

Sign on...

I usually just scan the Times-Standard, as I am always running late on reading it, but a friend told me to be sure and read Scott Marcus' column in Sunday's paper. I got to it Monday morning, and what a great way to start the day! If you get the paper and haven't read it, be sure to do it. The column concerns a phone call from a so-called computer company that is concerned about his computer. Well, Scott (whom my wife knows from Weight Watchers) needed a break from what he was doing, so he started asking the caller all sorts of questions, and if you have received any of these calls, you know they can barely speak English, and Scott had a great time giving him and his supervisor a run around! It's a a real crack-up, so read it if you get the chance. I have often thought about doing that myself, but I'm not sure if I have the wit and quick thinking to pull it off. Another thing I have been tempted to do is to play along with one of these callers, especially if they are asking for money for a cruise, or the old "your favorite grandchild is in trouble", and not giving them any information, but getting an address as to where to send the money, send them a piece of paper signed "YOU BEN HAD". So much for fantasy, and getting on to serious stuff here, I listened to Brian's conversation with Chief Mills of the Eureka Police Department Monday morning. I've had some dealings with the chief, and he is a very down-to-earth sort of guy who listens and takes the problems seriously. He and Brian discussed, in part, the procedure involved in hiring new officers, and the thoroughness of the procedure. All of the officers I have had dealings with have been thorough and very open as to what they can do toward solving the problem. One thing the

chief felt very badly about was the lay-off or dismissal of some of his crew, some having been there for several years.\* I sincerely hope they get this problem straightened out and get things back on an even keel again. All in all, I think we have a very good law enforcement group here in Humboldt County, including our new District Attorney.// Moving on, the forest fire situation is very scary. As I've said before, I fought forest fire once, when I worked at Mutual Plywood in Fairhaven and a fire broke out on our timberland above Redwood Creek. I was about eighteen and they came through the mill asking if we wanted to fight the fire. Several of us young guys said "what fun that will be!" Long story short, the crew chief, who was also a millworker, but an arrogant guy who thought he knew it all, took us somewhere he was specifically told not to go to, and the fire got ahead of us and they thought we were goners. We literally outran the fire down this gully, and obviously, we made it.\* So, I have a pretty good idea of how fast things can change. We did a lot of chopping and cutting right at the fire's edge, and I learned not to gulp down too much water, as it will make you sicker than a dog! Kudos to the law enforcement men and women and the firefighters.

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