From Science Fiction to Reality = C.E.S. 2014

Las Vegas is known mainly for casinos and "quickie" marriages, but once a year tech-makers present their newest, most advanced and innovative products to whet our appetites. This year's CES (Consumer Electronics Show) made a huge push in 10 areas:

1. **Wearable tech** - Dick Tracy's 2-way wrist radio (1946) is real… and more so. Embedded technology is found in socks, skirts, shirts, underwear, etc. in different applications. "*Google Glass*" eyeware is just the tip of the iceberg as collaborative work advances between fashion designers and tech developers.

2. **TVs** – BIG display screens, more interactive features, and improved HD quality have been on the rise; ultra HD curved screens were the true show-stoppers at this show. Those who remember "Cinerama" from the 1950s can imagine those gigantic screens down-sized to fit in your living room today. Wow!

3. **Internet everywhere** – If you have it, use it! Your toothbrush, coffee pot, and some sports equipment can be connected to the internet…if desired. We know the aim is to always be "online" and the technology exists to make it happen. Where to stop? One's imagination is the limit.

4. **Intuitive computing** – mouse-less and touchpad-less PCs and gaming devices are on the way; the newest installed software recognizes gestures, voice and eye movements. Who needs an extra piece of hardware?

5. **Smartphone improvements** – These devices have already entered the mainstream at the heart of personal technology. More Apps, "Cloud" links and new "Phablets" (a device sized between a phone and a tablet) are taking Smartphones to the next level.

6. **Robotics** – Robots have been used in different types of factories for years but now this concept is close to home, being demonstrated and used for entertainment, play, work and to educate the youngest. Science fiction may have spread its popularity but today's innovations are turning fantasy into reality.

7. **3-D printing** – One of the newest printing processes turns digital data into 3-dimensonal solid objects. Plastics, metals and alloys are used by the auto, aerospace, jewelry, medical and dental fields to help our lives, with much more to come.

8. **Drones** – Defined as "<u>unmanned aerial vehicles</u>" (UAVs), these were mainly for military use but now are used by civilians for farming, photography, filmmaking, search and rescue, and more. *Amazon Corp*. has already tested deliveries by drones…the ideas are coming fast and furiously.

9. **Smart Homes** – *LG* and *Samsung* are the major innovators in developing appliances that are commanded by their owners, so one can text messages to washing machines, vacuum cleaners, stoves, etc. Running your home "automatedly" is getting easier and easier, leaving more time for other activities.   When the laundry gets done automatically, then THAT will truly be a smart home!

10. **Automobiles** – We´re already experiencing life-saving tech apps in our cars today, such as waking the driver, alerting involuntary lane-changing, reading traffic signs, brake application, hands-free driving, and more on the way. If more lives are saved on the road, then kudos to these advances!