



PAJARITO THUNDERBIRD CLUB
of
NEW MEXICO
Chapter 17 of the CTCI
September 2021 Newsletter
Volume 21 Number 9



Recent Events

Sail Plane Museum



Ed Chappelle ponders



Museum Guide, Ray Wood, Brent Smith
(Ray's Nephew), Trae Wood



Mike Harding is impressed



Fred and Laura Lochenmeyer



Craig Sowers' 1957 Thunderbird



Dick Shaw's Air Conditioned 193X Custom Rod



Sail Plane for Corvette owners



Patriotic Soaring



Pres Says:



September 2021

We had a great trip to the Soaring Museum in August with several members in attendance including a few of us who drove our Thunderbirds out to Moriarty. Special thanks to Lloyd for setting up the event and coordinating the lunch, Great job!!

Upcoming events:

September 6 Labor Day - Power Ford Day Car Show - register now!!

Every Thursday: 7:30 AM Breakfast at Hello Deli

Don't forget about the "Cars and Coffee" show held at Grace Church on San Antonio, this month it will be Saturday September 11th at 8:00am, come out and join us.

We are all deeply saddened by the news of the passing of C.E. Chisolm this week. He will be missed by our club and its members; our thoughts and prayers go out to Sue and his family.

TRAE WOOD

Stay safe – see you soon!!

**P.S. *PS; Checkout the
Car Show at
Hoffmantown Church
on Saturday,
September 25th.***



Upcoming Events



CAR SHOW

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2021
HOFFMANTOWN CHURCH**

A must attend event for all car enthusiast.
By participating you can enjoy a robust event and make a difference in lung health locally & beyond!
All funds raised will be used to support the ongoing work of the American Lung Association of New Mexico.

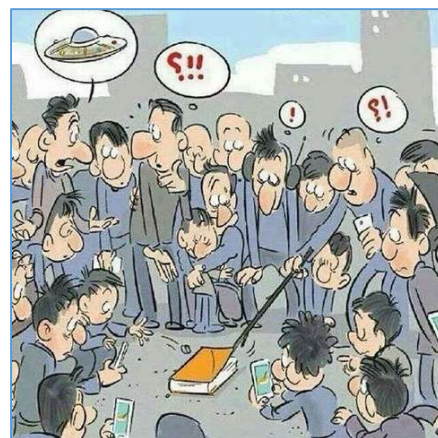
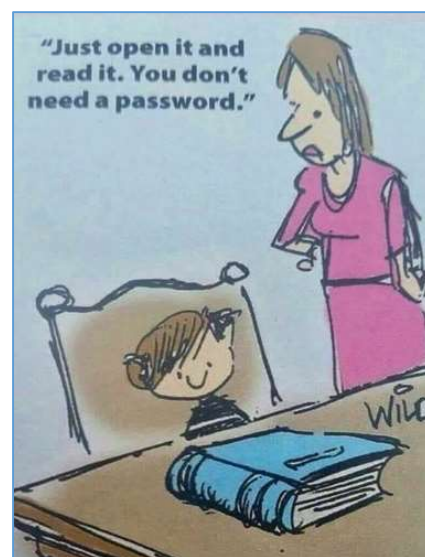
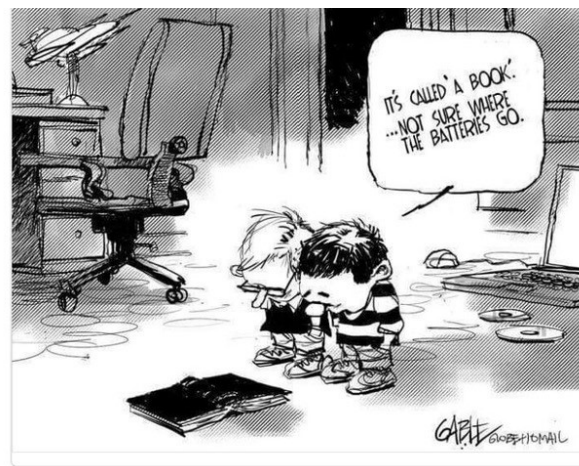
Event Includes:
Contests | Music | Prizes

Questions : 505-814-7554 | Victoria.byrd@lung.org



REGISTER @
[HTTPS://ACTION.LUNG.ORG/SITE/TR?FR_ID=21988&PG=ENTRY](https://action.lung.org/site/tr?FR_ID=21988&PG=ENTRY)
DONATIONS APPRECIATED

Books in a few years



6th Annual Convertible Cars to the Crest Cruise



**September 25, 2021
10am - noon**

**We'll drive up Old Route 66 and N. 14 to Sandia Crest.
All makes and models of convertible cars, Jeeps, etc. are welcome!**

**Meet at Smith's Supermarket in Albuquerque at
Tramway and Central at 10:00 am**

Contact: Mike 505-228-3346

Ford's Personal Car

Set for fall production is the Thunderbird , a machine Ford prefers to call a 'personal car' rather than a sports car (which it is). Novel features of course, are numerous but two demand instant attention: (1) all steel construction instead of plastic, (2) availability of conventional transmission in addition to Fordmatic and overdrive which promotes truer sports car performance characteristics by the vehicle.

Top speed has not been announced, but Ford said the car would out accelerate a standard Ford by 770 feet in 40 seconds. Expected to sell in the \$3500 range, the car can accommodate three persons., has a steering wheel which telescopes three inches, comes with removeable hard top or fabric convertible type top and mounts eight-inch taillights. Gear lever with any of the transmission options is on the boot between the seats.

The prototype still bears the name "Fairlane" rather than Thunderbird. The switch was a last minute one and the Fairlane

Title reportedly is being reserved for a new line of Ford cars. Engine is the old V-8 of 256 cubic inches, overall length 175.5, overall height 51.5 and road clearance of 5.5 inches. Tread is 5.8 at the front, 5.6 at the rear. Weight is 2847 lbs, giving the car a power ratio of 1:17.7.





A fabric top whisks into place in seconds—to protect you from sudden rainstorms. It's completely out of sight when not in use.

Enchantment unlimited . . . the new Ford THUNDERBIRD



A distinguished kind of personal car that combines high performance and high style for a whole new world of driving fun.



Those long, low lines . . . the sweeping, contoured windshield . . . say distinction in every detail.

THE Thunderbird's long, low, thoroughbred lines say "action"! And they speak the truth.

A toe-touch on the gas pedal means *no waiting*.

There's breath-taking Trigger-Torque performance with the new Thunderbird Special V-8 that's specially mated with transmission and rear axle.

With a low center of gravity (from cowl to ground is just over three feet) and Ford's Ball-Joint Front Suspension, the Thunderbird corners as if on rails.

The fun doesn't stop here, for the Thunderbird is *long* on convenience.

Two tops are available. There's a removable glass-fibre hard top . . . and a smart convertible fabric top. Windows *roll* up. The extra-wide foam-rubber-cushioned seat moves forward or back, up or down, at the touch of a button. The baggage compartment is ample. There's a telescoping steering wheel. And you can have power steering, power brakes, and power windows . . . Fordomatic or Overdrive.

Why not call on your Ford Dealer today and get complete details on this new and distinctive personal car? First deliveries of the thrilling Thunderbird are now being made.



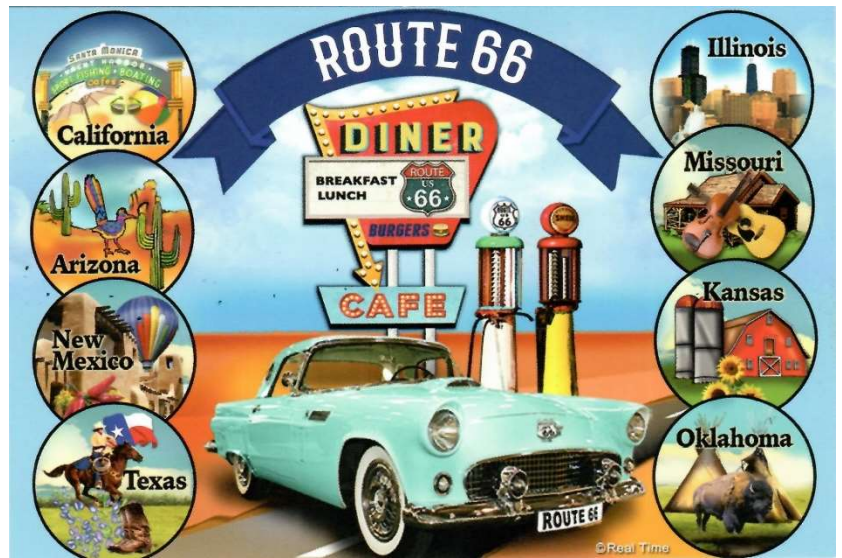
The removable, glass-fibre hard top is easy to handle . . . locks into place to give you winter-long comfort.

Route 66

The Mother Road Era

From Onyx Conklin

On a lovely summer Sunday, I took myself for a stroll in Old Town. It was a beautiful day, people gathered around the plaza to listen to a group of young men playing guitar, banjo, and bass. They were singing a particularly lovely hymn about Jesus turning water into wine. Couples were dancing and dogs were laying in the grass as if they had just completed a long strenuous workweek. Oh to be a carefree pup!. It was a lovely day for a little bit of music and a scoop of refreshing ice cream.



I have lived in Albuquerque most of my life and yet I still enjoy perusing the gifts shops around the plaza. You know better then to spend any serious money down there because it is, after all, catered to tourist prices. But I like to browse just the same and found myself spinning the display with the postcards on it. I have family and friends that live outside of the "505" and so I decided to grab a few. So many things represent our great state—hot air balloons, roadrunners, chile peppers, luminarias, even rattlesnakes (yikes!), etc. But one unique claim to fame that we share with many other states is that we are perched on the infamous "Route 66." And if you pick up a postcard or two, you will soon realize that Route 66 and classic cars go together like a key in an ignition. Every postcard I found showcased a different classic car from old Chevy Bel Airs to classic trucks, and yes of course, our Thunderbirds too. What a marvelous way to remember the changes from decade to decade. This famed "Mother Road" has seen these classics come and go and has withstood the test of time from era to era. It itself is a classic and an original. But even though times have faded away, you can still travel it's long route today. Some of our Thunderbirds have trekked that Route back in their early days!

Today, with our world so hustle and bustle, we have become a society of fast highways and fiber glass cars. I saw a bumper sticker recently that said, "Buy those 1950's classic cars because in 100 years no one will be excited about about their 100 year old Toyota Prius." Isn't that the truth?? Today our classic cars belong to that Route 66 era of simpler times. We are blessed to get behind the wheel and relive those memories. So with those memories alive and vibrant in your thoughts, take a Sunday drive down old Route 66, grab a milkshake at it's namesake diner, and if the urge to dance comes along, I know a great little three man band playing in beautiful Old Town.



Thunderbird Trivia Contest:

Email your answers to Lloyd po@AOL.com or text to 505-280-3114. Prizes may be available!

Who were the founders of Pajarito Thunderbird Club?

What year was Pajarito Thunderbird Club founded?

Where was the 50th Anniversary Party?

How many current members are in Pajarito Thunderbird Club?

Who is the longest continuous Pajarito Thunderbird Club member?

Which member lives the farthest away?

Who is the current President?

How many Ford Thunderbirds were produced? (Connect the Year with the correct Quantity.)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Quantities</u>
1955	21,380 cars
1956	16,155 cars
1957	15,631 cars

What was the base price for the 1955 T-bird; minus the hard top?

What was the price of gas per gallon in 1957?

What year was the porthole introduced in the hard

Which 3 Exterior paint colors were initially released in 1955?

The Ford Thunderbird was first unveiled on February 20th, 1954. Where?



BOAC Calendar

MAKE YOUR CAR A "COVER GIRL"

The BATOC club publishes an annual Thunderbird Calendar that has become very popular from coast to coast and with our friends abroad. They are reaching out to all CTCL chapters to solicit picture submission for this years' calendar.

They are inviting Pajarito members to submit their favorite picture of their car for consideration in BATOC's 2022 calendar. We would love to include the beautiful pictures of your members' cars in the amazing scenery of your neck of the woods. If we use one of your member cars, we will offer a free calendar to the member. We look forward to including your members and seeing your amazing pictures.

In any event, you can order your own calendar at www.batoc.org. For more details about entering your photo visit www.batoc.org/enterphoto.

Thank You in for your time and we look forward to connecting with you.

Dave Adams, President

Bay Area Thunderbird Owners Club (BATOC)

davehome@sbcglobal.net

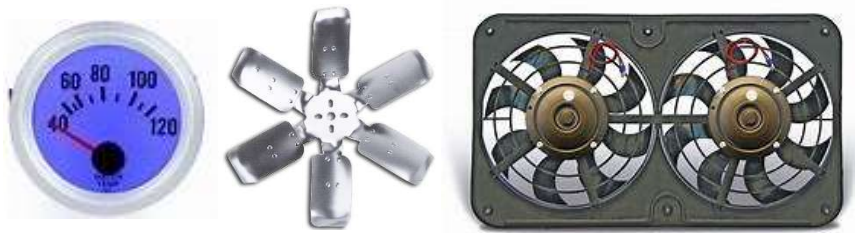
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Last Year's BATOC Calendar



T-BIRD RUNNING TOO HOT?

Thunderbird Land by Robert DePaola.



Everyone seems to always be worried about the T-Bird running too hot in the summertime. There are a few things that can be done to solve the problem, that's if there is a problem.

1. You can install an aftermarket temperature gauge and bypass the dash gauge.
2. Check to make sure there is a 1" spacer behind the water pump. It is possible that in the life of the car, a passenger engine was installed that doesn't require a spacer.
3. Install a new thermostat 160 degrees.
4. Install a 6 blade fan.
5. Make sure the fan fits mid-way into the shroud – (engine placement seems to vary quite a bit.) If it doesn't, you can buy a spacer of a different size to move the location of the fan. This is the spacer that goes between the fan and the water pump.
6. Improve air flow, block the hood scoop, remove the 2 mud shields down on the frame and make sure the little round access panel behind the grill is in place.
7. Make sure you're getting a good spark advance. This needs to be checked with a timing light. Many times the vacuum diaphragm goes bad. This will make the engine run hot.
8. Check that the heat riser on the right exhaust manifold is opening easily. If it stays closed, or partially closed it makes the right engine bank run hotter than the left.
9. Another thing you can do is to install an electric pusher fan in front of the radiator. It's not a hard job to do and it doesn't show at all.

All of the above will work as long as your engine block is not all loaded with rust and your radiator is clean of "sludge".



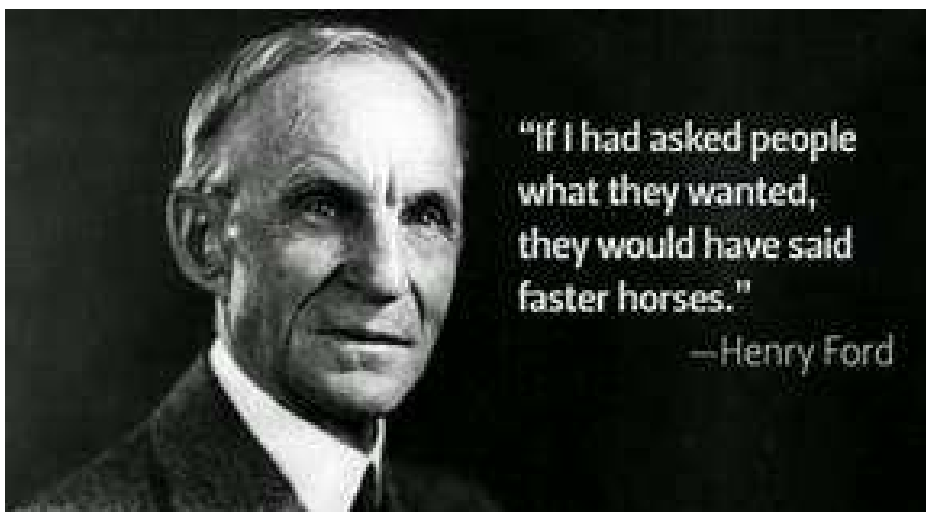
Have you ever noticed that
all instruments searching
for intelligent life...

Are pointed away
from Earth

Who Made That Charcoal Briquette?

By Dashka Slate - NY Times 2014

In the summer of 1919, a Michigan real estate agent named Edward G. Kingsford was invited on a camping trip by his wife's cousin, the industrialist Henry Ford. In addition to Ford, the adventurers included Thomas Edison, the tire magnate Harvey Firestone and the naturalist John Burroughs. Although the group called themselves the Vagabonds, they traveled with chauffeurs and a chef in a convoy of six vehicles, one of which was a fully equipped kitchen truck. Kingsford was invited to join this annual adventure so that he and Ford could discuss timber, specifically the timber that might be found in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Americans bought one million Model T's in 1919, and between the frame, wheel spokes, dashboard and running board, each car contained about 100 board feet of hardwood. So Ford wanted to produce his own. By the following spring, Kingsford had helped the industrialist acquire 313,000 acres of timberland in Iron Mountain, Mich. We had an article about this in last month's newsletter. The mill produced plenty of lumber for Ford cars, but it also generated waste in the form of stumps, branches and sawdust. This irked Ford, who didn't like to leave money lying on the ground. The solution came from a University of Oregon chemist named Orin Stafford, who had invented a method for making pillow-shaped lumps of fuel from sawdust and mill waste combined with tar and bound together with cornstarch. He called the lumps "charcoal briquettes." Edison designed a briquette factory next to the sawmill, and Kingsford ran it. It was a model of efficiency, producing 610 pounds of briquettes for every ton of scrap wood. At the beginning, the charcoal sold to meat and fish smokehouses, but supply exceeded demand. By the mid-1930s, Ford was marketing "Picnic Kits" containing charcoal and portable grills directly from Ford dealerships, capitalizing on the link between motoring and outdoor adventure that his own Vagabond travels popularized. "Enjoy a modern picnic," the package suggested. "Sizzling broiled meats, steaming coffee, toasted sandwiches." So, the invention of the modern briquette was due to Henry Ford's desire to prevent waste!



50's and 60's Perspective:

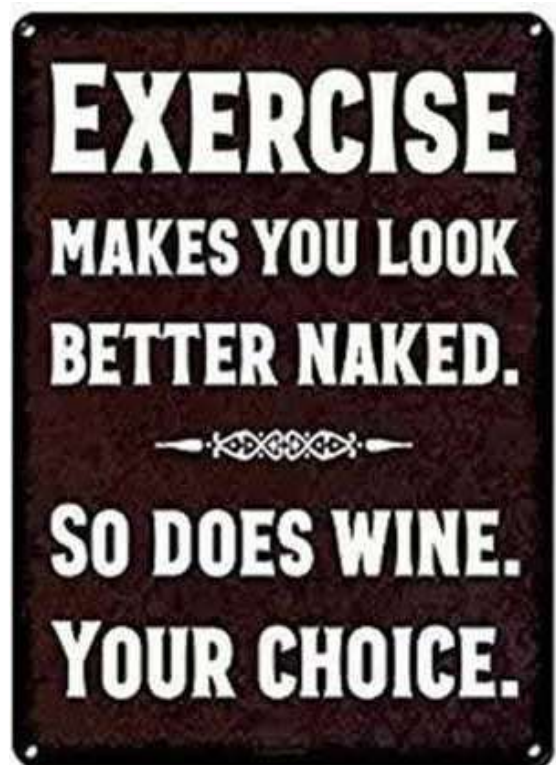
From Cheech

Typewriters were driven by pounding fingers, throwing the carriage and changing the ribbon. INTERNET' and 'GOOGLE' were words which did not exist. Newspapers and magazines were written for adults and the news was broadcast on your radio in the evening. As you grew up, the country was exploding with growth. The Government gave returning Veterans the means to get an education and spurred colleges to grow. Loans fanned a housing boom. Pent up demand coupled with new installment payment plans opened many factories for work. New highways would bring jobs and mobility. The Veterans joined civic clubs and became active in politics. The radio network expanded from 3 stations to thousands. Your parents were suddenly free from the confines of the depression and the war, and they threw themselves into exploring opportunities they had never imagined.

You weren't neglected, but you weren't today's all-consuming family focus. They were glad you played by yourselves until the street lights came on. They were busy discovering the post-war world. You entered a world of overflowing plenty and opportunity; a world where you were welcomed, enjoyed yourselves and felt secure in your future though depression poverty was deeply remembered. Polio was still acrippler. You came of age in the 50s and 60s. You are the last generation to experience an interlude when there were no threats to our homeland. The second world war was over and the cold war, terrorism, global warming, and perpetual economic insecurity had yet to haunt life with unease. Only your generation can remember both a time of great war, and a time when our world was secure and full of bright promise and plenty. You grew up at the best possible time, a time when the world was getting better... You are "The Last Ones." More than 99 % of you are either retired or deceased, and you feel privileged to have "lived in the best of times!"

Parenting tip:

When you lose your children in the house, turn off the Wi-fi. They'll come out immediately. Your neighbors may even drop by as well.



Observations:

SIGN IN A SHOE REPAIR STORE:

We will heel you.
We will save your soul.
We will even dye for you.

SIGN ON A BLINDS & CURTAIN TRUCK:

Blind man driving.

SIGN OVER A GYNECOLOGIST'S OFFICE:

Dr. Jones, at your cervix.

IN A PODIATRIST'S OFFICE:

Time wounds all heels.

AT AN OPTOMETRIST'S OFFICE:

If you don't see what you are looking for, you have come to the right place.

ON PLUMBER'S TRUCKS:

We repair what your husband fixed. Don't sleep with a drip. Call your plumber.

AT A TIRE SHOP:

Invite us to your next blowout.

ON AN ELECTRICIAN'S TRUCK:

Let us remove your shorts.

IN A NON-SMOKING AREA:

If we see smoke, we will assume you are on fire and will
take appropriate action.

ON A MATERNITY ROOM DOOR:

Push, push, push.

AT A CAR DEALERSHIP:

The best way to get back on your feet—miss a car payment.

OUTSIDE A MUFFLER SHOP:

No appointment necessary. We hear you coming.

IN A VETERINARIAN'S WAITING ROOM:

Be back in 5 minutes. Sit! Stay!

AT THE ELECTRIC COMPANY:

We would be delighted if you send in your payment on time. However, if you don't,
YOU will be de-lighted.

IN THE FRONT OF A FUNERAL HOME:

Drive carefully. We will wait.

AT A PROPANE FILLING STATION:

Thank Heaven for little grills.



Someone to Respect:

A Math Teacher

A young Russian schoolteacher in the 1930s, Aleksander Kramarovskiy taught math at an orphanage outside Moscow. One of his favorite students, Riva Reznikova, excelled at mathematics, but other children harassed her because of her Jewish faith. Riva's mother died when she was five, and her uncle in Moscow was not able to care for the small girl, so he placed her in the orphanage. Mr. Kramarovskiy felt bad for Riva, and wanted to adopt her, but his wife would not allow it.

When the Nazis attacked in 1941, all of the staff and students of the orphanage fled – and then found themselves forced to work in the fields. The next year, the Nazis began to murder the Jews.

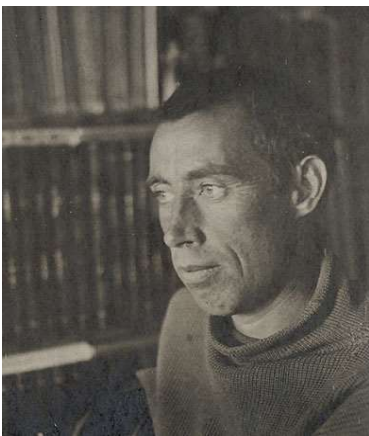
A Father

Everyone knew Riva was Jewish, and Aleksander realized her life was in danger. He left with the girl, wandering from place to place. Riva wore a wooden cross around her neck, and Aleksander referred to her as his daughter, Margarita.

During the winter of 1942-1943, the Nazis sent the two to a forced labor camp, where they remained for the rest of the war. After the camp's liberation, the laborers – including “father and daughter” – returned to the Soviet Union. But soldiers from the Jewish Brigade arrived and offered to send Riva to the Holy Land. The girl did not want to go, but Aleksander told her she would have a better future in Israel. Riva refused to go unless her “father” could accompany her.

A Hero of the Holocaust

Riva and Aleksander made *aliyah* (immigrated to Israel) in 1946. Riva got married and started a family of her own, with her teacher living with them. In 1961, Aleksander took a job in the United States, where he died in 1964. In 2011, he was named Righteous Among the Nations by Yad Vashem for the bravery and selflessness he showed in saving the life of his student and “daughter.”



Bull Story

Two sisters, one blond and one brunette, inherit the family ranch. Unfortunately, after just a few years, they are in financial trouble.... In order to keep the bank from repossessing the ranch, they need to purchase a bull so that they can breed their own stock. Upon leaving, the brunette tells her sister, 'When I get there, if I decide to buy the bull, I'll contact you to drive out after me and haul it home.' The brunette arrives at the man's ranch, inspects the bull, and decides she wants to buy it. The man tells her that he will sell it for \$599, no less. After paying him, she drives to the nearest town to send her sister a telegram to tell her the news. She walks into the telegraph office, and says, 'I want to send a telegram to my sister telling her that I've bought a bull for our ranch and I need her to hitch the trailer to our pickup truck and drive out here so we can haul it home.' The telegraph operator explains that he'll be glad to help her, then adds, it will cost 99 cents a word. Well, after paying for the bull, the brunette realizes that she'll only be able to send her sister one word. After a few minutes of thinking, she nods and says, 'I want you to send her the word 'comfortable.' The operator shakes his head. 'How is she ever going to know that you want her to hitch the trailer to your pickup truck and drive out here to haul that bull back to your ranch if you send her just the word 'comfortable?'

The brunette explains, 'My sister's blonde. The word is big. She'll read it very slowly... 'com-for-DA-bul.'

**I don't care
what your religion
or political beliefs are.

Just use your
turn signal.**



A woman walks into a pharmacy and asks the pharmacist for some arsenic. He asks "What for?" She says, "I want to kill my husband." He says "Sorry, I can't do that." She then reaches into her handbag and pulls out a photo of her husband in bed with the pharmacist's wife and hands it to him. He says, "You didn't tell me you had a prescription..."

**Nearly 100% of all
deaths occur on
Earth, making it the
deadliest planet in
our Solar System**

Inputs:

AVOCADOS

A wife asks her husband, "Could you please go shopping for me and buy one carton of milk and if they have avocados, get 6." A short time later the husband comes back with 6 cartons of milk. The wife asks him, "Why did you buy 6 cartons of milk?". He replied, "They had avocados." If you're a woman, I'm sure you're going back to read it again! Men will get it the first time.

My work is done here.

WATER IN THE CARBURETOR

WIFE: "There is trouble with the car. It has water in the carburetor."

HUSBAND: "Water in the carburetor? That's ridiculous "

WIFE: "I tell you the car has water in the carburetor."

HUSBAND: "You don't even know what a carburetor is. I'll check it out. Where's the car?"

WIFE: "In the pool".

THE PHONE

A young man wanted to get his beautiful blonde wife something nice for their first wedding anniversary. So he decided to buy her a cell phone. He showed her the phone and explained to her all of its features. Meg was excited to receive the gift and simply adored her new phone. The next day Meg went shopping. Her phone rang and, to her astonishment, it was her husband on the other end. "Hi Meg," he said, "how do you like your new phone?" Meg replied, "I just love it! It's so small and your voice is clear as a bell, but there's one thing I don't understand." "What's that, sweetie?" asked her husband. "How did you know I was at Wal-Mart?"

HE MUST PAY

Husband and wife had a tiff. Wife called up her mom and said, "He fought with me again, I am coming to live with you." Mom said, "No darling, he must pay for his mistake. I am coming to live with you."

TODAY'S SHORT READING FROM THE BIBLE

From Genesis: "And God promised men that good and obedient wives would be found in all corners of the earth." Then he made the earth round and He laughed and laughed and laughed! There's no point in being grown-up if you can't be childish sometimes.

U.S. Airplane Museum Partial Listing: (2 pages)

By [Michael Milne](#) from July 2021 issue of [Hemmings Motor News](#)



Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum NY, NY • intrepidmuseum.org

Considering how blustery the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS Intrepid is on a sunny autumn day while berthed on the Hudson River in New York City, it's difficult to imagine what it would be like while sailing across the stormy North Atlantic. The two dozen aircraft on the flight deck include an A-12 Lockheed spy plane, a 1954 Grumman AF-9J Cougar supersonic swept-wing fighter, and a 1959 Polish Air Force MiG-21 PFM. The Space Shuttle Pavilion is the home of the prototype NASA orbiter Enterprise.

PAX Lexington Park, Maryland • paxmuseum.com

This museum is located adjacent to the main gate of Naval Air Station Patuxent River, known as "Pax River" to aviators. In addition to indoor displays, the outdoor Flight Line contains many unique aircraft, primarily due to Pax River's role as a test bed for cutting-edge aviation technology. Since many of the planes never made it to mass production, some are set up in unique configurations that you won't see anywhere else. The North American T-39D Sabreliner here looks like a 1950s-era business jet with swept-back wings inspired by the F-86 Sabre jet fighter. The Bell-Boeing MV-22B Osprey Test Aircraft No. 8 (Eight-ball) had more than 1,300 analog instrumentation sensors installed; it spent 20 years as a dedicated test and evaluation aircraft of this vertical takeoff and landing (VTOL) airplane.

Many Navy astronauts who trained at Pax River, including Alan Shepard, Jim Lovell, John Glenn, and Mark Kelly are honored in an exhibition. Given the museum's proximity to the base, you might just see some future astronaut screeching overhead in an F-35 fighter jet.

Air Power Park Hampton, Virginia • visithampton.com/attraction/air-power-park

Set on 15 acres, this free roadside museum features aircraft and experimental space launch vehicles from the 1950s and '60s that saw action at Langley Air Force Base and the nearby NASA Langley Research Center. A diverse range of aircraft are on display; the McDonnell F-101F Voodoo was converted to dual-control training use while the Nike-Ajax was the first U.S. surface-to-air missile.

Grissom Air Museum Peru, Indiana • grissomairmuseum.com

The Grissom Air Museum, named after Indiana native astronaut Gus Grissom, features more than two dozen warbirds, including a KC-97L Stratofreighter tanker and a B-47B Stratojet swept-wing bomber from the glorious days of adding "Strato" to a title. The jewel of the collection is the four-engine, delta-wing Convair TB-58A Hustler—one of the U.S. Air Force's first supersonic bombers. Grissom's Hustler was originally built for combat then converted to a trainer. The museum is currently raising funds to build a structure over this unique Cold War artifact. As a bonus for classic car fans, in August the museum hosts its annual outdoor car show that draws hundreds of vehicles.

U.S. Airplane Museum Partial Listing: (continued)

Estrella Warbirds Museum - Paso Robles, California • ewarbirds.org

If all this plane spotting has you hankering for a look at cars, the Estrella Warbirds Museum in Central California has a bit of both. The 20-acre site, which was a P-38 overflow base during World War II, features 40-plus restored military aircraft from the 1940s through Desert Storm. A Douglas C-47B took part in parachute drops in the Battle of the Bulge while the double delta wing Saab 35 Draken (Dragon, in English) supersonic fighter gets the award for coolest profile and coolest name. Inside the museum, more than 50 classic cars, including a 1929 Marmon and midget racers, are on view at the Woodland Auto Display.

Alaska Aviation Museum Anchorage, Alaska • alaskaairmuseum.org

In addition to four hangars of vintage aircraft, the secret sauce here is the museum's Lake Hood location overlooking the largest float plane base in the world. Listen to live radio feed from the Lake Hood tower and immerse yourselves in Alaska's ongoing aviation heritage. Various planes, including an F-15 Eagle and Boeing 737-200, are displayed out on the tarmac as well.

My sentimental favorite is the Consolidated PBX Catalina flying boat that looks like it crash-landed here decades ago and hasn't been touched since. My dad regaled me with tales of flying them up to Canada in the Coast Guard, hitching a ride in the frigid gun blisters.

Palm Springs Air Museum Palm Springs, California • palmspringsairmuseum.org

Another desert location provides a great setting for vintage military aircraft that saw action in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. Celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2021, the museum features more than 60 airplanes sprawled over four spacious hangars and outdoor areas. One of the highlights of the museum is that many docents are veterans of the planes they talk about. On one visit, a grizzled World War II aviator told us his story about why he hated flying the B-25 Mitchell bomber. (He was shot down and served as a POW for the rest of the war.)

Kansas Aviation Museum - Wichita, Kansas • kansasaviationmuseum.org

As the birthplace of the Beechcraft, Learjet, Cessna, and Stearman aviation companies, Wichita has delivered more than half of all general aviation airplanes ever built and has long claimed the title "Air Capital of the World." In addition, during World War II Boeing opening its Airplane Company Plant No. 1 in Wichita, building B-29 bombers. That history is on full display in the 1935 Art Deco terminal of the old Wichita Municipal Airport, where smaller civilian aircraft are on view along with a dozen aircraft on the outdoor ramp. These include B-47 and B-52D bombers, Boeing 727 and 737 civilian aircraft, and a Cessna T-37B jet-trainer.

Pima Air and Space Museum, and "The Boneyard" Tucson, AZ

• pimaair.org

With six exhibit hangars, and more than 50 acres devoted to outdoor displays, there is plenty to see here. Pima boasts 400 aircraft, both civilian and military, from the early days of manned flight to a Boeing 787 Dreamliner. Three exhibit hangars are devoted to World War II alone.





**I got my wife to help me put
some posts in the ground for
our new fence, I gave her the
hammer and I said, "when I nod
my head you hit it" I don't
remember much after that.**

