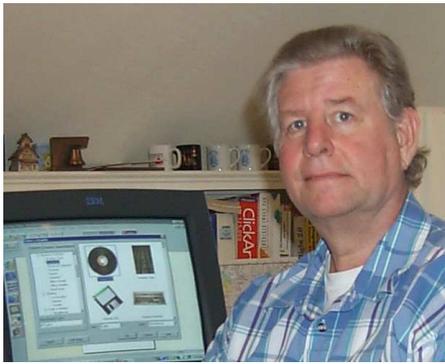


# **THIS & THAT**

by

Bob Lunaburg



I remember as a kid when a man wearing a stone grinding wheel on his back walked the alley behind my house sharpening knives for a price for anyone who needed that done. He was followed by a horse drawn cart driven by another guy who cried out, “Any ole rags ole iron,” as he went. We were just blossoming into the “hay days” of the Industrial Revolution. We thought it would never end...but it did.

When I was in college, wearing my Post Versalog slide rule hooked securely to my belt, the watchword was “Automation,” and the Technological Revolution was under way. Vacuum tubes were replaced by transistors. Colored TVs and main frame computers marked major events at the start of the era.

And here we are today, smack dab in the heart of yet another revolution. This time it’s called the Information Revolution.

It used to take life times before these major stages in development, which rule economies, came and went. Not any more!

The hot item these days is the Internet. Everyone is doing it, and the home computer is an essential item if you want to get “Plugged In.”

Whether you live a very active and mobile life or a rather confined at home sort of life, the Internet is your gateway to a richer and fuller existence. It is at the heart of the Information Revolution.

Before, when you wanted to know something,

you had two main sources, the library, and school. They still exist, but the Internet has far exceeded both of them. You can find out just about anything that you want to know on the Internet. From popular and huge subjects all the way down to the minuscule and obscure, the ‘net has something to offer.

Not only that, but you can buy, sell, and share ‘most anything you want at the touch of a mouse. You can write letters, send and receive them anywhere in the world, and never once lick a stamp. Today, you can even carry on voice and visual communication over the ‘net and not incur time and distance charges.

Ever want to be published? Anyone can be. All you need is access to the Internet.

This fall we offer an expanded five-session introduction to the Internet at all four Multi-Purpose Senior Centers. We spend two sessions on E-mail, and three on “Surfing the ‘Net.”

Thanks to the County, our volunteers, and some very generous contributions we have expanded our equipment to allow student hands-on during the Internet course.

We feel it’s very important to give you the opportunity to learn about and use the tools, which are up front and in the center of it all.

You need to know what an ISP is; what a URL is, what Links (and I don’t mean the golf course kind) are, and how to send and receive E-mail with attachments.

Our course is but an Introduction, and will probably be expanded again in the future, but don’t let that stop you. There’s no time like the present to become P.C. literate. It’s a tool you can and will use for the rest of your life.

If you missed enrolling this fall. Watch for it when we offer it again in December. Whatever you do, don’t be left behind!