



by Bill Smiley
Nope, they don't make them there models no more.
"Musta been a computer error."
"Hell, we ain't stocked them things for ten years."
"You gotta be kiddin'. Haven't seen that rig since '75."

"They don't stock them things no more"

In August, fresh out of the patch, boiled or fried, slathered in butter, along with some new corn and green onions and real tomatoes that get red from the sun, not a lamp.
I wonder how the farmers of P.E.I. and New Brunswick, as well as the local chaps, feel when they hear there are no good, old potatoes, even though they had to plow half their crop into the pigtrough because they couldn't get a decent price.

Last I heard, Canada was not at war, and I'm fed up to the teeth with lame excuses about this being out of stock and that being out of fashion.
Buy something new. Two years later it breaks down. Take it in for repairs and they look at you as if you were crazy.
What? Mac, you gotta be kiddin'. Repair that toaster (iron, TV set)? Cost you too much. Have to send it back to the factory. Dunno if they still have the parts. Better off with a new one.

the economy rolling, though every little bit helps. The old ones were—well, old. But both were still working.
Know where the old ones went? To the dump. Something in my Presbyterian soul rebelled when I learned this. The TV set had a fine wooden cabinet. It would have made a great liquor or record container, or hope chest, or something. Into the dump.
And the fridge, in any other country, (except possibly The States) would have had a new motor and insulation installed and gone on happily keeping the beer cold for another five years. Not to mention the several hundred pounds of metal in it. Into the dump.

And I'm just skirting the fringe. Our entire society is built on waste, forced consumption, and passing the buck. The latest recipient of the passed buck is the computer.
Get a bill for something you never bought. Write the people who sent it, protesting. You get a letter with interest added and a threat. Write another letter and the varlets suggest they will take away your home and throw your aged grandmother in jail unless you pay the original bill, plus more interest.
If you take it to the Supreme Court, you might, just might, get a real letter admitting there was an error, but it was the fault of "the computer."

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