

How the Internet Started - By Stan Southwick



With the holiday shopping season coming quickly upon us and with most of our shopping being done online, I thought you might like to know the real story of how the internet started. Enjoy!

In ancient Israel, it came to pass that a trader by the name of Abraham Com did take unto himself a healthy young wife by the name of Dorothy.

And Dot Com was a comely woman, large of breast, broad of shoulder and long of leg. Indeed, she was often called Amazon Dot Com.

And she said unto Abraham, her husband, "Why dost thou travel so far from town to town with thy goods when thou can trade without ever leaving thy tent?"

And Abraham did look at her as though she were several saddle bags short of a camel load, but he simply said, "How, dear?"

And Dot replied, "I will place drums in all the towns and drums in between to send messages telling about what you have for sale, and they will reply telling you who hath the best price and they wish to buy your goods. The sale can be made on the drums and you will make delivery by Uriah's Pony Stable (UPS)."

Abraham thought long and decided he would let Dot have her way with the drums.

And the drums rang out and were an immediate success. Abraham sold all the goods he had at the top price, without ever having to move from his tent.

To prevent neighboring countries from overhearing what the drums were saying, Dot devised a system that only she and the drummers knew. It was known as Must Send Drum Over Sound (MSDOS), and she also developed a language to transmit ideas and pictures - Hebrew To The People (HTTP).

And the young men did take to Dot Com's trading as doth the greedy horsefly take to camel dung. They were called Nomadic Ecclesiastical Rich Dominican Sybarites, or NERDS.

And lo, the land was so feverish with joy at the new riches and the deafening sound of drums that no one noticed that the real riches were going to that enterprising drum dealer, Brother William of Gates, who bought off every drum maker in the land. Indeed he did insist on drums to be made that would work only with Brother Gates' drum-heads and drumsticks.

And Dot did say, "Oh, Abraham, what we have started is being taken over by others."

And Abraham looked out over the Bay of Ezekiel, or eBay as it came to be known.

He said, "We need a name that reflects what we are."

And Dot replied, "Young Ambitious Hebrew Owner Operators."

"YAHOO," said Abraham.

And because it was Dot's idea, they named it YAHOO Dot Com.

Abraham's cousin, Joshua, being the young Gregarious Energetic Educated Kid (GEEK) that he was, soon started using Dot's drums to locate things around the countryside.

This GEEK tool soon became known as God's Own Official Guide to Locating Everything (GOOGLE).

That is how it all began.

And that's the truth

"Halloween 2020...Where everyone shows up wearing the same mask."

Internet meme

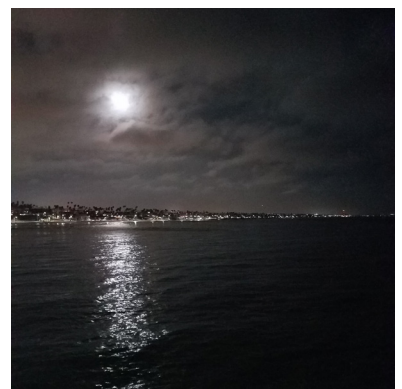
Favorite Flora:

Ferocactus latispinus - By Jon Marenfeld



Think all barrel cacti bloom only in spring and summer? This month's favorite flora may surprise you. Ferocactus latispinus, commonly known as Devil's Tongue Barrel cactus, blooms consistently in late fall through early winter. A native to wide ranges of central and southern Mexico this relatively small barrel cactus, growing to about 12 inches in diameter, is covered with clusters of red flat-spines emanating from each areole. When in bloom the Devil's Tongue Barrel puts out an inch-and-a-half rich purple flowers at a time when most other cacti don't flower at all. When I lived in Tucson mine bloomed within a few days of Thanksgiving year after year and was a welcome pop of fall color. I'm hoping to have the same result with the one I have here in the Vegas valley.

Once established Ferocactus latispinus, like other cacti, needs little care. In the dead of summer it will benefit from an occasional watering (no more than twice a month). In cooler and more damp parts of winter watering isn't needed. Plant it as you would with other cacti in well-draining soil and use a cactus soil mix if planting it in a container. In the hottest parts of the year it may benefit from a small amount of filtered sun but should be just fine in full sun. Plant with other cacti such as a Santa Rita Prickly Pear (Opuntia Santa Rita), various agaves, and short groundcovers for year-round interest.



Moonlight reflecting off the ocean
Oceanside, CA
Stan Southwick