

LAWRENCE REGION ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF AMERICA
A DIVERSE GROUP DEDICATED TO THE RESTORATION/PRESERVATION/ENJOYMENT OF OLD CARS



CLUTCH CHATTER



FROM As

VOLUME 25

ISSUE 1

JANUARY, 2021

TO Zs

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CALENDAR

Jan 7 - 6:30 PM. Zoom only meeting.

Feb 4 - TBA

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our President, Margaret Barnes, has contracted the COVID19 virus and has been very ill. She is now "back on track" according to her but still is needing rest and quiet. Therefore, there are no minutes or comments about the last meeting but she will cover that information at the January 7th meeting, which will be a Zoom only meeting.

Margaret has forwarded the Zoom information to all club members. If you need help accessing the Zoom, her telephone number at home is 1-785-594-6408.

EDITOR'S NOTE

DUE DATE FOR ARTICLES

Just a friendly reminder - all items for our newsletter are due by the 15th, monthly. Unfortunately, waiting for items after that delays us, and members living out of town do not receive it before the next meeting.

I would like to thank those who have sent items for our newsletter. It shows us we're all in this together and we WILL be together again. Please continue to send articles as the your Editor is running out of items to put in our newsletter.

2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Margaret Barnes
(785) 594-6408
Vice President: Daryl Barnes
(785) 594-6408
Secretary: K. L. Homolka
(785) 865-8503
Treasurer: Pete Maxon
(785) 608-4222

2020 Board: Dave Maycock
(785) 764-6558
2021 Board: Woody Woodring
(913) 796-6020
2022 Board: Roscoe Yoder
(913) 710-7720

MEMBER'S BIRTHDAY

George Lauppe - Jan 2
Don Fornelli - Jan 6
Darrell Workman - Jan 6
Gary Landes - Jan 13
Margaret Barnes - Jan 17
Mary Haid - Jan 18

MEMBERS' ANNIVERSARY

None

If we have missed anyone, it is because we do not have the information. Please ask K. L. Homolka for the "Information Form".

CLUTCH CHATTER is the official publication of the Lawrence Region Antique Automobile Club of America. CLUTCH CHATTER is published each month and any reports, articles or pictures must be submitted by the 15th of the month. They can be emailed to:

kstrunguy@yahoo.com

Please use the above email as it goes directly to the Club's computer.

Shirley Cormack, Editor
715 Wellington Road
Lawrence, Ks 66049 (785) 841-6033

COMMITTEE CHAIRS FOR 2021

CAR SHOW - Daryl Barnes
SWAP MEET - Joe Arneson
SCHOLARSHIP - Tony Mitchell
TRAILER - Joe Arneson
SUNSHINE - Barb & Dave Maycock
CONTRIBUTIONS - Pete Maxon
HISTORICAL - George Lauppe
MEMBERSHIP - Margaret Barnes
PROGRAMS - Daryl Barnes
REFRESHMENTS - Daryl Barnes

LRAACA WEBSITE

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Lawrence, KS 66044
Phone: (785) 843-AACA or
(785) 842-7982
FAX: (785) 843-2222

Here you can find information on being a member, upcoming events & general information about the club.

BY-GONE DAYS

BY GEORGE LAUPPE



10 YEARS AGO - JANUARY, 2011

President Jack Todd did not have a message, just a photo of him on a golf cart. There are no articles about club activities during December. It has several trivia questions, one of which probably could answered only by Mike Cormack, and me. It is a photo taken at our annual car show many years ago. The photo shows a gentleman walking away from the camera, while looking at a line of cars. Only Mike Cormack and I could have recognized the gentleman as Moss Hickman, from Topeka, a restorer on many Model A Fords. (Moss advised me of things to do to my Model A Ford, prior to our trip to Alaska in 1988. His advice saved me many dollars, less than other Model A Ford owners, had on the Alaska trip). That issue has one of many articles, Mike Cormack wrote about old cars. The article described the beginning of the CROSLEY car, first produced in 1939.

20 YEARS AGO - JANUARY, 2001

President Jack Todd wrote: "What a month of weather we have had! I am worried about our members getting out in the cold for our January meeting. We'll be watching the weather and if it looks like it is risky to be out, then we will try to get a calling committee formed." That issue is unusual in that it has eleven very clear black and white photos. Most of the photos were taken at the annual Officer Installation/Christmas Party. The photos are: President Todd; Past President Reschke Reschke presenting a plaque to Todd holding the traveling past Presidents Plaque. It also shows outgoing officers without identifications. (I am able to identify those outgoing officers as Ralph Reschke, George Lauppe, Jack Todd, Mike Sloan, Roger Bain, Joe Arneson and Jon Heavin.) Calendar of events lists the next club event was to be held at HY-VEE store 23rd and Kasold, 9:00 am, January 13, 2001. It does not describe the type of event. (I recall that event was a Second Saturday in my garage showing off cars under restoration).

30 YEARS AGO - JANUARY, 1991

Minutes record the January 3rd meeting convened at 7:35 pm in Watkins Museum. Twenty three answering roll. The Board had an emergency meeting in December and acted on moving the east fairground fence. To hire a company to take down the fence and move it 80 feet would cost \$1800-\$1900.00 By moving the fence we would gain 105-110 vendor spaces. If the club bought all new posts and cement, our cost would be about \$320.00, and we would take

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

down and move the fence, which the club approved. Also approved was vendor fee of \$15.00 per space paid in advance, and \$25.00 at the gate, and lowered the fee to \$10.00 on Sunday in an effort to encourage more to come on Sunday. At that January meeting, Scholarship Chairman George Lauppe introduced James Paterson, scholarship recipient, who was attending Pittsburg State College, majoring in Manufacturing Engineering.

40 YEARS AGO - JANUARY, 1981

Folder for the 1981 club's newsletter is empty except for a single official certificate from the National Antique Automobile Club of America showing that the Lawrence region made a contribution of \$100.00 to the new Library Fund. January 13th meeting had eleven members and three guests in attendance. Two guests joined later that year. President Ralph Reschke announced he had made arrangement for lights and extra speakers for the swap meet South field. Lauppe, Swap Meet Chairman, reported everything is going fine as planned. He reported the Lawrence Library will accept donations to "buy car books". Reschke's motion was approved to donate \$50.00 to the Lawrence Library to buy auto restoration books. Lauppe reported he had a quote of \$2.14 for caps with one color, and \$2.15 for three colors. At the January Board meeting a suggestion was made to purchase a large banner identifying our club as the swap meet and car show sponsors.

50 YEARS AGO - JANUARY, 1971

The Topeka Region AACA'S SIDELIGHTS issue reported for December that about twenty accordions were the program at the Annual Christmas Party held in Lawrence. It listed the size of the Lawrence Chapter as fourteen members. (Yours truly is the only Lawrence member still in the club) January 7th 1971 minutes reveal eleven members in attendance when the meeting was called to order at 8:05 pm in the University State Bank. Treasurer reported \$589.97. Motion was approved to reduce club dues to \$1.00 per year. Swap Meet "Hand bills" (now referred to Swap Meet "flyers") motion was approved to print 500 copies.

57 YEARS AGO - JANUARY, 1964

January 1964 minutes record 13 members and one guest (George Lauppe) in attendance. Motion approved to have a swap meet at Lawrence Sunday May 3rd or a tentative date if this conflicts with other activities. Location would be the 4H Fair Grounds and would start at 8:00 AM and last all day. Discussion was made concerning the food to be served at the swap meet and it was agreed to let a 4-H club take the operation if interested. May 7, 1964 minutes reveal the club made a profit of \$23.45 at the swap meet. A motion was approved to continue having a swap meet as an annual event and increase vendor fee to \$3.00.

**Steve Rossi's
Old Car
Quiz**
-For the Trivial Astute-

QUESTION

In 1956, Buick included the model year within each car's round grille and trunk emblem (except the Roadmaster). That proved to be controversial. Why?

Answer on page 6

TRIVIA QUESTION

QUESTION

What famous automaker designed the Volkswagen Beetle?

Answer on page 12



SILLY SAYINGS

1. If your car is running, I'm voting for it.
2. I want to grow my own food but I can't find bacon seeds.
3. What happens if you get scared half to death twice?
4. My wife said I never listened to her, or something like that.
5. My wife said when I pass she would go the extra mile to give me the burial I deserve. The cemetery was 1 mile away; the landfill 2 miles.
6. We were out burning leaves in ditches when my husband got stung on the forehead by a bee. He's in the ER now...face all swollen and bruised. He almost died!! He was very lucky that I was close enough to swat that bee off with my shovel.

2021 SCHEDULED EVENTS - NOTE ON YOUR CALENDAR

February 11-13 - AACA Annual Convention, Philadelphia, PA (**RESCHEDULED TO APRIL 15-17**) 717-534-1910

March 17-20 - Special Winter Nationals & Special Grand Nationals, San Juan, P. R. *Puerto Rico Region (**RESCHEDULED TO APRIL 21-23, 2022**) 305-978-8037

March 19 - Special Grand Nationals, Dan Juan, Puerto Rico

April 8-10 - Southeastern Spring Nationals, Charlotte, N.C. *Hornets Nest Region 704-847-4215

May 6-8 - Central Spring Nationals, Auburn IN (**RESCHEDULED TO JULY 1-3**) 717-534-1910

June 17-19 - Eastern Spring Nationals, Saratoga Springs, NY, Saratoga Region 585-474-2406

July 22-24 - Annual Grand Nationals, New Ulm, MN, Minnesota Region 320-290-4285

August 13-14 - Western Fall Nationals, Loveland, CO, Poudre Valley Region 970-686-9291

September 9-11 - Southeastern Fall Nationals, Greenville, S.C., South Carolina Region 864-25-2596

October 6-9 - Eastern Fall Nationals, Hershey PA, Hershey Region 717-566-7720

November 4-6 - Special Western Nationals, Phoenix, AC, Phoenix Region 602-999-6594

2022 SCHEDULED EVENTS - NOTE ON YOUR CALENDAR

February 10-12 - AACA Annual Convention, Philadelphia, PA 717-534-1910

February 24-26 - AACA Wonter Nationals, Melbourne, FL 717-534-1910

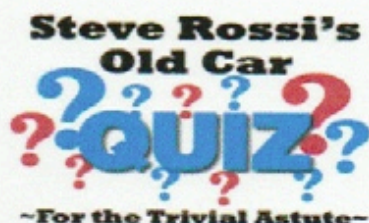
March 10-12 - Western Spring Nationals, Las Vegas, NE 717-534-1910

April 7-9 - Southeastern Spring Nationals, Charlotte, NC, Hornets Nest Region 704-847-4215

May 5-7 - Central Spring Nationals, Auburn, IN 717-534-1910 (*tentative date*)

May 19-21 - Annual Grand Nationals, Virginia Beach, VA, Tidewater Region 618-363-6730

ANSWER



Including the "1956" designation within the Buick emblem was considered an example of "planned obsolescence" because it later encouraged owners to replace their cars since it clearly advertised that their '56s were out of date.

Copied with permission from AACA Speedster

SIMPLE HOME REMEDIES

(do not try at home*)*

1. If you are choking on an ice cube, simply pour a cup of boiling water down your throat. PRESTO! The blockage will instantly remove itself.
2. Avoid cutting yourself when slicing vegetables by getting someone else to hold the vegetables while you chop.
3. High blood pressure sufferers - simply cut yourself and bleed a few minutes, thus reducing the pressure on your veins. REMEMBER TO USE A TIMER.
4. A mouse trap placed on top of your alarm clock will prevent you from rolling over and going back to sleep after you hit the snooze button.
5. You only need two tools in life - WD-40 and duct tape. If it doesn't move and should, use WD-40 - if it moves and shouldn't, use the tape.
6. If you can't fix it with a hammer, you've got an electrical problem.
7. Remember - everyone seems normal until to get to know them.

Anonymous

SURPRISES KIDS FIND IN OLD CARS

By Wayne Tuck, Executive Vice President, AACA

Features we find in old cars can be a new discovery for kids. I still laugh to myself every time I think about the time my youngest grandson came out to the garage for a visit with granddad. I was working on my 1952 Hudson at the time and put him in the front seat. The first thing he noticed was the size of the steering wheel. I'm sure he had never seen a car without power steering. This was a new discovery for him. He was even more surprised with the window crank handles. How many kids today have never seen crank down windows? Not only a crank down window, but crank open vent windows. Most of today's youth have never seen a vent window. He spent the next half hour working his way around the interior cranking windows up and down.

We found an entire new world of things he never knew existed. A cigar lighter? That is known as a power outlet today. You mean you need to push down the buttons individually to lock the car? You need a key to unlock it? Ash trays? Turn the knobs to change the radio station? Where are the seat belts? What is that button on the floor? No padding on the dashboard?

Now let's take a look at an even older car. A tassel on the string that pulls the shade down over the back window? You mean you need to put your arm out the window to signal a turn? That lever on the left controls the spark advance? What is a spark advance anyway? Step on a floor pedal to start it?

All you need to do to get their attention is show it to them. Kids are even more thrilled if you take them for a ride. Let's all do something to pique their interest. The future of the old car hobby depends on it.

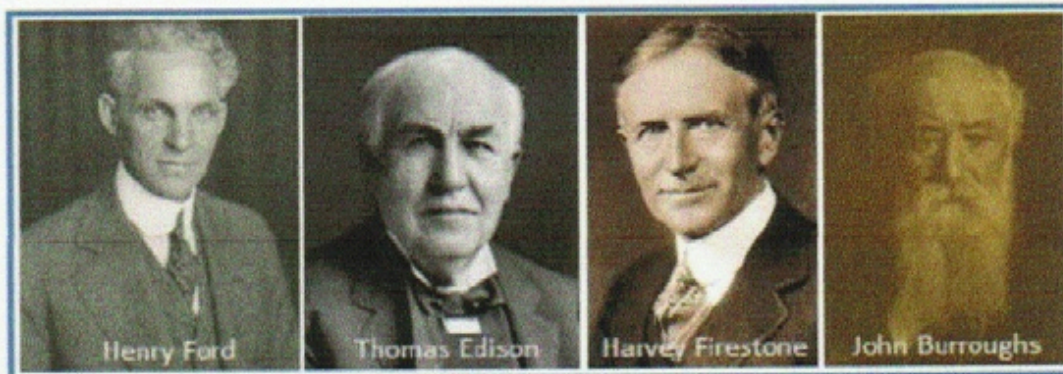
The Four Vagabonds (1915-1924)

By Wayne Mason

Can you possibly imagine Elon Musk, Bill Gates, Steve Jobs, and David Attenborough taking a two-week camping trip together? Can you imagine them doing it every year for ten years?

This is exactly what Henry Ford, Thomas Edison, Harvey Firestone, and John Burroughs did from 1915 until 1921 when Burroughs died, and then for another three years after that. By all accounts, it was an amazing gathering of some of the brightest minds and industry leaders of the day. It was early in the days of recreational road trips and camping, and the "Four Vagabonds" (as they called themselves) annual drive became a national event. You might say they were the first "glampers."

A comprehensive book on the topic was written by Jeff Guinn and published in July 2019. The book is professionally researched; using primary sources and includes not just the day-to-day events, but also the thoughts of the participants as written in their journals. Thomas Edison's wife Mina describes one trip as, "so elaborate and so fussy that there is no charm in it."¹¹ There is also a bit of archival video footage of some of the trips. Watching the shenanigans of these four is interesting even if staged.



¹¹ Quoted from Camila Domonoske's NPR review of Jeff Guinn's book, *The Vagabonds*.



The Board Room - Henry Ford, Thomas Edison, Warren G. Harding, and Harve Firestone, 1921. The above article was printed in the Cowtown Model A Newsletter and we learned "The rest of the story".

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HISTORY'S SLOWEST WINNER

By Ruby Rae Scalera

The year is 1895. America is still skeptical of the gas powered automobile. Henry Ford's assembly line would not begin rolling for eighteen years. The age of speed, turn signals or even roads is far in the distant future. A future that would never have come to pass, were it not for Charles and Frank Duryea and the Duryea Motor Wagon Company, the very first American car company to build gasoline automobiles paving the way for Ransom Olds, William C. Durant and, of course Henry Ford.

Much of the Duryea brother's early success can be attributed to a Thanksgiving morning in that first year 1895 when they proudly wore the title of another first – the first U.S. auto race where any of the entrants finished. And finish they did. Frank Duryea won the Chicago Times-Herald Race in Chicago in the second Duryea Motor Wagon produced, finished in 1894. He completed the 54-mile course at a blistering speed of 7.5 miles per hour. Eighty-three cars had been initially entered into the competition after the Chicago Times-Herald first told of it in July of that year, but only six were completed and capable of arriving to the starting line by Thanksgiving. In fact, so few cars appeared at the originally scheduled date of November 2, 1895, that they were forced to push the event back. Recall, if you will, that the very first "cars" had barely been produced two years earlier, and that the sum total of the car industry at the time was madmen tinkering in their garages like over-excited fathers before a pinewood derby race.

In fact, the very intent behind the race was to stoke up excitement about the fledging auto industry as well as to boost sales. The idea of a car was so new - and so foreign - that the newspaper editors at the Times-Herald literally did not know what to call them. And neither did the police, who pulled over favored winner Elwood Haynes and one of three Benz drivers before they arrived at the race - on horseback, of course. This pushed the beginning of the first successful American auto race back even further, as organizers explained this newfangled technology to the coppers. But despite the mishaps and confusion, it was clear that race organizers at the Times-Herald understood the value of this odd new industry, with prizes for the winners totaling over \$5,000 (over \$140,000 by today' standard).

And while the Duryea Motor Wagon would not go on to the fame of any of the Benz vehicles that it competed against, it most certainly benefited from the exposure and success of that very first race. They sold thirteen cars by the end of 1896, the first ten standing out as, yet another first - the first production vehicles ever sold in America.

Despite their success and luck, the Durea Motor Company suffered from infigting and challenges, and setbacks as the auto industry slowly found its foothold. Competing against the vast new field of challengers, most of whom wouldn't even

(Continued on page 10)

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make it to the point of production, the Duryea brothers separated and worked together from a distance, with variations of their prized company limping along for several years. Charles would go on to produce cars, mostly without success, until 1917 and Frank would share his expertise with the industry until 1927.

And yet, despite their ups and downs, despite their inability to recreate Henry Ford's success with the "Everyman's Car" or their inability to recreate their earlier luck, the Duryea brothers undoubtedly shaped the future of American cars. They are not particularly well-known, for after 1895 they were not particularly successful, but they are important, one of the puzzle pieces in what makes up the wild west history of early autos. Could we have done it without them? Who's to say? If it had not been the Duryea Motor Wagon that day, it might have been an early Benz or a new-fangled motorcycle the next. Still, it was them, two scrappy boys from New England, who stand as a testament to fortitude, passion, and innovation, pillars upon which the entire auto industry stands. And hey, if you sat in an open-cockpit beast going 7 miles per hour for over 10 hours and 23 minutes in weather where other challengers literally fainted from exposure, you'd be pretty worthy of a spot in the history books, too. There's no doubt that they earned that win and set into motion a world they could have never expected.

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Bostong, Penna. Where Duryea First Paved Automobiles Could Continually Climb Mountains

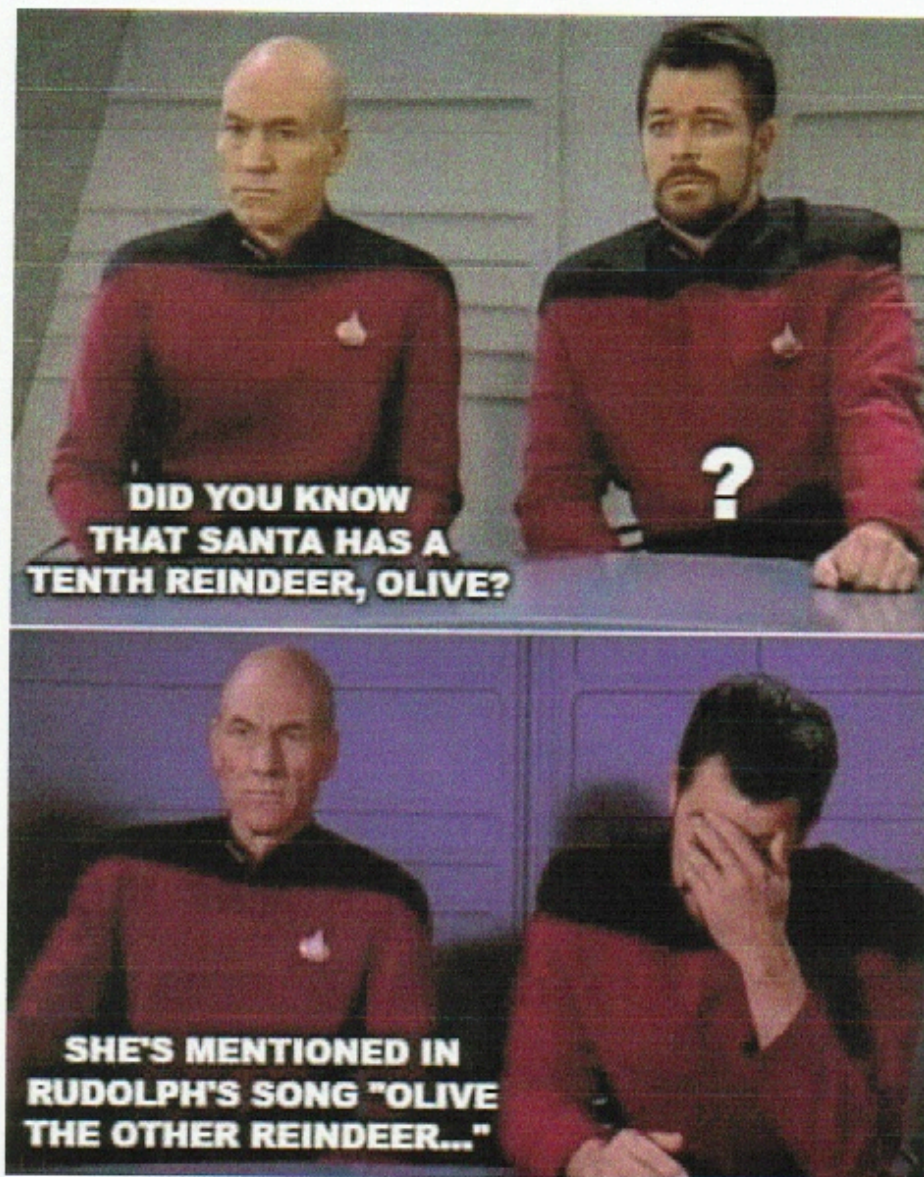
Editor's Note 1: I realize that it's now AFTER Christmas, but I just received two items and couldn't help but think our club members would enjoy them now.

THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

By Von Wolfe

T'was the night before Christmas and out in the garage,
there wasn't a trace of a Chevy or Dodge.
The presents were wrapped and the lights were all lit
so I figured I'd mess with the A for a bit.
I popped the hooks and lifted the hood
when a deep voice behind me said, "Looks pretty good."
Well, as you can imagine, I turned mighty quick
and there, by the workbench, stood good ol' St. Nick!
We stood there a bit, not too sure what to say
then he said, "Don't suppose that you'd trade for my sleigh?"
I said, "No way, Santa" and started to grin
"but if you have time, we can go for a spin."
His round little mouth all tied up like a bow
turned into a smile and he said, "Hey! Let's go!"
So as not to disturb all the neighbors' retreat
we pushed the A quietly into the street.
Then, taking our places to drift down the hill,
I turned on the key and let the clutch spill.
The sound that erupted took Santa by surprise
but he liked it a lot from the look in his eyes.
With the tires singing and headlights aglow
we headed out to where old cars go.
Santa's grin widenend, approaching his ears
with every shift up as I went through the gears.
Then he yelled "Can't recall when I've felt so alive!"
So I backed off the gas and said, "You wanna drive?"
Ol' Santa was stunned when I gave him the keys.
When he walked past the headlights he shook at the knees!
The 4 banger exploded with that Model A sound
as Santa let out the clutch and the tires bit the ground!
He double clutched into second, and again into third.
I sat there just watching, at loss for a word.
Then I heard him exclaim as we cruised out of sight
"Merry Christmas to all... and to all a Model A good night!"

Editor's Note 2: Speaking of receiving material about Christmas AFTER Christmas, I couldn't pass this one up, either. We all need some laughs.

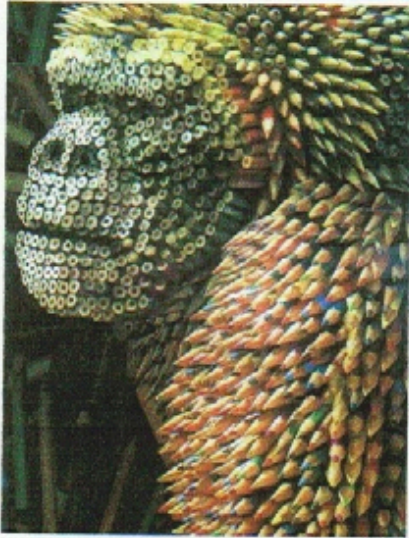


Trivia Question Answer

Commissioned by Adolf Hitler to design an affordable "people's car", Ferdinand Porsche, founder of Porsche Motors, designed the Volkswagen Beetle. The first Beetle rolled off the production line in 1938. However, the car, originally known as Volkswagen or VW, did not get the "Beetle" name until the early 1950's.

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A LITTLE HUMOR (From various anonymous emails)



PENCIL APE



The White Charger I Want



The White Charger I Have

THE WISH



WRENCH FEEDING TIME



SOUR DOUGH



SAFEST CAR IN THE UNIVERSE

WILL NEVER HIT ANYTHING



INVISIBLE TAPE

