

# THE BUS TO MACON

As everyone knows, the world of technology is rapidly changing. There are now smart phones that talk back to you, robots and computerized cars that all do amazing things. I'm reminded of the following story:

There was a man in a small southern city who bought a bus ticket to Macon, Ga. He stood and waited, and checked his watch. The bus should be arriving soon. So, he wandered about a bit, and his attention was diverted to a large scale, which promised to be able to tell not only one's weight, but one's name and other pertinent information about the person being weighed.

Curious, he stepped on the scale and put a quarter in the slot. Instantly, a slip came out that said: *Your name is Harry Hanson. You live in Sparta, Ga. You weigh 197 pounds. You are 17 pounds overweight. You are on your way to visit your sister in Macon. The bus to Macon has been delayed. Have a nice day.*

He was surprised and amused, so after a few minutes, he stepped on the scale and put in another quarter. The slip popped out to say: *Your name is Harry Hanson. You live in Sparta. Your weight has not changed in the past four minutes. You still weigh 197 pounds, and are still 17 pounds overweight. You are still on your way to visit your sister in Macon. The bus to Macon is still late. Have a nice day.*



Sure that this was some kind of a ruse, the man was determined to fool this machine. Quickly, he walked across the street to a variety store. He bought a pair of Groucho Marx glasses with the exaggerated nose and the mustache and eyebrows. He also bought a black hat and a cane. And with this disguise in place, and walking with a limp, he returned across the street to the bus station and approached the scale.

He stepped on and eagerly deposited his quarter. When the slip came out, he read: *You are still Harry Hanson from Sparta, Ga. Your weight is still 197 pounds, and you are still 17 pounds overweight. You are still on your way to visit your sister in Macon, but while you were across the street fooling around, you missed the bus. Have a nice day, anyway.*

That story prompts a question and a comment.

First, the question: Is it all coming to this?

And now the comment: If nothing else, perhaps this story brought a smile to your face. And if so, your time reading it was all worthwhile.

– Beecher Hunter