



declined as email started to come of age.

Home-made historic greeting cards

Dad's most notable pastime is sending out greeting cards on holidays. Dad read of a woman who sent greeting cards to people she didn't know who lived in nursing homes — people who got little or no mail from anyone. Dad took this a bit further. An avid history buff himself, Dad created greeting cards each with a little history lesson.

For example, did you know that Ann Jarvis pushed for Mothers' Day in honor of continuing her own mother's work? Did you know that Memorial Day was originally called Decoration Day and was originally observed by decorating the graves of both Union and Confederate soldiers' graves with flowers and flags? Well, if you got a card from Samuel Kagel, you knew these things.

So every holiday, from Valentine's Day to President's Day to the Jewish Holidays and Christmas, Dad has kept Staples, Avery, International Paper, Epson, and the US Post Office in business —well, maybe not quite the Post Office. Friendly competition grew with other family members to see who would send out their cards first, who would have a better design program, or who had a better printer.

Gratitude

Dad frequently gets thank-you phone calls and replies from sending out his cards. Once Dad got a call from an elderly female, asking Dad how old he was. Also, Dad got into trouble and had to stop making Valentine cards after he gave out cards to women in his apartment building. The husband of one of the women complained that Dad was on the make with his wife.

Whoa, it's just a card, Sir Lancelot! On another occasion, Dad refused to scan a copy of a fellow nonagenarian's supposed nude girlfriend. Dad observed, "We could be arrested for that!"

Dad's proudest achievements are his "notebook collections" of Presidents and family genealogy, all done on his Apple IIe and Performa with Broderbund's PrintShop, Encyclopedic CDs, and the fledgling Internet on dialup.

Upon reflection during a recent oral history video, Dad couldn't believe he did all that with his computer. Everyone else believes it. Nine years ago, Dad suffered a mini stroke and as he completed his rehab, the first thing he wanted to get back to was his computer. He called it "the best therapy." A few years later the parent of a family acquaintance, whom Dad did not know, also suffered a stroke. Dad used the computer to compose a heartfelt letter of encouragement to that person.

Dad has always been known for his writing letters, many of which have been published in local newspapers as well as *Time* magazine. So from simple Want Lists for sons to shop for food and supplies, to letters addressed to presidents and other politicians, and to enlarging the print of his favorite columnists from *Time* or the *New York Times* online, the computer seems to have always been a part of his life.

This is for a man orphaned early in life, who grew up when and where there was no inside plumbing as we know it, got a glimpse of the future from reading *Tom Swift and His Magic (sic) Telephone*, and graduated high school at the height of the Great Depression in January 1931. This is pretty amazing.

My Dad is pretty amazing. Happy 100th Birthday, Dad! ☞

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"Upon reflection during a recent oral history video, Dad couldn't believe he did all that with his computer."

Changing Times

by Cal Esneault, Vice President, Cajun Clickers Computer Club, LA
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The extermination of the mouse via hand gestures?

Using Windows 8 on a large display screen connected to a touch screen computer is one way to get rid of the mouse in our computing lives. Another way is coming from a company called Leap Motion (<http://www.leapmotion.com/>). They are producing a product that will allow you to interact with your computer without a mouse, using hand gestures similar to those controlling the computers shown in the movie *Minority Report*. Think of it as a Microsoft Kinect interface for your hands only. You can

interact with your computer through hand waves, pinches and other gestures more intuitive than a mouse can allow. You can pre-order their 3D hand gesture control capability for \$69.99. The small hardware motion controller, the size of a pack of gum, plugs into a USB port and sits in front of your monitor. With the Leap Motion software, they claim it can track individual finger movements to 1/100th of a millimeter. If this becomes real like Kinect, it could make the mouse obsolete. ☞