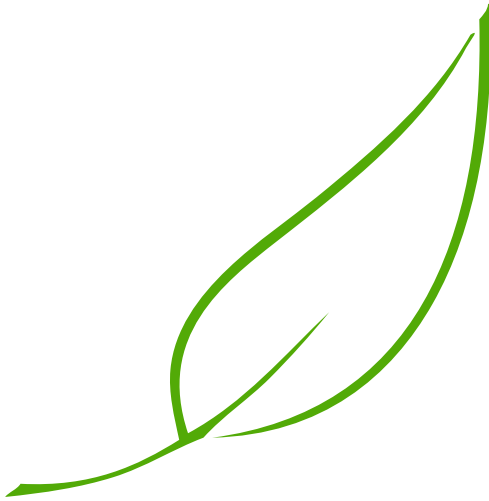


# CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK

by Robert L. Crowe



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# **CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK**

**by Robert L. Crowe**

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You wouldn't know me. I'm sort of like a manifold intake valve, or a Freon coolant modulator ... those things you never see but are critical to the operation of a machine. I'm a computer chip. Yeh, I know I don't look like you expected. Everybody tells me that. Well, Que sera, sera. (*intentionally mispronounced as K-Sara, Sara.*)

You know, we chips have a lot of pride. The "cutting edge of technology" and all. It's a family thing. My great-great grandfather ... before he was junked ... was in an IBM 386. Very sophisticated for its time. Or, so the family album says. And, there are some .jpg (*pronounced j-peg*) pictures in the album of when Uncle Intel celebrated 100 megahertz. Quite a party ... or so the album says.

Oh ... Would someone watch the door? They really should have a password to get in.

Boing-ping! Yeh ... I'm programmed for sounds, but I don't know what they all mean. (*Throughout the presentation there are sounds made, without further explanation.*)

You know what I hate? Start up. Being asleep and then wham! It's like the alarm clock going off, only with a bolt of lighting attached. No warning. No one gently shakes you and says, "Good morning. I'm going to press the button now. Better open those sleepy eyes." Nothing warm and humane like that. It's, "Z-z-z-z-zapppp!" right to work. No coffee. No Ovaltine. Nothing civilized. You think you got it tough in the mornings? Ha!

I'm kind-of a glorified traffic cop. I don't know how many paths there are into a typical computer chip like me, but there's a whole bunch. And everything is so fast. When those little



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*CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK*

*by Robert L. Crowe.*

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