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June Birthdays

- 1 David Mosher Terry Struss
- 2 Elio Belli Kye Grimm
- 3 Albert Leach Jonathan Bourne John Malcolm Pat McElhone
- 4 Gordon Hadrian Linda Jewell
- 5 Rhea Attili
- 6 Sue Lake John Sallinger Rocky Leal Sue Emberley
- 7 Joann Westervelt
- **June Anniversaries**
 - 6 Joe & Joanne Lavigne Wayne & Betty Davidson Bill & Nancy Kohls
 - 7 Derrick & Chris Frowen Bob & Ellen Fletcher Kevin & Mary Chesley
 - 12 Floyd & Joan Brochey
 - 14 Fred & Yvonne Large
 - 15 Bob & Susan Hartley Coral & Betty Noel
 - 17 Lou & Leanne Lowery
 - 19 Ken & Misty Marston
 - 21 Kelly & Claudia Price22 Ronald & Theresa Berard
 - 27 Ivan & Vicki Thurlow
 - 28 Andre & Maureen Lamy
 - 29 Larry & Terry Bobko

- 7 Chris Frowen
- 8 Phyllis Cole
- 10 Ed Bell Nancy LaQuay Mary Tavernier
- 11 Carlene Winn Jim Dowling
- 13 Aline Levesque
- Freda Everly
- 15 Sandra Barrow James Shafer
- Mary Kyle
- 16 Margaret Smith Rita Meiners
 - Karan Kelly
- 17 Alvin Wiebe

1962

1954

1959

1961

1975

1975

1971

1958

1968

1963

1961

1977

1975

1963

1970 1997

1968

- 18 Barbara Cool
- 19 Doll Davis
- 20 Frank Pepin Mark Foster
- 23 Donald Prahst Anne McElhone
- 24 Vince Ferrucei
- 27 Jeanine Allie
- 28 Chick House Mark Myles
- Steve Ward 29 Edy Taylor
 - Larry Kornmiller
 - Frank MacArthur
 - John Taylor
- 30 Glenda Alford



RMP Mid-May Arboretum Report

By: Lois Bircher - Caretaker

More than the second se

When the sky is blue, the fifteen year old white Oleander three becomes a never-failing beautiful sight. Closer to Mother Earth this summer, one can see the variegated Caladiums, some predominately white.

The white Powder Puff shrub now exhibits just green foliage; but we can look forward to December blooms. Another seasonal, the Bleeding Heart vine, is just beginning summer growth, but already has its white flowers with red centers.

Some trees, including Bradford Pear, Olive and Holly have insignificant, hardly noticeable, white blossoms. No edible pears or olives; but the Holly will have an abundance of bright red berries. Of course, one has to be present at just the right time to see them before wildlife arrives for a feast.

Blooming throughout the year is the Macadamia Nut tree. Its three inch hanging blossoms are very fragrant and attract onlookers from the Pavilion. The resulting nuts attract pesky squirrels from far and near.

Nearby, in the shadows of the Palm trees, you can watch the lone pineapple grow. Hope you enjoy your walk!

POOL RULES

- POOL OPEN 24 HOURS NO LIFEGUARD SWIM AT OWN RISK
- RESIDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE TO ENSURE GUESTS FOLLOW ALL RULES
 CHILDREN UNDER AGE 14 MUST BE SUPERVISED BY ADULT
- NO FOOD, ALCOHOL, GLASS OR ANY BEVERAGE, including water in plastic bottles, ALLOWED WITHIN FENCED AREA
- NO ANIMALS ALLOWED WITHIN FENCED AREA
- SHOWER BEFORE ENTERING POOL
- DO NOT SWALLOW THE POOL WATER, IT IS RE-CIRCULATED
- DO NOT USE THE POOL IF YOU ARE ILL WITH DIARRHEA
- BABIES MUST WEAR SWIM DIAPERS IN POOL
- APPLY WATER-PROOF LOTIONS OR SUN SCREEN PRIOR TO ENTERING THE POOL. NO OILS ALLOWED
- DO NOT TAMPER WITH ANY LINES OR EQUIPMENT WITHIN FENCED AREA OR POOL
- NO RUNNING, ROMPING OR BALL THROWING WITHIN FENCED AREA
- LARGE BEACH SIZE TOWELS MUST BE USED ON ALL CHAIRS AND CHAISES
- CHAIRS AND CHAISES MUST BE RETURNED TO WHERE THEY WERE REMOVED
- POOL IS CLOSED DURING CLEANING
- BATHING LOAD NOT TO EXCEED 31 PERSONS Pool Rules were amended and approved on October 15, 2014



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June Quotes

Ah, summer, what power you have to make us suffer and like it. ~ Russel Baker

A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawn mower is broken. \sim James Dent

If a June night could talk, it would probably boast it invented romance. ~ Bern Williams

To see the Summer Sky Is Poetry, though never in a Book it lie -True Poems flee. ~ Emily Dickinson

What is one to say about June, the time of perfect young summer, the fulfillment of the promise of the earlier months, and with as yet no sign to remind one that its fresh young beauty will ever fade. ~ Gertrude Jekyll

In winter I get up at night And dress by yellow candle-light. In summer quite the other way I have to go to bed by day. ~ Robert Louis Stevenson

In June, as many as a dozen species may burst their buds on a single day. No man can heed all of these anniversaries; no man can ignore all of them. ~ Aldo Leopold

I questions not if thrushes sing, If roses load the air; Beyond my heart I need not reach When all is summer there. ~ John Vance Cheney

It's a cruel season that makes you get ready for bed while it's light out. ~ Bill Watterson

Oh, the summer night Has a smile of light And she sits on a sapphire throne. ~ Barry Cornwall

In the depth of winter, I finally learned that within me there lay an invincible summer. \sim Albert Camus

There shall be eternal summer in the grateful heart. ~ Celia Thaxter The summer night is like a perfection of thought. ~ Wallace Stevens In summer, the song sings itself. ~ William Carlos Williams Deep summer is when laziness finds respectability. ~ Sam Keen Summer has set in with its usual severity. ~ Samuel Taylor Colridge People don't notice whether it's winter or summer when they're happy ~ Anton Chekhov



A life without love is like a year without summer. ~ Swedish Proverb

Press close, bare-bosomed Night! Press close, magnetic, nourishing Night! Night of south winds! Night of the large, few stars! Still, nodding Night! Mad, naked, Summer Night! ~ Walt Whitman

What good is the warmth of summer, without the cold of winter to give it sweetness. ~ John Steinbeck

Being a child at home along in the summer is a high-risk occupation. If you call your mother at work thirteen times in an hour, she can hurt you. ~ Erma Bombeck

The coldest winter I ever spent was a summer in San Francisco. ~ Author unknown, commonly misattributed to Mark Twain

Do what we can, summer will have its flies. ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

And so with the sunshine and the great bursts of leaves growing on the trees, just as things grow in fast movies, I had that familiar conviction that life was beginning over again with the summer. ~ F. Scott Fitzgerald

One benefit of summer was that each day we had more light to read by. ~ Jeannette Walls, *The Glass Castle*

Green was the silence, wet was the light, the month of June trembled like a butterfly ... ~ Pablo Neruda

Heat, ma'am! It was so dreadful here, that I found there was nothing left for it but to take off my flesh and sit in my bones. ~ Sydney Smith, *Lady Holland's Memoir*

Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass on a summer day listening to the murmur of water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is hardly a waste of time. ~ John Lubbock

Each fairy breath of summer, as it blows with loveliness, inspires the blushing rose. \sim Author Unknown

No price is set on the lavish summer, June may be had by the poorest comer. ~ James Russell Lowell, *The Vision of Sir Launfal, 1848*

It was June, and the world smelled of roses. The sunshine was like powdered gold over the grassy hillside. ~ Maud Hart Lovelace, *Betsy-Tacy and Tib, 1941*

Summer afternoon - summer afternoon; to me those have always been the two most beautiful words in the English language. ~ Henry James

Hey! It's summer! Be free and happy and danceful and uninhibited and now-y! ~ Terri Guillemets

Love is to the heart what the summer is to the farmer's year - it brings to harvest all the loveliest flowers of the soul. ~ Author Unknown





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Dad's Hat By: L. Otis

y father's beloved cowboy hat started out new and full of life, just as we all do. Dad proudly wore it every day of his adult life. In fact, he wore that hat so much, it's hard to think of him without it.

As a young child, I can remember my mother kidding him about the hat. We lived on a small crop farm, but Dad wanted to be a rancher. He took a lot of teasing about the grand ambitions that hat symbolized.

But it was a good, honest hat. It protected him from the relentless sun and wind as he toiled in the fields. It kept the rain off his face when he was doing the chores.

Dad never complained. He'd just get up from a hearty breakfast, put on his hat and head out to the never-ending work. I realize now that holding it all inside must've made life even more difficult for him. But he wouldn't have had it any other way.

I can't remember when I began to refer to Dad's hat as "that old hat." But looking back, it aged right along with him.

He'd get a new wrinkle here of there, and sure enough, so did his hat. Dad's skin grew darker and rougher with each year he spent toiling in the sun. So did the hat.

I can remember the first time I looked at my father and realized how old he'd grown. I literally let out a small gasp of awareness, longing and pain. And still, time rolled on.

My dear father is gone now, and I have wrinkles of my own. But the old hat remains a treasured heirloom. It's helping us teach his grandchildren and great-grandchildren about the sacrifices a gentle man made for us.

If Dad's old hat could talk - though it already does, in its way - it would tell of days of backbreaking labor done out of his love for family and the land.

It would remind us of the work ethic that's getting harder and harder to find these days. That old hat would tell of the honesty and integrity of the man who wore it for so many years.

And whenever I look at that battered, stained, but unbroken hat, I think, Great job, Dad.

How to Install a Husband

Dear Tech Support,

Last year I upgraded from Boyfriend 5.0 to Husband 1.0 and I noticed a distinct slowdown in the overall system performance, particularly in the flower and jewelry applications, which operated flawlessly under Boyfriend 5.0.

In addition, Husband 1.0 uninstalled many other valuable programs, such as Romance 9.5 and Personal Attention 6.5, and then installed undesirable programs such as NBA 5.0, NFL 3.0 and Formula 4.1 and NASCAR 1.0.

Conversation 8.0 no longer runs, and Housecleaning 2.6 simply crashes the system. Please note that I have tried running Nagging 5.3 to fix these problems, but to no avail. What can I do?

Signed, Desperate



DEAR DESPERATE,

First, keep in mind, Boyfriend 5.0 is an Entertainment Package, while Husband 1.0 is an operating system.

Please enter command: ithoughtyoulovedme.html and try to download Tears 6.2 and do not forget to install the Guilt 3.0 update.

If that application works as designed, Husband 1.0 should then automatically run the applications Jewelry 2.0 and Flowers 3.5.

However, remember, overuse of the above application can cause Husband 1.0 to default to Grumpy Silence 2.5, Happy Hour 7.0 or Beer 6.1. Please note that Beer 6.1 is a very bad program that will download the Farting and Snoring Loudly Beta.

Whatever you do, DO NOT under any circumstances install Mother-in-Law 1.0 (it runs a virus in the background that will eventually seize control of all your system resources).

In addition, please do not attempt to reinstall the Boyfriend 5.0 program. These are unsupported applications and will crash Husband 1.0.

In summary, Husband 1.0 is a great program, but it does have limited memory and cannot learn new applications quickly. You might consider buying additional software to improve memory and performance. We recommend: Cooking 3.0 and Hot Lingerie 7.7.

Good Luck to you!

Tech Support

The Old Coot Doesn't Care

By: Merlin Lessler

ut loud - "Wow! You're 50? You sure don't look it!"

Unspoken - "Who cares!"

Out loud - "Wow! You gave up cream in your coffee and lost 20 pounds in a month? You look so slim."

Unspoken - "Who cares!"

Out loud - "You broke a tooth on a popcorn kernel and your dentist fixed it for \$50?"

Unspoken - "Who cares!" (So, sue me; I had to throw in one example for my old coot crowd.)

We humans, at least those of us of old coot vintage, old enough to finally admit the ugly truth, aren't particularly pleased to hear you tell of your good fortune. No matter how much we seem to fuss and fawn over you at the time. It's part of the "social lies" that civilized people are guilty of, until they become an old coot like me. That's when freedom really rings.

No, what we really want to hear is how bad it was, that trip to the dentist with the broken tooth that ended up in a root canal and a crown to the tune of \$3500. And, then it broke again three weeks later.

And, when you tell us you're 50, we can snicker to ourselves, because you really look 20 years older. And, that's not all that makes us happy. We're also happy because you hadn't asked us to guess how old you were. Even an old coot can feel embarrassment.

And, instead of remarking how trim you look 1 month after giving up cream in your coffee,

we'd rather be eavesdropping on some other old coot, asking you when you are due.

These are the conversations we love, the people we love! People like us. Even Oprah joined our fold when she lost all that weight on her TV show and then gained it right back, plus some. In spite of having a nutritionist, a private chef and a personal trainer at her disposal. Oh sure, the audience cheered when she did the big reveal on stage, to show how much she's lost. Phony cheers! The real ones went up when the pictures of a full sized Oprah graced the covers of the tabloids in the aisles by the check out counters in grocery stores. How she's back at it again, with a 33% stake in Weight Watchers. We can't wait to see the outcome. Not the one where she announced her weight loss success, the one a year later, when she gains it all back. Like we would.

What can I say? I'm human. Flawed. It takes being an old coot to finally admit it.

Just for Giggles

ttending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, "Why is the bride dressed in white?"

 \checkmark The mother replied, "Because white is the color of happiness, and today is the happiest day of her life."

The child thought about this for a moment then said, "So why is the groom wearing black?"

A little girl, dressed in her Sunday best, was running as fast as she could, trying not to be late for Sunday School class. As she ran she prayed, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late! Dear Lord, please don't let me be late!" While she was running and praying, she tripped on a curb and fell, getting her clothes dirty and tearing her dress. She got up, brushed herself off, and started running again. As she ran she once again began to pray, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late!"

Three boys are in the school yard bragging about their fathers. The first boy says, "My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, and they give him \$50." The second boy says, "That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a song, and they give him \$100." The third boy says, "I got you both beat! My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon, and it takes eight people to collect all the money!"

An elderly woman died last month. Having never married, she requested no male pallbearers. In her handwritten instructions for her memorial service she wrote, "They wouldn't take me out while I was alive, I don't want them to take me out when I'm dead."

A Sunday School teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem. A small child replied, "They couldn't get a babysitter."

A Sunday School teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to "Honor thy Father and thy Mother," she asked, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?" Without missing a beat, one little boy answered, "Thou shall not kill."

Two boys were walking home from Sunday School after hearing a strong teaching on the devil. One said to the other, "What do you think about all this Satan stuff?" The other boy replied, "Well, you know how Santa Claus turned out. It's probably just your Dad."



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JUNE•2016			
Sunday	Monday	Г	
5	6 10a Aquacise 5p Poker @ HH	9:30a S 10A Lii 1p Trip	
12	13 10a Aquacise 5p Poker @ HH	Flag Da 9:30a S 10A Lin 1p Trip	
19 Father's Day	20 10a Aquacise 5p Poker @ HH	Summe 9:30a S 10A Lii 1p Trip	
26	27 10a Aquacise 5p Poker @ HH	9:30a S 10A Lii 1p Trip	

Ranch Mobile

uesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 10a Aquacise 12:30p Nickle Bingo 6:30p Triple Play & Cribbage	2 5p Men's Poker @ HH 6:30p Movie @ CH	3 10a Aquacise 6:30p Triple Play & Cribbage	4 12:30p Shuffle
7 huffle ne Dancing le Play	8 10a Aquacise 12:30p Nickle Bingo 6:30p Triple Play & Cribbage	9 5p Men's Poker @ HH 6:30p Movie @ CH	10 10a Aquacise 6:30p Triple Play & Cribbage	11 12:30p Shuffle
14 ay huffle ne Dancing le Play	15 10a Aquacise 12:30p Nickle Bingo 6:30p Triple Play & Cribbage	16 5p Men's Poker @ HH 6:30p Movie @ CH	17 10a Aquacise 6:30p Triple Play & Cribbage	18 12:30p Shuffle
21 huffle ne Dancing le Play	22 10a Aquacise 12:30p Nickle Bingo 6:30p Triple Play & Cribbage	23 5p Men's Poker @ HH 6:30p Movie @ CH	24 10a Aquacise 6:30p Triple Play & Cribbage	25 12:30p Shuffle
28 huffle ne Dancing le Play	29 10a Aquacise 12:30p Nickle Bingo 6:30p Triple Play & Cribbage	30 5p Men's Poker @ HH 6:30p Movie @ CH		JULY 2016 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31





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experience <\$ cruise like none other, you 🗲 will not want to miss this 2 hour cruise. Watch as the waters of the Banana River Lagoon come alive with the bioluminescence plankton. See the waves and current light up the water with a blue neon **glow**. Every movement in the water produces light! School of fish looks like hundreds of blue-areen underwater bottle rockets), to the glow of a moving manatee/sting ray, every movement is a bright neon blue light. You will have to see it to believe it! Dinner at Fish Lips in Port Canaveral. Includes: Dinner time (dinner not included) a 2 hour boat tour, a beer, wine or non-alcohol drink, snacks during cruise & bus transportation. Boarding: 2:00 p.m. Return: Approx. 11:30 p.m. Sign up deadline is July 7.





deadline Aug. 21. Payment October 1.









About the Month of June

June is the 6th month of the year and has 30 days.

Holidays:

Flag Day

Fathers Day

Juneteenth - Juneteenth is a holiday commemorating the freedom of the slaves in the United States. The day is also called Emancipation Day and Freedom Day. When is Juneteenth celebrated? June 19th

Who celebrates this day? The day is celebrated in the United States mostly by African-Americans. It is most celebrated in the state of Texas where is has been an official state holiday since 1980. Many other states recognize the day as either an official holiday or observance.

What do people do to celebrate? There are a number of different ways that people celebrate the day including parades, marches, and barbecues. Many people get together for ceremonies that include public service awards, prayer, and the raising of the Juneteenth Flag.

Paul Bunyan Day: Paul Bunyan Day celebrates American folklore and stories about the legendary lumberjack Paul Bunyan.

When is Paul Bunyan Day celebrated? June 28th

Who celebrates this day? The day is celebrated by people in the United States who enjoy a good story, like red flannel shirts, and wish they had a giant pet ox.

What do people do to celebrate? Probably the best way to celebrate the day is to read some American folklore stores. Popular characters include Blackbeard's Ghost, Bigfoot, Brer Rabbit, Davy Crockett, and Paul Bunyan. Your local librarian will be able to help you pick out some stories you would like.

Another way to celebrate is to visit some of the many Paul Bunyan statues around the nation. You can find huge statues of this hero throughout this country in states like California, Oregon, Michigan, Minnesota, and more. There is also a Paul Bunyan Land amusement park in Brainerd, Minnesota that features a 26 foot tall animated Paul Bunyan.

If your class is looking for something fun to do, you could dress up and act out a few of the Paul Bunyan or other American folklore tales. You could also make posters of your favorite story or write a poem about your favorite character.

History of Paul Bunyan Day

The story of Paul Bunyan has its roots in an early 1900 story by James MacGillivray. The tale was then retold by author William Laugheat in 1924. It was part of an advertising campaign for a logging company.

The talks of Paul Bunyan grew over the years. He grew taller and stronger. He gained a giant pet blue ox. The legends of his exploits continue to grow until he became one of Americas most popular folk heroes.

Fun Facts About Paul Bunyan

When Paul was a baby he was so big that it took 5 storks to carry him to his home. The first time he clapped as a baby he broke every window in the house.

Continued on page 25



RANCH MOBILE RECORDER JUNE, 2016 C







The Grand Canyon was formed when Paul drug his axe behind him while walking. He also formed Mt. Hood when piling rocks on top of his campfire.

Legend has it that the 10,000 lakes of Minnesota were formed from the footprints of Babe and Paul when they got lost in a snow storm.

Babe the Blue Ox was a gift from fellow woodsmen Davy Crockett and Daniel Boone.

At the Trees of Mystery attraction in Klamath, California there is a 49-foot tall statue of Paul and a 35-foot statue of Babe the Blue Ox.

JUNE IS ALSO:

National Rose Month National Dairy Month African-American Music Month National Iced Tea Month National Candy Month

Symbols of June: Birthstone: Pearl Flower: Rose Zodiac signs: Gemini and Cancer

History:

The month of June comes from the Roman, or Julian, calendar. June was initially named Iunius. The name either comes from the Roman goddess Juno, wife of Jupiter, or from the word "iuniors," the Latin word for "younger ones." In the early Roman calendar June only had 29 days. It was Julius Caesar who added the additional day giving June 30 days.

The Old Coot Wishes His Pop A Happy Father's Day

By: Merlin Lessler

Sumbled on an old picture of my father the other day. It lay hidden for decades in a box of memorabilia. It was taken in 1970, a few months before he died. He was sixty-eight. Something about the picture struck a chord in me. It looked familiar in a new way. Then it dawned on me. I've been seeing a semblance of his face in my mirror for several years, when I really looked. Usually, I'm not paying close attention; I see myself in a memory haze. We all do. None of us can believe how old we really are. Even a thirty-year-old sees a younger face in the mirror. Every once in a while the haze clears and we're startled. "Who the heck is that?" That's the way it was for me when I looked at my father's picture. He'd been appearing in my mirror of late and I didn't know it.

I was in my twenties when he died. His face showing up in my mirror has been a long time coming. So long that I didn't expect it. It's why the long-lost snapshot gave me such a start. I came face to face with my mortality. I can remember being irked with him when he died. The national life expectancy for a male at the time was sixty-nine. He died short of the mark. I though he should have stayed around longer. We'd just started to develop a nice friendship.



The salad days of suffering through the "old man's" unsolicited advice had finally worn away; we both had come to realize that each had a unique perspective on life, to value, to treasure. Then he was gone.

Now it's my turn. The face in my mirror is looking very much like his. I've got to hang on longer than he did. My son is a few years from discovering that his "old man" is okay. I can't rush the process. I couldn't with his sisters and I can't with him. He won't grow up right unless he goes through the transition, rejects the nurturing and flies from the nest. It is nature's way and you can't mess with Mother Nature.

My father would be 111 if he were still alive. I know he would get a real kick out of the technology we take for granted today. He was a technocrat himself, an inventor. His name is on dozens of patents for Ansco cameras. He loved to tinker, especially with cars. His favorite vacation was driving us to the Jersey shore. We almost always ran into car trouble. He'd somehow patch things together so we could limp to the motel. While we enjoyed the beach he took on the car problem. He'd spend all day leaning in, or lying under, the vehicle. If you stood within hearing range you'd hear him yell, "Sucker," every once in a while, when his hand slipped off the wrench and he skinned his knuckles. He never swore; he just yelled sucker. The whole thing is easier to understand when you realize that our car was a Ford Edsel. He bought it brand new, the first year they made it. He liked being on the cutting edge. It was the lemon of the century. The repair bills added up. He didn't care. He loved it. I did too. It was the car I got to drive when I turned sixteen.

It was one of the few things we agreed on during my teen years. When I bought my first car, a well-used 1953 Ford convertible, for sixty dollars, it made two things we agreed on. It made me a Ford man too. Cars had magic in those days. They brought fathers and sons together, under the hood, taking on the beast. It was a time when a regular Joe could fix a car - change the spark plugs, replace the generator, adjust the brakes. You could even pull the engine and overhaul it if you were especially handy. The automobile had a social context. That's gone now. The manufacturers have put the backyard mechanics out of business. The secrets of today's automobiles can't be passed on from father to son. The secrets are locked up in computer chips and buried in a web of pollution control components. Even the design engineers aren't sure how it all works. It's too bad. Cars helped fathers and sons stay in touch through the difficult teen years. Now that bridge is gone. Happy Father's Day Pop! I hope the Edsel is hitting all eight cylinders.



A Complete Listing of Resident Services can be found on the page before your calendar











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The Old Coot Sits in Exile

By: Merlin Lessler

I 'm sitting here in exile. Call me old guy #1. Next to me is a guy wearing a baseball cap with white knee socks (old guy #2). Across from us is a guy with a cell phone attached to his belt (old guy #3). We're outside a shop called Bahama Mama's in Flagler Beach, Florida, a small town halfway between Daytona Beach and Saint Augustine. We're here on the porch, three strangers, waiting for our wives who are inside scouring the racks and shelves. The sign next to the door promises: exotic gift baskets, tropical metal art, island decor for inside and out and key lime products. No men allowed! Well, it doesn't actually say, "No men allowed," but it might as well.

I don't know what any of those things in the shop are; yet, I know I'm not interested. I'm also not interested in sitting on a porch with two other old guys who also don't want to be on the other side of Bahama Mama's door, but it's what we do! You see us all over the place - sitting on benches in malls - sitting in cars in shopping center parking lots or waiting outside a house in a residential neighborhood with the engine idling while our wives are inside concluding a "Good-Bye" process. We've said our good bye, a simple, "Thanks for having me, hope to see you soon," turned to our wives, thinking they might do the same. Instead, they say, "Hang on a sec," and turn to the woman hosting the affair. A second turns into a minute, then five minutes. We stand by their side like idiots, finally interrupting the Good-Bye process, to say, "I'm going out to warm up the car."

We're a patient bunch, us old men, having been around long enough to understand the waiting process. We gave up throwing tantrums long ago, the ones where we acted like five-year-olds, tugging at our mothers' skirts and whining, "Can we go now?" Yes, we gave that up, figured out how to kill time and let the world spin without us.

We're fairly compliant, us old guys waiting around. But, sometimes our subconscious takes over and retaliates, causing us to do something stupid, like "accidentally" taping over our wedding video with a Super Bowl game. It balances things out, in this battle of the sexes that's been raging since the first caveman invented the club and took himself a wife. She then initiated the first Good-Bye process. As they left a neighbor's cave, she turned to the female host and asked, "Where did you get that hide; it's adorable?"

We're more civilized about it now, but the battle continues. Psychologists, social scientists and anthropologists have studied the phenomena for centuries. Concluding nothing and simply throwing up their hands in frustration and mumbling things like, "Men are from Mars; Women are from Venus." In my world it's simpler; Women shop and Men sit. End of story.







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