



Newsletter of the 601st-615th ACW Association - Vol 2 No 1 April 2011

A message from our president Francis X Gosselin



Welcome to our 2011 Annual Association Reunion!

After the last 2010 Reunion held at Santa Fe, New Mexico, my family has gone through a number of serious health-related problems, some with severe consequences. My wife, Margie, underwent an operation to correct a heart problem and suffered a heart attack. She has recovered successfully and plans to accompany me to the next reunion. I had my fourth eye operation and waiting to see whether or not it has corrected my eye problem.

Problems are nothing new to my family or to our membership. As they appear, we attempt to deal with each situation in a positive way to obtain the best possible **outcomes**. Not long ago, we were informed that Howard, our Treasurer, and Fay, our Secretary, underwent medical interventions; Clifford Karau lost his son, and Lucy Vaughan is gracefully improving from her illness. I mention these specific cases, because most of the changes to our membership go unnoticed. We would like to improve this area of communication.

In March, we learned that Mrs. Jeannette Raneo passed away after a long illness. Our hearts and sympathies are with Bill and his family during these hard times. William Raneo, Bill, has been a loyal member of the organization since its inception and a very good friend. Amy Von Hatten has written some comments about Jeannette Raneo's life and her devotion to her family. Please refer to page 3 of this newsletter.

In spite of all this adversity, we will go on and have our 2011 Annual Reunion at **Biloxi, Mississippi**, the home of **Keesler AFB**. This reunion will be our eleventh since the Association was created.

Keesler AFB's base authorities have granted us permission to visit the base and get acquainted with their operations. As you know, the base has been in the business of training our Air Force members in electronics, meteorology, and avionics for the past 69 years. Many of our members have graduated from their technical training. While at Biloxi, we will also visit the **WWII Museum**. The WWII Museum is an outstanding place to visit and learn about our military and political history.

To disseminate our reunion agenda, we have used all methods currently available, such as e-mail, postal, and web posting to ensure that all members have received a copy of the reunion agenda. If you haven't seen it yet, please visit our web site to download a copy at:

www.601st-615th-acw.org/index.html

The May 2011 Reunion is full of activities and fun things to do, if you want to attend, please e-mail Fay Dickey at faydickey@gvtel.com for more information.

We will see you in Biloxi in May!

Contents

- President's Message 1
- Der Bulli kommt zuruck 2
- Jeanette Raneo 3
- Griff's Gripes and Goofs 4
- Roy Rogers' Museum Closes5
- Web Bits @ Pieces6
- Harry and Bess7
- DOD To Dro SSN Numbers8
- Pass the Biscuits8
- Have You Ever Wondered? 9
- Bad to the Bone 10
- Our Mailbag11

Der Bulli kommt zurück

*Sylvia
Heise*

Came across this in the newspaper last week. I'm sure all the Association members remember the old "classic" VW Bus from the 50s and 60s. Volkswagen has now announced a new version of the very same ...Here is the new **bulli!** Have a look for yourself !



We will see you in Biloxi in May 2011

In memoriam...

Jeanette Raneo

As remembered by Amy Von Hatten

Jeanette Raneo, 75, our beloved sister in Christ, passed on to her eternal reward on Feb. 27, 2011, at Baltimore-Washington Hospital after a lengthy illness. Although born in Massachusetts, Bill and Jeannette made their residence in Gambrills, Maryland, for the past thirty-nine years. Many of Jeanette and Bill's relatives still live in Massachusetts and throughout the years they made frequent visits to spend time with their families there.

Jeannette was the loving wife of Bill Raneo, who is an active member of the 601-615th ACWS. They both enjoyed traveling to different locations for reunions with this fine group of retired military men and women. The past few years, however, this became impossible due to Jeannette's failing health. While in good health, Jeannette and Bill traveled extensively with other friends too. They especially enjoyed going on cruises with a close-knit group of friends.

Jeannette had many friends who enjoyed spending time with her and hearing her hearty laugh! She was a strong-willed woman who was determined to help those in need. Their oldest son, William "Brad" suffered a brain injury in a car accident as a young adult. Although his injuries were severe, Jeannette wouldn't give up on him. She struggled to teach him to walk and talk again, which was no easy feat since Brad is well over six feet tall! Only a mother's love can accomplish the seemingly impossible!

Bill and Jeannette had been happily married for 52 years. They were privileged to become parents to three handsome, loving sons: William Bradford Raneo Jr., Bruce (Tony) Raneo, and Mark Raneo.

They also enjoyed spending quality time with their six



Jeanette Raneo

grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Jeannette was happiest when spending time with her family.

Jeannette was well-known for her extravagant gardens and her love of roses. Ed and I went to visit them a

few years ago and were in awe of her beautiful and colorful spring garden! It was her pride and joy. Bill also worked hard in the garden to please his loving wife! Jeannette will be missed by all her family members and friends. However, after a lengthy struggle with her illness, she is in the bosom of our heavenly Father, awaiting the reunion of all reunions! Oh, what jubilation when we are all together in heaven for all eternity!



The Raneos at the Biloxi Reunion



Amy is the wife of one of our founding members Ed Von Hatten.

Griff's Gripes and Goofs!

Ach Der Lieber!

By Glen Griffitts

During a recent summer my wife Romy and I spent several weeks in Europe. We visited her sister and brother-in-law who live in Kassel. Over the years we shared many vacations with them. They are experienced travelers and excellent tour guides. On this trip, we traveled throughout Germany, Hungary and Austria.



It was our first time in Vienna and we found it to be a particularly beautiful and interesting city. It's a history buff's paradise with fabulous palaces, cathedrals, monuments, and museums. The people there are helpful and very friendly.

In the center of the city is a pedestrian mall of great elegance called Kärntnerstrasse. One could compare it with Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills. There are exquisite boutiques, furriers, jewelry stores, chic coffee houses, and other fine shops on both sides of the street. The magnificent St. Stephen's Cathedral is located near one end. Wealthy Europeans could be seen wearing their finery and doing their best to be seen by the right people. There were also common tourists like us. It was a great place to people-watch.

We spent several hours on Kärntnerstrasse. The ladies browsed and window-shopped while I took lots of pictures. After a while, we were tempted to try one of the delicious looking pastries we had seen in show windows and a cup of that famous Viennese coffee. Besides, we all needed a nature break. And there, right in front of us, was one of those swank cafés.

The restrooms were found upstairs over the café. My brother-in-law and I finished our business and went back outside to wait for the ladies near the door. (Somehow women always seem to take longer.) After about five minutes, they came outside nervously laughing and blushing.

Romy explained that while they were in the restroom, she had a problem readjusting her skirt after using the facilities. She was wearing a blouse and a loose skirt over tight fitting panty hose. She complained to her sister that something just didn't feel right. She tugged here and there, but still felt something was wrong.

"Oh well", she thought, "I guess it's okay".

She then followed her sister to the café to look for an empty table. They walked up and down the full length of the busy dining room and noticed that many of the patrons were smiling at them. (See... I told you they were friendly.) As Romy turned to walk back to the front door, her sister exclaimed, "Oh, my God!" She noticed the entire back of Romy's skirt was tucked into the top of her panty hose. She had been "mooning" everyone! They quickly left the café amid giggles from patrons.



I, being a sensitive sort of guy, suggested that she go back in so I could take a picture. That did not happen. Need I tell you that we went elsewhere for our coffee?

If you are interested in submitting a story for the newsletter, you can e-mail it to: newsletter601-615@comcast.net.



Glen Griffitts, a former radar operator, served with the 601st AC&W Squadron at Rothwesten 1957-1958 and at Wasserkuppe 1958 to 1960.

Roy Rogers' Museum Closes

The Roy Rogers Museum has closed its doors forever.

Here is a partial listing of some of the items that were sold at auction...

Roy's 1964 Bonneville sold for \$254,500, it was estimated to sell between 100 and 150 thousand dollars.

His script book from the January 14, 1953 episode of This Is Your Life sold for \$10,000 (est. \$800-\$1,000)

A collection of signed baseballs (Pete Rose, Duke Snyder and other greats) sold for \$3,750

A collection of signed bats (Yogi Berra, Enos Slaughter, Bob Feller, and others) sold for \$2,750.

Trigger's saddle and bridle sold for \$386,500 (est. 100-150,000)

One of many of Roy's shirts sold for \$16,250 and one of his many cowboy hats sold for \$17,500.

One set of boot spurs sold for \$10,625. (He never used a set of spurs on Trigger.)

A life size shooting gallery sold for \$27,500.

Various chandeliers sold from \$6,875 to \$20,000. Very unique and artistic in their western style.

A signed photograph by Don Larsen taken during his perfect game in the world series against the Dodgers on Oct. 8, 1953, along with a signed baseball to Roy from Don, sold for \$2,500

Two fabulous limited edition BB guns in their original boxes with numerous photos of Roy, Dale, Gabby, and Pat sold for \$3,750.

A collection of memorabilia from his shows entertaining the troops in Vietnam sold for \$938. I never knew he was there. His flight jacket sold for \$7,500.

His set of dinner ware plates and silverware sold for \$11,875. The Bible they used at the dinner table every night sold for \$8,750.

One of several of his guitars sold for \$27,500.

Nellybelle sold for \$116,500.

A fabulous painting of Roy, Dale, Pat, Buttermilk, Trigger, and Bullet sold for \$10,625.



One of several sets of movie posters sold for \$18,750.

A black and white photograph of Gene Autry with a touching inscription from Gene to Roy sold for \$17,500.

A Republic Productions Poster bearing many autographs of the people that played in Roy's movies sold for \$11,875.

Dale's horse, Buttermilk (whose history is very interesting) sold below the presale estimate for \$25,000. (est. 30-40,000)

Bullet sold for \$35,000 (est. 10-15 K). He was their real pet.

Dale's parade saddle, estimated to sell between 20-30 K, sold for \$104,500.

One of many pairs of Roy's boots sold for \$21,250.

Trigger sold for \$266,500.

Do you remember the 1938 movie The Adventures of Robinhood with Errol Flynn and Olivia de Havilland? Well Olivia rode Trigger in that movie. Trigger was bred on a farm co-owned by Bing Crosby. Roy bought Trigger on a time payment plan for \$2,500. Roy and Trigger made 188 movies together. Trigger even out did Bob Hope by winning an Oscar in the movie Son of Paleface in 1953.

It is extremely sad to see this era lost forever. Despite the fact that Gene and Roy's movies, as well as those of other great characters, can be bought or rented for viewing, today's kids would rather spend their time playing video games. Today it takes a very special pair of parents to raise their kids with the right values and morals. These were the great heroes of our childhood, and they did teach us right from wrong, and how to have and show respect for each other and the animals that share this earth.

You and I were born at the right time.

We were able to grow up with these great people even if we never met them. In their own way they taught us patriotism and honor, we learned that lying and cheating were bad, and sex wasn't as important as love. We learned how to suffer through disappointment and failure and work through it. Our lives were drug free.

So it's good-bye to Roy and Dale, Gene and Hoppy, The Lone Ranger and Tonto. Farewell to Sky King and Superman and Sgt. Friday. Thanks to Capt. Kangaroo, Mr. Rogers and Capt. Noah and all those people whose lives touched ours, and made them better.

It was a great ride through childhood.

Happy trails my friends!

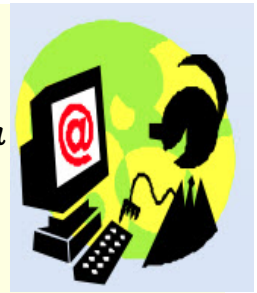
WEB BITS @ PIECES

By

William (Willie) Hanson

601st-615th ACW

Webmaster



Controlling Spam

One of the most frustrating aspects of using E-mail is all the junk mail that can come along with it. It can flood mailboxes, slow down transmission and reception of messages, and make it difficult at times to tell which messages are legitimate and which are not. A lot of time can be wasted just sorting through it because we don't want to delete an important message unknowingly. Once a message is deleted it cannot be retrieved!

Another thing to consider is, the selling of E-mail addresses to businesses is big business. If you recall, once you buy an item on the web, you automatically get E-mail from other vendors. Why is this? Once your name is added to a database, it is sold out to others; therefore, your spam mail will increase all of a sudden.

Following is, what I think, is important information one can use to combat spam:

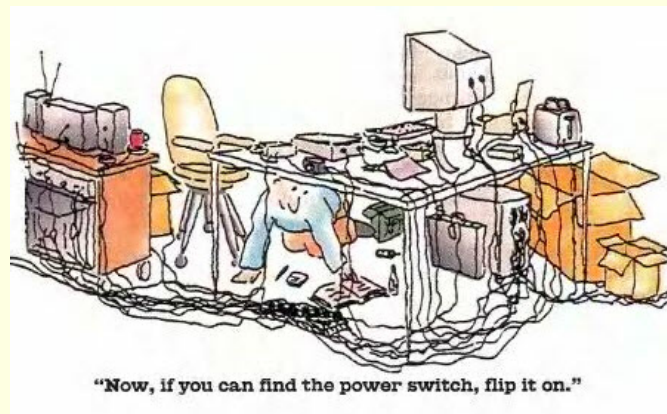
First of all, it comes in an unwanted mail message. It may seem like an innocent solicitation, or sometimes it makes little sense at all. BUT below the message there is a link. We are instructed to click here and "...*you will never hear from us again* ", or something similar. Now after complying with the instructions, we think we have eliminated at least one tormentor. But the reality is we have just invited more of the same.

This is how it works: A computer program generates all conceivable variations of E-mail addresses and the message routings and profiles are kept intact at the distant servers. Then it sends these to all the different domains with the appropriate suffix following the @. When someone clicks on the provided link, it replies,



sending a confirmation that the address is a legitimate one. This person has just been added to a spam list to be used and/or sold.

The perpetrator of the message did not know the address existed until now. Honestly, once your email address has been added to a spam listing, only an Act of Congress can take it off!

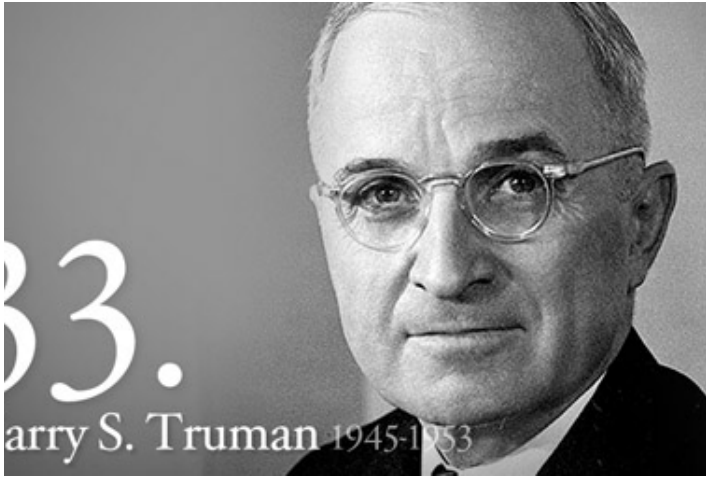


By refusing to comply with the instructions to "...*click here to be removed*" does not immediately stop the spam caused by such action, but it does not add to the existing harassment, and eventually it will probably begin to slacken

off. It is a good practice to not respond to any unsolicited E-mail. Search and find for yourself anything that is of interest. By responding to the seemingly innocent things found in your mailbox, you could be opening yourself up to, not only more spam mail, but viruses and other so-called malware.

I have devoted a lot of time to this endeavor over the years and I now have very little unsolicited mail. There are other methods I use which I will write about later. But for the time being, give your email to others intelligently and watch for secured and unsecured sites to conduct your business!

HARRY & BESS



We will never see this happen again. But maybe this is the way it should be.

Harry Truman was a different kind of President. He probably made as many, or more important decisions regarding our nation's history as any of the other 42 Presidents preceding him. However, a measure of his greatness may rest on what he did after he left the White House.

The only asset he had when he died was the house he lived in, which was in Independence Missouri. His wife had inherited the house from her mother and father and other than their years in the White House, they lived their entire lives there.

When he retired from office in 1952, his income was a U.S. Army pension reported to have been \$13,507.72 a year.. Congress, noting that he was paying for his stamps and personally licking them, granted him an 'allowance' and, later, a retroactive pension of \$25,000 per year.

After President Eisenhower was inaugurated, Harry and Bess drove home to Missouri by themselves. There was no Secret Service following them.

When offered corporate positions at large salaries, he declined, stating, "You don't want me. You want the office of the President, and that doesn't belong to me. It belongs to the American people and it's not for sale."

Even later, on May 6, 1971, when Congress was preparing to award him the Medal of Honor on his 87th birthday, he refused to accept it, writing, "I don't consider that I have done anything which should be the reason for any award, Congressional or otherwise."

As president he paid for all of his own travel expenses and food. Modern politicians have found a new level of success in cashing in on the Presidency, resulting in untold wealth.

Today, many in Congress also have found a way to become quite wealthy while enjoying the fruits of their offices. Political offices are now for sale. (sic. Illinois)

Good old Harry Truman was correct when he observed, "My choices in life were either to be a piano player in a whore house or a politician, and to tell the truth, there's hardly any difference!

I say dig him up and clone him!!

This is not sent for discussion. If you agree, forward it. If you don't, delete it. I don't want to know one way or the other. By me forwarding it, you know how I feel. Enjoy life now... It has an expiration date!



Board of Directors

Francis X. Gosselin, President

Terry Troy, Vice President

Howard Dickey, Treasurer

Fay Dickey, Secretary/Activity Coordinator

LoAnne Zentner, Aide to Ms Dickey

Jeanetta Teague, Member-at-large

JB Vaughn, Member-at-Large

George Biscoe, Photographer

William Hanson, Web Site Master

Wilfred Rodriguez, Newsletter Editor

DOD to drop Social Security numbers from ID

Release No. 04-01-11

April 4, 2011

By Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON -- Beginning June 1, Social Security numbers on military identification cards will begin to disappear, said Air Force Maj. Monica M. Matoush, a Pentagon spokeswoman.

The effort is part of a larger plan to protect service members and other DOD identification card holders from identity theft, officials said.

Criminals use Social Security numbers to steal identities, allowing them to pillage resources, establish credit or to hijack credit cards, bank accounts or debit cards.

Currently, the Social Security number is printed on the back of common access cards, and on the front of cards issued to dependents and retirees. Beginning in June, when current cards expire, they will be replaced with new cards having a DOD identification number

replacing the Social Security number, officials said. The DOD identification number is a unique 10-digit number that is assigned to every person with a direct relationship with the department. The new number also will be the service member's Geneva Convention identification number.

An 11-digit DOD benefits number also will appear on the cards of those people eligible for DOD benefits.

The first nine digits are common to a sponsor, the official said, and the last two digits will identify a specific person within the sponsor's family.

Social Security numbers embedded in the bar codes on the back of identification cards will remain there for the time being, and will be phased out beginning in 2012.

The department will replace identification cards as they expire.

"Because cards will be replaced upon expiration, it will be approximately four years until all cards are replaced with the DOD ID number," Matoush said.

PASS THE BISCUITS

When I was a kid, my mom liked to make breakfast food for dinner every now and then. And I remember one night in particular when she had made breakfast after a long, hard day at work. On that evening so long ago, my mom placed a plate of eggs, sausage, and extremely burned biscuits in front of my dad. I remember waiting to see if anyone noticed! Yet all my dad did was reach for his Biscuit, smile at my mom and ask me how my day was at school.

I don't remember what I told him that night, but I do remember hearing my mom apologize to my dad for burning the biscuits. And I'll never forget what he said: "Honey, I love burned biscuits."

Later that night, I went to kiss Daddy good night and I asked him if he really liked his biscuits burned. He wrapped me in his arms and said, "Your momma put in a long hard day at work today and she's real tired. And besides... a burnt biscuit never hurt anyone!"



You know, life is full of imperfect things... and imperfect people. I'm not the best at hardly anything, and I forget birthdays and anniversaries just like everyone else. What I've learned over the years is that learning to accept each others faults and choosing to celebrate each others differences, is one of the most important keys to creating a healthy, growing, and lasting relationship.

So...please pass me a biscuit. And yes, the burned one will do just fine! And please pass this along to someone who has enriched your life... I just did!

Life is too short to wake up with regrets... Love the people who treat you right and forget about the ones who don't.

ENJOY LIFE NOW - IT HAS AN EXPIRATION DATE!

(From an e-mail from M Douglas, Texas)

Have you ever wondered if anyone in Europe remembers America's sacrifice in World War II?

There is an answer in a small town in the Czech Republic . The town called Pilsen (Plzen). Every 5 years, Pilsen conducts the Liberation Celebration of the City of Pilsen. May 6th, 2010, marked the 65th anniversary of the liberation of Pilsen by General George Patton's 3rd Army. Pilsen is the town that every American should visit. Because they love America and the American Soldier.

Even 65 years later. by the thousands, the citizens of Pilsen came to say thank you. Lining the streets for miles. From the large crowds, to quiet reflective moments, including this American family's private time to honor and remember their American hero.

Pilsen is the crash site of Lt. Virgil P. Kirkham, the last recorded American USAAF pilot killed in Europe during WWII. It was Lt. Kirkham's 82nd mission and one that he volunteered to go on. At the time, this 20-year-old pilot's P-47 Thunderbolt plane was shot down, a young 14-year-old Czech girl, Zdenka Sladkova, was so moved by his sacrifice she made a vow to care for him and his memory. For 65 straight years, Zdenka, now 79-years-old, took on the responsibility to care for Virgil's crash site and memorial near her home.

On May 4th, she was recognized by the Mayor of Zdenka's home town of Trhanova , Czech Republic, for her sacrifice and extraordinary effort to honor this American hero. Another chapter in this important story. the Czech people are teaching their children about America's sacrifice for their freedom. American Soldiers, young and old, are the "Rock Stars" these children and their parents want autographs from.

Yes, Rock Stars! As they patiently waited for his autograph, the respect this little Czech boy and his father have for our troops serving today was heartwarming and inspirational.

The Brian LaViolette Foundation established The Scholarship of Honor in tribute to General George S. Patton and the American Soldier, past and present. Each year, a different military hero will be honored in tribute to General Patton's memory and their mission to liberate Europe. This award will be presented to a graduating senior who will be entering the military or a form of community service such as fireman, policeman, teaching or nursing -- a cause greater than self. The student will be from 1 of the 5 high schools in Pilsen , Czech Republic.



The first award will be presented in May 2011 in honor of Lt. Virgil Kirkham, that young 20-year-old P-47 pilot killed 65 years ago in the final days of WWII.

Presenting Virgil's award will be someone who knows the true meaning of service and sacrifice - someone who looks a lot like Virgil. Marion Kirkham, Virgil's brother, who himself served during WWII in the United States Army Air Corps!!!

Here is what the city of Pilsen thinks of General Patton's grandson. George Patton Waters (another Rock Star!) we're proud to say, serves on Brian's Foundation board. The award is front page news [over there](#). not buried in the middle of the social



section.



Notice the flags?

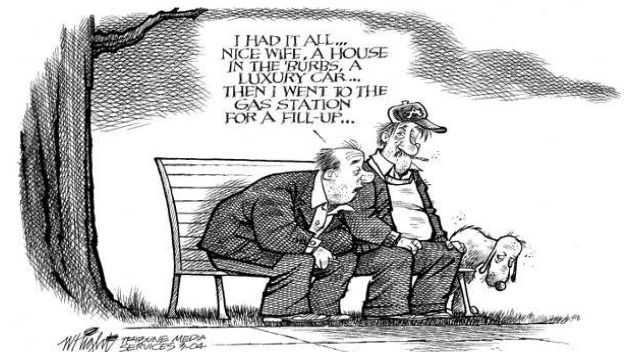
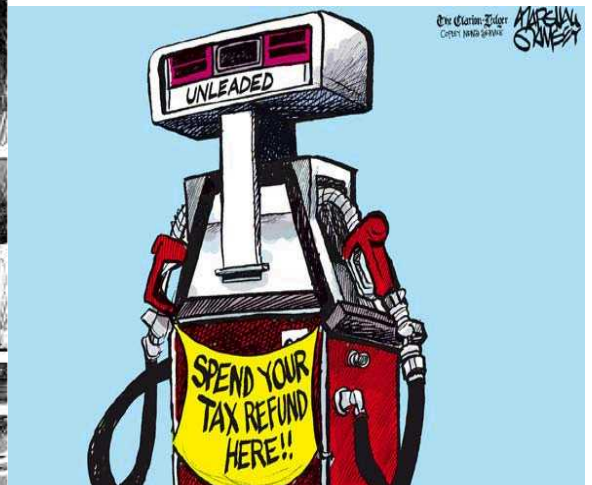
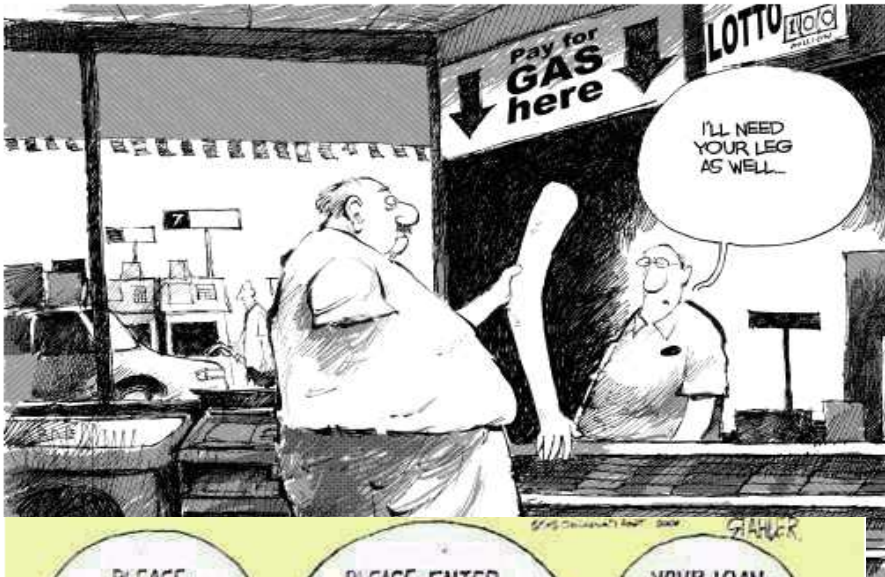
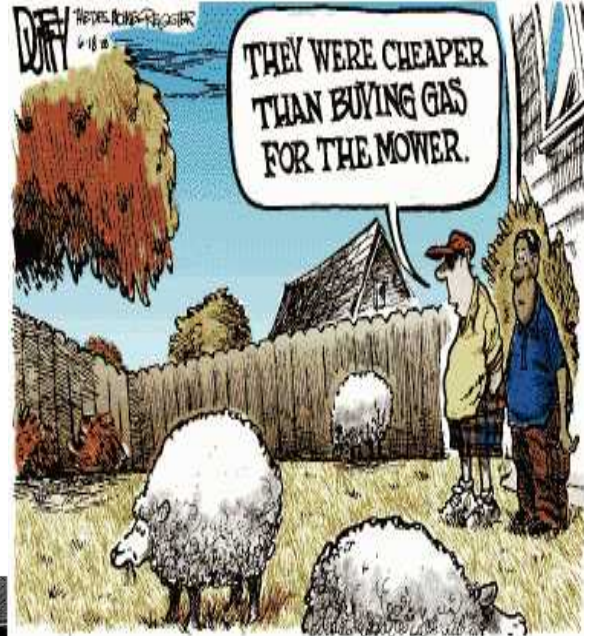


Bad to the bone ... !



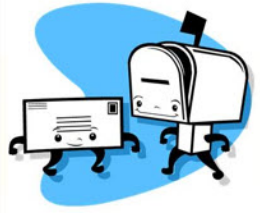
Laughs around the Gas Stations...!

\$3.75



As compiled by Carl Kitchens

Our Mailbag



April 2, 2011

Dear Association Member,

ABC values your trust and wants to make you aware of a recent incident. We learned from our email provider, Epsilon, that limited information about you was accessed by an unauthorized individual or individuals. This information included your name and email address and did not include any financial or other sensitive information. We felt it was important to notify you of this incident as soon as possible. We apologize for any inconvenience and have outlined below a number of email safeguards to help ensure your privacy online.

Email scams, spam, and other attacks on email systems are on the rise, but, by taking certain precautions when receiving emails, you can continue to safely use email for your business and personal needs:

- Don't open links or attachments from people you don't know and trust.
- Don't provide personal, financial, or other sensitive information when asked to do so by email. Most reputable companies do not ask for such information by email, and, rest assured, we will not do so.
- If you receive an email appearing to come from us that does ask you for sensitive information, do not respond, click on any links, or download any attachments. Instead, please inform us immediately at the toll-free number or email address provided below.

We take your privacy very seriously and work diligently to protect your information, whether held by us or by our service providers. ABC's internal databases, which store all customer-provided data, were in no way compromised. Our email provider has taken significant steps to further protect the limited customer information held in its databases. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this incident, please contact us toll free at 1-800-933-2887 or email us at customerservice@abc.com.

Sincerely,
Joe Public, Senior Vice President

(Editor's comments: ***The above letter is a valid letter received by your Newsletter Editor. Although no harm was done, a letter like this can be received by anyone, at anytime. It behooves the member to follow the company's instructions and follow all the actions required to prevent identification thefts. In most cases, the company's recommendations are the coordination efforts of multiple government and private agencies dealing daily with the prevention of identification frauds and spams.***

Page 7 of this newsletter, covers ways in preventing email spams!

Visit our Web Site

<https://www.601st-615th-acw.org/index.html>

