

IT WAS A DARK & STORMY DAY

It was a dark and stormy day, as Sarah McKee (Deli Café Manager) and I headed down to San Bernardino to face our executioners at the San Bernardino County Agriculture/Weights and Measures (Community Services Group). We were headed to a hearing at which we were to protest a \$400 fine for mismarking the weight on six packaged sandwiches, creating, so they said, an overcharge of \$3.76 total for all six sandwiches.

We arrived in San Bernardino with plenty of time to find this place, except for one small problem. Google Maps led us to 777 WEST Rialto instead of EAST Rialto Ave. We wondered why the destination looked so funny. Where was our County office?

After circling around a few blocks, including a detour around a blocked street, we finally called

the other end. Sigh. Back into the rain. All that way down there!

They were waiting for us, since we were now late due to our side trip in San Bernardino. Across the table from us were the inspector who wrote us up, his boss, and a lady who was the Supervisor of something or other and wrote lots of notes of the proceedings. Their job was to convince us that we should agree to the charge, sign off, and save the trouble of a hearing. You kidding?? Drive all the way down there only to say, "Never mind"? We told them no way will we do that. We agree to the facts as described but not to the conclusion and penalty for a VIOLATION.

So they proceeded with our trial, er, hearing, before a "judge". She began by recording the date, time, etc. into a recorder, and said, "This is Thursday, Jan. 16, yada yada." I looked at the inspector boss to see if he also caught that she said

enforcement agency and must follow THE LAW and slap the fines down when there is a VIOLATION, we asked why, then, a CHP officer, also representing an enforcement agency, had the disgression to issue a warning instead of a ticket. They just looked at us.

When told how there is no gray area as at a stop sign – you either stop or you go with nothing in between – we said, "Unless it's a California stop". I'm not sure how well that went down.

When our executioners asked why we didn't call them and ask them for clarification or for help, we answered, "Because the County people are so warm and fuzzy, right?" I'm not sure how he took this one, either. But I remained polite. Really.

The climax came when I, Linda Gommel Esquire, had to make my closing statement. Yes, the old days of watching Perry Mason came in handy here, since the letter, addressed to our Legal Department, seemed to assume our legal expertise. I showed the "judge" the envelope by which our notice of violation was delivered via Certified Mail. It was addressed to the store at P.O.

Box 1338. Oops, our P.O. Box is 749, but thanks to Deborah, our local Post Mistress, we did receive the notice because she approached me at the Post Office Counter and asked if that piece of mail were ours.

The "judge" and the inspector boss were shocked, shocked(!) at this "mistake" on the County's part. The boss jumped in and said, "I want you to know I knew nothing of this beforehand. It should have been entered into evidence!" Sigh. I guess I must have forgotten some of my Perry Mason 101. I may have embarrassed them. Even so, the "judge" dutiful-

ly made the envelope Exhibit C11, and informed us that we would receive her decision in writing in a few days.

I couldn't help but wonder if that County Central Detention Center was across the street for a reason . . . *Linda Gommel*

P.S. After that long drive, you may understand that we had to visit the ladies' boudoir. The sign on the door was the normal sign we've seen for years:



It occurred to me to wonder why this agency, that is so careful to enforce THE LAW, is not required to modify the restroom signs to

show that any sex is allowed to use the restroom. Here is our compliant sign, done under protest, of course:



PPS: You might wonder what all this has to do with my convictions about faith and following God. I thought about that for a bit, and decided that it has a lot to do with it. Not only does our relationship with God involve every detail of our lives and activities, but this trip down below to face down a County agency is directly an expression of our objection to their placing on us citizens burdens too heavy to bear. At some point, we must stand up for principle and justice. God loves justice and hates tyranny. Yes, this fine is "only" petty tyranny, but petty tyranny leads to serious tyranny, which we are seeing grow in our state at breathtaking speed. Some of us had better represent Him and speak up!

ON THE PORCHES AT THE STORE

SAT, February 2, 10A-2P, BAKE SALE, by L.V. Youth Project. Raising money for the youth of Lucerne Valley.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

LVEDA Meeting

(Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association)

TUES. FEB. 5, 5 PM.
at the Senior Center

- Supervisors action on Renewable Energy Element Policy 4.10 Postponed to Feb. 28!
- County's proposed rental ordinance on AirBnB.
- Update on the opening of our medical clinic and pharmacy.
- Prospect of hemp farms in L.V.
- How can we make the Leader more community-oriented?

L.V. School Board Meeting

Thursday, Feb. 14, starts at 5:30PM.
At the Alternative Education Center.
8560 Alianto Rd up Highway 18.

King of the Hammer Schedule

Friday 1/25 - Gate Opens
Friday 2/1 - Hammertown Opens
Saturday 2/2 - UTV Qualifying
Sunday 2/3 - UTV Race
Monday 2/4 - 4500/4600/4800 Qualifying. Shootout in evening
Tuesday 2/5 - 4400 Qualifying
Wednesday 2/6 - Smittybilt Every Man Challenge Race
Thursday 2/7 - Toyo Desert Invitational Race
Friday 2/8 - Nitto King of The Hammers Race
Saturday 2/9 - Genright KOH Experience Trail Ride.

This all takes place in Johnson Valley. For more information and live coverage go to <https://ultra4racing.com>

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>

ECHO RECYCLING

On the Northeast side of the parking lot.
Open Mon. - Sat. 9AM - 4PM
Closed for Lunch Noon to 1PM. Closed Sunday
Aluminum CRV **\$1.70/lb**
#1 Plastic CRV **\$1.24/lb**
Pricing good thru February 6, 2019



the number on the Notice form we had, and asked where they were located. The lady laughed and told us this was a common problem, and to enter the zip code to find the right place. Oh, goody. Turn left here; turn right there; go all the way down to Mill St., east several blocks, up Arrowhead, right on Rialto, and then travel east FOREVER in the pouring rain.

Getting closer to our address, we approached a huge dark gray building on the left that looked like a prison, because, well, because it WAS a prison. Oh, excuse me, it was the "San Bernardino County Central Detention Center." That's encouraging! Next to it was a dilapidated, non-descript industrial building behind a fence. Oh, yeah. This looks like the right neighborhood for a County office!

Sure enough, on the right a little farther on, we saw a lo-o-o-o-ng single story building that turned out to be our target. We ran through the rain and into the building, only to be told that our Weights and Measures office was 'way down at

the incorrect date, since it was the 17th. He had, and stopped her so she could start over. I chuckled to myself that even these people make mistakes, but much as I wanted to say something, I uncharacteristically refrained.

Our "judge" proceeded to enter into the record all of the papers in the file, marked as exhibits C1 – C10, and then asked for opening statements. Their side reviewed our VIOLATION OF THE LAW. Our side explained the difference between a mistake and a VIOLATION, the mistake being a one-time occurrence of an error, and the VIOLATION being a pattern of uncorrected errors.

We asked why the inspectors didn't help us by informing us that weights weren't even required, and why we were not warned this first time. When informed how this agency is an



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