



EASTERN PENN SUPPLY

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Chatterbox

Well December is upon us, with many traditions old & new.

For example it is the season of constant adverts telling us we must buy this machine or this weight loss system to succeed in our New Year's resolution. I secretly want to get a megaphone & scream back at the TV "Not only am I quite content with my mass, I think you should mind your own bloody business!", except all that would accomplish is scare the two wee dogs. I don't need a weight loss machine (I have one built in in fact, they are called feet & mouth. If I use the first more & shove less into the second; *I lose weight!*) For free even. I don't need a watch to count steps & check my email, nor do I need a VR 3D headset to view non-reality in beautiful 3D. I don't want my car to make phone calls or me, nor a laptop to separate into two parts, neither of which I'll be able to reassemble into something useable before they are old enough to upgrade. What I do desire is more time with my family; my kids continue to grow older, they have given us 9 grandbabies now (welcome to the newest, an army brat named Bettie May). I would very much like life to take a deep breath & *slow the heck down* for the next 30 years or so. That way the beautiful Joy & I can nurse the end-game for every dram of enjoyment it holds. That's all I want, & if you interrupt to tell me a "StairMaster" you may be beaten with it.



It looks like at least one mystery is solved by science;

Among 1/2 a million papyri fragments discovered 100 years ago in Egypt, one has finally been translated by Dominic Rathbone of Kings College that holds interest today to more than historians. Impacting the ongoing debate whether professional wrestling is real, or faked (mostly with the fans saying 'Real' & everyone else saying 'no its not'). The contract, written in 267 AD, specified for a fee of 3,800 drachmas, Demetrius must fall 3 times, than yield their match when Nicantinous & Demetrius met in the ring. Should Demetrius fail to uphold his contract, he would owe a penalty of 18,000 drachmas to Nicantinous. The contract was co-signed by Nicantinous' father & Demetrius' trainer. The sport was as crooked 1,800 years ago as it (probably) is today. I use the term 'probably' because I know how avid the fans are; I don't want to be beaten with a StairMaster !



More real Police stories; 1) As reported in San Francisco's Herb Caen column; Steve Barkley of Pebble Beach was mailed a \$45 ticket & a photo of his car speeding. Barkley, ever the wisecrack, sent Campbell Police back a photo of \$45 cash. Campbell Police Chief James Cost then mailed Barkley, with no further comment or explanation, a photo of a set of handcuffs. Coming to the conclusion the police were now ahead 2-1, Barkley promptly paid up; good decision Steve...
2) A woman on Serrano Road Apple Valley California called police to complain 2 strangers were in her back yard cutting her marijuana plants. The officer asked if she was aware she was not in Colorado... she replied she was *certainly* aware of that!

The officer pointed out they could come out on the complaint, but since marijuana was still illegal in California everyone would be arrested. The woman hung up, apparently deciding losing some was better than losing all... 3) The Hanson Street Children's Centre in Waverly Australia called the police to report a suspicious man who stood in a neighboring window for hours just watching the kids. Police were dispatched to discover a cardboard cut-out of Arnold Schwarzenegger. Police asked the homeowner ask Mr. Schwarzenegger to "cut it out", laughed & left. Seriously, you can't make this stuff up.



This December 7th, take a moment to remember it was

74 years ago the Japs bombed Pearl Harbor. The attack killed 2,403 & wounded 1,178, making the combined casualties of 3,581 still the highest casualties surprise attack in American history. There were more killed on 9-11 (2,977) but a lot fewer wounded. The lesson one can draw from both are inescapable though. We have two choices, watch out for ourselves down to an individual level, or risk being caught napping. I find it of interest the great equalizer, Time, is leveling the field. Of the 30,000 service men & women at Pearl Harbor December 7th, 1941, 2,403 died during the attack. Of the surviving 27,597 veterans of Pearl Harbor, an estimated 2,250 still survive. Yes, fewer survive today than died in the attack. Getting fewer every year, in another decade or so, they will all reside in the halls of history. So should you be so lucky to see someone with a *Pearl Harbor Survivor* cap on, thank them right then & there for the service; you will not get many more chances.



A nation can unilaterally declare WAR; however they cannot

unilaterally declare peace. France found that out the hard way this November 13th. We should rightly cry for her 140 dead citizens from this Black Friday 13th attack. But we should also learn from her errors. France is one of our oldest allies. Long before Britain, Russia, Japan, or any of the others joined with us, France was the first to recognize an infant United States, way back when we were struggling against King George just to *be* a country. In recent decades France has focused far more on being 'liked' than protecting her own citizens. We can all draw any conclusions we like from this... The two lessons I got are 1) It's useless to be liked, when a measurable percentage of the others are only going to like you 'medium rare in a hollandaise sauce'... 2) Take a page from Theodore Roosevelt; 'speak softly, but carry a big stick', so stop being afraid to use the damn stick.



Enjoy the family this Christmas. The years & tides of life can separate us without warning. Milk the minutes & hours you have in hand for every drachma you can! Merry Christmas! We'll talk again in 2016!

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