

FLEET FOCUS

A newsletter from Lee County Fleet Management

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HOLIDAY MEMORIES

The holiday season seems to be the time of the year when we reflect on the past year, what we've accomplished and the people we've met. Some people remember their childhood holidays with fondness and warmth. Others prefer to forget them. I'm one of the people who has great memories of Christmases past. I grew up in a loving home with parents who genuinely cared about me. For that I am truly grateful. In spite of this, I remember one Christmas when I desperately wanted a pair of go-go boots (OK I'm dating myself a bit). Mom and Dad just couldn't afford them and the boots never came. (I'm sure a therapist somewhere would have a field day with this.) I was truly disappointed but I coped.

Mom always told us where she "hid" the presents. She said it was up to us if we wanted to snoop and ruin our Christmas. One year the temptation was just too great and I looked through all the unwrapped gifts in my parent's closet. That year Christmas was no fun. I knew what I was getting. I knew what everyone was getting. The anticipation and element of surprise were gone.

In spite of my lack of go-go boots, I remember cookies baking, decorating trees, grandparents coming over, and being kept awake by the sound of reindeer hooves on the roof. (They really did come to MY house.) As adults, we often get stressed from un-mailed Christmas cards and un-baked cookies and we forget what the holidays are all about. As we enter this holiday season, whether it's Christmas, Chanukah, Kwanzaa or something else, let us reflect on the good memories of seasons gone by, be thankful for what we have, and work to make the memories yet to come. Happy Holidays from all of us here at Fleet Management.

QUOTABLE QUOTES:

I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver.

- *Maya Angelou (1928 -)*

Isn't it funny that at Christmas something in you gets so lonely for – I don't know what exactly, but it's something that you don't mind so much not having at other times.

Kate L. Boshier

If you knew what I know about the power of giving, you would not let a single meal pass without sharing it in some way.

-- *Buddha*

Christmas is a time when you get homesick – even when you're home.

Carol Nelson

One of the most glorious messes in the world is the mess created in the living room on Christmas day. Don't clean it up too quickly.

Andy Rooney

I stopped believing in Santa Claus when my mother took me to see him in a department store, and he asked for my autograph.

Shirley Temple

It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving.

Mother Teresa

Never worry about the size of your Christmas tree. In the eyes of children, they are all 30 feet tall.

Larry Wilde

DO I REALLY NEED TO KNOW THIS?

** Noel, the French word for Christmas, comes from the Latin word 'natus' which means birth. This is also where we get natal, as in pre-natal care, and nativity.

** Chanukah, also known as the "festival of lights," stems from the Hebrew word for "dedication" or "consecration", and marks the re-dedication of the Temple in Jerusalem after its desecration by the forces of Antiochus IV and commemorates the "miracle of the container of oil." According to the Talmud, there was only enough consecrated olive oil to fuel the eternal flame in the Temple for one day. Miraculously, the oil burned for eight days, which was the length of time it took to press, prepare and consecrate fresh olive oil.

** Christmas was once a moveable feast celebrated at many different times during the year. The choice of December 25, was made by Pope Julius I, in the 4th century A.D., because this coincided with the pagan rituals of Winter Solstice, or Return of the Sun. The intent was to replace the pagan celebration with the Christian one.

** "Wassail" comes from the Old Norse "ves heill"-to be of good health. This evolved into the tradition of visiting neighbors on Christmas Eve and drinking to their health.

** The seven symbols of Kwanzaa are: the crops,

the mat, the candle holder, the corn, the 7 candles, the unity cup, and the gifts.

** Charles Dickens, author of *A Christmas Carol*, had 2 pet ravens, both known as Grip. Upon Grip I's demise, Dickens had his beloved bird stuffed. Today, Grip can be seen at the Free Library of Philadelphia's Rare Books Department, where he stands guard over the Poe and Dickens collections.

** Frumenty was a spiced porridge, enjoyed by both rich and poor and was a forerunner of modern Christmas puddings. It is linked to the Celtic god Dagda, who stirred a porridge made up of all the good things of the earth.

** "Lambswool" was the drink of the wealthy that filled the wassail bowl. Sugar, eggs and spices were added to ale, and toast floated on top with apples. Poor people would bring their mugs to the door hoping for a share of the steaming drink.

** After Scrooge has reformed his life at the end of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, he invites Bob Cratchit to join him for some "smoking bishop," a mulled wine popular in 19th-century London. It is made using bitter oranges and cloves covered with red wine, and set in a warm place for a day. The oranges are squeezed into the wine and strained. Port is added and the mixture is heated and served with a cinnamon stick.

** Kurban Bayrami is a

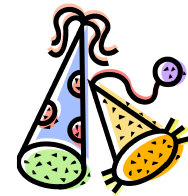
four-day Turkish festival usually in December when sacrificial sheep are slaughtered and their meat distributed to the poor.

LAST MONTH'S TRIVIA

What job did George Clinton, Daniel D. Tompkins, Richard M. Johnson, William R. King, Schuyler Colfax and Henry Wilson have in common?

- A. Secretary of State
- B. Guest host of Saturday Night Live
- C. Vice President of the United States
- D. Band Member of U2

The correct answer is "C", Vice President of the United States. Our own **Ray Nicchia** from Fleet was this month's prize winner.

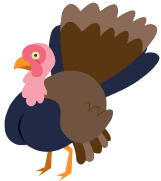
**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO U**

Bette Midler	12/1
Raul Cortes	12/9
Kirk Douglas	12/9
Frank Sinatra	12/12
Pat Lynch	12/14
Patty Duke	12/14
Ray Nicchia	12/31
Val Kilmer	12/31

**WAY TO GO JOSE!**

Congratulations to Jose

Lopez, Fleet Mechanic in the Light Shop, for over 25 years of membership in the Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) program.



THIS MONTH'S TRIVIA

In Victorian England, turkeys were popular for Holiday dinners. Some of the birds were raised in Norfolk, and taken to market in London. To get them to London, the turkeys:

- A) Were herded by sheep dogs
- B) Flew
- C) Rode in huge wagons called "turkey-vans"
- D) Were supplied with boots made of sacking or leather.

Send your guess to Marilyn Rawlings at Fleet Management to be eligible for a prize.



FAMOUS FIRSTS

**In 1837 Oberlin College, in Ohio, becomes the first college to admit female students. In addition to studying, the women had to do laundry and cook meals for the male students.

** 1853 - Antoinette Blackwell becomes the first American woman to

be ordained a minister in a Recognized denomination (Congregational).

1647 - Margaret Brent became the first woman in



HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE FLEET

STAFF

Russell Ball
 Jill Bammerlin
 Andy Carmichael
 Nuray Carter
 Bobby Cavaluzzi
 Lonnie Clukey
 Raul Cortes
 Carlos Cruz
 Randy Feinstein
 Fred Glasenapp
 Steve Herzfeld
 Bob Hillman
 Gary Holmes
 Rick Irick
 Randy Layman
 Robert Lemieux
 Jose Lopez
 Pat Lynch
 Ray Nicchia
 Luis Pacheco
 Randy Painter
 Bill Prussman
 Marilyn Rawlings
 Raine Rodriguez
 Danny Schultz
 Janet Sherman
 Karen Shilling
 Keith Solomon
 Bob Surratt
 Keith Twardus
 Jayme Winters
 Brad Wright

Maryland to own property.



REMINDER: WE STILL NEED YOUR FOOD!

Fleet Management is still collecting non-perishable food products for the needy. Here are some suggestions:

- Canned Soups
- Canned Vegetables
- Boxed Stuffing
- Cake Mixes
- Canned Pumpkin
- Cranberries
- Paper Napkins
- Pudding Mixes
- Muffin Mixes
- Instant Potatoes
- Microwave Popcorn
- Snack Foods
- Toilet Paper
- Deodorant
- Condensed Milk
- Canned Gravies
- Paper products
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes

A collection box is located in the waiting room of the Fleet facility. Bring your bag of canned goods to Fleet and place them in the decorated box. Fleet staff will deliver the food to a local food bank on or about the 22nd of December. Thanks in

advance for your help with this project.

WE'RE PROUD!!!

Fleet Management is proud to announce that all of the technicians working in the EMS shop are now EVT (Emergency Vehicle Technician) Certified. Recently all three went to Sarasota on a Saturday to take tests. **Keith Twardus** took and passed his first EVT test, **Randy Feinstein** has two EVT's (and some ASE's) and **Robert Lemeiux** qualified to become an **EVT Certified Master Ambulance Technician**. This means that Robert is ASE (Automotive Service Excellence) Master Certified Automotive Technician (8 separate tests), ½ of a Master Certified Heavy Truck Technician (Robert has 5 of 6) and all 4 EVT Ambulance tests for a total of 15 separate tests. Because of his Master status, Robert will be asked to participate in the EVT Validation Committee made up of Manufacturers, Dealers, Industry Leaders and Master Certified Technicians which meets once a year in Jacksonville to validate tests, test questions (make sure the test is fair and balanced), make up new test questions and guide the direction of future tests. EVT offers a total of 15 different tests in Fire, AARF, Ambulance, Law Enforcement and Management. Hats off to Randy, Robert and Keith for

their dedication and efforts to become all they can be to Lee County and the EMS fleet.

KUDOS TO EMS TEAM

This is quite an accomplishment and you should all be very proud of having the "right stuff" to succeed in these endeavors. It appears you must be expert in many facets of the industry to be so recognized by your peers and to "make the cut" for certification/ recertification. I feel the organization profits daily from your dedication.

*John Norton
Public Safety*

Congratulations to Randy, Robert and Keith on their tremendous accomplishments. I have been on many EMS site visits around the country, and I firmly believe that our fleet is second to none. It wouldn't be possible without the commitment and partnership of all staff members.

*Kim Dickerson
EMS Operations Chief*

Congratulations to all! We appreciate the dedication and effort to ensure that 'our' fleet is second to none.

*Jay Bridenthal
EMS Fleet Supervisor*

I understand that the process to gain the various certifications can be time consuming, and require dedication of the individual. Thank you for your dedication to your industry and ours. Your commitment to excellence allows LCEMS to respond to

emergency calls with confidence in our fleet. I applaud each of you!

*Captain Chuck Clark
EMS Shift Commander*



BOARD GAME TRIVIA

** Many changes have taken place in Milton Bradley's Life board game since its creation in 1860. The years for these updates include 1866, 1959, 1961, 1978, 1985, 1992, and 2005.

** Dominoes were first played in the courts of Venice and Naples in Italy. The tiles were originally constructed by gluing and pinning two sheets of ebony on either side of the bone tile. This prevented cheating by being able to see the pip value from the back of the tile in certain lights.

** A board game very similar to checkers was discovered in the ruins of the ancient city of Ur in modern day Iraq. It dates to about 3000 B.C.

** There are 318,979,564,000 possible combinations of the first four moves in Chess.

** The most expensive Monopoly set ever created is worth \$2 million. The board is made of gold and the pieces are covered with jewels.

** Monopoly, the bestselling board game in the world, is produced in 26 different languages.

** Scrabble inventor Alfred Butts originally

named his game "Criss Cross", and sold a few hundred sets under that name. Later the name was changed to Scrabble.