Charter Cable around 1:30. I re-established our account with the diesel fuel company. At 4:30 PM I refilled the generator at Spore's Point and met Dennis Will from Metrocall who was refilling his generator. Dennis then refilled both his generator and ours at around 10:30PM.

Tuesday at 7:30 AM I refilled both generators at Spore's Point. At 10:30 I went to Coburg Ridge to meet the fuel truck and top off the generator tank. Unfortunately the nozzle on the fuel hose was too big for our tank opening so it couldn't be top it off. The tank is currently a little under ¾ full which should be good for one day. I stopped at Spore's Point on the way back to the studio and topped off the generators there. Power was restored to Spore's Point around 1 PM. I have 10 gas receipts from Friday to Tuesday totaling \$202.53 for generator fuel and gas to get to the sites to put the fuel in the generators plus \$133.45 to refuel the Propane generator at Blanton and \$7.90 for the flexible exhaust line.

By the time power was restored, we used about 100 gallons of propane at Blanton, over 100 gallons of diesel at Coburg Ridge, about 10 gallons of diesel at Solar Heights, 35 gallons of gas at Walker Mountain, 15 gallons of gas at Spore's Point. (If we had a generator at Spore's Point from the beginning we would have used 50 gallons instead of 15.)

Tim Hershiser

Letters to the Editor

I work for Charter Communications as a Data Service Technician. Basically this means that I work with cable modems and our customer's computers. The reason I am writing is because of your suggestion for people to get Gator or Gain or CMT or whatever they are calling themselves today. It has been my experience that you DO NOT want this software on your computer. It is SPY ware. They record all the sites you visit and inundate your desktop with pop up ads. Also, once you get it on your computer it is sometimes difficult to remove because it installs programs you don't know about and you have to search for and uninstall each of these individually before you can get the rest of Gator off. Even then you can still find traces of it running in the background taking up resources and bandwidth. -- Just wanted to pass this information along. ---- Page Jim Smith

Just a little note about the newsletter - www.gator.com is one of the most insidious pieces of spyware floating around the Internet. It embeds itself into your systems and tracks the sites you go to, downloads advertising and runs in the background supplying your information to the lists it sells to. There are other freeware utilities that fill forms that are not as offensive as gator -ps. Comet Cursor and Bonzi Buddy are also spyware. Try www.lavasoft.de and download Ad-Aware and see what is running on your system, slowing it down and using most of its resources. Commodore Gary Olson-VDO Ltd. www.vdoltd.com

Editor's note: Thanks to Jim and Gary for the heads-up. We've removed these from our computers.

A little humor – very little



FAMILY STRESS TEST – For those that need it

Instructions: Score 0 if the statement is never true, 1 if it is rarely true, 2 if it is sometimes true, and 3 if it is always true.

1. ___ Conversations often begin with "Put the gun down, and then we can talk."
2. ___ The school principal has your number on speed-dial.
3. ___ The cat is on Valium.
4. ___ People have trouble understanding your kids, because they learned to speak through clenched teeth.
5. ___ You are trying to get your four-year-old to switch to decaf.
6. ___ The number of jobs held down by family members exceeds the number of people in the family.
7. ___ No one has _time_ to wait for microwave TV dinners.
8. ___ "Family meetings" are often mediated by law enforcement officials.
9. ___ You have to check your kid's day-timer to see if he can take out the trash.
10. ___ Maxwell House gives you industrial rates.

Scoring: 30 - A perfect score. Welcome to the neighborhood! 20-29 - You are doing reasonably well, but still have too little going on in your life. Crank it up. 10-19 - You have mastered some of the aspects of the stress-filled life, but still have a long way to go. Have you considered a parallel career path? 0-9 - Enjoying all that extra time? What do you do anyway?

HU'S ON FIRST

Playwright Jim Sherman wrote this after Hu Jintao was named chief of the Communist Party in China. Somewhat reminiscent of Abbott and Costello; here goes.



(We take you now to the Oval Office.)

George: Condi! Nice to see you. What's happening?

Condi: Sir, I have the report here about the new leader of China.

George: Great. Lay it on me.

Condi: Hu is the new leader of China.

George: That's what I want to know.

Condi: That's what I'm telling you.



George: That's what I'm asking you. Who is the new leader of China?

Condi: Yes.

George: I mean the fellow's name.

Condi: Hu.

George: The guy in China.

Condi: Hu.

George: The new leader of China.

Condi: Hu.

George: The Chinaman!

Condi: Hu is leading China.

George: Now whaddya' asking me for?

Condi: I'm telling you Hu is leading China.

George: Well, I'm asking you. Who is leading China?

Condi: That's the man's name.

George: That's who's name?

Condi: Yes.

George: Will you or will you not tell me the name of the new leader of China?

Condi: Yes, sir.

George: Yassir? Yassir Arafat is in China? I thought he was in the Middle East.

Condi: That's correct.

George: Then who is in China?

Condi: Yes, sir.

George: Yassir is in China?

Condi: No, sir.
George: Then who is?
Condi: Yes, sir.
George: Yassir?
Condi: No, sir.
George: Look, Condi. I need to know the name of the new leader of China. Get me the Secretary General of the U.N. on the phone.
Condi: Kofi?
George: No, thanks.
Condi: You want Kofi?
George: No.
Condi: You don't want Kofi.
George: No. But now that you mention it, I could use a glass of milk. And then get me the U.N.
Condi: Yes, sir.
George: Not Yassir! The guy at the U.N.
Condi: Kofi?
George: Milk! Will you please make the call?
Condi: And call who?
George: Who is the guy at the U.N?
Condi: Hu is the guy in China.
George: Will you stay out of China?!
Condi: Yes, sir.
George: And stay out of the Middle East! Just get me the guy at the U.N.
Condi: Kofi.
George: All right! With cream and two sugars. Now get on the phone.
(Condi picks up the phone.) Condi: Rice, here.
George: Rice? Good idea. And a couple of egg rolls, too. Maybe we should send some to the guy in China. And the Middle East. Can you get Chinese food in the Middle East?



Here's a trip down memory lane

You know you're an Aging Radio DJ when:

- You were first hired by a GM who actually worked in radio before becoming GM.
- Radio stations were no place for kids.
- You excitedly turn the radio up at the sound of "dead air" on the competitor's station.
- Sales guys wore Old Spice to cover the smell of liquor.
- You were playing Elvis' number one hits when he was alive.
- Engineers could actually fix things without sending them back to the manufacturer.
- You worked for only ONE station, and you could name the guy who owned it.
- You remember when normal people listened to AM radio, and only "hippies" listened to FM.
- Radio stations used to have enough on-air talent to field a softball team every summer.
- You're at least 10 years older than the last two GM's who fired you.

- You used to smoke in a radio station and nobody cared.
- Engineers always had the worst body odor, not because they worked too hard, but because they just didn't shower that often. (Obviously from some no-talent DJ)
- You can name at least 2 receptionists that you nailed who now have grandchildren.
- You know the difference between good reel-to-reel tape and cheap reel-to-reel tape.
- Religious radio stations were locally owned, run by an old Protestant minister and his wife, never had more than 20 listeners at any given time, and still made money.
- You have a white wax pencil, a razor blade, and a spool of 3M splicing tape in your desk drawer - - just in case.
- You know people who actually listened to baseball games on the radio.
- You can post a record, run down the hall, go to the bathroom, and be back in 2:50 for the segue.
- The new guy you're training has never listened to an AM station. He couldn't even name one in his own home town if his life depended on it.
- You knew exactly where to put the tone on the end of a carted song.
- You spent most of the time on Friday nights giving out the high school football scores.
- And when they weren't phoned-in, you got really pissed off.
- You never thought twice about drinking from the same bottle with another DJ.
- You only did "make-goods" if the client complained. Otherwise, who cares?
- You can remember the name of the very first "girl" that was hired in your market as a DJ.
- Somebody would say, "You have a face for radio", and it was still funny.
- Sixty percent of your wardrobe has a station logo on it.
- You always had a screwdriver in the studio so you could take a fouled-up cart apart at a moment's notice.
- Agents were people like James Bond and the Man From Uncle.
- You would spend hours splicing and editing a parody tape until it was "just right", but didn't give a damn how bad that commercial was you recorded. Hey, I can only work with what they give me, right?
- You still refer to CDs as "records."
- Dinner? Let's see what the last shift left for me in the refrigerator.
- The only interaction between you and someone else prior to bedtime is, "Thank you. Please pull ahead to the second window."
- Your family thinks you're successful, but you know better.
- You played practical jokes on the air without fear of lawsuits.
- You've been married at least 3 times, or, never married at all.
- You answer your home phone with the station call letters.
- You used to fight with the news guy over airtime. After all, what was more important: you joke about your ex-wife, or that tornado warning?
- You knew how to change the ribbon on the teletype machine, but you hated to do it because "...that's the news guy's job."
- You had listeners who only tuned in for the news, and not you. You could never figure that out.
- You know at least 3 people in sales that take credit for you keeping your job.
- You remember when "Rock" wasn't a bunch of guys who look and sound more like girls.

- You have several old air-check cassettes in a cardboard box in your closet that you wouldn't dream of letting anyone hear anymore, but, you'll never throw them out or tape over them. Never!
- You can still see scars on your finger when you got cut using a razor blade and cleaned out the cut with head-cleaning alcohol and an extra long cotton swab on a wooden stick.
- You still have dreams of a song running out and not being able to find the control room door.
- You've never told a listener "Yeah. I'll get that right on for you."
- You have a couple of old transistor radios around the house with corroded batteries inside them.
- People who ride in your car exclaim, "Why is your radio so loud?"
- You remember how upset people used to get about Richard Nixon.
- You have at least 19 pictures of you with famous people whom you haven't seen since, and wouldn't know you today if you bit 'em on the ass.
- You wish you could have been on "Name That Tune" because you would have won a million bucks.
- You even REMEMBER "Name That Tune."
- You were a half an hour late for an appearance and blamed it on the directions you received from the sales person.
- You've run a phone contest and nobody called, so you made up a name and gave the tickets to your cousin.
- You remember when people actually thought radio was important.

Aging...It's a matter of perspective.

Everyone has been guilty of looking at another's age and thinking, "Surely I cannot look that old." I'm sure you've done the same. If so, you may enjoy this short story. While waiting for my first appointment in the reception room of a new dentist, I noticed his certificate, which bore his full name. Suddenly, I remembered that a tall boy with the same name had been in my high school class some 40 years ago. Upon seeing him, however, I quickly discarded any such thought. This balding, gray-haired man with the deeply lined face was too old to have been my classmate. After he had examined my teeth, I asked him if he had attended the local high school. "Yes," he replied. "When did you graduate?" I asked. He answered, "In 1957." "Why, you were in my class!" I exclaimed. He looked at me closely and then asked, "What did you teach?"

DR. SEUSS EXPLAINS COMPUTERS

Many in my age bracket are computer-phobic, but, to keep up with the modern world, must succumb to the wiles of this new technology. One source of knowledge is where many of our grandkids get their first introduction to thing, Dr. Seuss. So, here's Dr. Seuss's dissertation on computer.

If a packet hits a pocket on a socket on a port, and the bus is interrupted as a very last resort, and the address of the memory makes your floppy disk abort, then the socket packet pocket has an error to report.

If your cursor finds a menu item followed by a dash, and the double-clicking icon puts your window in the trash, and your data is corrupted 'cause the index doesn't hash, then your situation's hopeless and your system's gonna crash!

If the label on the cable on the table at your house, says the network is connected to the button on your mouse, but your packets want to tunnel on another protocol, that's repeatedly rejected by the printer down the hall, and your screen is all distorted by the side effects of gauss, so your icons in the window are as wavy as a souse, then you may as well reboot, and go out with a bang, because as sure as I'm a poet, the sucker's gonna hang!

When the copy of your floppy's getting sloppy on the disk, and the microcode instructions cause unnecessary risk, then you have to flash your memory, and you'll want to RAM your ROM. Quickly turn off the computer and be sure to tell your mom.

How to Look Smart to the Kids and Grandkids

The next time your kids or grandkids start asking questions, and you don't know the answer, don't feel bad. Just go to your computer and take them to this website. <http://micro.magnet.fsu.edu> It will keep both of you busy and it's fun.

There's some very interesting stuff about light and optics, including perhaps the only page on the whole internet that shows what a cheeseburger looks like in a microscope.

The Powers of Ten demo is a Java adaptation of a classic movie that was presented in Smithsonian Air and Space years ago. It shows that we live about in the middle of the immense scale of distances. Also, there are a few voids in the distance scale where nothing much seems to change. One is inside the atom and another is sub-galactic.

What's really nice is that there are no ads, spam, or registration to fill out. Enjoy.



Parents: Detached Spectators?

Is there a magic cut-off period when offspring become accountable for their own actions? Is there a wonderful moment when parents can become detached spectators in the lives of their children and shrug, "It's their life," and feel nothing?

When I was in my twenties, I stood in a hospital corridor waiting for doctors to put a few stitches in my son's head. I asked, "When do you stop worrying?" The nurse said, "When they get out of the accident stage." My mother just smiled faintly and said nothing.

When I was in my thirties, I sat on a little chair in a class-room and heard how one of my children talked incessantly, disrupted the class, and was headed for a career making license plates. As if to read my mind, a teacher said, "Don't worry, they all go through this stage and then you can sit back, relax and enjoy them." My mother just smiled faintly and said nothing.

When I was in my forties, I spent a lifetime waiting for the phone to ring, the cars to come home, the front door to open. A friend said, "They're trying to find themselves. Don't worry, in a few years, you can stop worrying. They'll be adults." My mother just smiled faintly and said nothing.

By the time I was 50, I was sick & tired of being vulnerable. I was still worrying over my children, but there was a new wrinkle?" there was nothing I could do about it. My mother just smiled faintly and said nothing. I continued to anguish over their failures, be tormented by their frustrations and absorbed in their disappointments.

My friends said that when my kids got married I could stop worrying and lead my own life. I wanted to believe that, but I was haunted by my mother's warm smile and her occasional, "You look pale. Are you all right? Call me the minute you get home. Are you depressed about something?"

Can it be that parents are sentenced to a lifetime of worry? Is concern for one another handed down like a torch to blaze the trail of human frailties and the fears of the unknown? Is concern a curse or is it a virtue that elevates us to the highest form of life?

One of my children became quite irritable recently, saying to me, "Where were you? I've been calling for 3 days, and no one answered. I was worried." -- I smiled a warm smile. The torch has been passed.

It's Hard to Believe they Really Said These Things

Question: If you could live forever, would you and why?

Answer: "I would not live forever, because we should not live forever, because if we were supposed to live forever, then we would live forever, but we cannot live forever, which is why I would not live forever," --Miss Alabama in the 1994 Miss USA contest.

"Whenever I watch TV and see those poor starving kids all over the world, I Can't help but cry. I mean I'd love to be skinny like that, but not with all those flies and death and stuff," --Mariah Carey

"Smoking kills. If you're killed, you've lost a very important part of your life," --Brooke Shields, during an interview to become spokesperson for federal anti-smoking campaign.

"I've never had major knee surgery on any other part of my body," --Winston Bennett, University of Kentucky basketball forward.

"Outside of the killings, Washington has one of the lowest crime rates in the country," --Mayor Marion Barry, Washington, DC.

"I'm not going to have some reporters pawing through our papers. We are the president," --Hillary Clinton commenting on the release of subpoenaed documents.

"That lowdown scoundrel deserves to be kicked to death by a jackass, and I'm just the one to do it," --A congressional candidate in Texas.

"Half this game is ninety percent mental." --Philadelphia Phillies manager, Danny Ozark

"It isn't pollution that's harming the environment. It's the impurities in our air and water that are doing it." --Al Gore, Vice President

"I love California. I practically grew up in Phoenix." --Dan Quayle

"We've got to pause and ask ourselves: How much clean air do we need?" --Lee Iacocca

"I was provided with additional input that was radically different from the truth. I assisted in furthering that version."--Colonel Oliver North, from his Iran-Contra testimony.

"The word "genius" isn't applicable in football. A genius is a guy like Norman Einstein," --Joe Theisman, NFL football quarterback & sports analyst.

"We don't necessarily discriminate. We simply exclude certain types of people." --Colonel Gerald Wellman, ROTC Instructor.

"If we don't succeed, we run the risk of failure." --Bill Clinton, President

"We are ready for an unforeseen event that may or may not occur." --Al Gore, VP

"Traditionally, most of Australia's imports come from overseas."--Keppel Enderbery

"Your food stamps will be stopped effective March 1992 because we received notice that you passed away. May God bless you. You may reapply if there is a change in your circumstances."--Department of Social Services, Greenville, South Carolina

"If somebody has a bad heart, they can plug this jack in at night as they go to bed and it will monitor their heart throughout the night. And the next morning, when they wake up dead, there'll be a record." --Mark S. Fowler, FCC Chairman

Stop Alien Abductions!

For those of you concerned about alien abductions, I present the following web site for your consideration: <http://www.stopabductions.com>

Flying the Friendly Skys?

Never let it be said that ground crews and engineers lack a sense of humor. Here are some actual logged maintenance complaints by QANTAS pilots and the corrective action recorded by mechanics. By the way, Qantas is supposedly the only major airline that has never had an accident. (P stands for the Problem the pilots entered in the log, and S stands for the Corrective Action taken by the mechanics.)

P: Left inside main tire almost needs replacement.

S: Almost replaced left inside main tire.

P: Test flight OK, except autoland very rough.

S: Autoland not installed on this aircraft.

P: Something loose in cockpit.

S: Something tightened in cockpit.

P: Dead bugs on windshield.

S: Live bugs on backorder.

P: Autopilot in altitude-hold mode produces a 200-fpm descent.

S: Cannot reproduce problem on ground.

P: Evidence of leak on right main landing gear.

S: Evidence removed.

P: DME volume unbelievably loud.

S: DME volume set to more believable level.

P: Friction locks cause throttle levers to stick.

S: That's what they're there for!

P: IFF inoperative.

S: IFF always inoperative in OFF mode.

P: Suspected crack in windscreen.

S: Suspect you're right.

P: Number 3 engine missing. (note: this was for a piston-engine airplane; the pilot meant the engine was not running smoothly)

S: Engine found on right wing after brief search.

P: Aircraft handles funny.

S: Aircraft warned to straighten up, fly right, and be serious.

P: Radar hums.

S: Reprogrammed radar with words.

P: Mouse in cockpit.

S: Cat installed

Food for Thought

- **LOVE starts with a SMILE - grows with a HUG, and ends with a TEAR.**
- **DON'T cry over anyone who won't cry over you.**
- **Good FRIENDS are hard to find harder to leave, and impossible to forget.**
- **You can only go as far as you push.**
- **ACTIONS speak louder than words.**
- **The HARDEST thing to do is watch the one you love, love somebody else.**
- **DON'T let the past hold you back you're missing the good stuff.**
- **LIFE'S SHORT. If you don't look around once in a while you might miss it.**
- **A BEST FRIEND is like a four leaf clover, HARD TO FIND and LUCKY TO HAVE.**
- **Some people make the world SPECIAL just by being in it.**
- **BEST FRIENDS are the siblings God forgot to give us.**
- **When it HURTS to look back, and you're SCARED to look ahead, you can look beside you and your BEST FRIEND will be there.**
- **TRUE FRIENDSHIP "NEVER" ENDS.**
- **Friends are FOREVER.**
- **Good friends are like STARS You don't always see them, but you know they are ALWAYS THERE.**
- **DON'T frown. You never know who is falling in love with your smile.**
- **What do you do when the only person who can make you stop crying is the person who made you cry?**
- **Nobody is perfect until you fall in love with them.**
- **Everything is okay in the end. If it's not okay, then it's not the end.**
- **Most people walk in and out of your life, but only FRIENDS leave footprints in your heart.**
- **Remember every minute spent angry is sixty seconds of happiness wasted.**

The Wife

A woman accompanied her husband to the doctor's office. After his checkup, the doctor called the wife into his office alone. He said, "Your husband is suffering from a very severe stress disorder. If you don't follow my instructions carefully, your husband will surely die. Each morning, fix him a healthy breakfast. Be pleasant at all times. For lunch make him a nutritious meal. For dinner prepare an especially nice meal for him.

"Don't burden him with chores. Don't discuss your problems with him; it will only make his stress worse. Do not nag him. Most importantly, make love to him regularly.

"If you can do this for the next 10 months to a year, I think your husband will regain his health completely."

On the way home, the husband asked his wife, "What did the doctor say?"

"He said you're going to die," she replied.

WARNING! signs

Warning signs have always been a part of any broadcast facility, but some warning signs are a bit much. A group that calls themselves the Wacky Warning Label Contest selected this gem from the Lawsuit Abuse Watch of Michigan, a group whose goal is to show that fear of frivolous lawsuits has led to a loss of corporate common sense. These folks sponsor an annual contest for the wackiest warning labels. We present them here for you benefit and a good healthy laugh. Their first prize winner is:

Warning! Keep your pants on when sitting in the Interactive Health massage chair featuring "Human Touch Technology." The full text of this important safety tip read: "Do not use massage chair without clothing. Never force any body part into the backrest area while the rollers are moving."

- Second Place: "Do not use snow blower on the roof."
- Third Place: "Do not allow children to play in the dishwasher."

Previous winners are every bit as interesting:

A warning on an electric router made for carpenters cautions, "This product not intended for use as a dental drill."

A warning label found on a baby stroller cautions the user: "Remove child before folding."

A bottle of prescription sleeping pills says, "Warning: May cause drowsiness."

A sticker on a toilet at a public facility in Ann Arbor, Michigan actually warns: "Recycled flush water unsafe for drinking."

A CD player carries this unusual warning: "Do not use the Ultradisc2000 as a projectile in a catapult."

An "Aim-n-Flame" fireplace lighter cautions, "Do not use near fire, flame, or sparks."

A label on a hand-held massager advises consumers not to use "while sleeping or unconscious."

A container of underarm deodorant says, "Caution: Do not spray in eyes."

A cartridge for a laser printer warns, "Do not eat toner."

A household iron warns users: "Never iron clothes while they are being worn."

A label with a hair dryer reads, "Never use hair dryer while sleeping."

A 13-inch wheel on a wheelbarrow warns: "Not intended for highway use."

A cardboard car sunshield that keeps sun off the dashboard warns, "Do not drive with sunshield in place."

A bathroom heater says: "This product is not to be used in bathrooms."

A can of self-defense pepper spray warns users: "May irritate eyes."

A warning on a pair of shin guards manufactured for bicyclists says: "Shin pads cannot protect any part of the body they do not cover."

A popular manufactured fireplace log warns: "Caution: Risk of Fire."

And finally, a box of birthday cake candles says: "DO NOT use soft wax as ear plugs or for any other function that involves insertion into a body cavity." What could they have had in mind????



Observations in life

Letterman could have used some of these on his top 10 list.

11. Give a person a fish and you feed them for a day; teach that person to use the Internet and they won't bother you for weeks.

10. Some people are like Slinkies . . . not really good for anything, but you still can't help but smile when you see one tumble down the stairs.

9. Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, lying in hospitals dying of nothing.

8. Have you noticed since everyone has a camcorder these days no one talks about seeing UFOs like they use to?

7. Whenever you feel blue, start breathing again.

6. All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.

5. Why does a slight tax increase cost you two hundred dollars and a substantial tax cut saves you thirty cents?

4. In the 60's people took acid to make the world weird. Now the world is weird and people take Prozac to make it normal.

3. Politics is supposed to be the second oldest profession. I have come to realize that it bears a very close resemblance to the first.

2. How is it one careless match can start a forest fire, but it takes a whole box to start a campfire?

AND THE # 1 OBSERVATION FOR THE DAY: You read about all these Terrorists--most of them came here legally, but they hung around on these expired visas, some for as long as 10-15 years. Now, compare that to Blockbuster; you are two days late with a video and those people are all over you. Let's put Blockbuster in charge of immigration.

Medical Breakthrough or Common Sense.

The owner of a drug store walks in to find a guy leaning heavily against a wall. The owner asks the clerk "What's with that guy over there by the wall?" The clerk says "Well, he came in here this morning to get something for his cough. I couldn't find the cough syrup, so I gave him an entire bottle of laxative.

The owner says "You idiot! You can't treat a cough with a bottle of laxatives!"

The clerk says "Of course you can! Look at him; he's afraid to cough!"

More Observations

1. Save the whales-collect the whole set.
2. A day without sunshine, is, like, night.
3. On the other hand-you have different fingers
4. I just got lost in thought, it was unfamiliar territory.
5. 42.7% of all statistics are made up on the spot
6. 99% of all lawyers give the rest a bad name
7. I feel like I'm diagonally parked in a parallel universe.
8. Honk if you like peace and quiet.
9. Remember, half the people you know are below average.
10. he who laughs last, thinks slowest.
11. Depression is merely anger without enthusiasm.
12. The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.
13. I drive way too fast to worry about cholesterol.
14. Support bacteria. They're the only culture some people have.
15. Monday is an awful way to spend 1/7 of your week.
16. A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.
17. Change is inevitable, except from vending machines.
18. Get a new car for your spouse. It'll be a great trade.
19. Plan to be spontaneous, tomorrow.
20. Always try to be modest, and be proud of it.
21. If you think nobody cares, try missing a couple of payments.
22. How many of you believe in telekinesis? Raise my hand....
23. OK, so what's the speed of dark?
24. How can you tell when you are out of invisible ink?
25. If something seems to be going well, you have obviously overlooked something.
26. When everything is coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.
27. Hard work pays off in the future. Laziness pays off now.
28. Everyone has a photographic memory. Some just don't have film.
29. If Barbie is so popular, why does she need friends?
30. Eagles may soar, but weasels don't get sucked into jet engines.
31. What happens if you get scared half-to-death, twice?

And last, but not least, to paraphrase my good friend:

32. When you look at the snow falling, you realize that there are a lot of flakes out there.

Tips For Rednecks All Occasion

1. Never take a beer to a job interview
2. Always identify people in your front yard before shooting at them.
3. It's considered tacky to take a cooler to church.
4. If you have to vacuum the bed, it's time to change the sheets.
5. Even if you ARE in the will, it is still considered tacky to drive a U-Haul to the funeral.

DINING OUT

1. When decanting wine, make sure you tilt the paper cup. When drinking always hold it with your fingers covering the label.

ENTERTAINING IN YOUR HOME

1. A centerpiece for the table should never be anything prepared by a taxidermist.
2. Do not allow the dog to eat at the table.. no matter how good his manners are.

PERSONAL HYGIENE

1. While ears need to be cleaned regularly, this is a job that should be done using one's OWN truck keys.
2. Proper use of toiletries can forestall bathing for several days. However, if you live alone, deodorant is a waste of good money.

DATING(Outside the Family)

1. Always offer to bait your date's hook, especially on the first date.
2. Be aggressive. Let her know that you are interested: I've been wanting to go out with you since I read that stuff on the bathroom wall two years ago.
3. Establish with her parents what time she is expected back. Some say 10PM; Others might say 'Monday. 'If it IS Monday, it is the man's responsibility to get her to school on time.

THEATRE ETIQUETTE

1. Refrain from talking to the characters on the screen. Tests have proven they cannot hear you.

WEDDINGS

1. Livestock, usually is a poor choice for a wedding gift for a bride.
2. Though uncomfortable, say 'yes' to socks and shoes for this special occasion.
3. The groom should remember that just a clean bowling shirt with a leisure suit can, in some cases be considered tacky.

DRIVING ETIQUETTE

1. When approaching a 4-way stop, the vehicle with the largest tires has the right-of-way.
2. Dim your lights for approaching vehicles even if you have a clear bead on the deer.
3. Never tow another vehicle with pantyhose and a garden hose.
4. When sending your wife down the road with a gas can, it is impolite to ask her to bring back beer.
5. Never relieve yourself from a moving vehicle, especially when driving.
6. Never lay rubber while traveling in a funeral procession.

If Operating Systems Ran The Airlines

UNIX Airways

Everyone brings one piece of the plane along when they come to the airport. They all go out on the runway and put the plane together piece by piece, arguing non-stop about what kind of plane they are supposed to be building.

Air DOS

Everybody pushes the airplane until it glides, then they jump on and let the plane coast until it hits the ground again. Then they push again, jump on again, and so on...

Mac Airlines

All the stewards, captains, baggage handlers, and ticket agents look and act exactly the same. Every time you ask questions about details, you are gently but firmly told that you don't need to know, don't want to know, and everything will be done for you without your ever having to know, so just shut up.

Windows Air

The terminal is pretty and colorful, with friendly stewards, easy baggage check and boarding, and a smooth take-off. After about 10 minutes in the air, the plane explodes with no warning whatsoever.

Windows NT Air

Just like Windows Air, but costs more, uses much bigger planes, and takes out all the other aircraft within a 40-mile radius when it explodes.

Linux Air

Disgruntled employees of all the other OS airlines decide to start their own airline. They build the planes, ticket counters, and pave the runways themselves. They charge a small fee to cover the cost of printing the ticket, but you can also download and print the ticket yourself. When you board the plane, you are given a seat, four bolts, a wrench and a copy of the seat-HOWTO.html. Once settled, the fully adjustable seat is very comfortable, the plane leaves and arrives on time without a single problem, the in-flight meal is wonderful. You try to tell customers of the other airlines about the great trip, but all they can say is, "You had to do what with the seat?"

OITP Membership as a Gift

And finally, when we said: "Treat an associate to membership in our organization," Brigadier Dave Hershberger did! Dave reports:

Your Sagacious Pixel.

I did just that! You may have received by now an application from Dr. Curtis Holsopple (K9CH). (Now General Holsopple) We were in college together a long time ago. Now he teaches broadcasting classes at Hampton University. He's written a couple of books on broadcasting (mostly "wooden tower" [radio] stuff, though). And he's worked for a few TV stations.

He'll be posting his OITP certificate right next to his (recently obtained) PhD diploma. I'm sure that the impressive OITP certificate will generate more interest!

Dave Hershberger, Principal Engineer -- AXCERA Grass Valley Design Center

<http://www.axcera.com>

Note: You can do the same for a friend of yours.



Well that's about it for this time. Don't forget to check out the industry news in the Tech-Notes: <http://www.tech-notes.tv/> The latest edition has just been posted.

As we said earlier on, stay tuned – things can only get better! – But only with your help. Tell a friend or associate about us.

Until next time --FADE TO BLACK! ☺ .

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