



PAJARITO THUNDERBIRD CLUB

of

NEW MEXICO

Chapter 17 of the CTCI

June 2022 Newsletter

Volume 22 Number 6



Recent Events

Albuquerque Museum NMCC Car Show

The Pajarito Thunderbird Club was well represented on Sunday, May 15th at the Albuquerque Museum Car Show. Participants included antiques, pre-war classics, customs, imports, muscle cars and various marques. The theme for the show was "classic convertibles" and our members included Violet Foley's daughter and driver, Scott Hoffman, Mark Kennedy, Phil Lovato, Tom McWilliams, Ed Sauer and Ray Wood gladly cooperated by going topless (Terry Leighley and Bill Verant were there also but remained undercover). The Pajaritos got lots of attention and It was good to attend this great venue following a the two year COVID postponement. Thanks to Bill Verant for providing breakfast at Little Anita's and special thanks to Phil Lovato for saving space for the Pajarito Club display and for providing lunch for all.



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More Albuquerque Museum Car Show



More Albuquerque Museum Car Show



North Domingo Baca Multi-Generational Center Arts and Crafts Show

Three beautiful Pajaritos, one square bird, one big blue Ford Galaxy, two hot rods, an early MGTD, and an US Army Jeep were on display at the North Domingo Baca Multi-Generational Center Arts and Crafts Show Saturday morning, May 21st. Pajarito Club participants included Ed Sauer's '55, Tom McWilliams' '56, Ray Wood's '57, Lloyd Powell's '59, and Bill Verant's '63 Ford Galaxy. We enjoyed meeting many participants and visitors and answered lots of their questions about the Early Birds. Congratulations to Bill Verant's '63 Galaxy 500 for the Best of Show Award. Thanks to the Albuquerque Senior Services staff for sponsoring this fun event.



More North Domingo Baca Show



Many thanks to Ray Wood for some photos and write-up



More North Domingo Baca Show



Pres Says:

June 2022



May was a busy month with several car shows including the Rio Rancho Park in the Park, NMCC show at the Museum and the North Domingo Baca Multi-Generational Center. Thanks to everyone that brought their cars out to display.

June is also going to be a busy month; we will not be holding an officers meeting, but we will have a shrimp boil lunch at my house on Saturday June 11th starting at 11:30am. We are looking forward to seeing everyone!!

2304 Dietz Place NM, Albuquerque NM 87107

Upcoming events:

Every Thursday: 7:30 AM Breakfast at Hello Deli

Officers Meeting – Trae's garage – TBD July

Car's & Coffee @ Grace Church – Saturday June 11th 8am

Shrimp Boil – Trae & Yvonne's house Saturday 6/11/2022

TRAE WOOD

Pajarito Club Officers:



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Calling Committee S thru Z – Gary Burns
Tel: 505-903-2840
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Upcoming Club Events

Shrimp Boil at Trae's House June 11

We have arranged for a Shrimp Boil at Trae's house on Saturday June 11 at 11:30 AM.

Date: Saturday, June 11

Location: Trae Wood's Home

Address: 2304 Dietz Place NW Albuquerque, NM

Time: 11:30 AM

Sign-up: Check with the calling committee

Entry and Parking: Park in front of the house. Park Thunderbirds in the driveway



Our cooks: Will it be Tony Beach and Jerry Jennings?



Range Café Luncheon Bernalillo 7/16

Date: Saturday, July 16

Location: Range Café in Bernalillo

Address: 2304 Dietz Place NW Albuquerque, NM

Start Time: Meet at 11 AM at El Pinto Parking Lot on 4th St.

Sign-up: via our Calling Committee

Parking at Café: Park Thunderbirds in front

Ordering: From menú with separate checks



Joint BATOC Dinner October 6

The Bay Area Thunderbird Club is doing a Southwest USA trip and will stop by about October 6 for a joint dinner. Likely at El Pinto. More specifics later.

Rio Rancho July 4 Parade

We cordially invite you to join us at the City of Rio Rancho's 2022 4th of July Parade on Monday, July 4th. Rio Rancho's 4th of July Extravaganza marks the beginning of the summer season and is a fun event for all. Each year residents gather for the parade in front of City Hall in City Center, but this year 4th of July Extravaganza will feature new activities at Campus Park including music, food trucks, and family fun. **Parade registration can be done online by visiting www.rnm.gov/activenet, in person at City Hall, or by calling the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department at (505) 891-5015.** It is free to take part in the parade and the deadline to register is June 24th. Registration to participate in the parade is FREE.

The parade route will begin and end in the upper Northwest lot of the Rio Rancho Events Center. All participants must be registered. Line-up for parade begins at 4:30 pm and all participants need to be in place, no later than 5:30 pm. Parade begins at 6:00 pm Each group will line-up by position determined by parade officials. For further questions about 4th of July 2022, please call (505) 892-4499 or (505) 891-5015.

Ford's first halo car has held its value and continues to gain

By David Conwill

Was there a more desirable new car in 1955 than the two-seat Ford Thunderbird? It's doubtful. Dowdy Mopar was only just getting into the styling-and-performance game with its "100 Million Dollar Look." Chevrolet still had its screen-headlamp Corvette, but it had overestimated the public's reaction to spartan accommodations and hopped-up six-cylinder power.



Not even the addition of the new V-8 for 1955 could buoy its slow sales, and it was close to being canceled entirely.

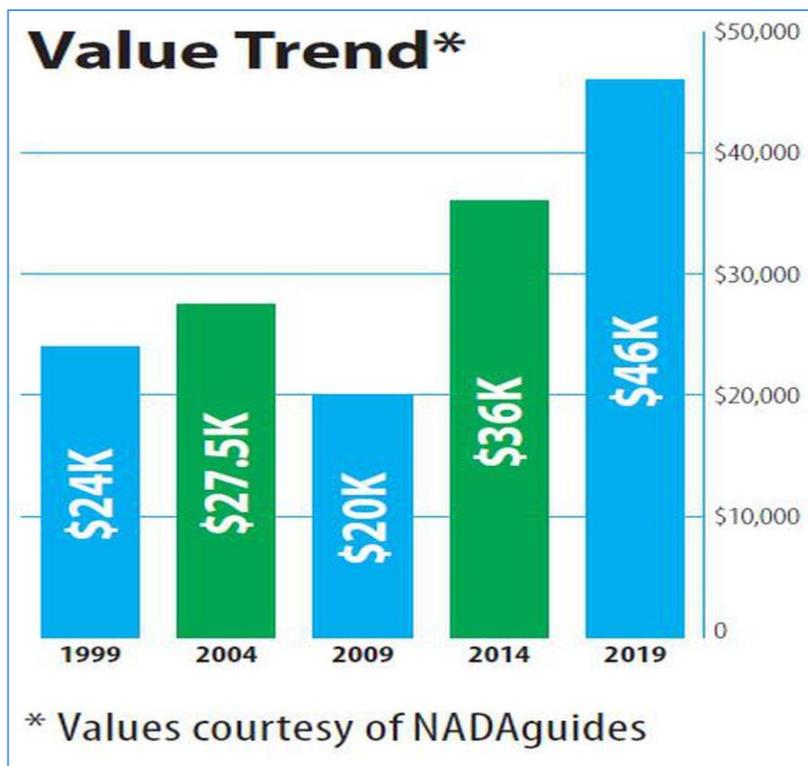
Ford, however, had hit a home run with the T-Bird. It wasn't a serious sporting effort, but it was sporty enough thanks to a 193-hp (198-hp when coupled with the automatic transmission), 292-cu.in. V-8. Plus, it came with creature comforts like roll-up windows and a lift-off hardtop. Perhaps better, from a marketing standpoint, the Thunderbird's styling evoked that of regular Ford passenger cars and vice versa. At a base price of \$2,444, it was the most expensive Ford-badged passenger car offering for the 1955 model year, short of a Country Squire wagon—and that was before adding in options like overdrive, automatic, or the soft-top.

The magic of Ford's first halo car barely faded, too. Like the 1957 Chevrolet Bel Air, the T-Bird was in high demand as a used car throughout the 1960s. Nobody seriously thinks the young woman mentioned in the 1964 Beach Boys hit "*Fun, Fun, Fun*" had actually borrowed her father's Bullet 'Bird to blow off the library in favor of the hamburger stand, do they? In later decades, the two-seat Thunderbird, like the '57 Chevy and the '59 Cadillac, was easy shorthand to evoke "The Fifties" and thus it became one of the first collector cars of that decade.

More Ford's first halo car has held its value

Such early and strong support for the Thunderbird made us wonder how they had fared from a value standpoint. Our initial speculation, based on casual observation of the market, was that values had plateaued in the 1990s and remained fairly constant, but to confirm or refute that guess, we turned to our trusty value guides.

The most recent pegs an average value of around \$46,000 before factoring in those aforementioned options—overdrive adds a little over \$400 to the overall value and the soft-top almost \$2,000. We then looked backward to the end of 2009 to see how they had done in the intervening decade: \$20,000 for the same car. Back in 1999, the value is a little higher: \$24,000.



Was '09 a fluke? After all, it was right after the economy collapsed from the whole mortgage-backed securities fiasco. To split the difference, we pulled out our old guides from 2004 and 2014. The 2004 value turned out to be \$27,500 and, in 2014, the same '55 Thunderbird, without any value-changing options, had a reported average value of \$36,000.

That reflects a steady, but not outrageous gain in value for one of the most recognizable automobiles of the mid-20th century. It suggests to us that interest in these cars remains strong and while you're not going to get rich buying and flipping 1955 Thunderbirds, you're also highly unlikely to lose money at resale time. Best of all, you'll have a competent and handsome 1950s grand tourer in your garage.

New Members:

Welcome the Pajarito Club's new member, Clement Niggel from Belen. Clement recently purchased this beautiful black 1957 Thunderbird from club member Phil Lovato. Some of you may remember this car which previously belonged to our deceased member Paul Arellanes. Clement is planning to enjoy having this classic as a retirement project.



Road Trip In My Blood

By Onyx Conklin

I have always been a road trip fan since I was a little girl. I think it started at the age of three. My mom had a truck driving buddy named Dave and we took a trip in his truck from Rhode Island to Albuquerque to visit my aunt. I was the little queen who had her own little bunk in the back. Since then, every opportunity I can, I'm in the car.

Nothing, but nothing excites me more than a road trip. I love the driving, the stops along the way, the endless pictures, the conversations with another person, myself, or God, and what road trip would be complete without snacks and rock solid playlist of tunes.

I think one of my favorite things to do is cruise through little towns, off the beaten path, where you wonder if the car broke down there, if they must've built a town around them from that place. Back in the era of our classic Thunderbirds, those two-lane highways were really all you could travel by. And it's a good thing because quite often you had to stop for gas more often. Those major highways didn't really exist outside of major cities so road trips meant a lot of those tiny towns got more recognition. These days those major highways take us pretty much anywhere we care to travel. Though with gas prices being as high as they are, road trips are once again becoming somewhat of a luxury. I guess that's why time on the road, when I can get it feels that much more meaningful.

At the end of June I will be moving to the Fort Worth area and that's nearly a ten hour road trip and it's an adventure I have never been on. New Mexico has never been permanently in my rear view. And while there will be tears as I travel, that same passion to get on the road and go somewhere will likely always bring me back to the Land of Enchantment for a visit—and a Thunderbird show!

Keep the cruising legacy alive, T-Bird family!



2022 Pajarito Club Calendar

Month	Responsible	Activity	Date
June	Trae and Yvonne Wood	Shrimp Boil at Trae Wood's home	6/11
July	Craig Sowers	Range cafe in Bernalillo	7/16
August	Trae Wood	Possible Club Picnic TBD	TBD
September	Lloyd Powell	Possible visit to Santa Fe Military Museum and luncheon	TBD
October	Glen Schoenbach	Possible picnic in apple orchard	TBD
November	Fred Lachenmeyer	TBD	TBD
December	Ray Wood	Christmas Party at Indian Cultural Center	Dec 17

Request for Newsletter Write-ups:

Several CTCI Newsletter Editors are looking for anyone to share some past T'bird experiences, memories, or events from your lives that you think might be of interest to put in an upcoming newsletter. And for those who are mechanically inclined, please consider submitting a tech-tip or two that you feel would be useful to help maintain our cars in top condition.



An article doesn't need to be extensive or involved, but simply offer a personal touch about some fun or frustrating incidents that helped build fond memories. If you have an idea or a draft, please contact Lloyd Powell at 505-280-3114

Pierce Arrow Museum in Buffalo NY



Thunderbird Returns?

By Kristin Shaw

If you think nostalgia is what the car industry needs even more of, then there's some potentially good news: the Ford Thunderbird may be coming back.

This is according to a Ford authority, which cites anonymous insiders as saying the Thunderbird will be revived as a new grand touring coupe to compete with the Chevy Corvette. Car companies—Ford included—have brought back old nameplates time and again, so that alone wouldn't be surprising. The idea of a two-door Ford car that's not a Mustang, though, would really be something.

Ford first launched its two-seat 1955 Thunderbird to rival the Corvette, which had been lighting enthusiast fires for two model years already. In subsequent years, the Thunderbird grew and changed, morphing into a substantial four-door sedan with a Dust Buster snout in the late '60s, a two-door hardtop in the '70s, and a turbo coupe in the '80s. The Blue Oval then pulled the Thunderbird from the lineup, only for it to reemerge as a retro-styled coupe in 2002 with elements from the mid-'50s and early-'60s. It ran for a few more years before the 'Bird fell silent once again.

Ford filed a trademark for the Thunderbird name on Jan. 13, 2021, and rumors have been circling ever since. After all, the Bronco and Maverick have made their own respective comebacks in the last couple of years. If the sales success of those two models is anything to go off of, Ford might as well rejuvenate every shelved name from the past 50 years—alright, maybe not the Pinto.



This could also be a great way for the Thunderbird to redeem itself after a somewhat rocky ending in the early 2000s. The seats were skimpy on padding and the transmission was all but good, and a new Thunderbird would surely be electrified to provide the oomph that the old 3.9-liter V8 just couldn't. Of course, this is all just speculation at this point, so we'll have to wait and see.

But with the new F150 Lightning already back in the mix, what better time for a new Thunderbird?

Thunderbird Part Sales

Have: Brand new Bra Kit for a Retro Bird to prevent travel road dings on the Front of the car. \$100.00

Contact: Marian Herbst Cell: 817-705-5925 Email: marian.herbst@yahoo.com

Have: A Starmist Blue Hardtop off my '57 Bird In good condition \$1,500. OBO Contact: Ron Bickel 972-679-747

Have: 4 each wire wheel covers for 15 inch wheels, in perfect condition. Set includes all attaching clips, cushions and installation instructions. \$100.00 for the set of four, does not include shipping. These wheel covers fit any 15 inch wheel.

They were a dealer installed option for any 55 or 56 Ford.

Contact J.T. McWilliams at 505-823-2680



Have: Four (or possibly more) Thunderbird Etched Tumblers for the 60's. Contact Judy Lovelace at hoodiel@rocketmail.com if interested.

Does Size Really Matter?



Enlightenment

Should these be in a dictionary?

ADULT

A person who has stopped growing at both ends And is now growing in the middle.

BEAUTY PARLOR

A place where women curl up and dye.

CHICKENS

The only animals you eat before they are born and after they are dead.

COMMITTEE

A body that keeps minutes and wastes hours.

DUST

Mud with the juice squeezed out.

EGOTIST

Someone who is usually me-deep in conversation.

HANDKERCHIEF

Cold Storage.

INFLATION

Cutting money in half without damaging the paper

MOSQUITO

An insect that makes you like flies better.

RAISIN

A grape with a sunburn.

SECRET

Something you tell to one person at a time.

SKELETON

A bunch of bones with the person scraped off.

TOOTHACHE

The pain that drives you to extraction.

TOMORROW

One of the greatest labor saving devices of today.

YAWN

An honest opinion openly expressed.

And MY Personal Favorite!!

WRINKLES

Something other people have,
Similar to my character lines.

Save the Government

To help save the economy the Government will announce next month that the immigration Department will start deporting seniors (instead of illegals) in order to lower Social Security and Medicare costs.

Older people are easier to catch and will not remember how to get back home. Be sure to send this notice to your relatives and friends so they'll know what happened to you.

I started to cry when I thought of you. Then it dawned on me: I'll see you on the bus.

First Grade

A first grade class had a homework assignment to find out something exciting and relate it to the class the next day. When the time came to present what they'd found, the first little boy the teacher called on walked up to the front of the class, and with a piece of chalk, made a small white dot on the blackboard and sat back down.

Puzzled, the teacher asked him what it was. 'It's a period,' he replied. 'I can see that,' said the teacher, 'but what is so exciting about a period?' 'I don't know,' chirped the little boy, 'but this morning my sister was missing one, my mother fainted, my dad had a heart attack, and the boy next door joined the Navy!'

Enlightenment

Grins and Snickers .

I was in the six item express lane at the store quietly fuming. Completely ignoring the sign, the woman ahead of me had slipped into the check-out line pushing a cart piled high with groceries. Imagine my delight when the cashier beckoned the woman to come forward looked into the cart and asked sweetly, "So which six items would you like to buy?"

Because they had no reservations at a busy restaurant, my elderly neighbor and his wife were told there would be a 45 minute wait for a table.

"Young man, we're both 90 years old," the husband said. "We may not have 45 minutes." They were seated immediately.

The reason Politicians try so hard to get re-elected is that they would hate to have to make a living under the laws they have passed.

All eyes were on the radiant bride as her father escorted her down the aisle. They reached the altar and the waiting groom. The bride kissed her father and placed something in his hand. The guests in the front pews responded with ripples of laughter. Even the priest smiled broadly. As her father gave her away in marriage, the bride gave him back his credit card.

Women and cats will do as they please, and men and dogs should relax and get used to the idea.

Three friends from the local congregation were asked, "When you're in your casket, and friends and congregation members are mourning over you, what would you like them to say?" Artie said, "I would like them to say I was a wonderful husband, a fine spiritual leader, and a great family man."

Eugene commented, "I would like them to say I was a wonderful teacher and servant of God who made a huge difference in people's lives."

Al said, "I'd like them to say, 'Look, he's moving!'"

Smith climbed to the top of Mt. Sinai to get close enough to talk to God.

Looking up, he asked the Lord. "God, what does a million years mean to you?"

The Lord replied, "A minute."

Smith asked, "And what does a million dollars mean to you?"

The Lord replied, "A penny."

Smith asked, "Can I have a penny?"

The Lord replied, "In a minute."

A man goes to a shrink and says, "Doctor, my wife is unfaithful to me. Every evening, she goes to Larry's bar and picks up men. In fact, she sleeps with anybody who asks her! I'm going crazy. What do you think I should do?"

"Relax," says the Doctor, "take a deep breath and calm down. Now, tell me, exactly where is Larry's bar?"

John was on his deathbed and gasped pitifully, "Give me one last request, dear," he said. "Of course, John," his wife said softly.

"Six months after I die," John said, "I want you to marry Bob."

"But I thought you hated Bob," she said..

With his last breath John said, "I do!"

A man goes to see the Rabbi. "Rabbi, something terrible is happening and I have to talk to you about it."

The Rabbi asked, "What's wrong?"

The man replied, "My wife is going to poison me."

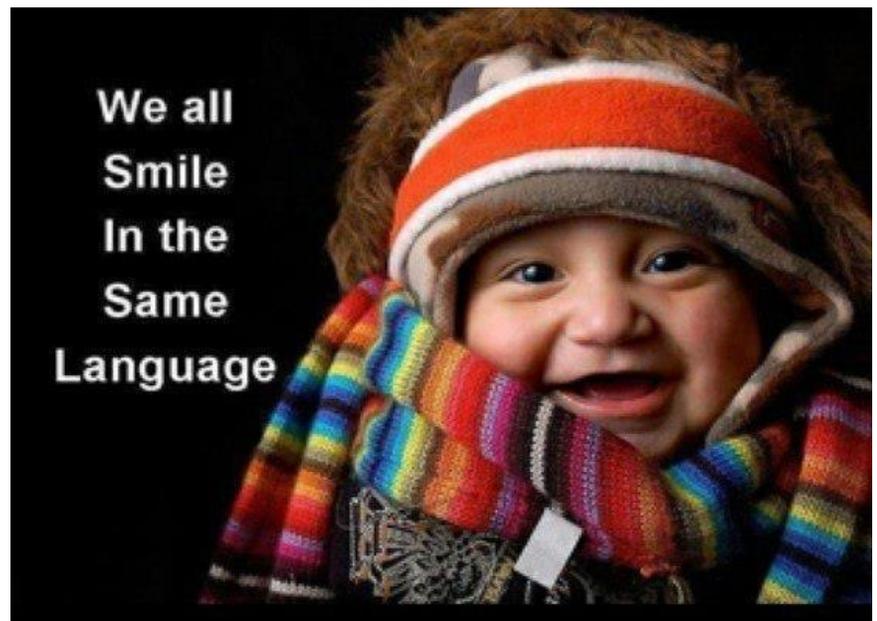
The Rabbi, very surprised by this, asks, "How can that be?"

The man then pleads, "I'm telling you, I'm certain she's going to poison me. What should I do?"

The Rabbi then offers, "Tell you what. Let me talk to her, I'll see what I can find out and I'll let you know."

A week later the Rabbi calls the man and says, "I spoke to your wife on the phone for three hours. You want my advice?"

The man said, "Yes" and the Rabbi replied, "Take the poison."



Enlightenment (continued)

Engineers

Two engineering students were riding bicycles across a university campus when one said, "Where did you get the great bike? The second engineer replied, "Well, I was walking yesterday, minding my own business, when a beautiful woman rode up on this bike, threw it to the ground, took off all her clothes, and said, "Take what you want." The first engineer nodded approvingly and said, "Good choice: The clothes probably wouldn't have fit you anyway."

#2

To the optimist, the glass is half-full. To the pessimist, the glass is half-empty. To the engineer, the glass is twice as big as it needs to be.

#3

A priest, a doctor, and an engineer were waiting one morning for a particularly slow group of golfers. The engineer fumed, "What's with those guys? We've been waiting for fifteen minutes!" The doctor chimed in, "I don't think I've ever seen such inept golf!" The priest said, "Here comes the green-keeper. Let's have a word with him."

He said, "Hello George, What's wrong with that group ahead of us? They're rather slow, aren't they?" The green-keeper replied, "Oh, yes. That's a group of blind firemen. They lost their sight saving our clubhouse from a fire last year, so we always let them play for free anytime!"

The group fell silent for a moment. The priest said, "That's so sad. I'll say a special prayer for them tonight." The doctor said, "Good idea. I'll contact my ophthalmologist colleague and see if there's anything she can do for them." The engineer said, "Why can't they play at night?"

#4

What is the difference between mechanical engineers and civil engineers? Mechanical engineers build weapons. Civil engineers build targets.

#5

The graduate with a Science degree asks, "Why does it work?" The graduate with an Engineering degree asks, "How does it work?" The graduate with a Commerce degree asks, "How much will it cost?" The graduate with an Arts degree asks, "Do you want fries with that?"

#6

Normal people believe that if it ain't broke, don't fix it. Engineers believe that if it ain't broke, it isn't sufficiently complex yet.

#7

Two engineers were standing at the base of a flagpole, looking at its top. A woman walked by and asked what they were doing "We're supposed to find the height of this flagpole," said Steve, "but we don't have a ladder." The woman took pliers from her purse, loosened a couple of bolts, and laid the pole down on the ground. Then she took a tape measure from her purse, took a measurement, announced, "21 feet," and walked away. One engineer shook his head and laughed, "A lot of good that does us. We ask for the height and she gives us the length!" Both engineers have since quit their engineering jobs and have been elected to congress.

Enlightenment (continued)

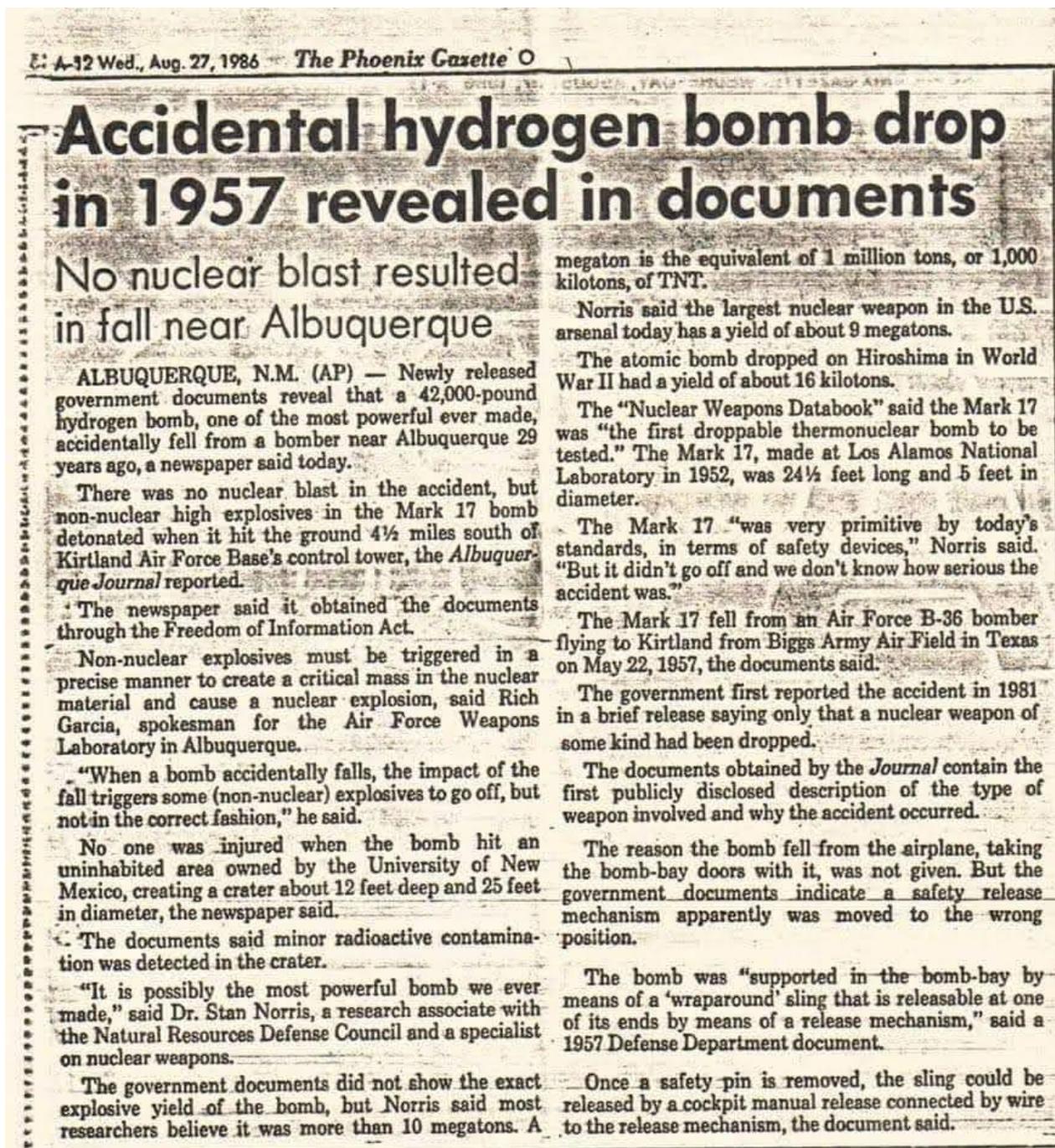
Husband and Wife

A husband and wife were having dinner at a very fine restaurant when this absolutely stunning young woman comes over to their table, gives the husband a big kiss, says she'll see him later and walks away. His wife glares at him and says, "Who the hell was that?" "Oh," replies the husband, "she's my mistress."

"Well, that's the last straw," says the wife. "I've had enough, I want a divorce." "I can understand that," replies her husband, "but remember, if we get a divorce it means that you don't get any more shopping trips to Paris, no more wintering in Barbados, no more summers in Tuscany, no more Ferraris and Lexus's in the garage and no more yacht club. But the decision is yours."

Just then, a mutual friend enters the restaurant with a gorgeous babe on his arm. "Who's that woman with Jim?" asks the wife. "That's his mistress," says her husband.

"Ours is prettier," she replies.



I'm so old that I have dialed a rotary phone, listened to music off an 8-track tape, watched a black and white TV with foil on the rabbit ear antennas, and went through a whole day without taking a picture of myself.

Oldtimers9.com

IT'S WEIRD BEING THE SAME AGE AS OLD PEOPLE.

GoodLivingGuide.com

"How much of an allowance did you get as a teenager per week?"

Me: I was allowed to live there.

Oldtimers9.com

If your man does any of these,



He just ordered car parts

"Have you heard of Murphy's law?"

"Yeah."

"What is it?"

"If something can go wrong, it will go wrong."

"Right. Have you heard of Cole's Law?"

"No, what is it?"

"Thinly sliced cabbage."

When you're stressed, you eat Ice cream, chocolate and sweets.
YOU KNOW WHY?
Because "stressed" spelled backwards Is "Desserts"

Enlightenment (continued)



NOTE TO SELF
Do not sit on the floor without a plan on how to get back up.

Oldtimers9.com

HOW TO FIX

- Squealing brakes
- Exhaust leak
- Belt squeaking
- Exhaust rattle
- Engine tick
- Wheel bearing going out

Turn the radio up

HOW TO GET FRIENDS

1. BUY A LIFT

2. BUY A TRAILER



Why are tires so expensive?

It's due to inflation

Sometimes I wonder what happened to the people who asked me for directions

Pregnancy Q&A

Q: Should I have a baby after 35?

A: No, 35 children is enough.

Q: I'm two months pregnant now. When will my baby move?

A: With any luck, right after he finishes college.

Q: What is the most reliable method to determine a baby's sex?

A: Childbirth.

Q: My wife is five months pregnant and so moody that sometimes she's borderline irrational.

A: So what's your question?

Q: My childbirth instructor says it's not pain I'll feel during labor, but pressure. Is she right?

A: Yes, in the same way that a tornado might be called an air current.

Q: When is the best time to get an epidural?

A: Right after you find out you're pregnant.

Q: Is there any reason I have to be in the delivery room while my wife is in labor?

A: Not unless the word "alimony" means anything to you.

Q: Is there anything I should avoid while recovering from childbirth?

A: Yes, pregnancy.

Q: Do I have to have a baby shower?

A: Not if you change the baby's diaper very quickly.

Q: Our baby was born last week. When will my wife begin to feel and act normal again?

A: When the kids are in college.

An English professor wrote the words: "A woman without her man is nothing" on the chalkboard and asked his students to punctuate it correctly.

All the MALES in the class wrote :
"A woman, without her man, is nothing"

All the FEMALES in the class wrote :
"A woman: without her, man is nothing"

(punctuation is powerful)