



# Gas Gauge Ye Olde Car Club December 2016 Newsletter

## The President's Message

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I hope this note finds you happy and healthy. It has been a Joy to represent the Ye Olde Car Club in 2016 and I am honored to do it again in 2017. We will have a couple of quiet months of just the Wednesday Morning Meetings to attend and I do look forward to seeing your smiling faces there. I couldn't have done this job last year without the help of Sharon, Randy, Don, Dave, Robbin, John, Bill, Dolores, Frances and Denny. Please be safe and until next month or next Wednesday, may your holiday season be filled with wonder and peace.

Rick Ball, Past and present president.

And Car Guy

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## BITS & PIECES

\*\*\* **DID YOU KNOW:** The difference in time between when Tyrannosaurus Rex and Stegosaurus lived is greater than the difference in time between Tyrannosaurus Rex and now.

\*\*\* **I wonder** why we are so obsessed with trying to find intelligent life on other planets when we can't even find intelligent life here?

\*\*\* **Real newspaper headlines:** Worker suffers leg pain after crane drops 800-pound ball on his head.

\*\*\* **Don't lose** your head to gain a minute. You need your head, your brains are in it. (thanks to Barbara Baker)

\*\*\***He:** Robert Frost said, "Half the world is composed of people who have something to say and can't and the other half who have nothing to say and keep on saying it."

**She:** "I know. That's the third time you've told me that."

from *Pickles* cartoon by Brian Crane, 11-19-16

\*\*\***When I get old,** I'm not going to sit around knitting. I'm going to be clicking my Life Alet button to see how many **HOT** firefighters show up!

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**The Remarkable Body:** The brain and mouth work together to allow us to speak an average of around 5,000 words per day. Well, that's if you're a woman, because studies suggest that men only speak 2,000 words, yet

both sexes utter only 500-700 of real value (i.e. that get a job done or provide useful information). Will the women out there have something to say about this suggestion?

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## EVENTS

**January 12 – Thursday- Pizza Party-** Round Table Pizza 5:00pm to 8:00pm, 1769 Leslie Rd, Richland.

**February ? - A Chocolate Extravaganza** at the Kiona Winery is scheduled, date in the next newsletter. 44612 N. Sunset Road, Benton City. 7:00 - 9:00 PM. Get out your favorite chocolate recipe and prepare for a sweet evening.

**May 13 – Saturday - Pet Over Population** – Tri-Cities Convention Center, Kennewick. More information to come.

**Ladies Luncheons:** Nothing scheduled.

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## The Christmas Tree

Germany is credited with starting the Christmas tree tradition as we now know it in the 16th century when devout Christians brought decorated trees into their homes. Some built Christmas pyramids of wood and decorated them with evergreens and candles if wood was scarce. It is a widely held belief that Martin Luther, the 16th-century Protestant reformer, first added lighted candles to a tree. Walking toward his home one winter evening, composing a sermon, he was awed by the brilliance of stars twinkling amidst evergreens. To recapture the scene for his family, he erected a tree in the main room and wired its branches with lighted candles.

Most 19th-century Americans found Christmas trees an oddity. The first record of one being on display was in the 1830s by the German settlers of Pennsylvania, although trees had been a tradition in many German homes much earlier. The Pennsylvania German settlements had community trees as early as 1747. But, as late as the 1840s

Christmas trees were seen as pagan symbols and not accepted by most Americans.

It is not surprising that, like many other festive Christmas customs, the tree was adopted so late in America. To the New England Puritans, Christmas was sacred. The pilgrims's second governor, William Bradford, wrote that he tried hard to stamp out "pagan mockery" of the observance, penalizing any frivolity. The influential Oliver Cromwell preached against "the heathen traditions" of Christmas carols, decorated trees, and any joyful expression that desecrated "that sacred event." In 1659, the General Court of Massachusetts enacted a law making any observance of December 25 (other than a church service) a penal offense; people were fined for hanging decorations. That stern solemnity continued until the 19th century, when the influx of German and Irish immigrants undermined the Puritan legacy.

In 1846, the popular royals, Queen Victoria and her German Prince, Albert, were sketched in the Illustrated London News standing with their children around a Christmas tree. Unlike the previous royal family, Victoria was very popular with her subjects, and what was done at court immediately became fashionable—not only in Britain, but with fashion-conscious East Coast American Society. The Christmas tree had arrived.

By the 1890s Christmas ornaments were arriving from Germany and Christmas tree popularity was on the rise around the U.S. It was noted that Europeans used small trees about four feet in height, while Americans liked their Christmas trees to reach from floor to ceiling.

The early 20th century saw Americans decorating their trees mainly with homemade ornaments, while the German-American sect continued to use apples, nuts, and marzipan cookies. Popcorn joined in after being dyed bright colors and interlaced with berries and nuts. Electricity brought about Christmas lights, making it possible for Christmas trees to glow for days on end. With this, Christmas trees began to appear in town squares across the country and having a Christmas tree in the home became an American tradition.

[www.history.com](http://www.history.com)

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**I think all sports fans** will get a kick out of this email written to Clarence Page of the Chicago Tribune after an article he published concerning a name change for the Washington Redskins. Enjoy !

Dear Mr. Page:

I agree with our Native American population. I am highly insulted by the racially charged name of the Washington Redskins. One might argue that to name a professional football team after Native Americans would

exalt them as fine warriors, but nay, nay. We must be careful not to offend, and in the spirit of political correctness and courtesy, we must move forward. Let's ditch the Kansas City Chiefs, the Atlanta Braves and the Cleveland Indians. If your shorts are in a wad because of the reference the name Redskins makes to skin color, then we need to get rid of the Cleveland Browns. The Carolina Panthers obviously were named to keep the memory of militant Blacks from the 60's alive. Gone. It's offensive to us white folk.

The New York Yankees offend the Southern population. Do you see a team named for the Confederacy? No! There is no room for any reference to that tragic war that cost this country so many young men's lives. I am also offended by the blatant references to the Catholic religion among our sports team names. Totally inappropriate to have the New Orleans Saints, the Los Angeles Angels or the San Diego Padres. Then there are the team names that glorify criminals who raped and pillaged. We are talking about the horrible Oakland Raiders, the Minnesota Vikings, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and the Pittsburgh Pirates!

Now, let us address those teams that clearly send the wrong message to our children. The San Diego Chargers promote irresponsible fighting or even spending habits. Wrong message to our children. The New York Giants and the San Francisco Giants promote obesity, a growing childhood epidemic. Wrong message to our children. The Cincinnati Reds promote downers/barbiturates. Wrong message to our children. The Milwaukee Brewers. Well that goes without saying. Wrong message to our children.

So, there you go. We need to support any legislation that comes out to rectify this travesty, because the government will likely become involved with this issue, as they should. Just the kind of thing the do-nothing Congress loves.

As a diehard Oregon State fan, my wife and I, with all of this in mind, suggest it might also make some sense to change the name of the Oregon State women's athletic teams to something other than "the Beavers (especially when they play Southern California. Do we really want the Trojans sticking it to the Beavers???)

I always love your articles and I generally agree with them. As for the Redskins name I would suggest they change the name to the "Foreskins" to better represent their community, paying tribute to the dick heads in Congress.

Thanks to friend Art Wesselman

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**Where is the wettest spot on Earth? (and it's not the Amazon!)**

**Mawsynram, India...**In this city in India, it rains an average of **467.35** inches per year, and has a record of 1000 inches in 1985...much more than any rain forest!

**Where is the driest spot on Earth? (It's not the Sahara !)**

**The Atacama Desert...**The **600 miles** of South America's Atacama desert is recorded as the driest place on Earth, no contest. This desert has an average of only 4 inches of rain every hundred years. Incredible, but true.

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**Ethanol-free gasoline spared in latest EPA ruling**

Despite worries that the Environmental Protection Agency would put an end to ethanol-free gasoline sales with its Renewable Fuels Standard ruling for 2017, the agency permitted E0 a reprieve at the same time it declared its intention to transition the entire nation's fuel supply to E10 and above.

Read the full article in Hemmings Classic Car Weekly: <https://goo.gl/zidHsy>

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**Charles W. Nash** was born on January 28, 1864 to a farming family in Cortland, Illinois. After Charles' parent's separation at age 6, Charles worked as a farm-hand in Michigan as an indentured servant. He later became a shepherd to the owner of hay-baling machinery in 1890 where he was noticed by William C. Durant of the Durant-Dort Carriage Company. Durant hired him in 1890, and Nash became a supervisor.

In 1897, Nash had a chance to drive an early electric automobile in New York City, and became very interested in the commercial potential of this newly developed contraption. Nash co-founded Buick Motor Company with David D. Buick and William C. Durant, and in 1908 became Buick's president and general manager. In 1910, he was hired as general manager of the General Motors Corporation (GMC). He took over a debt-ridden company suffering losses and increased profits to \$800,000 as early as 1911 to over \$12 million by 1914, as well as secured the firm's financial footing. However, his reluctance to pay dividends to shareholders resulted in Nash being voted out of his position in 1915. Nash, who took control of GM in 1910 from William Durant, was now fired by him when Durant regained control in 1916. Nash then resolved never again to work for someone else. He bought out the Jeffery Motor Company in August 1916. In 1917, renamed it as **Nash Motors**. The 1917 Nash Model 671 was the first vehicle produced to bear the name of the new company's founder. From 1937 to 1954, Nash Motors was the automotive division of the Nash-Kelvinator Corporation. Nash production

continued from 1954 to 1957 after the creation of **American Motors Corporation**. Nash pioneered some important innovations; in 1938 they debuted the heating and ventilation system which is still used today, unibody construction in 1941, seat belts in 1950, a US built compact car in 1950, and muscle cars in 1957.

Wikipedia

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### **Weird feature of old cars.**



**When you** take your dog along for a ride, but prefer not having it inside the car, it can ride safely and comfortably in this sack which is carried on the running board. The bottom of the sack is clamped to the running board and the top is fastened to the lower part of an open window with hooks, covered with small rubber tubing to prevent marring the car.

Thanks to Dave Hannah for this contribution.

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### **A Little Christmas Trivia**

**1. How much would it cost you to buy one item each of the gifts of the "Twelve Days of Christmas"?**

- A. \$1,050
- B. \$18,950
- C. \$27,393
- D. \$110,600

**2. Which department store created Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer?**

- A. Sears
- B. Marshall Field's
- C. Montgomery Ward
- D. Goldblatt's

**3. Which of the following countries calls Santa Claus "Grandfather Frost"?**

- A. Netherlands
- B. Germany
- C. Morocco
- D. Russia

**4. Who was the first person to paint a definitive picture of Santa Claus?**

- A. Clement Clark Moore
- B. Thomas Nast
- C. Virginia O'Hanlon
- D. Babbo Natale

**5. What does a wreath symbolize?**

- A. Joy
- B. Wealth
- C. Peace
- D. Long Life

**6. Mistletoe was originally used to:**

- A. Ward off evil spirits
- B. Steal a kiss from someone
- C. Celebrate winter
- D. Bring good luck

**7. How many hours does Santa have to get to every kid in the world?**

- A. 24
- B. 29
- C. 31
- D. 36

**8. The word "Christmas" appears in the lyrics to only two of the following songs. Which ones?**

- A. Here Comes Santa Claus
- B. Silver Bells
- C. Deck the Halls
- D. Jingle Bells

**9. What was the angel's name in "It's a Wonderful Life"?**

- A. Bailey
- B. Billy
- C. George
- D. Clarence

**10. Who was Scrooge's deceased business partner in Charles Dicken's "A Christmas Carol"?**

- A. Tiny Tim
- B. Bob Cratchit
- C. Fred Holywell
- D. Jacob Marley

**11. What fictional Indiana city was the movie classic "A Christmas Story" set in?**

- A. Gary
- B. Merrillville
- C. Crown Point
- D. Hammond

**12. What did Ralphie want more than anything in "A Christmas Story"?**

- A. A decoder ring
- B. A leg lamp
- C. A BB gun
- D. A pony

**13. In "Miracle on 34th Street", Kris Kringle plays Santa Claus at what department store?**

- A. Marshall Field's
- B. Macy's
- C. Gimble's
- D. Bloomingdale's

**14. According to the song, what was given on the ninth day of Christmas?**

- A. French Hens
- B. Golden Rings
- C. Ladies Dancing
- D. Drummers Drumming

**15. Which organization tracks Santa's travels on Christmas Eve?**

- A. NATO
- B. NORAD
- C. Army
- D. Air Force

**16. Which of the following towns did the Grinch steal Christmas from?**

- A. Seussville
- B. Lorax
- C. Whoville

D. Oobleck

**17. What does "Auld Lang Syne" mean?**

- A. Old Long Ago
- B. Happy New Year
- C. Out With the Old
- D. Good Health

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**1923 Austin 7**



In 1920 Sir Herbert Austin commenced working on the concept of a smaller car, mainly to meet the needs of young families aspiring to own an affordable motor car. This idea was spurred on by the introduction of the Horsepower Tax in 1921. His design concept marked a departure from his company's conservative motoring past and Austin received considerable opposition from his board of directors and creditors.

Because the company was in receivership Austin decided to carry out the project himself on his own account and in 1921 hired an 18-year-old draughtsman, Stanley Edge, from the Austin factory at Longbridge, Birmingham to aid in the drawing of detailed plans. This work was carried out in the billiard room of Austin's Lickey Grange home.

Edge convinced Austin to use a small four-cylinder engine. The original side valve engine design featured a capacity of 696cc ( 55mm x 77mm ) giving a RAC rating of 7.2 hp, the cast cylinder block featured a detachable head and was mounted on an aluminum crankcase. The crankshaft used one roller and two ball bearings and the big-ends were splash lubricated. Edge also carried out the design of other mechanical components such as the three speed gearbox and clutch assembly.

The "A" frame chassis design was believed to have been influenced by the design of an American truck used in the Longbridge factory in the early 1920s. The design was completed in 1922 and three prototypes were constructed in a special area of the Longbridge factory, and announced to the public in July 1922. Austin had put a large amount of his own money into the design and patented many of its innovations in his own name. Nearly 2,500 cars were made in the first year of production (1923), not as many as hoped, but within a few years the "big car in miniature" had wiped out the cyclecar industry and transformed the fortunes of the Austin Motor Co. By 1939 when production finally ended, 290,000 cars and vans had been made.

From Wikipedia

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## ***WOMEN'S CORNER***

If I were ol' Santa, you know what I'd do, I'd dump silly gifts that are given to you,  
and deliver some things just inside your front door, things you have lost, but treasured before.

I'd give you back all your maidenly vigor, and to go along with it, a neat tiny figure.  
Then restore the old color that once graced your hair, before rinses and bleaches took residence there.

I'd bring back the shape with which you were gifted, so things now suspended need not be uplifted.

I'd draw in your tummy and smooth down your back until you'd be a dream in those tight fitting slacks.

I'd remove all your wrinkles and leave only one chin, so you wouldn't spend hours rubbing grease on your skin.  
You'd never have flashes or queer dizzy spells and you wouldn't hear noises like ringing of bells.

No sore aching feet and no corns on your toes; no searching for spectacles when they're right on your nose.  
Not a shot would you take in your arm, hip or fanny from a doctor who thinks you're a nervous old granny

You'd never have a headache, so no pills would you take and no heating pad needed since your muscles won't  
ache.

Yes, if I were Santa, you'd never look stupid. You'd be a cute little chick with the romance of cupid.

I'd give a lift to your heart when those wolves start to whistle and the joys of your heart would be light as a  
thistle.

But alas! I'm not Santa. I'm simply just me; the matronliest of matrons you ever did see.

I wish I could tell you all the symptoms I've got, but I'm due at my doctor's for an estrogen shot.

Even though we've grown older this wish is sincere;  
Merry Christmas to you and a Happy New Year.

Thanks to Marion Barton for this cute holiday poem.

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## Christmas Trivia Answers

1. (C) \$27,383 (but if you bought **ALL** of the items it would cost a whopping \$114,651)
2. (C) Montgomery Ward
3. (D) Russia
4. (B) Thomas Nast
5. (D) Long Life
6. (D) Bring good luck
7. (D) 36
8. (A) Here Comes Santa Claus and (B) Silver Bells
9. (D) Clarence
10. (D) Jacob Marley
11. (D) Hammond
12. (C) A BB gun
13. (B) Macy's
14. (C) Ladies Dancing
15. (B) NORAD
16. (C) Whoville
17. (A) Old Long Ago

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Any members able to identify this speedometer? Lee would like to find someone who could use it.  
Contact Lee Noga [auto.nut@charter.net](mailto:auto.nut@charter.net)

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## Birthdays and Anniversaries in December



### Birthdays

Judy Bergum	December 4	Randy Bunch	December 27
Tonya Callies	December 14	Dean Dennis	December 22
Anita Gough	December 13	Willie Gould	December 7
Rachael Hannah	December 29	Emily Herbst	December 12
Bill Houchin	December 27	Bill Jarrard	December 19
Kent Madsen	December 2	Vern Marking	December 14
Dottie Marking	December 4	Ingrid Smith	December 12
Glenis Tarr	December 15	Thora Trumbo	December 5
Dwight Underwood	December 5		



### Anniversaries

Jess & Debra Allison	December 30	Ray & Dolores Benson	December 22
Tim & Trese Benton	December 12	Gary & Bonnie Boehnke	December 12
Mike & Judy Bughi	December 14	Kelly & Beth Carothers	December 31
Dean & Mary Dennis	December 28	John & Elaine Kutrowski	December 3
Mike & Judy Ostler	December 23		

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