

## DO WE STAY OR LEAVE?

How long, O Lord? How long do we stay in the State of California and tough it out? Or is it time to leave? Many of us "Normals", the hardworking citizens in the middle of the economic spectrum, who provide the taxes to pay for this State's shenanigans, are voting with their feet and leaving this mess of a State behind. Should we leave our business and do the same?

Our dilemma: we would LOVE to leave California behind, but so far, God has asked us to continue with this mission of service here in Lucerne Valley.

A small group of us who are Believers, who try to obey God's directives wherever that may lead, felt led in 1967 to buy the Hitchin Post Market, a small grocery store in Reche Canyon, Colton. It didn't take long for us to realize what God had in

mind. Rather than play church, God wanted us actively to serve people, and a store was the vehicle.

Soon the small, half-empty convenience store in an unattractive, unadorned box on a bare lot grew both physically and with many more services and products offered. My Dad and Grandpa remodeled and expanded the building and beautified the lot with trees, grass, and a hitching rail. (Ya think?) Then over the ensuing months, we added



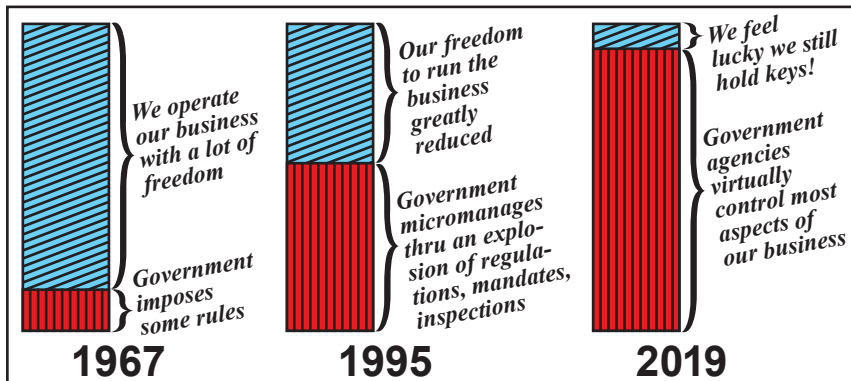
hardware (go figure!), a small section of produce, a snack shop (forerunner of the Deli Café) that served old fashioned ice cream sodas, banana splits, sundaes, etc., and self-serve Texaco gas pumps before self-serve gasoline was invented. We didn't have wood stoves or Stihl power equipment, but we did have hay and feed, tires and a tiny car wash.

At that time in 1967, food stamps were unknown, cigarettes were 25¢/pack, and gasoline was 29¢/gallon. We did have some issues with government agencies, but not very many, and so we were free to run the store for the CUSTOMERS, not for the bureaucrats. We could speak to employees without worrying what words we used, and guess what? There were only two genders – male and female.

After 8 years had passed, there were enough of us serving God together so that we could consider a store in a second location, which turned out to be this one in Lucerne

the nanny state. Further, if we believe we should take a bold stand for God and against the increasing amount of anti-God legislation coming from Sacramento, we could end up with our names in the headlines for being bad people.

As I sat in a sexual harassment training session that is mandated by female-controlled federal and state agencies, rather than listen closely to the baloney we've had to endure multiple times before, I drew these three bar graphs to illustrate what has happened to people trying to run a business over the years.



Valley. That was 1975, when running a store was still fairly simple and free of the micromanaging hand of the bureaucrats who sit in offices and create new rules to trip us up.

After 44 years, a new building, and then a doubling of that building and increasing sales and services to this community, government micromanagement itself has more than doubled, and probably increasing 10 fold or 100 fold, making running a medium small business very difficult.

Instead of being free to serve our customers, our time and energy gets tied up in dealing with rules and regulations, and we live under a cloud of uncertainty that

we may be doing something some inspector doesn't like, something that could cause a big fat fine to come at us.

Even more important, the rules in California regulating employers force us to choose between helping staffers grow through wisdom, kindness, and sometimes tough love, or rigidly following the rules, watching our every step, and kowtowing to

It becomes more and more difficult to swallow the government control of every aspect of the business, from a wrong word used to a staffer to where we put rolls of toilet paper to the height of counters to the kinds of cleaning agents we can use and records we must keep. Really????

It's out of control, folks. And we who try to run small businesses have to see it up close and personal. We are virtually defenseless. We are the low-hanging fruit just waiting to be plucked off the tree by those who would help themselves to the harvest of our hard labor.

If it weren't for God's calling and the necessity that we obey Him, we would be outta here. And many of you great customers make it worthwhile for us to continue.

Thank you. Thank God.

*Linda Gammel*

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## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

*Contributed. From the Web.*

### WILL ROGERS ON THE GOVERNMENT

*(and this was before 1936)*

"I don't

make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts."

"This country has come to feel the same when Congress is in session as when a baby gets hold of a hammer."

"With Congress, every time they make a joke it's a law, and every time they make a law it's a joke."

"Ancient Rome declined because it had a Senate; now what's going to happen to us with both a Senate and a House?"

"The trouble with practical jokes is that very often they get elected."

"The short memories of American voters is what keeps our politicians in office."

"If we got one-tenth of what was promised to us in these acceptance speeches there wouldn't be any inducement to go to heaven."

"The budget is a mythical bean bag. Congress votes mythical beans into it, and then tries to reach in and pull real beans out."

"If you ever injected truth into politics you have no politics."

"Everything is changing. People are taking the comedians seriously and the politicians as a joke."

"There's no trick to being a humorist when you have the whole government working for you."

"Next to guinea pigs, taxes have been the most prolific animal."

"The only difference between death and taxes is that death doesn't get worse every time Congress meets."

*So well said! LG*



## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### LVEDA Meeting

(Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association)

**TUES. AUGUST 6, 5 PM.**  
**at the Senior Center**

- Disaster Preparedness: Brian Meder will show a video and describe the County's vulnerabilities in a major disaster, cover the County's Disaster Plan & our local responsibilities.
- Introducing Lucerne Valley History Book
- Overview of the County draft EIR and how it affects our community.
- Discussion on starting LVEDA committees for certain issues.

### L.V. School Board Meeting

Thursday, August 8, starts at 5:30PM.  
At the Alternative Education Center,  
8560 Alianto Rd up Highway 18.

### SERVICES AT CROSSROADS CENTER

**LUCERNE VALLEY MARKET & HARDWARE** 248-7311

**WASH N SHOP COIN LAUNDRY** 248-7311

**FIRST FOUNDATION BANK** 248-2717

**DR. ASHOK MELVANI M.D.** 248-1070

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**AT THE SERVICE COUNTER** In the store

- COPIES • FAX SERVICE
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**PRESCRIPTION DELIVERY** 242-4900

Rancho Drugs - Tues. 11AM, Wed. & Fri. 3PM

**ST. MARY HEALTH VAN** 760-946-4240

Every Thursday except December  
8:30AM - 3:30PM in our parking lot.

- Lucerne Valley Market
- "Do it Best" Hardware
- Wash n Shop
- Crossroads Center

e-mail address: Market.Hardware@lucernevalleymarket.com  
website: lucernevalleymarket.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).

### ON THE PORCHES AT THE STORE

**SUN & WED, July 28 & 31,**  
7A-Noon, **BIBLE LITERATURE DISPLAY**, by Jehovah's Witnesses.

**FRI, July 26, 3P-9:30P, History is Classic, just like Vintage Cars**, by LV Museum & History Assoc. See our special display on the porch July 26. LV Museum welcomes you!