



# Gas Gauge Ye Olde Car Club September 2020 Newsletter

## The President's Message

### JOHN HOPKINS

Our YOCC vice president and events manager came up with creative and fun outdoor events this summer which pretty much met current requirements for getting together without having a "meeting" as we were safely outdoors with masks and social distancing. Our weather has mostly been great for morning or noon outdoor gatherings though recent smoke from multiple fires has made it impossible for those of us with asthma or allergies to spend much time outside.

### TOURS AND CRUISES

John set up these with no real contact: "Come as you are but stay in your car." We took rides through local in-town areas, a longer 40 mph ride outside the city following Dave Hannah's Model A Ford and one morning we toured the parking lots of six retirement homes. We had fun and learned what not to do next time.

### Lawrence Scott Park Breakfast

This Kennewick city park is well maintained and very nice in the morning. Coffee and food are sold nearby and our cars are just steps away. We liked it so much at mid morning that we went there a few times and plan to go back.

### Charbonneau Park Picnic Lunch

A half hour east of Pasco on the Snake River, this quiet and beautiful place is great for a picnic lunch with many big shade trees and covered tables. Parking is nearby but there are no food vendors.

*"Charbonneau Park in Eastern Washington was named one of America's Top 100 Family Campgrounds. It is located on Lake Sacajawea, formed by Ice Harbor Lock and Dam on the Lower Snake River. The park was named for Toussaint Charbonneau, an interpreter for Lewis and Clark and husband of Sacajawea, the famous Shoshone interpreter on the Corps of Discovery. The park provides excellent recreational opportunities for boaters, campers, upland and waterfowl hunters and anglers."*

*From: [www.recreation.gov/camping/campgrounds/233454](http://www.recreation.gov/camping/campgrounds/233454)*

These outdoor facilities are great in good weather but what will we do when the weather turns chilly? If you have an idea, please share.

Thanks,  
Dennis McGillis, President YOCC

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## Bits and Pieces

\*\*\*Growing your own tomatoes is the best way to devote three months of your life to save \$2.17

\*\*\*Guys I need your help. I'm in the middle of an argument with my wife and she just told me that I'm right. What the hell do I do next?

\*\*\*A wise man once told his son: My boy, when you accumulate the understanding to know why a pizza is made round, to be put in a square box and is eaten in triangles, then and only then will you be able to understand women.

\*\*\*Jellyfish have survived 650 million years despite not having a brain. This gives hope to so many people.

\*\*\*I was visiting my daughter last night when I asked if I could borrow a newspaper. "This is the 21st century," she said. "We don't waste money on newspapers. Here, use my iPad." I can tell you this...that fly never knew what hit him!

\*\*\*I'm afraid if I start working out, I'll be too sexy.

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## The Remarkable Body

If the human brain were a computer, it could perform 38 thousand-trillion operations per second. The world's most powerful supercomputer, BlueGene, can manage only .002% of that.

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## Where in the world.

There are 10,000 beaches in Australia. You could visit a different beach for 27 years and still not see them all.

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## Actual Label Instructions

On a 500-piece jigsaw puzzle:  
Some assembly required.

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## Fun Food Facts

It takes ten pounds of milk to make one pound of cheese.

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## 1955 Ford Thunderbird

Ford unveiled the Thunderbird at the Detroit Auto Show on February 20, 1954. The first production car came off the line on September 9, 1954, and went on sale on October 22, 1954 as a 1955 model, and sold briskly; 3,500 orders were placed in the first ten days of sale. While only 10,000 were planned, 16,155 were sold in 1955.

It included fender skirts and a removable fiberglass top as standard equipment, with a fabric convertible top as a commonly specified option. The engine was Ford's proven 292-cubic-inch OHV 292 Y-block V8, which got 18MPG. The exhaust pipes exited through twin bumper guards bolted to the rear bumper.

The car used existing chassis and suspension design and off-the-shelf Ford mechanical components. It was constructed body-on-frame using a version of the standard Ford design cut-down to a 102-inch wheelbase identical to the Corvette's.

It was produced with a Fordomatic automatic or manual overdrive transmissions, and featured four-way powered seats and pushbutton interior door handles. Other unique features were a telescoping steering wheel<sup>[13]</sup> and a tachometer.

A rare domestic two-seater for the era, it was designed to be a brisk luxury tourer and not a sports car, and it could hit a top speed of 105-115 miles per hour, depending on the transmission ordered.

From Wikipedia

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## **To Kill an American**

Written by an Australian Dentist

You probably missed this in the rush of news, but there was actually a report that someone in Pakistan had published in a newspaper, an offer of a reward to anyone who killed an American, any American. So an Australian dentist wrote an editorial the following day to let everyone know what an American is. So they would know when they found one. (Good one, mate!!!!)

An American is English, or French, or Italian, Irish, German, Spanish, Polish, Russian or Greek. An American may also be Canadian, Mexican, African, Indian, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Australian, Iranian, Asian, or Arab, or Pakistani or Afghan. An American may also be a Comanche, Cherokee, Osage, Blackfoot, Navaho, Apache, Seminole or one of the many other tribes known as native Americans

An American is Christian, or he could be Jewish, or Buddhist, or Muslim. In fact, there are more Muslims in America than in Afghanistan. The only difference is that in America they are free to worship as each of them chooses. An American is also free to believe in no religion. For that he will answer only to God, not to the government, or to armed thugs claiming to speak for the government and for God.

An American lives in the most prosperous land in the history of the world. The root of that prosperity can be found in the Declaration of Independence, which recognizes the God given right of each person to the pursuit of happiness.

An American is generous. Americans have helped out just about every other nation in the world in their time of need, never asking a thing in return.

When Afghanistan was over-run by the Soviet army 20 years ago, Americans came with arms and supplies to enable the people to win back their country!

As of the morning of September 11, Americans had given more than any other nation to the poor in Afghanistan. The national symbol of America, The Statue of Liberty, welcomes your tired and your poor, the wretched refuse of your teeming shores, the homeless, tempest tossed. These in fact are the people who built America. Some of them were working in the Twin Towers the morning of September 11, 2001 earning a better life for their families. It's been told that the World Trade Center victims were from at least 30 different countries, cultures, and first languages, including those that aided and abetted the terrorists.

So you can try to kill an American if you must. Hitler did. So did General Tojo, and Stalin, and Mao Tse-Tung, and other blood-thirsty tyrants in the world. But, in doing so you would just be killing yourself. Because Americans are not a particular people from a particular place. They are the embodiment of the human spirit of freedom. Everyone who holds to that spirit, everywhere, is an American.

Thanks to friend Judy Howard for this contribution.

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**MY FRIEND CELEBRATED HIS BIRTHDAY THIS YEAR BY BUYING AN ALL-TERRAIN 4 WHEELER. THIS IS A PICTURE OF HIM PLAYING WITH IT IN HIS BACK YARD.**

**I'M THINKING ABOUT GETTING ME ONE.**

**LIFE IS FLEETING BY. ENJOY IT WHILE YOU CAN**



**GETTING OLD IS EASY -  
HAVING FUN AT IT IS THE REAL TRICK**

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## **Samuel Hill**

Born in 1857 in Deep River, North Carolina, Hill grew up in a Quaker family and at the age of eight moved with them to Minneapolis. After graduating from Haverford College, with subsequent study at Harvard University, Hill practiced law in Minneapolis and in 1886 became a law clerk for the Great Northern Railway. Hill became a trusted advisor to the company's president and two years later married his boss's oldest daughter, Mary. The two had a daughter, Mary, and a son, James.

Hill became president of the Seattle Gas and Electric Company—owned by Minneapolis investors—and in 1899 moved to Seattle. His wife and children later joined him, but returned to Minneapolis after only six months out West. A successful businessman and entrepreneur, Hill quickly became known among the political and social elite of the Northwest. He served as president of the Washington State Good Roads Association and spent much of his life promoting the development of roads throughout the Northwest, and lobbying Washington and Oregon legislators for funding. Hill's own road-building experiments included the Maryhill Loops Road, the first macadam paved road in the Northwest.

It was Hill who was the catalyst behind the Columbia River Highway. His dream was to "build a great highway so that the world can realize the magnificence and grandeur of the Columbia River Gorge.

In 1907, Samuel Hill purchased 5,300 acres of land along the Columbia River with the dream of establishing a Quaker farming community. He formed the Maryhill Land Company, named after his daughter, and set about building a town. The village included a store and post office, a Quaker church, an inn, a blacksmith's shop, and a stable.

In 1914, work began on a hilltop mansion that was to be Hill's home. But the remote location of Maryhill and the lack of irrigation proved insurmountable obstacles and the land company failed. Construction of Hill's mansion stopped in 1917. It was then that a friend of Hill's—Loïe Fuller, a pioneer of modern dance living in

Paris—convinced him to turn his would-be mansion into a museum of art. Fuller's close association with well-known artists in France, helped build the core of the museum's collection, including the acquisition of more than 80 works by French sculptor Auguste Rodin. Hill also transferred his own art collections to the museum.

Although still unfinished, the museum was dedicated in 1926 by Sam Hill's friend, Queen Marie of Romania (the granddaughter of Britain's Queen Victoria), in a ceremony that received national attention and was attended by more than 2,000 people.

In 1931, Hill, on his way to address the Oregon legislature on behalf of the Good Roads Association, became ill and died three weeks later at the age of 73. Hill's death and the drawn-out settlement of his estate delayed progress on the museum, which was filled with unpacked crates of art. In 1937, Alma de Bretteville Spreckels, the wife of San Francisco sugar magnate Adolf Spreckels and a friend of Hill's, took up the task of finishing the museum. She was elected to the newly-formed board of trustees and donated artwork from her personal collection. Under her guidance, the museum was opened to the public on Sam Hill's birthday, May 13, 1940.

Sam Hill is an American English slang phrase, often attributed to Samuel Hill but it's origin was before Samuel Hill was born. It is a euphemism or minced oath for "the devil" or "hell" personified (as in, "What in the Sam Hill is that?"), the "Sam" coming from salmon and "Hill" from hell. Etymologist Michael Quinion and others date the expression back to the late 1830s.

From Wikipedia and Mary Fraser, who spurred me to research this information.

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### Did you know?

**The name of the American rock band REO Speedwagon** isn't just a fanciful (and potentially fun to say) name—the band was named after the early 20th century ancestor of the modern pickup truck, the REO Speed Wagon. REO stands for Ransom E. Oldfield, the creator of the Oldsmobile.

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### Americans Consume Over 4.5 Billion Tacos Each Year

<https://southfloridareporter.com/americans-consume-over-4-5-billion-tacos-each-year/>

Taco Bell started as Bell's Hamburgers and Hot Dogs in San Bernardino, CA back in 1950 by Glen W. Bell Jr.. Bell's Hamburgers and Hot Dogs began as a hamburger stand selling fast foods such as burgers, hot dogs, fries, and shakes. Then, taking advantage that his stand was located in a Hispanic neighborhood, Bell started selling crispy-hard-shell tacos at 19 cents each.

Americans eat 4.5 billion tacos every year. Americans not only love tacos but they also love their Taco Bell... around half of the U.S. population visits a Taco Bell once every 11 days.

In 1979, Mexican artist, named Maris Bustamante, patented the Taco. Bustamante registered the taco as legally hers and claimed the patent rights.

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### Auto facts from 1931

\*\*Auto makers, in coping with the deepening Depression, are unsure whether to risk creating new models or to cut prices on existing ones.

\*\*Chrysler launches its first eight-cylinder engines; they're L-head straight units.

\*\*Oakland appears for the last time but companion make Pontiac continues.

\*\*Oldsmobile offers a "Synchro-Mech" transmission for smoother, clash-free shifting. It will eventually become standard on most makes.

\*\*Stutz experiments with a supercharges engine, but turns instead to a 32-valve twincam head for its DV32 model.

\*\*A retractable hardtop convertible is patented by B.B. Ellerbeck.

### **Auto facts from 1932**

- \*\*As the Depression deepens, vehicle production drops to the lowest level since 1918: 1,186,185 cars and 245,284 trucks.
- \*\*An astounding 12 million Americans are unemployed.
- \*\*Franklin D. Roosevelt is elected president.
- \*\*Olds and Packard get automatic chokes.
- \*\*Pierce-Arrow drops Eights and launches two new V-12 engines boasting quieter hydraulically operated valve lifters.
- \*\*Interior mounted sun visors gain popularity and will gradually replace bulky looking outside units.
- \*\*Unemployed workers hold a "hunger march" at Ford's Rouge assembly plant after layoffs; four are killed in rioting.
- \*\*The last L-29 Cords are offered - the Indiana based marque will disappear temporarily, returning in 1936.
- \*\*Plymouth offers its last four-cylinders; the lineup is bolstered by a convertible sedan and seven passenger sedan.
- \*\*Nash introduces the Ambassador Eight, it rides atop a 142" wheelbase.

### **Auto facts from 1933**

- \*\*Aerodynamic styling and streamlining are the hot new design trends at the 33rd National Automobile Show.
- \*\*New technical innovations for 1933 include valve-seat inserts, independent front suspensions, and "reflex" glass taillights.
- \*\*Power assisted braes are offered on various makes; most are vacuum.
- \*\*The nation's first drive-in theater opens in Camden, New Jersey.
- \*\*Stutz, ending its worst year yet, loses an estimated half-million dollars.
- \*\*The rakishly futuristic Pierce-Arrow Silver Arrow appears, but only five are built.
- \*\*Newly streamlined Cadillacs sport skirted fenders, narrowly vee'd radiators.
- \*\*Low-slung Fords adopt "suicide" doors; the V-8 is boosted to 75 horsepower.

### **Auto facts from 1934**

- \*\*Graham sells the Supercharged Custom Eight, the first moderately priced blown engine.
- \*\*Chrysler launches the daring Airflow, but excellence in engineering fails to tempt customers who fail to appreciate the car's startling avant-garde design.
- \*\*Although the restyled Pierce-Arrow line includes a less radical Silver Arrow, the company is forced to file for bankruptcy.
- \*\*Ford V-8s earn high praise from "Folk hero" outlaws John Dillinger and Clyde Barrow.
- \*\*Several makes now have integrated radio controls built into the instrument panel.
- \*\*Cadillac introduces a battery-preserving controlled-current generator.

Taken from 100 Years, The American Auto

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## **WOMEN'S CORNER**

### **WHAT WOMEN WANT IN A MAN**

#### **Original List: (age 22)**

1. Handsome
2. Charming
3. Financially successful
4. A caring listener
5. Witty
6. In good shape
7. Dresses with style
8. Appreciates finer things
9. Full of thoughtful surprises

**What I Want in a Man, Revised List (age 32)**

1. Nice looking
2. Opens car doors, holds chairs
3. Has enough money for a nice dinner
4. Listens more than talks
5. Laughs at my jokes
6. Carries bags of groceries with ease
7. Owns at least one tie
8. Appreciates a good home-cooked meal
9. Remembers birthdays and anniversaries

**What I Want in a Man, Revised List (age 42)**

1. Not too ugly
2. Doesn't drive off until I'm in the car
3. Works steady - splurges on dinner out occasionally
4. Nods head when I'm talking
5. Usually remembers punch lines of jokes
6. Is in good enough shape to rearrange the furniture
7. Wears a shirt that covers his stomach
8. Knows not to buy champagne with screw-top lids
9. Remembers to put the toilet seat down
10. Shaves most weekends

**What I Want in a Man, Revised List (age 52)**

1. Keeps hair in nose and ears trimmed
2. Doesn't belch or scratch in public
3. Can tow a Caravan
4. Can cook a BBQ
5. Doesn't re-tell the same joke too many times
6. Appreciates a good TV dinner
7. Helps with the housework

**What I Want in a Man, Revised List (age 62)**

1. Doesn't scare small children
2. Remembers where I have put things
3. Can still tow a van without causing chaos on the road
4. Only snores lightly when asleep
5. Remembers why he's laughing
6. Is in good enough shape to stand up by himself
7. Usually wears some clothes
8. Doesn't notice my facial hair and wrinkles
9. Remembers where he left his teeth
10. Stops trying to tell jokes, over & over!

**What I Want in a Man, Revised List (age 72)**

1. Breathing.
2. Doesn't miss the toilet.
3. Remembers where we both live.

Thanks to Jane Armstrong for this great list.

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## Birthdays and Anniversaries in September



### Birthdays

Jim Ayers	September 26	Laura Beaver	September 18
Boyd Boothe	September 15	Sue Campbell	September 15
Rose Chastain	September 4	Jim Galloway	September 18
Sid Grant	September 21	Linda Jarrard	September 12
Ron Meyer	September 28	Marti Meyers	September 17
Lee Noga	September 28	Alan Stephens	September 7
Rose Tarr	September 20	Ginger Vetrano	September 13



### Anniversaries

Jane & Russ Armstrong	September 11	Rick & Wendi Ball	September 12
Richard & Rose Chastain	September 23	George & Linda Deering	September 20

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