



Gas Gauge Ye Olde Car Club February 2023 Newsletter

February 2023 Prez says ramblings

I would like to welcome new members Henry & Jan Smith and Mark & Ruth VanKommer to the club. The Smith's have Ford, Chevrolet, and Dodge vehicles and the VanKommer's have a 1925 Studebaker Big 6, 1950 Studebaker Champion, 1955 Chevrolet Pickup, 1971 Ford Torino and a 1974 Studebaker Avanti. We hope they enjoy getting to know us and become active members.

Don't forget the Willie Gould Memorial Chocolate Extravaganza on Tuesday, February 21st from 3:00 to 5:00 pm. Once again it's located at Kiona Winery, 44612 N. Sunset Road, Benton City, WA 99320. Bring a chocolate treat (cookies, candy, brownies, etc. whatever your imagination can come up with) to be shared with the members. There will be a cheese and meat tray available for those that don't want chocolate. Drive your classics weather permitting.

If you haven't renewed your membership for 2023, please do so as soon as possible. It's still only \$15 and you can pay Don Buckles at the meetings or mail your checks to: YE OLDE CAR CLUB, P.O. Box 2023, Richland, WA 99352. All unpaid members will be dropped off our roster as delinquent on March 1st .

Remember to contact Bonnie Suminski (our sunshine person) to provide congratulations, get well, and sympathy cards to club members. Her telephone number is 509-579-0030.

Dave Hannah

Bits and Pieces

Can February march? No, but April May.

February 14 is Valentine's Day or as men like to call it, "Extortion Day." Jay Leno

Valentine's Day used to be all diamonds, roses and romance. Now, if you REALLY love me, let me sleep in, bring me coffee and tell me how pretty I look in my new yoga pants.

Love is in the air? Wrong. Nitrogen & carbon dioxide are in the air.

I married for love, but the obvious side benefit of having someone around to find your glasses cannot be ignored.

Roses are red, Violets are blue, Sunflowers are yellow. I bet you were expecting something romantic, but these are just gardening facts.

Finally got a date for Valentine's Day. It's a court date but still, I got to dress up.

The Remarkable Body

You are about 1cm taller in the morning when you first get up than when you go to bed. This is because during the day the soft cartilage between your bones gets squashed and compressed.

Where in the world.

China and Russia both border on fourteen other countries.

Fun Food Facts

Wild blackberries are common across Washington state, but before you head down the road to start foraging, there are a few things you should be wary of before snacking on wild berries. While blackberries are considered a noxious weed alongside many others in Washington and are highly invasive, many Washingtonians love to grab a bowl and pick some during the warm months. Other berries in Washington state can be easily mistaken for blackberries, so it is extremely important to make sure what you are picking is a blackberry and not a more poisonous look-alike. Also, reach out to your local department of transportation to see if roadside bushes have been sprayed with pesticide.

Ladies Lunch in February had 13 ladies attending. Thanks Dixie (and thanks for the candy). March Ladies Lunch will be hosted by Norma Kummer. 509-628-8850.

Tom Brady Now Owns a Part Of Pickleball

Tom Brady isn't known for his dink shots, but that may soon change. The NFL legend is joining a new Major League Pickleball (MLP) ownership group that includes former international tennis champion Kim Clijsters, CNBC reported Wednesday. TB12 joins fellow top athletes like LeBron James as a pickleball team owner, and his investment is the latest indicator that pickleball is rapidly evolving from a pandemic fad into a serious sport.

A Pretty Pickle

Pickleball was invented in 1965 by a group of dads desperate to keep their kids entertained. They cobbled together an assortment of random sports equipment and created a mashup of badminton, tennis, and ping-pong. The game has its devotees, including Microsoft founder Bill Gates who has been playing for decades, but has remained fairly obscure. Since 2014, however, when the Sports and Fitness Industry Association first started keeping track of it, pickleball grew steadily before exploding during the pandemic. The number of new pickleballers surged 40% between 2019 and 2021, making it the fastest-growing sport in the US with 4.8 million players. MLP relishes the chance to capitalize. Brady and Clijsters formed their ownership group with Knighthead Capital, and while MLP is staying coy about exactly how much it costs to become an owner, one MLP adviser told CNBC it was in the "seven-figure range." MLP has a clear strategy for its next growth phase:

- MLP wants to expand its pool of teams from 12 to 16, and double the number of annual events it holds from three to six. More games means more tickets, more ad space... and more pickles.

- Increased investment also means MLP can continue to beef up its prize money pot and attract professional players. MLP announced the biggest prize money ever for a 4-player team in May; a grand prize of \$100,000 or \$25,000 per head. For comparison, a pro tennis doubles player who wins the US Open gets \$344,000. Pickle Poaching: Pickleball is already enticing some players away from other sports. Former junior Wimbledon champion Noah Rubin announced Monday he's turning to pickleball. Rubin joked the tennis court was simply

too big for his short stature (he's 5'9") "In this sport," Rubin quipped. "Size doesn't matter." Not everyone is pro-pickleball: The sport's sudden popularity and the resultant demand for space have led to a lot of heated back-and-forths. Gothamist reported some residents of New York's West Village went so far as to organize a petition calling to end what they saw as a pickleball "takeover" of courts and playgrounds. The petition garnered 3,000 signatures including one picklish skateboarding instructor who claimed he was being driven out by "Yuppie pickle players."

A little aside from this editor: My younger brother and his partner won their pickleball tournament out in LaQuinta, CA and has earned a trip to Florida for the National Championships.

See's Rich Heritage

Throughout the history of See's Candies, Mary See has symbolized the old-fashioned virtues of homemade quality and friendly service. The spectacled, silver haired woman still smiles with pride from candy boxes shipped throughout the world, and her original recipes are savored by millions to this day.

When Charles See arrived in Los Angeles from Canada in 1921 to try his hand at the confection business, he decided that no image would better reflect the personality of his fledgling venture than that of his mother. Apart from using her recipes as a foundation, See knew that keeping things in the family was the only way to bring about the kind of lovingly crafted product he desired.

See along with his mother and his wife, Florence, opened the first See's Candies shop and kitchen on Western Avenue in Los Angeles in November of 1921. The sparkling clean, black and white shop was designed to resemble Mary See's home kitchen.

Benefiting from the wide acceptance of an unusually high quality candy, See's was able to grow steadily from that first shop in Los Angeles to twelve shops by the mid-1920's and thirty shops during the depression. By 1936, See's was able to expand to San Francisco.

Mary See died in 1939 at the age of 85, but the company's ability to adjust to changing times - without abandoning the passion for quality and service that Mary See represented - kept it going strong throughout the decades to come.

Following World War II, See's Candy Shops grew as California grew, and the See's family continued the tradition, opening up shops throughout the state. In the 50's, See's established itself with the new and growing phenomenon of shopping malls. See's customers continued to recognize the See's Candies product for its quality and taste, and continued to visit See's old-fashioned black and white shops, enjoying a visit to a time past where service was paramount.

In 1972, the See's family sold the company to Berkshire Hathaway Inc., presided over by Chairman Warren Buffett and Vice Chairman Charles Munger. Utilizing his philosophy of acquiring solid companies where he could follow his "hands off" policy, Warren Buffett installed Charles N. Huggins as President and CEO. President Huggins has dedicated himself to the continuance of the company he joined in 1951, still guiding it with the old-fashioned values set by Charles See, and still maintaining the feeling of family in a company where many employees have worked for several decades. Today See's Candies are sold in over two hundred shops throughout the West, a true sign of their enduring popularity. And, to this day, Charles See's living motto, "Quality Without Compromise®" continues to guide the company.

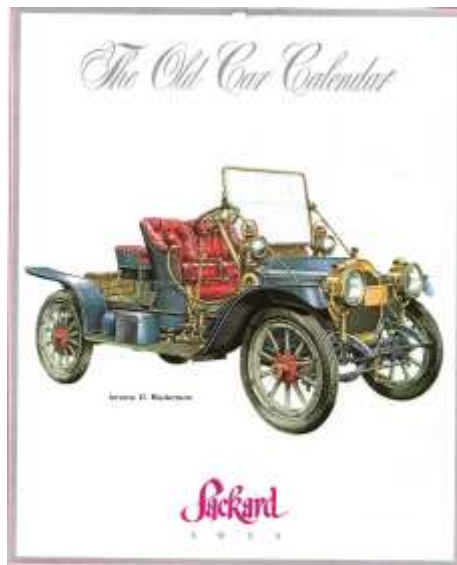


1911 Packard

After buying a bad Winston, J.W. Packard said he could build a better car, and he certainly did. With his brother William, he formed the company that bore their name, in Warren, Ohio in 1899. Their first car had a single-cylinder, 12 HP engine, wire wheels with single-tube tires, steered by a tiller and chain-driven, with a three-forward-speed transmission - most unusual for its day. One of the early Packard customers, H.B. Joy, was so enthusiastic about his 1902 Packard, he persuaded friends to finance a new factory in Detroit. He was largely responsible for Packard's growth and ultimate financial salvation in 1905.

Precision workmanship gave Packard an international reputation, as did their gearshift H-slot - a standard throughout the industry. They injected decades of leadership. In 1903, a single-cylinder Packard made the San Francisco to New York run in a record 601 days. The famous "Gray Wolf" ran in the Vanderbilt Cup Race in 1904. In 1912, the first truck (Packard) crossed the country in 46 days. Forced-feed lubrication was introduced in 1913. The first car with spiral bevel rear-end gears, and with the hand brake at the drivers left, was a 1914 innovation. 1915 saw the first famous V12 Twin-Six. In 1919, a new World Speed record of 149.18 MPH was chalked up by Ralph DePalma. From its inception to demise, Packard's unquestionable leadership in engines was based on standout style and body design, which never resorted to the radical.

One of the all-time sensations of the automobile industry was the Twin-Six, almost unrivaled for sooth operation from 1915 to 1923. The next major classic was the Straight-Eight (with four-wheel brakes), making for the solid reputation of the '20s. which also enhanced profit-wise - by the lack of model changes each year. For smoothness, silence and luxury few cars in history approached the classic Packard 12 of 1932. After the Stock Market crash, increasingly the quality car symbol faded, as Stutz, pierce-Arrow, Dusenberg, and finally Packard - in 1934 - turned to the cheaper car market. This was to be Packards undoing, "if only temporary" - in the words of its still ardent devotees.



Where You Can Retire

You can retire to Phoenix, Arizona where...

1. You are willing to park three blocks away from your house because you found shade.
2. You've experienced condensation on your rear-end from the hot water in the toilet bowl.
3. You can drive for four hours in one direction and never leave town.
4. You have over 100 recipes for Mexican food.
5. You know that "dry heat" is comparable to what hits you in the face when you open your oven door at 500 degrees.
6. The four seasons are: tolerable, hot, really hot, and ARE YOU KIDDING ME??

OR

You can retire to California where...

1. You make over \$450,000 and you still can't afford to buy a house.
2. The fastest part of your commute is going down your driveway.
3. You know how to eat an artichoke.
4. When someone asks you how far something is, you tell them how long it will take to get there, rather than how many miles away it is.
5. The four seasons are Fire, Flood, Mud, and Drought.

OR

You can retire to New York City where...

- 1 You say, "the city" and expect everyone to know you mean Manhattan.
2. You can get into a four-hour argument about how to get from Columbus Circle to Battery Park, but can't find Wisconsin on a map.
3. You think Central Park is "nature."
4. You believe that being able to swear at people in their own language makes you multilingual.
5. You've worn out a car horn. (IF you have a car.)
6. You think eye contact is an act of aggression.

OR

You can retire to Minnesota where...

1. You only have three spices: salt, pepper, and ketchup.
2. Halloween costumes must fit over parkas.
3. You have seventeen recipes for a casserole.
4. Sexy lingerie is anything flannel with less than eight buttons.
5. The four seasons are almost winter, winter, still winter, and road repair.
6. The highest level of criticism is "He is different," "She is different," or "It was different!"

OR

You can retire to North or South Carolina where...

1. You can rent a movie and buy bait in the same store.
2. "Y'all" is singular and "all y'all" is plural.
3. "He needed killing" is a valid defense.
4. Everyone has two first names: Billy Bob, Jimmy Bob, Joe Bob, Betty Jean, Mary Beth, etc.
5. Everything is either: "in yonder," "over yonder" or "out yonder."
6. You can say anything about anyone, as long as you say, "Bless his heart" at the end!

OR

You can move to Colorado where...

1. You carry your \$3,000 mountain bike atop your \$500 car.
2. You tell your husband to pick up Granola on his way home, so he stops at the daycare center.
3. A pass does not involve a football or dating.
4. The top of your head is bald, but you still have a ponytail.

OR

You can retire to Nebraska or Kansas where...

1. You've never met any celebrities, but the mayor knows your name.
2. Your idea of a traffic jam is three cars waiting to pass a tractor.
3. You have had to switch from "heat" to "A/C" on the same day.
4. You end sentences with a preposition: "Where's my coat at?"

OR

FINALLY, you can retire to Florida where...

1. You eat dinner at 3:15 in the afternoon.
2. All purchases include a coupon of some kind - even houses and cars.
3. Everyone can recommend an excellent cardiologist, dermatologist, proctologist, podiatrist, urologist, or orthopedist.
4. Road construction never ends anywhere in the state.
5. Cars in front of you often appear to be driven by headless people.

Baby's First Doctor Visit

A woman and a baby were in the doctor's examining room, waiting for the doctor to come in for the baby's first exam. The doctor arrived, and examined the baby, checked his weight, and being a little concerned, asked if the baby was breast-fed or bottle-fed. 'Breast-fed,' she replied. 'Well, strip down to your waist,' the doctor ordered. She did. He pinched her nipples, pressed, kneaded, and rubbed both breasts for a while in a very professional and detailed examination. Motioning to her to get dressed, the doctor said, 'No wonder this baby is underweight. You don't have any milk.' 'I know,' she said, 'I'm his Grandma, But I'm glad I came.'

Did You Know...

The brand name of Leatherman multitools and knives isn't just a manly trademark, it's actually the name of one of the company's cofounders, Timothy S. Leatherman.

This February cannot come in your lifetime again because this year's February has:

- 4 Sundays
- 4 Mondays
- 4 Tuesdays
- 4 Wednesdays
- 4 Thursdays
- 4 Fridays
- 4 Saturdays

This happens once every 823 years.

WOMEN'S CORNER

CHOCOLATE SINGS

One day I had a date for lunch with friends. Mae, a little old "blue hair" about 80 years old, came along with them. All in all, a pleasant bunch. When the menus were presented, we ordered salads, sandwiches, and soups, except for Mae who said, "Ice Cream, please. Two scoops, CHOCOLATE."

I wasn't sure my ears heard right, and the others were aghast.
 "Along with *heated apple pie*," Mae added, completely unabashed.
 We tried to act quite nonchalant, as if people did this all the time..
 But when our orders were brought out, I didn't enjoy mine.
 I couldn't take my eyes off Mae as her *pie a-la-mode* went down.
 The other ladies showed dismay. They ate their lunches silently and frowned.

The next time I went out to eat, I called and invited Mae.
 I lunched on white meat tuna. She ordered a *parfait*.
 I smiled. She asked if she amused me.
 I answered, "Yes, you do, but also you confuse me.
 How come you order rich desserts, while I feel I must be sensible?
 She laughed and said, with wanton mirth, "I'm tasting all that's Possible."

I try to eat the food I need, and do the things I should.
But life's so short, my friend, I hate missing out on something good.
This year I realized how old I was. (She grinned) I haven't been this old before."
"So, before I die, I've got to try those things that for years I had ignored.
I haven't smelled all the flowers yet. There are too many books I haven't read.
There's more *fudge sundaes* to wolf down and kites to be flown overhead.

There are many malls I haven't shopped. I've not laughed at all the jokes.
I've missed a lot of Broadway hits and potato chips and cokes.
I want to wade again in water and feel ocean spray on my face.
I want to sit in a country church once more and thank God for His grace.
I want peanut butter every day spread on my morning toast.
I want UN-timed long distance calls to the folks I love the most.

I haven't cried at all the movies yet, or walked in the morning rain.
I need to feel wind in my hair. I want to fall in love again.
So, if I choose to have dessert, instead of having dinner,
Then should I die before night fall, I'd say I died a winner,
Because I missed out on nothing. I filled my heart's desire.
I had that final *chocolate mousse* before my life expired."

With that, I called the waitress over. "I've changed my mind," I said.
"I want what she is having, only add some more *whipped cream!*"

Live well, love much & laugh often - Be happy.

Be mindful that happiness isn't based on possessions, power, or prestige, but on relationships with people we love and respect. Remember that while money talks, *CHOCOLATE SINGS.*



Thanks to my daughter Frances for this delightful poem.

Birthdays and Anniversaries in February



Birthdays

Kent Albrandt	February 26	Calvin Coffey	February 18
Dixie Gilbert	February 4	Trish Kiichle	February 10
Molly King	February 2	Susanne Kooiker	February 2
Kelly Maxwell	February 9	Don Millard	February 5
Nancy Millard	February 5	Steve Morton	February 14
Brian Newell	February 27	Jeri Newell	February 9
Robert Parchen	February 5	Peggy Parchen	February 14
Henry Smith	February 1	Jim Vetrano	February 14
Susan Wolf	February 26	Robin Woodford	February 15



Anniversaries

Kevin & Roseanne Davis	February 6	David & Susan Gerkenmeyer	February 13
Victor & Nadine Meyers	February 28	Jerry & Bonnie Suminski	February 12
Jim & Ginger Vetrano	February 14		

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