

Chorus Chatter

News and Musings for Young at Heart Chorus Members
<https://www.youngatheartlascruces.website/>

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November is derived from the Latin word *novern* (nine), because it had been the ninth month of the early Roman calendar.

Old Farmer's Almanac



Happy Days are Here Again

Leading off our November program, this enthusiastic song was written in 1929 by Milton Ager, with lyrics by Jack Yellin. The song appeared in the 1930 film *Chasing Rainbows*, where it concluded the picture in what was described as a "pull-out-all-the-stops Technicolor finale."

It became closely associated with Franklin D. Roosevelt's 1932 presidential campaign after a spontaneous decision by Roosevelt's advisors to play it at the 1932 Democratic National Convention. A dirge-like version of Roosevelt's favorite song, "Anchors Aweigh," had been played over and over without enthusiasm when a participant shouted, "For God's sake, have them play

something else!" When the band played the new song, it drew cheers and subsequently became the Democratic Party's "unofficial theme song" for years to come. *Wikipedia*

Mesilla Valley Chorale Concert

The Mesilla Valley Chorale will present its Christmas/Holiday concert at 3:00 pm on Sunday, December 11th at the Rio Grande Theatre. It will include holiday and seasonal favorites such as *Carol of the Bells*, *Baby, It's Cold Outside*, *I'll Be Home for Christmas*, *Shepherd's Pipe Carol* and many more.

Tickets are still only \$10.00 and are now available online from the Chorale website at <https://www.mesillavalleychorale.org/>.

They also will be available from Chorale members (Ray, Chuck, Lani) and at the door the day of the concert.

Gene Autry



Orvon Grover "Gene" Autry, born in Tioga, Texas in 1907, was nickname the "Singing Cowboy." He was an American singer, songwriter, actor, musician, rodeo

performer and baseball team owner. He gained fame largely by crooning country songs on radio, in films and on television for more than three decades, beginning in the early 1930s.

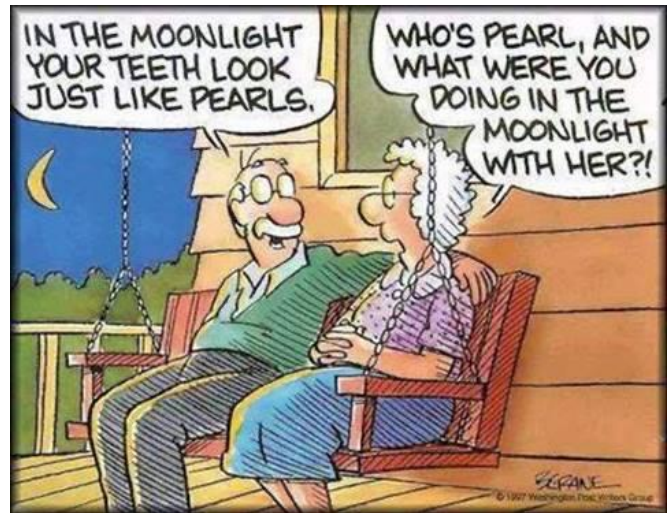
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Autry is considered the second most important pioneering figure in country music, after Jimmie Rogers. His singing cowboy films were the first vehicle to carry country music to a national audience. In addition to his signature song, "Back in the Saddle Again," he popularized many Christmas songs, including "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer," "Frosty the Snowman," and "Here Comes Santa Claus." In 1941, the town of Berwyn, Oklahoma changed its name to Gene Autry after he purchased 1200 acres there, intending to make it headquarters for his Flying A Ranch Rodeo. Three weeks later, the US entered World War II, and Gene enlisted in the Army Air Corps. After the war, he sold the ranch.

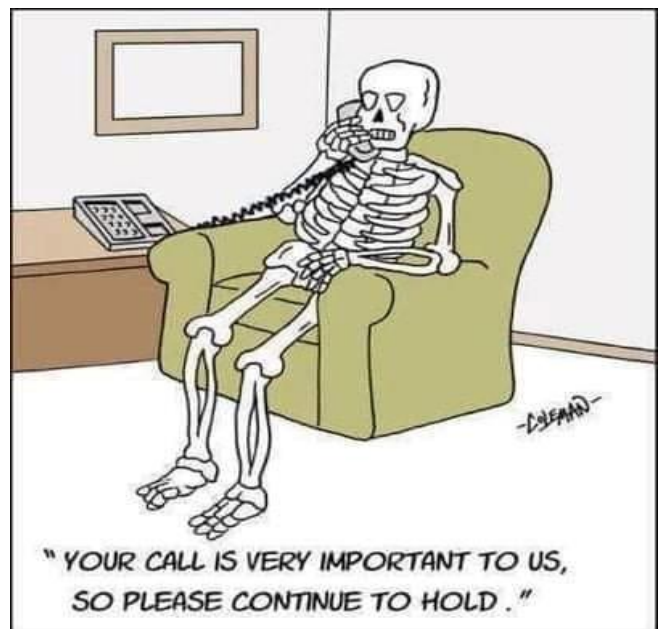
In 1937, he helped save a toy company in Kenton, Ohio during the Great Depression. The town's main industry, the Kenton Toy Company, was failing. Once the world's largest manufacturer of iron toys, its employees were down to working two days a week. Company vice-president Willard Bixler envisioned a deluxe iron cap pistol modeled after Autry's pearl-handled six-shooter. He sent one of his pistols as a model and helped promote the toy version. It became very successful, saving the company and probably the town.

Autry is the only person to be awarded stars in all five categories on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, for film, television, music, radio and live performance. He died in 1998.



Gone Too Long

A soldier returned home after a year-long deployment, happy to see his wife and young son, who just turned three. Looking to get some "dad time," he said to the son, "Do you want to shave with Daddy?" "OK," he said. "Mommy and me shave together all the time." As they lathered up, the soldier knew he'd been away too long when the little guy took his toy razor and then put his leg on the side of the tub.



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Avoiding "Fancy" Spellings

When the United States declared its independence from Great Britain, that also included having its own spelling variations. Examples include airplane vs aeroplane, color vs colour and aluminum vs aluminium. Noah Webster, America's first important and well-known lexicographer, chose the less "fancy" spellings as a patriotic act. His goal was to make a spelling system that was truer to English pronunciation and also promote a standard that would bring the disparate colonies together. *Reader's Digest*

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."
Maya Angelou

Obsolete Technology

Here are a few things we thought would last forever. When was the last time you used any of these?

- Maps- Once GPS came along, there was no need for paper maps or printouts from MapQuest and now, everyone has a map app on their phones.
- Reference Books- There's no need to sit in a library for hours, poring over books and encyclopedias with information at our fingertips using Google.
- Pagers- No need to carry a pager when anyone can reach you on your mobile phone.
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- Floppy Discs- Once you'd need to hand someone a floppy disk to pass files along. Soon those got replaced by CDs and flash drives—but even those are becoming obsolete, thanks to cloud storage.
- Movie Rental Stores- Been to Blockbuster lately? Thanks to Netflix and other streaming services, no one wants to get off the couch to pick a movie.
- Landlines- They aren't gone yet, but a recent survey found that just over half of households used a cellphone but no landline. *Reader's Digest*



DID YOU KNOW?

YOU ONCE HELD A WORLD RECORD WHEN YOU WERE BORN FOR BEING "THE YOUNGEST PERSON ON THE PLANET".

"Do just a little bit of good where you are. It's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."

Desmond Tutu, South African Anglican archbishop