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RAMBLINGS – March 2014

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My nomination for the “Invention of the Century” is Caller ID. I know of nothing as empowering as looking at that TV or device-screen and deciding whether to answer the phone, or just let it ring!

It must be frustrating to those trying to sell me an Air Conditioner or a Security Alarm or whatever, but it certainly feels good from my side. I figure if it is someone who really needs, or wants, to get in touch with me, they will leave a message on my answering machine. If they merely hang up, it suggests that I don't need whatever it is they are offering.

Telephones have certainly changed. Remember the black, Western Electric instrument, where the phone company charged extra if we had more than one.

Today, it seems that everyone, from the President's encrypted Blackberry to my neighbor who hangs one on a string around his neck, has one of those that communicates, takes pictures, plays music and apparently protects us from Global Warming.

Not me, of course. I have an old rudimentary one that I keep in the car to call AAA when I run out of gas, or from the cellphone lot when meeting someone at the airport.

Happy Computing, Jack