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Every so often, I get in a pensive mood and think about different things. I often think of our world and all the marvelous things we take for granted. Going back to the ancient Greeks and Romans, plus Easter Island and StoneHenge, I wonder how those people cut those huge granite stones, formed them into blocks or figures, and moved them, maybe several miles and lifted them into place. They had no cranes, tractors or equipment, other than strong backs and simple leverage devices. Then we move right here to Humboldt County, where men harvested giant redwood trees and transported them to mills for processing into lumber, with minimum mechanical equipment- no chain saws, just cross-cut saws with a man on each end, then onto rail cars with "donkey" engines providing the power.//Then, I move to other things, like electricity, for instance. Who figured out how to transform water over a dam into electricity that can be sent for miles through wires? How often do we think of that when we turn on that coffee maker or the lights? Then we have batteries- how did someone figure out how to take that power and put it in to something as small as an aspirin, or a quarter, or a 5 cent Tootsie Roll (I guess that tells you just how old I am), or a car battery that can last for months or years, and some can be re-charged. Remember to re-cycle them, re-chargeable or not.//From there, we go on to telephones. Who'da thunk we could pick up a phone and through wires, talk to someone in New York, or Hawaii, or Europe? From there, we move to electronics, and do the same thing without wires. I've said this before, but when it comes to

the information highway, I'm still on a dirt road in Arkansas. I am continually amazed at what they can cram into a piece of equipment no thicker than a notebook, or a pack of playing cards. You go to the doctor's office and he or she can pick up their computer and find out about your history, or what drugs are available for any disease or infirmity. Go into any business office, and give them the most basic information and they can tell you just about anything concerning what you have bought or used from them over the years.*On the down side of all this, to me, anyway, is that everywhere you go, there are people texting each other, or with their noses stuck in a hand-held, playing games, or finding out what stocks are doing right then, or who's on second, even if they are at the game! At my age, I don't suppose I will completely appreciate where things have come to, but I still can think back and be amazed at those who started all of this wonderful technology- Thomas Edison, Westinghouse, Samuel Morse, Ben Franklin and his kite, the guy who discovered microwave-all the little guys or gals who contributed to these wonderful things we take for granted. So, the next time you use the toaster or the telephone, give a silent nod of thanks to all of them.

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