



Gas Gauge Ye Olde Car Club January 2020 Newsletter

The President's Message

It's 2020! We are off to a good start after three weeks of holiday season without a YOCC meeting. In our January 8 meeting, treasurer Larry Stephenson gave us a 2019 financial report which indicates we are fiscally healthy. Bill White told us about the status of our annual May swap meet—the biggest revenue producer for our club. It allows us to help local automotive related students. When someone calls on you to help with it, just say yes. It's fun.

Have you created or edited a website? The club has need for guidance in this area, If you have any experience, please call me.

What would you like the club to do? This morning I heard some things like these:

- Have more fun. (How?)
- Have a weekly magazine exchange.
- Have overnight tours to interesting places.
- Communicate better with other local clubs.
- Have a Ten Minute Tech session every week.
- Communicate with members who don't have email. (How?)
- Increase membership. (How?)

I really am looking for input. Give me a call or drop me an email with your idea.

Thanks,
Dennis McGillis
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Bits and Pieces

**81% of Americans own a smart phone. From CBS NEWS 6:30 p.m. October 19, 2019.

**I'm watching a three year old pull up apps on a cell phone. Me, I just figured out how to turn mine off without taking the battery out.

**Hold your wife's hand in the mall because if you let go she'll start shopping. It looks romantic, but it's actually economic.

**First rule of cleaning while listening to music...the toilet brush is never the microphone – NEVER!

The Remarkable Body

Around 90% of the cells that make humans aren't "human" in origin. We're mostly fungi and bacteria.

Where in the world.

When the University of Nebraska Cornhuskers play football at home, the stadium becomes the states 3rd largest city.

Actual Label Instructions

On a child's Superman costume: Wearing of this garment does not enable you to fly.
(That's right, destroy a universal childhood fantasy!)

Fun Food Facts

Tea is the most consumed drink in the world, after water.

EVENTS

Ladies Luncheons:

January Ladies Lunch had 12 attending. Thanks Mary.

February Ladies Luncheon will be held at Canyon Lakes Manor. Myrtle Nesbitt will be the host.
Call Myrtle at 509-586-5629 if you plan to attend.

The YOCC Tour Committee is looking for some ideas from members about interesting places they would like to tour or visit. Please contact any committee member with any idea and well look into it. We are planning a tour to visit the Walla Walla Museum in late spring. You can also contact Frances by phone – 509-545-4077.

Are we still using the term "Tranny fluid" or is it now called gender neutral shifty juices? Asking for a friend.



Franklin Automobile Company was a Syracuse, New York marketer of automobiles in the United States between 1906 and 1934. Controlled by Herbert H Franklin it had very few other significant shareholders. Franklin bought its vehicles from their manufacturer, H. H. Franklin Manufacturing Company which was only moderately profitable and frequently missed dividends on common stock.

The two major characteristics of their automobiles were their air-cooled engines and in the early years their lightness and responsiveness when compared with other luxury cars.

Throughout its history, Franklin was a luxury brand and competed with other upscale automobiles of the day. As such, it fell victim to the Great Depression along with many luxury car manufacturers. The company sold about 150,000 cars over the course of more than 30 years in existence.

Herbert H. Franklin founded H. H. Franklin Manufacturing Company in 1893 and, in 1901, teamed up with engineer John Wilkinson to develop an air-cooled engine. In 1902, the Franklin automobile was introduced. Because he was the primary investor, Franklin assumed control of the company, and named the auto manufacturing division Franklin Automobile Company. As president, he managed the company finances and business administration. Wilkinson was named chief engineer and granted control of the engineering and manufacturing operation.

The Franklin motor car engine was invented by the engineer John Wilkinson and manufactured by the industrialist Herbert H. Franklin and marketed under his name. Franklin worked as a newspaper publisher, real estate agent and Columbia Bicycle shop owner in Coxsackie, New York. After he quit the publishing business in 1893, he relocated to Syracuse, New York.

"In many years" H. H. Franklin Manufacturing Company "earned only a modest profit and frequently failed to pay dividends on common stock". The Franklin companies suffered financial collapse in April 1934. Aside from his consequent retirement CEO Herbert Franklin's lifestyle was unaffected.

From Wikipedia

High court: Turn signals always required to turn, change lanes

TRI-CITY HERALD STAFF AND ASSOCIATED PRESS OLYMPIA, WASH. Washington drivers must use their signal every time they turn or change lanes on a roadway, even after entering a designated turn lane. The unanimous ruling Thursday by the state Supreme Court comes nearly five years after a Kennewick man was stopped for only briefly using his turn signal when he switched lanes and pulled into a turn-only lane.

Outsmarting "Smart" Battery Chargers

There are situations where a 'smart' battery charger won't recognize a battery because the battery is deeply discharged. Some chargers have a relatively high voltage threshold. Remember, a 12 volt battery (adjust numbers for 6 volt, etc.) is effectively discharged at 11.9 to 12 volts (fully charged is 12.72 volts). A battery can be drawn lower than this, particularly if allowed to remain totally discharged for extended periods. This is not particularly good for battery health, and may in fact destroy the battery, but that is not for this discussion.

Some of the more common 'floating chargers' for vehicle or other battery maintenance have threshold voltages between 8 and 11 volts. If your battery voltage is below the particular level of your charger, the charger won't acknowledge a viable battery hookup, and won't pass current. Some chargers indicate a fault mode (continuous flashing), and others just don't do anything. Some charger manufacturers don't consider a battery below their threshold voltage as worth recharging (they're not necessarily correct). Some, particularly marine battery chargers, are designed to check for battery voltage before passing voltage/current to prevent sparks, in case the charger is plugged in without being connected to a battery, when there may be a gas buildup in the compartment.

There are a couple of ways to get around this, to see if your battery will recover and take some charge. It still may have to be desulfated later. First, a non-intelligent charger, like you had in your garage 25 years ago, may be used *with supervision*, to cram some current into the battery, which will raise battery voltage. This is another case for having a decent digital voltmeter around the shop/house. You can keep checking the battery until it has enough voltage to register on the 'smart' charger, then let the smart charger take over. If you have golf cart type 6 volt batteries, you can series a pair (positive to negative) to look like a 12 volt battery, and use a 12 volt charger as above. Second method, if you don't have a 'dumb' charger: parallel a second battery (positive to positive, negative to negative) that you know to be recognized by the charger, with the bad battery, and attach the charger. After the charger has a while to put some current back, disconnect the good battery. It may take a time or two to get the charger to stay running. What you don't want to do is leave both batteries connected for a long time, as the good battery will end up overcharged. So, both methods require supervision.

The above information was taken from <http://www.chargingchargers.com/> website.

Thanks to Don Buckles for this contribution.

Water 2 Wine Cruise



Bob & Dolores McClary, Tami Reithmayr
friend Dixie Gilbert.



Barbara Casebere, Tom & Ingrid Smith,
Dennis & Frances McGillis, Alan Casebere

BLUNDER ROAD

Notorious Cars that Crashed & Burned on the Market

They are names living in automotive infamy. Tucker and Crosley. Bricklin and DeLorean. For all the rascals, there were equally notorious motorcars. Corsair and Corvair. Pinto and Cimarron. And Yugo. Some of these men and machines were innocents, simple victims of impossible visions or public disinterest. Others fell greedy from grace to be disheveled by courts and government. The rest were casualties of careless engineering or myopia in the marketplace.

Such as that Crosley, a 1939 micro-car powered by a 15 horsepower Waukesha engine modified from an orchard insect sprayer. This two-place midget convertible sold for \$325 but brought little fame to builder Powel Crosley and found less favor among Americans who liked their cars big and powerful. En masse, these automobiles and their makers constitute a rogues' gallery on a wheel of misfortune. Ready for the quiz? The answers found later in this newsletter.

- 1) Motor Trend gave the Edsel good marks for power and handling. Designers applauded its use of Fifties Forms - swoops, angles, scallops and tricolored paint jobs. So why did the Edsel fail after only two years?
- 2) Poor Ford, in 1976, no maker offered a more complete line, reaching from the subcompact Pinto through the full-size LTD and Thunderbird. Then 5 years into its production cycle, the Pinto went plop. Why?
- 3) Stutz, Auburn, Duesenberg, Cord, Pierce-Arrow - all were innovative, custom-crafted, exquisite American automobiles of the '20s and '30s that were treasured collectibles when new. So why did they disappear almost overnight?
- 4) From 1978 to 1985, Detroit was embracing diesel engines. In fact, one of every five Oldsmobiles sold was diesel-powered. What burst their bubble?
- 5) The gull-wing, stainless-steel DeLorean sports car was conceived in the U.S. and elevated to a position within global politics when Britain subsidized its production in troubled Northern Ireland. But by 1982, John DeLorean and his company were more than \$60 million in debt; deliveries of the sluggish, overweight, unreliable, overpriced car had stalled; and DeLorean Motor Cars went under. But why did the U.S. government go after DeLorean?
- 6) To many, DeLorean was Preston Tucker incarnate. In 1948, Tucker built a rear-engined sedan with safety features extraordinary for its time - disc brakes, seat belts, independent suspension and a windshield that would pop out in a collision. How else were Tucker & DeLorean soul mates?

- 7) In 1974, Philadelphia-born entrepreneur Malcolm Bricklin opened a factory in St. John, Canada, and built the SV1, a fiberglass, gull-wing sports car powered by a 5.7 liter Ford engine. Why did sales fall after only one year?
- 8) Another overnight failure was the Flat-birthed Yugo 55, exported to the U.S by Zavodi Zastava of Yugoslavia in 1985. Yugos were boxy and wimpy and shed pieces on the rare occasions they moved. What American importer was responsible for this atrocity?
- 9) Corvair. A cute, temperamental and inherently unstable compact from Chevrolet that was introduced in 1959 and buried in disgrace 10 years later. This rear-engined, air-cooled coupe and convertible was tagged by Car & Driver magazine as "one of the nastiest-handling cars ever built." Who was the man who almost single-handedly destroyed the Corvair and found lifelong fame within the debacle?
- 10) Cimarron. A 1982 offering from Cadillac designed to appease green consciences in search of downsizing and fuel economy. Dismal sales proved that stereotypical Cadillac owners cared less for four-cylinder engines with manual transmissions than they did for the environment. They also cared nothing for the GM car lurking beneath those Cadillac badges. What was it?

Saturday morning I got up early, dressed quietly, made my lunch, grabbed my clubs, slipped quietly into the garage and proceeded to back out into a torrential downpour. The wind was blowing 50 mph. I pulled back into the garage, turned on the radio, and discovered that the weather would be bad throughout the day. I went back into the house, quietly undressed, and slipped back into bed. There I cuddled up to my wife's back, now with a different anticipation, and whispered, "The weather out there is terrible."

My loving wife of 20 years replied, "Can you believe my stupid husband is out golfing in that crap?" I still don't know to this day if she was joking, but I have stopped golfing.

What vehicle does the dash in the photo come from?



10 once-useful things tech has made obsolete

If you compare the inside of a modern home to one from about 25 years ago, you're going to notice stark differences — not just the phone book on the kitchen counter. Rapid tech advancements over the past two decades have had an impact on everything from the way we communicate to the conveniences of home life.

While you expect some household staples to change from generation to generation, things that were part of an average home for decades are now unnecessary. That's because just about any common household gadget can be replaced with a smarter device.

Some changes to the modern home are small, while other new gadgets might make you wonder how you ever lived without them. Here are some of the surprising staples that have all but disappeared from homes in the 21st century.

1. Landlines? What're those?

What do rotary-dial and cordless phones have in common? You won't find either in most houses these days. Unless you live in a rural area, wireless and cellular technology, like 3G, 4G LTE and the latest 5G network, have eliminated the need for landline phones. And since you don't need a home phone any longer, you don't need those landline jacks around your house, either. Unless you depend on a dial-up modem that requires an RJ11 connection, remove the jack, spackle the hole in the wall and call it a day.

2. Let there be light

It wasn't long ago when the Clapper, which (as the name suggests) allowed you to turn lights on and off by clapping your hands, was seemingly cutting-edge technology. It also wasn't widely adopted. Now when you want to avoid walking all the way over to the light switch, you've got options from smart bulbs to smart speakers with voice assistants like Alexa. With smart tech controlling your lamps, ceiling fans and outside fixtures, this menial task is no longer necessary. Just use your voice or an app on your phone. The convenience can even be taken a step further. You can also set up routines to make turning on lights in a certain area or in your whole house way easier. But beware; like anything smart, smart bulbs can be hacked.

3. Food

Gone is grandma's big, packed pantry. Today, all you need is your smartphone. With a variety of ways to order a feast, from a nearby restaurant or the grocery store, you can have food delivered in less time than it would take to dig through that vintage food storage room for ingredients. Even robots are making their way into food delivery.

Whether you order through a restaurant's site or a food delivery service app such as Grubhub, DoorDash or Postmates, mealtime has never been easier. The same goes for grocery delivery from retailers like Amazon and Walmart, where you can often get whatever you want in as little as one hour. What to do with that extra space? Think an extra closet or wine room.

4. What a mess

Say goodbye to jotting down items you need the next time you go shopping. Take the grocery list off your fridge and ask Alexa to handle it for you. You can create a list through the Alexa app, a third-party app or with an Alexa device using the voice command, "Alexa create a list." Tell her what to add to the list to reduce the odds you'll forget your items, and you can view the list on your smartphone. You also have the option to skip the store experience altogether with the Alexa Voice Shopping service, which allows Alexa to purchase items from Amazon.

5. Bye-bye family dinner calls

Speaking of the kitchen, did you once have a comfy alcove from which you would ring family and friends? Now you're not limited to a sitting area in the kitchen for your phone calls. This move to wireless devices allows you to step out of the kitchen and talk whenever and wherever you want. Consider turning that alcove into your new favorite spot to read a book on your Kindle. The one big downside of our reliance on cell phones? Hackers are always finding new ways to steal our info.

6. Where'd it go?

Fighting over who gets the remote is so yesterday. What's worse is always managing to lose it somewhere in the couch cushions or under the recliner. With today's technology, everyone has a personal remote: their smartphone. With the right app for your TV, you can control everything from the volume to recording your favorite shows.

7. It's all digital now

Remember all those big red X's that indicated important dates on your paper calendar? Good times. Now they've been replaced with apps like Google Calendar. In addition to setting events like meetings and birthdays, you can add other notes and reminders, like personal goals and to-do lists. The best part is your calendar is always with you. No more having to walk over to the fridge to see you missed Johnny's game again.

8. Can you hear me now?

If you were fortunate enough to have a large house back in the day, you most likely had an intercom system. This upgraded dinner bell, although useful, wasn't much better than people yelling at whoever was up or downstairs.

Want the kids to rise from their video games in the basement? Message them via group text. SMS has made connecting easy, whether it be from a world away or simply down a flight of stairs. Better yet, turn your smart speakers into your new home intercom system.

9. Only the coolest people had these

Now think about your “advanced” stereo system from years ago, complete with a turntable, cassette tape deck, thunderous subwoofer and those slick wooden cases. While this setup was at one time pretty cool, these days, they’re relegated to thrift store shelves. Whatever your jam is now, all you have to do is grab your mobile device and download your favorite playlists. Play music from Apple Music, Spotify, Amazon and other services, all from your wirelessly-connected smart speakers or AV receiver.

10. Boxes

Though cable boxes have reduced in size over the years, the need to fuss with them remained. There were a host of challenges like ensuring your remote was pointed at the box at the right angle, or pressing the reset button when service was on the fritz. But with smart TVs and streaming devices, cable boxes are a thing of the past. Now you can find all of your favorite shows and movies through options like Netflix, Hulu and Amazon Prime Video, along with newcomers Disney+ and Apple TV+. You can mix and match content however you desire and can use a number of apps that are compatible with your mobile device. If your TV isn’t so smart, it’s time to upgrade to a streaming box or stick.

No one is going to admit they miss any of these old-fashioned methods and gizmos, and for good reason! Apps and new tech alleviate many of the headaches of accidentally throwing out lists, seeing static on the screen and losing remote controls. Enjoy the changes coming to tech because today’s gadgets and gizmos are only going to get better.

From Kim Komando

Answers to the Blunder Road quiz.

- 1) Excessive styling that coined more one-liners than a Jay Leno monologue. “That’s not a grille, it’s a toilet seat...Looks like an Oldsmobile sucking a lemon.”
- 2) Pintos actually went boom in a deadly series of rear-end collisions that exploded its gas tanks. Pinto sales never recovered and Ford, although exonerated after a lengthy trial, became the first car company in history to be charged with criminal homicide.
- 3) The Depression did them in.
- 4) They were unreliable, didn’t produce the power of a gasoline engine, launched a thousand lawsuits from disgruntled buyers and failed to meet California’s tightening emissions regulations. Apart from that...
- 5) DeLorean was videotaped by an FBI sting operation and eventually charged with possession and trafficking in cocaine. He was acquitted.
- 6) Tucker, like DeLorean, was indicted by the federal government – on 31 counts of fraud – and also was acquitted.
- 7) Bodies wouldn’t bond, doors didn’t fit, clutches broke. Wastage ran 25% per vehicle, and the first 800 cars cost \$16,000 apiece – but sold for only \$5,000 each. Bricklin went belly up in 1975.
- 8) Malcolm Bricklin.
- 9) Young lawyer and consumer advocate Ralph Nader.
- 10) A Chevrolet Cavalier.

WOMEN'S CORNER

Mid-life is when the growth of hair on our legs slows down. This gives us plenty of time to care for our newly acquired mustache.

In mid-life women no longer have upper arms, we have wingspans. We are no longer women in sleeveless shirts, we are flying squirrels in drag.

Mid-life is when you can stand naked in front of a mirror and you can see your rear without turning around.

Mid-life is when you go for a mammogram and you realize that this is the only time someone will ask you to appear topless.

Mid-life is when you want to grab every firm young lovely in a tube top and scream, "Listen honey, even the Roman empire fell and those will too."

Mid-life brings wisdom to know that life throws us curves and we're sitting on our biggest ones.

Mid-life is when you look at your-know-it-all, beeper-wearing teenager and think: "For this I have stretch marks?"

In mid-life your memory starts to go. In fact the only thing we can retain is water.

Mid-life means that your Body By Jake now includes Legs By Rand McNally -- more red and blue lines than an accurately scaled map of Wisconsin.

Mid-life means that you become more reflective...You start pondering the "big" questions. What is life? Why am I here? How much Healthy Choice ice cream can I eat before it's no longer a healthy choice?

But mid-life also brings with it an appreciation for what is important.

We realize that breasts sag, hips expand and chins double, but our loved ones make the journey worthwhile.

Would any of you trade the knowledge that you have now for the body you had way back when? Maybe our bodies simply have to expand to hold all the wisdom and love we've acquired.

That's my philosophy and I'm sticking to it!

Birthdays and Anniversaries in January



Birthdays

Judy Bughi	January 25	Dodd Coutts	January 10
Jim Davis	January 31	Mary Fraser	January 22
Randy Garner	January 21	Sandra Kirkwood	January 9
Curtis Kooiker	January 5	Diane Lenzi	January 20
Barb Meyers	January 22	Gary Osborn	January 6
Lindy Patterson	January 28	Sal Saenz	January 11
Stephen Scott	January 18	Sarah Scott	January 26
Jack Varnado	January 6	Martha Varnado	January 2
Gene Wattenburg	January 27		



Anniversaries

Barb & Dave Donaldson	January 6	Terry & Sandra Kirkwood	January 15
Bob & Dolores McClary	January 23	Larry & Diana Stephenson	January 15

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