



Gas Gauge Ye Olde Car Club December 2021 Newsletter

A note from the YOCC President - December 2021

This will be my final newsletter comment as club president. In January our new president may be heard in this space.

Much of my two years as club president was taken up by issues inflicted on us by the Covid pandemic. No in-person weekly breakfast meetings was hard on us all. Our group loves to talk about cars and almost anything else. We had no group events where we could show off our cars, no retirement home visits, no car shows, no swap meet, No Christmas party.

- John Hopkins, our Club VP and Events manager was up to the challenge. He invented new activities to keep us active but safe; Breakfast in the park, picnics in the park, local tours with no stops, assisted living drive-through visits and more.

- Frances McGillis, our Newsletter Editor started her "More Humor" daily email with funnies and stories to take our minds off the Covid menace.

- We started a weekly update for regular communication with all members. It started with technical tidbits, project status, old tool identification, and any news that fit, eventually calling it the Monday Update. From December 29, 2020: YOCC ELECTIONS The 2020 YOCC leadership team agreed to stay on in 2021. It wasn't possible to meet and discuss issues as we would like. We made do via phone and email.

Covid and related threats have not gone away, attendance at our meetings and events is still down but YOCC will continue to innovate and provide a great platform for sharing information, enjoying our cars and each other.

Enjoy the ride!

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Your dues are due by January 1. Dues are still \$15 per year. Mail your dues to:
YOCC, P.O. Box 2023, Richland, WA 99352

Bits and Pieces

Afraid of Santa? You may be claustrophobic.

I hate this snow! No, wait. I love this snow! Signed, BiPolar Bear

I was at a climbing center the other day, but someone had stolen all the grips from the wall; honestly, you couldn't make it up.

Therapist: Your wife says you never buy her flowers. Is that true?

Him: To be honest, I never knew she sold flowers.

What do you call a grandmother who tells jokes? A gram cracker.

Lying about my age is easier now that I have trouble remembering what it is.

The Remarkable Body

The Adam's apple is a thyroid cartilage. The male version is bigger. Females have more fat in their necks, which hides theirs.

Where in the world.

The percentage of Africa that is wilderness: 28% (now get This...) The percentage of North America that is wilderness: 38%

Fun Food Facts

Each year, Americans consume enough peanut butter to coat the floor of the Grand Canyon – 500 million pounds to be exact!

Celebrating three wise men who reinvented Christmas

By Richard Lederer, San Diego Union-Tribune

In 1822, the Rev. Clement Clarke Moore, a literature professor at a theological seminary in New York City, wrote for his children what many believe is the best-known verses in the English language, "A Visit from St. Nicholas." The poem, usually titled "The Night Before Christmas" from its first line, powerfully influenced the iconography of Santa Claus – his plump and jolly white-bearded look, his means of transportation, the names of his reindeer and the tradition of his delivering toys to boys and girls on Christmas Eve. On that night, many parents read this poem to their children.

Later in the 19th century, another New Yorker, Thomas Nast, enlarged the image of Santa Claus with his artist's pen and brush. Known as the Father of the American Cartoon, Nast remembered that when he was a little boy in southern Germany, every Christmas a fat old man gave toys and cakes to children. So, when he sketched and painted Santa, his portraits looked like the kindly old man of his childhood.

Santa Claus had been represented in various ways, but Nast, influenced by the "right jolly old elf" depicted in Moore's poem, created the figure we know today. Over the course of 30 years of drawing for Harper's Weekly magazine, he baked into our culture his image of Santa Claus – his jolly girth, his white beard and moustache, his bright red-and-white-trimmed coat, trousers, and hat, his black belt and boots and his sack of toys. He also drew Mrs. Claus and set the Clauses' workshop at the North Pole.

Across the sea in England, Charles Dickens was born into an impoverished family. His father served a term in debtors' prison, and Charles worked as a child laborer in a London boot-blackening factory. From such unpromising origins, he rose to become the best-selling writer of his time and one of the most enduring and quotable writers of all time. The rags-to-riches life of Charles Dickens became more fantastic than any of his stories.

In 1843, within the brief compass of six weeks, Dickens gave the world "A Christmas Carol." The influence of that Christmas present is towering. The story's glowing message – the importance of charity and good will toward all humankind – struck a resonant chord in England and the United States and deepened the celebration of the holiday. Although Christmases in eastern England were rarely snowy, Dickens's backdrop of a blizzardy London in his Carol stuck with readers and helped create our expectations of a "White Christmas."

Today, we're likely to call anyone who is not in the Christmas spirit a Scrooge and give them a sarcastic "Bah! Humbug!" Most of us know that we owe this phrase to Charles Dickens, but hardly anyone realizes that he also popularized the greeting "Merry Christmas." Ebenezer Scrooge's visiting nephew greets his uncle with it in the very first chapter. In all his curmudgeonly glory, Scrooge fires back, "Merry Christmas! What right have you to be merry? Every idiot who goes about with 'Merry Christmas' on his lips should be boiled with his own pudding and buried with a stake of holly through his heart!" After that episode, "Merry Christmas" lodged in readers' minds and hearts.

Without Charles Dickens' slim stack of messy manuscript pages that came to be known as "A Christmas Carol," Christmas today might still be a relatively minor holiday with no snow, no carolers and no large family gatherings for turkey dinners.

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 girl.

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.

Buick Roadmaster



The Buick Roadmaster is an automobile that was built by Buick from 1936 to 1958, and again from 1991 to 1996. Roadmasters produced between 1936 and 1958 were built on Buick's longest non-limousine wheelbase and shared their basic structure with the entry-level Cadillac Series 65, the Buick Limited, and after 1940, the Oldsmobile 98. Between 1946 and 1957 the Roadmaster served as Buick's flagship.

The Roadmaster received its first major postwar restyling in 1949. Its wheelbase and overall length were reduced but its weight was actually marginally increased. The biggest change was a much larger two-piece, curved glass windshield that the sales brochure described as like an "observation car." It was also in 1949 that Buick introduced "VentiPorts." Four were displayed on each of the Roadmaster and Century's front fenders, with three on the fenders of the Super and Special to denote junior level products. The sales brochure noted that VentiPorts helped ventilate the engine compartment, and possibly that was true in early 1949, but sometime during the model year they became plugged.

Dynaflow was now standard equipment, and engine horsepower was increased to 150 through a slight increase in the compression ratio. This contributed in conjunction with the now-standard Dynaflow in giving the new Buicks a top speed of 110 mph.

Featuring power windows as standard equipment, the 2-door Buick Roadmaster Riviera, along with the Cadillac Series 62 Coupe de Ville and the Oldsmobile 98 Holiday, was among the first hardtop coupes produced. The Riviera was also notable for its popular optional "Sweepspear" chrome body side molding, which would soon become a Buick trademark. This chrome-plated strip started above the front wheel, after which it gently curved down nearly to the rocker panel just before the rear wheel, and then curved around the rear wheel in a quarter of a circle to go straight back to the tail-light. The "Riviera trim", as it was initially called, was also made available on the Roadmaster convertible late in the model year.

The 1950 restyling featured a "toothy" grille. The Sweepspear design was made standard on most body styles at the beginning of the 1950 model year, and on the station wagon and a new long-wheelbase sedan mid-year. The long-wheelbase sedan was lengthened by 4 inches (102 mm)). Like the convertibles, the Riviera and the long-wheelbase sedan came with power windows and power seats as standard equipment. Styling changes were minimal in 1951 and 1952. Power steering was added as an option in 1952 and horsepower climbed to 170 primarily to a new four-barrel carburetor.

From Wikipedia

Ladies Lunch

There were 12 ladies at the December lunch. Thank you Dolores. You always make everything festive. January Ladies Luncheon will be at the manor at Brookdale Canyon Lakes. Myrtle Nesbitt will be the hostess. If you will be attending, call Myrtle – 509-586-5629.

Christmas Trees

Considered a must-have decoration for many who celebrate Christmas and open gifts with loved ones each year, the Christmas tree's interesting history most likely dates back at least two millennia.

Christians weren't the first to admire and decorate Christmas trees. The tradition started more than 2,000 years ago when pagans used to worship evergreen trees as a symbol of fertility.

Between the 1500s and 1600s, people in Latvia and other Eastern European countries began decorating Christmas trees, and later on, the Germans adopted this tradition.

The Nordmann Fir is considered the leader among Christmas trees. The Nordmann Fir has been a popular Christmas tree choice in Europe for a number of years and is gaining momentum in the United States.

Ninety-eight percent of all Christmas trees are grown on farms. About 350 million Christmas trees are currently growing on Christmas tree farms in the U.S., the National Christmas Tree Association reported. Only 2 percent of Christmas trees are cut from the wild.

Christmas trees can host thousands of bugs. When bringing home a fresh Christmas tree, you might very well be unknowingly toting along a number of unwanted critters. "Christmas trees are a home to a lot of insects and microorganisms, so when you bring one home, make sure you shake it thoroughly before bringing it inside.

The U.S. has nearly 15,000 Christmas tree farms. More than 100,000 people are employed in the Christmas tree farming industry, according to the National Christmas Tree Association.

Decorating Christmas trees with lights began with Martin Luther. Sixteenth-century Protestant reformer Martin Luther is credited with being the first to add lighted candles to a tree.

Artificial Christmas trees originated in Germany. During the 19th century, artificial trees were developed in Germany and later became popular in the U.S., according to the University of Illinois. They were constructed using green-dyed goose feathers that were attached to wire branches. Those branches were then wrapped around a central dowel rod that served as the tree's trunk.

There are eight leading Christmas tree-producing states. Oregon, Washington, Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania, New York, Virginia and North Carolina are considered the top Christmas tree producing states in the U.S.

Christmas trees were once hung upside down. The tradition of hanging a Christmas tree upside down from the ceiling is an old one that originated in Central and Eastern Europe, according to TheSpruce.com. Upside-down Christmas trees are reportedly common among many Slavic groups.

Many people recycle their real Christmas trees. The U.S. has more than 4,000 Christmas tree recycling programs, and the trees have been used to make sand and soil erosion barriers and placed in ponds to provide shelter for fish.

A Christmas tree can take up to 15 years to reach typical height. The typical height of a Christmas tree is about 6 or 7 feet, according to the National Christmas Tree Association. It can take as little as four years to reach this height, but the average growing time is seven years.

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer

Robert L. May created Rudolph in 1939 as an assignment for Chicago-based Montgomery Ward. The retailer had been buying and giving away coloring books for Christmas every year and it was decided that creating their own book would save money. Robert May considered naming the reindeer "Rollo" or "Reginald" before deciding upon using the name "Rudolph". May said his daughter liked reindeer, and he said he was treated like Rudolph as a child. In its first year of publication, Montgomery Ward distributed 2.4 million copies of Rudolph's story. The story is written as a poem in anapestic tetrameter, the same meter as "A Visit from St. Nicholas" (also known as "'Twas the Night Before Christmas").

While May was pondering how best to craft a Christmas story about a reindeer, while staring out his office window in downtown Chicago, a thick fog from Lake Michigan blocked his view—giving him a flash of inspiration. "Suddenly I had it!" he recalled. "A nose! A bright red nose that would shine through fog like a spotlight."

The cultural significance of a red nose has changed since the story's publication. In 1930s popular culture, a bright red nose was closely associated with chronic alcoholism and drunkards, so the story idea was initially rejected. May asked his illustrator friend at Montgomery Ward, Denver Gillen, to draw "cute reindeer", using zoo deer as models. The alert, bouncy character Gillen developed convinced management to support the idea. Maxton Books published the first mass-market edition of Rudolph in 1947

May's brother-in-law, Johnny Marks, adapted the story of Rudolph into a song. Gene Autry's recording of the song hit No. 1 on the Billboard pop singles chart the week of Christmas 1949. Autry's recording sold 2.5 million copies the first year, eventually selling a total of 25 million, and it remained the second best-selling record of all time until the 1980s.

Prominent People born in December:

LeBron James: Dec. 20	Howard Hughes: Dec. 24
Mayim Bialik: Dec. 12	Pope Francis: Dec. 17
Brad Pitt, Dec: 18	Anthony Hopkins: Dec. 31
Florence Griffith Joyner: Dec. 21	Humphrey Bogart: Dec. 25
Joseph Stalin: Dec. 18	Kirk Douglas: Dec. 9
Justin Trudeau: Dec. 25	Bob Barker: Dec. 12
Frank Sinatra: Dec. 12	Rudyard Kipling: Dec. 30
Steven Spielberg: Dec. 18	Emily Dickenson: Dec. 10
Denzel Washington: Dec. 28	Jimmy Buffett: Dec. 25
Walt Disney: Dec. 5	Louis Pasteur: Dec. 27
Anthony Fauci: Dec. 24	Joseph Conrad: Dec. 3
Dick Van Dyke: Dec. 13	Ty Cobb: Dec. 18
Maggie Smith: Dec. 28	Edward G. Robinson: Dec. 12

Presidents Born in December:

Martin Van Buren: December 5
Woodrow Wilson: December 28
Andrew Johnson: December 29

Presidents Who Died in December:

George Washington: December 14

Harry S. Truman: December 26

Gerald Ford: December 26

December is when Christmas happens.

December 4 is National Cookie Day

December 7 is Remember Pearl Harbor Day

December 13 is National Violin Day

December 26 is National Candy Cane Day

Fun Facts About Christmas

"Jingle Bells" was the first song played in space. It's hard to imagine what you'd want to rock out to if you were to ever float among the stars. But the crew of NASA's Gemini 6A space flight got into the Christmas spirit and made history when they played "Jingle Bells" on December 16, 1965, earning the jolly jingle the Guinness World Record for being the first song ever played in space.

If you gave all the gifts listed in the "Twelve Days of Christmas," it would equal 364 presents. If you sing the famous festive tune and count up all of the gifts that are bestowed upon the lucky singer in the lyrics—French hens, turtle doves, calling birds, and so much more—you'd end up with 364 presents.

There is a Christmas tree in Spain worth \$15 million. The Christmas tree at the Kempinski Hotel Bahia, near Marbella is festooned with red, white, pink, and black diamonds, as well as jewelry from Bulgari, Cartier, Van Cleef & Arpels, and Chanel.

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer was originally created as an advertising gimmick. According to the Smithsonian Insider, "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer first appeared in 1939 when Montgomery Ward department store asked one of its copywriters, 34-year-old Robert L. May, to create a Christmas story the store could give away to shoppers as a promotional gimmick." And thus Rudolph was born, with Montgomery Ward distributing 2.4 million copies of the story in the first year of its publication.

Eggnog dates back to medieval times. Eggnog is a signature beverage of the holiday season, and one that has a history dating all the way back to medieval times and a drink called "posset." Made with sweetened and spiced milk curdled with ale or wine and served hot, according to Healthline, monks in the 13th century "enjoyed this mixture with the addition of eggs and figs."

The Statue of Liberty is the largest Christmas gift ever given. Standing over 150 feet tall and weighing 225 tons, the Statue of Liberty is an impressive figure. And since it was considered a holiday gift when it was given to the U.S. by France in 1886, it's officially the largest Christmas present in the world.

The first tree at Rockefeller Center was an unadorned tree from construction workers. The tree went up in 1931. However, it was hardly the big spectacle it is today. Instead, it was a 20-foot tree with no ornaments that was set up by construction workers who were laboring at the center's construction site. A second tree went up two years later, this time a 50-footer with lights, sparking the annual tradition.

These days, over a billion and a half Christmas cards are sent each year in the U.S. Around 1.6 billion people in the U.S. still manage to send out the old-fashioned greetings each year. According to data from Hallmark via The Atlantic, "Millennials represent nearly 20 percent of the dollars spent on greeting cards, and their spending is growing faster than that of any other generation."

Christmastime is the most popular time of year to propose. According to The Washington Post, wedding experts and social media data indicate that Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are the two most popular days of the year to propose.

The largest gingerbread house ever made was as big as a real house. In November 2013, a group from Traditions Club in Bryan, Texas, constructed a gingerbread house that was 160 feet long, 42 feet wide, and 10.1 feet tall. Made with a wood base, it reportedly took 1,800 pounds of butter, 7,200 eggs, 3,000 pounds of sugar, 7,200 pounds of flour, and over 22,000 pieces of candy to cover the record-breaking structure!

Decorating Disney World involves 8.5 million lights. According to Trip Savvy, preparing for the holidays Disney-style involves "unloading 150 semi-trailer truckloads of decorations, stringing 15 miles of garland and 8.5 million lights, hanging 1,314 wreaths, and trimming some 1,300 trees with 300,000 yards of ribbon and bows across Disney World's four theme parks, two water parks, and over two dozen Disney World resort hotels."

Christmas trees are grown in all 50 states—yes, even Hawaii! No matter where you live in the U.S., you can find a homegrown Christmas tree, likely from a nearby farm. That's because Christmas trees are grown in all 50 states, including Hawaii and Alaska, according to History.com.

Did you know?

Willie Nelson has used the same guitar, a Martin N-20 classical nicknamed Trigger, for the majority of his career; the guitar has been in use since 1969 on every one of his albums as well as at over 10,000 live performances.

Some Festive Facts from the Costco Connection

The first gingerbread recipe dates back to 2400 BC.
Candy Canes didn't always have stripes.
Eggnog is based on a drink called posset.
Campbell Soup Co. makes \$20 million just on cans of cream of mushroom soup around Thanksgiving.

At a monastery high in the mountains, the monks have a rigid vow of silence. Only at Christmas, and only by one monk, and only with one sentence, is the vow allowed to be broken. One Christmas, Brother Thomas is allowed to speak and he says, "I like the mashed potatoes we have with the Christmas turkey!" and he sits down. Silence ensues for 365 days. The next Christmas, Brother Michael gets his turn, and he says "I think the mashed potatoes are lumpy and I hate them!" Once again, silence for 366 days (it's leap year). The following Christmas, Brother Paul rises and says, "I am fed up with this constant bickering!"

Auto Facts from 1975

- **All four major automakers install catalytic converters to reduce emissions - but the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) charges that the devices may emit harmful sulfates.
- **Slow sales lead to widespread layoffs.
- **The Chrysler Cordoba and Dodge Charger SE are built in Canada; so are the Buick Skyhawk, Chevy Monza, and Olds Starfire.
- **Seville, hyped for its "international" size, is the smallest Caddy in decades; it's meant to lure Mercedes Benz buyers.
- **AMC's egg-shaped Pacer hatchback enters the market on March 1, and snares 72,158 buyers in the short model year.
- **The Energy Policy and Conservation Act becomes law - it will set fuel-economy standards starting with the 1978 models.
- **Experimental airbags are installed in some 1974-75 Buicks, Cadillacs, and Olds - many owners never even know they're in the steering wheel.
- **The "final" American convertibles are built, except for Cadillac; makers fear a federal rule on rollover protection - but slow sales are the major causes for their demise.

Auto Facts from 1976

- **Sales leap upward after a pair of brutal years: Big Three automakers are recovering, but American Motors is showing signs of terminal weakness.
- **An average new car sells for \$5470, while the average worker earns \$11,620 annually.
- **Oldsmobile's Cutlass is the top-selling model (and is during much of the '70s), beating out the full-size Chevrolet.
- **Several GM divisions offer an optional five-speed manual gearbox.
- **Front disc brakes are now standard on U.S. cars, due to federal regulation.
- **One-third of domestic cars have an engine other than a V-8; 10% are fours.
- **No-lead gasoline averages 61 cents per gallon, "regular" sales begin to slide.
- **Chrysler announces an agreement to purchase engines and transaxles from Volkswagen for installation in its upcoming front-drive subcompacts.
- **This is the year for the "big-block" 445-cid V-8 from Buick, Oldsmobile, and Pontiac, and for Chevy's 454-inch mill.
- **Pinto introduces the Cruising Wagon, a tricked-up wagon with blanked-in rear side windows with portholes and "mod" striping; Mustang II adds a "Cobra II" trim package.
- **In an obvious move to boost economy, Chevy makes the new 305-cubic-inch V-8 standard in many full-size models.

Auto Facts from 1977

- **Domestic model-year output tops 9.1 million cars; imported-car sales reach the two-million mark for the first time.
- **American workers' real earnings start to decline after 1976, breaking a long streak of nearly constant rise.
- **GM's first downsizing wave hits the full-size cars, which lose up to 900 pounds and a foot in length - but are just as spacious as before.
- **The Ford Elite is gone, effectively replaced by the new less-expensive Thunderbird.
- **This year's new cars average 18.6 miles per gallon, 34% better than in 1974.
- **The U.S. Department of Transportation orders airbag installation for new cars, to be phased in starting with the 1982 models.
- **Gremlin gets an 80-horsepower, four-cylinder Volkswagen engine option and restyled front and rear fascias.
- **Lincoln debuts the Continental Mark V, which weighs 400 pounds less than the Mark IV; output jumps to 80,321 units.
- **Pontiac debuts Cam Am; a Cameo White LeMans Sport Coupe with a 403-cid V-8, Rally handling package and special trim.

WOMEN'S CORNER

'T WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS A LONG TIME AGO

'Twas the first night of Christmas a long time ago,
The hillside was peaceful, the moon was aglow.
The world couldn't know from what happened before,
That men would remember this night evermore.

The sheep on the hillside—their days journey over,
Were dreaming sweet dreams of a field full of clover.
The shepherds were watchful while guarding their flock,
The earth was their pillow, the stars were their clock.

Then all of a sudden, they jumped at the sight
Of the sky all a blaze with a heavenly light.
They huddled in fear, then they started to rise
As the lightening-like flash tore open the skies.

The heavens were split by the silvery ray,
The dark disappeared and the night became day.
And lo, at the end of the rainbow of light
Appeared then an angel to banish their fright.

The angel brought news of a birth in a manger
And bade them to hasten to welcome the stranger.
For Mary had just given birth to a boy
Whose coming would bring so much comfort and joy.

A choir of angels looked down from the sky
And heavenly voices were heard from on high:
Peace be on earth and good will to all men.
The Savior has come on this night, Amen.

The heavenly angels then faded from sight,
The sky once again turned from day to night.
The shepherds all quietly rose from the ground,
And hurried to go where the child would be found.

As they reached Bethlehem and the inn was in sight
From the barn came a trickle of half-hidden light.
It led like a path to a soft little bed
And shone very tenderly on a child's head.

The child in the manger was sleeping so sound,
His eyes were still closed, as the shepherds stood round.
From that instant of grace on that night long ago
Thousands of years would be warmed by the glow.

Guided by light from a bright shining star
Came a pilgrimage led of three kings from afar.
They were dressed in the finest of satins and lace,
Their complexions were that of an Orient race.

The three wealthy kings were wise men and proud,
But they went to the Christ child and solemnly bowed.
They came bearing treasures of incense and gold
To that sweet little child, still not very old.

The star in the sky twinkled down from above,
The world was awakened to kindness and love.
The past was forgotten, the future was bright,
And the spirit of Christmas was born on that night.

Birthdays and Anniversaries in December



Birthdays

Randy Bunch	December 27	Georgia Campbell	December 17
Dean Dennis	December 22	Becky Edwards	December 24
Anita Gough	December 13	Rachael Hannah	December 29
Joe Harris	December 11	Bill Jarrard	December 19
Ron Kihlman	December 6	Kent Madsen	December 2
Vern Marking	December 14	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
Dick Weldon	December 19		



Anniversaries

John & Shahna Airoldi	December 13
Gary & Bonnie Boehnke	December 12
Mike & Judy Bughi	December 14
Dean & Mary Dennis	December 28
John & Elaine Kutrowski	December 3
Kyle & Becky Thornhill	December 3

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