



Gas Gauge Ye Olde Car Club December 2020 Newsletter

A Note From The Pres

2020? We had fun anyway! What a year. In January, VP John Hopkins and our Events Committee had more than 100 things planned for 2020. When coronavirus shut us down those events had to be unwound, our annual swap meet canceled along with all tours, senior living visits, Wednesday breakfast meetings and our December 12 Christmas Party.

In spite of all the slashing and canceling, John managed to delight us with an array of drive-by visits, picnics, breakfasts in the park, and tours where we could "Come as You Are but Stay in Your Car." Dave Hannah led us on a 40 mile tour through Kennewick, Richland, Benton City and West Richland at speeds below 50 mph.

We are told covid19 vaccines will be available within weeks for those most in need and for everyone by mid 2021. It sounds like we could have a return to near normal by July.

Christmas celebrations are greatly reduced this year with only those living in the same dwelling allowed to participate in gatherings. Many will gather anyway, risking their own health and that of others, particularly older people. Let's not create a death surge when the end is so near.

This is the final YOCC newsletter of 2020.

Wishing you a safe and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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Bits and Pieces

***Twinkle, twinkle little star. Point me to the nearest bar.

***Never laugh at your wife's choice. You are one of them.

***Astronomers got tired of watching the moon go round the Earth for 24 hours. So they called it a day.

***I have a pencil that used to be owned by William Shakespeare. But he chewed it a lot. Now I can't tell if it's a 2B or not 2B.

***I hate telling people I'm a taxidermist. When they ask what I do everyday, I say, "Y' know. Stuff."

***I'm more confused than a chameleon in a bag of Skittles.

***Does running from my responsibilities count as cardio?

***My heart says chocolate and wine but my jeans say, "For the love of all that's holy woman, eat a salad!"

The Remarkable Body

The **great saphenous vein** is the major superficial vein of the medial leg and thigh. It is the longest vein in the human body, extending from the top of the foot to the upper thigh and groin.

Where in the world.

The Red Sea is 4.2% salt, making it the saltiest sea. The average salt content of the ocean is 3.5%. The Dead Sea is nine times saltier, making it the saltiest lake.

Actual Label Instructions

On a Harry Potter wizards broom:
This broom does not actually fly.

Fun Food Facts

There are forty-nine different foods mentioned in the Bible.

According to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, while both male and female reindeer grow antlers in the summer each year, male reindeer drop their antlers at the beginning of winter, usually late November to mid-December.

Female reindeer retain their antlers till after they give birth in the spring. Therefore, according to EVERY historical rendition depicting Santa's reindeer, EVERY single one of them, from Rudolph to Blitzen, had to be a female.

We should have known... ONLY women would be able to drag a fat man in a red velvet suit all around the world in one night and not get lost.

SOLUTIONS USED TO CLEAR ICY ROADS

BY Doug Dahl, The Bellingham Herald
December 07, 2020

Question: What kind of substance is applied to the local roads during freezing weather? Is the liquid mixture salt or something else? What kind of damage can it cause to cars?

Answer: Rust. That's the one word answer. As to what the substance is, that answer is more complicated. But rather than turn this into a chemistry lesson, let's take a short trip back in time, to the Great Seattle Salt Debate of 2008.

Maybe you remember; the city of Seattle had decided to abandon salt as a treatment for icy and snowy roads, committing instead to using sand. And then the city was hit by the biggest snowfall in a decade. Many roads were impassable, leading to a collision that made international news when two buses full of students slid down a hill and crashed through a concrete barricade, the front quarter of one bus dangling over I-5 thirty feet below. (By magic, luck, physics or divine intervention there were no serious injuries.) In the aftermath, the city switched back to using salt, or other salt-ish chemicals. Some folks speculate that the mayor's no-salt stance cost him the next election.

I share that story to point out that in many situations there isn't a perfect solution. And when I say "solution" I mean both the answer to a problem and the homogenous mix of two or more substances. In a perfect world we'd have a deicer that was effective, environmentally friendly, didn't leave behind any residue or sediment (we're looking at you, sand), didn't cause corrosion to vehicles and was cheap to apply. In real life, that product probably doesn't exist. Picking a deicer means making compromises, and choosing between making the roadways safe right now and the possibility of corrosion in the future, transportation departments pick safety.

That's not to say that all deicer is equally corrosive. There are a lot of options besides sodium chloride (regular old salt). Choices include magnesium chloride, calcium chloride, calcium magnesium acetate and more. They come in lots of different mixtures, some with corrosion inhibitors added. Many are mixed into a brine to create a sprayable liquid. Some deicers offset the amount of salt or other chemicals with vegetable-based additives. A common one is beet juice. There's some science involved in picking the right deicer for the situation.

I checked the lists from several road departments in Washington and all of them included chemical-based deicers as an option. Washington DOT describes their snow and ice strategy on their website, and it includes salt as one possible tool. We don't see too many vehicles rusted out from road salt on the West Coast, because we don't have that much snow compared to places like Michigan or Vermont. But deicer does cause corrosion to vehicles. A study by AAA found that corrosion caused by deicing was responsible for \$3 billion of damage a year to vehicles in the US.

Corrosion isn't just an aesthetic problem. Lots of the parts under your car are metal – brake lines, tie rods, the frame. You know, important things that make your car safe. To combat corrosion, wash your vehicle regularly, including the undercarriage, during the time of year when deicers are applied to roadways. And the best option, if you can choose it: don't drive when roads are icy. When road conditions get worse, crashes increase. You can protect your car and decrease your risk by eliminating unnecessary trips in snowy and icy conditions.

As I was writing this I did think of low cost, environmentally friendly way to clear the roads. Can we just take all the kids doing remote schooling during the pandemic and tell them that their PE class is going to be shoveling snow?

From: www.tri-cityherald.com/news/local/article247579175.html



1968 Dodge Charger

The entire B-body lineup for the 1968 model year was redesigned and the Charger was further differentiated from the Dodge Coronet models. The first generation's efforts to look somewhat posh were abandoned in favor of designer Richard Sias' double-diamond coke bottle profile, with curves around the front fenders and rear quarter panels. Front and rear end sheet metal was designed by Harvey J. Winn. The rear end featured a "kick up" spoiler appearance, inspired by Group 7 racing vehicles. The fastback roof was gone, in favor of a "flying buttress" similar to that of the 1966-67 Pontiac GTO. The Charger retained its full-width hidden headlight grille, but a vacuum operated cover replaced the electric motor rotating headlights. The previous full-width taillights were replaced with dual circular units at the direction of Styling Vice President, Elwood P. Engel. Dual scallops were added to the doors and hood.

Inside, numerous "downscalings" were evident. A conventional fixed rear seat replaced the folding bucket seat design. The conventional trunk area included a vinyl mat, rather than the previous model's carpeted cargo area. The center console in the front remained, but there was no center armrest. The tachometer was now optional instead of standard and the electroluminescent gauges disappeared in favor of a conventional design.

Even the model's engine options ended up reduced midyear, when the standard 318 cu in (5.2 L) 2-bbl V8, was replaced with Chrysler's basic 225 cu in (3.7 L) slant-six. The 383-2 and 383-4 remained unchanged.

From Wikipedia

Duct Tape Was Originally Invented To Seal?

- Hull Fissures
- Fuel Lines
- Ductwork
- Ammo Cases

Answer: Ammo Cases

At the beginning of the 20th century, adhesive tapes in their modern form were just starting to appear on the market. Early tapes were typically strips of cloth with adhesive on one side as well as primitive early forms of electrical and medical tape. Throughout the 1920s and 30s, many of the modern tapes like paper masking tape and cellophane gift wrapping tape appeared.

What do-it-yourselfer's and all those with a little bit of MacGyver in their hearts will likely consider the pinnacle of tape inventions, the durable and ever useful duct tape, didn't appear until 1943, however. The silver tape we now refer to as duct tape began life quite far from heating and cooling ducts (and, for that matter, had a very short run as a heating and cooling duct tape to begin with). During World War II, a worker in an ordinance factory, Vesta Stoudt, wrote to President Franklin D. Roosevelt with her concerns over the seals on the ammunition cases. She was worried that the amount of time it took to break and remove the seal from the cases was costing U.S. soldiers precious time in battle and proposed that the ammo cases be sealed with an easy to tear fabric tape.

Roosevelt passed the idea on to the War Production Board, Johnson & Johnson was tasked with creating a waterproof plastic backed tape that was easy to tear, and an olive drab version of the now ubiquitous silver tape was put into use by U.S. military units around the globe. Soldiers found all sorts of uses for the sturdy and easy to apply tape, and when they returned home from the war, Johnson & Johnson began selling duct tape at hardware stores across the country.

The Crist family worked at a zoo. Each year they predicted the general luck and overall mood of the year by watching the gnu. If the gnu's ears were forward, that meant a successful, joyous year was almost certain to happen. But if his ears were laid back flat against his head, it meant that an unlucky or very unhappy year was sure to come. One year it was young Mary's turn to "survey" the animal and come up with the prediction. It was her first time solo, and in her excitement, she forgot to take the key to the cage. She was late in coming to check on the gnu. Well, she saw the wrong ear position and predicted a bad year, when in fact it was quite good. To explain the error, the local newspaper ran the following headline a year later: Mary Crist misses an happy gnu's year.

FOR SALE: 1966 Chevy Caprice 89k miles, second owner, 4 dr. hard top, 396 engine, auto, \$25K firm
1955 Ford F100 292 auto, half built, with new parts for remainder of build. \$10K
1964 Datsun Roadster #2214 out of about 3818 aloud by Japan into the US. Needs work \$10K
call Avery at 1-208-610-9720

FOR SALE: Di-Acro #2 bender with stand, no dies, \$300. Call Steve Steer 588-3756.

The U.S. War Department Studied Which Of These Things To Increase Transportation Efficiency?

- A. Wagon Train Routes
- B. Ant Colonies
- C. Monarch Migration
- D. Circuses

Answer: Circuses

In the late 19th century, the heyday of the big top circus, newspapers began to describe the massive circus entourages as armies. They arrived efficiently in massive numbers, unpacked quickly, built an entire temporary town around themselves, and just as quickly, they packed up and vanished into the night to reappear a state over, ready to entertain a whole new audience.

While the motivation might have been different, describing the whole affair as moving an army wasn't far off. In fact, it wasn't long before the U.S. War Department realized that the major circuses were incredibly efficient at moving their "troops". So efficient, in fact, that starting in the 1890s, they began sending army officers to embed in the field, so to speak, with circuses in order to study their methods and pinpoint the key details that made them as efficient as they were.

Overall, the War Department was very impressed with how smoothly the circus could unpack, organize, and repack. General Leonard Wood observed that "the great American army machine" would benefit greatly from copying the mechanisms of "the great American circus machine".

From How to Geek

Did you know?

In **August of 1902**, Theodore Roosevelt became the first sitting U.S. President to ride in an automobile as part of his Presidential duties—which he did while traveling through the state of Connecticut during a speaking tour of New England.

Some fun questions about Christmas

Q: In Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol," what was Mr. Scrooge's first name?

A: Ebenezer

Q: What Bing Crosby song is the best-selling single ever?

A: White Christmas

Q: In the early 1800s, the first gingerbread houses were reportedly inspired by what famous fairy tale?

A: Hansel and Gretel

Q: "Miracle on 34th Street" centers on what real-life department store?

A: Macy's

Q: In the song "Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer," what "incriminating" evidence was found on Grandma's back?

A: Claus marks

Q: How many reindeer are featured in the poem "Twas the Night Before Christmas?"

A: Eight (no Rudolph!)

Q: What beverage company has been using Santa Claus in its advertising since 1931?

A: Coca-Cola

Q: According to legend, what holiday goodies were shaped to resemble a shepherd's staff, as a way to remind children of the shepherds who visited baby Jesus?

A: Candy canes

Handwriting

After nearly disappearing from school curriculums in the U.S., nearly two dozen states have reintroduced cursive instruction since 2010.

From howtogeek.com

Auto facts from 1942

- **As America enters the war early in 1942 model year, customers worry that production will be halted rather than simply curtailed.
- **Under government mandate, automakers quickly convert from civilian to full wartime production, turning out shells, aircraft engines, antiaircraft guns, Jeeps, and more.
- **Chrysler's "alligator-style" hood opens from the front; running boards are hidden beneath flared door bottoms.
- **Ford gets a "big car" look thanks to a revised grille and big shoulder fenders.
- **Hudson cars can be ordered with Drive-Master semiautomatic shift.
- **Officially, Oldsmobile is now a division of GM - the Olds Motor Works name is history.
- **Turbo-matic Drive, a semiautomatic gearbox, is optional on Studebaker Commander and President models.
- **Civilian car production comes to an end on February 9; civilian truck output ceases on March 3.
- **A national 40 mph speed limit is imposed to conserve fuel and rubber; later it's reduced to 35 mph.
- **Strict rationing of remaining new automobiles begins on March 2.
- **Gas rationing is ordered effective December 1, 1942.
- **Graham-Paige builds amphibious tanks.
- **By midyear, output of war material by auto manufacturers exceeds the normal peacetime production rate.

Auto facts from 1943

- **In January, the Office of Price Administration (OPA) bans nonessential driving in 17 eastern states; 25 million gasoline ration books are issued to motorists nationwide.
- **As the war rages on, income tax withholding is introduced to help finance the effort.
- **Cadillac's wartime output includes tanks, aircraft engines, munitions.
- **Chrysler's contributions include antiaircraft guns, Wright Cyclone aircraft engines, land-mine detectors, radar units, marine engines, tanks, and harbor tugs.
- **Ford turns out gliders and gun carriers plus the vital bombers from Willow Run led by the B-24 "Liberator."
- **Studebaker's varied contributions mainly include trucks and aircraft engines, plus "Weasel" personnel carriers.
- **Hudson produces Invader landing craft engines and body sections for Curtiss Helldiver aircraft, Martin B-26 bombers, Boeing B-29 super bombers, and Bell Aircobra helicopters plus a number of naval munitions, including the Oerlikon antiaircraft gun.
- **During war years, Oldsmobile turns out some 350,000 precision aircraft engine components, 175 million pounds of gun forgings, 140,000 machine guns, and vast quantities of ammunition.
- **Packard introduces Rolls-Royce Merlin aircraft engines, PT boats, and power units.
- **Two thirds of all wartime heavy truck production comes from various General Motors assembly plants.

Auto facts from 1944

- **Franklin D. Roosevelt is elected to an unprecedented fourth term as President of the United States.
- **Even more U.S. auto plants are converted to war production by 1944, as most automotive items are rationed.
- **More than 13% of Allied war material comes from American automobile manufacturers.
- **Automakers build 57% of the tanks that go to U.S. and Allied forces.
- **The basic civilian gasoline ration is reduced to two gallons per week.
- **Per the Office of War Information, 4000 passenger cars are being scrapped daily.
- **Petroleum-based synthetic rubber is invented during the war years.
- **Willys-Overland announces its plan to manufacture a civilian version of the Jeep after the war ends.

Auto facts from 1945

- **FDR dies on April 12 and Vice President Harry Truman is sworn in as President.
- **Germany surrenders on May 8.
- **Ford closes the enormous Willow Run, Michigan aircraft plant on June 23 after producing 8685 bombers.
- **Atomic bombs are dropped over Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6 and 9; Japan surrenders on August 14, 1945.
- **Gasoline rationing ends on August 15. Restrictions on truck production are lifted five days later.
- **Many materials such as sheet metal are scarce and remain so for several years.
- **Actor Clayton Moore - later TV's *The Lone Ranger* - buys the first 1946 Pontiac.
- **On December 8 in Japan, Toyota is given government permission to resume vehicle production, but only of trucks and buses.

WOMEN'S CORNER

A Letter to Santa From Mom

Dear Santa,

I've been a good mom all year. I've fed, cleaned and cuddled my two children on demand, visited the doctor's office more than my doctor, sold sixty-two cases of candy bars to raise money to plant a shade tree on the school playground and figured out how to attach nine patches onto my daughter's girl scout sash with staples and a glue gun.

I was hoping you could spread my list out over several Christmases, since I had to write this letter with my son's red crayon, on the back of a receipt in the laundry room between cycles, and who knows when I'll find anymore free time in the next 18 years.

Here are my Christmas wishes:

I'd like a pair of legs that don't ache after a day of chasing kids (in any color, except purple, which I already have) and arms that don't flap in the breeze but are strong enough to carry a screaming toddler out of the candy aisle in the grocery store. I'd also like a waist, since I lost mine somewhere in the seventh month of my last pregnancy. If you're hauling big ticket items this year I'd like a car with fingerprint resistant windows and a radio that only plays adult music; a television that doesn't broadcast any programs containing talking animals; and a refrigerator with a secret compartment behind the crisper where I can hide to talk on the phone.

On the practical side, I could use a talking daughter doll that says, "Yes, Mommy" to boost my parental confidence, along with one potty-trained toddler, two kids who don't fight and three pairs of jeans that will zip all the way up without the use of power tools. I could also use a recording of Tibetan monks chanting, "Don't eat in the living room" and 'Take your hands off your brother,' because my voice seems to be just out of my children's hearing range and can only be heard by the dog. And please don't forget the Playdoh Travel Pack, the hottest stocking stuffer this year for mothers of preschoolers. It comes in three fluorescent colors and is guaranteed to crumble on any carpet making the in-laws' house seem just like mine. If it's too late to find any of these products, I'd settle for enough time to brush my teeth and comb my hair in the same morning, or the luxury of eating food warmer than room temperature without it being served in a Styrofoam container. If you don't mind I could also use a few Christmas miracles to brighten the holiday season. Would it be too much trouble to declare ketchup a vegetable? It will clear my conscience immensely. It would be helpful if you could coerce my children to help around the house without demanding payment as if they were the bosses of an organized crime family; or if my toddler didn't look so cute sneaking downstairs to eat contraband ice cream in his pajamas at midnight.

Well, Santa, the buzzer on the dryer is ringing and my son saw my feet under the laundry room door. I think he wants his crayon back. Have a safe trip and remember to leave your wet boots by the chimney and come in and dry off by the fire so you don't catch a cold. Help yourself to cookies on the table but don't eat too many or leave crumbs on the carpet.

Yours Always...Mom.

P.S. - One more thing...you can cancel all my requests if you can keep my children young enough to believe in Santa.



Birthdays and Anniversaries in December



Birthdays

Judy Bergum	December 4	Randy Bunch	December 27
Georgia Campbell	December 17	Dean Dennis	December 22
Becky Edwards	December 24	Anita Gough	December 13
Willie Gould	December 7	Rachael Hannah	December 29
Donald Harless	December 2	Bill Jarrard	December 19
Ron Kihlman	December 6	Kathryn Lauhala	December 9
Kent Madsen	December 2	Vern Marking	December 14
Dottie Marking	December 4	Jim Newell	December 5
David Randall	December 25	Ingrid Smith	December 12
Glenis Tarr	December 15	Kyle Thornhill	December 25
Becky Thornhill	December 11	Thora Trumbo	December 5



Anniversaries

John & Shahna Airoidi	December 13	Jess & Debra Allison	December 30
Gary & Bonnie Boehnke	December 12	Mike & Judy Bughi	December 14
Dean & Mary Dennis	December 28	Karl & Trish Kiichle	December 3
John & Elaine Kutrowski	December 3	Kyle & Becky Thornhill	December 3

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