

I Took a Vacation!

Yeah, I took a vacation, all right. Was it eventful and interesting like Bill and Jan Lembright's? No. Was it quiet and restful like I hoped? Not so far, five of the 8 days into it. Has it been worthwhile? That depends on how you look at it.

The very first thing I did was to convince myself that we needed to get a car. I had it all figured out: sell the little white van to a family that needs it because it's outfitted for a wheelchair, including a ramp, all of the straps, etc.



That left Debbie's little 2020 Honda Fit, a neat little car with only 25000 miles on it. She and I could share it, since she prefers not to drive at all. But I thought to myself, "Self, doesn't it make sense to upgrade the little Fit to a larger car that would be more practical and with more room?"

I tried to drop the idea, but I just couldn't. I'd be doing my work or other stuff and suddenly find myself searching for a car. That bee in my bonnet just wouldn't quit buzzing! I'd look and look, with the hope of finding a minivan that didn't cost too much more than we'd get for the Honda Fit and maybe a little from the Ram van.

First I was going to go to Redlands to look at a Ford Transit Connect passenger van. That was THE car. I didn't even know the little Ford vans came in a passenger model! Then we actually did visit the Avis Car Sales in Victorville to look at a 2019 Dodge Caravan, a very nice car that was a deep red. I've never gotten a car that isn't white! And it was loaded with features. It wasn't the simple Caravan like we had before.

The best thing about it was the spare donut/tire. The Ram just had an inflation kit and

no spare, a serious negative in my view, so serious that I bought a spare wheel to carry around when I travelled down below. But you know how you got to the Caravan's spare? Place magic hat on head. Take wand out of glove compartment. Wave wand while chanting a spare song. 6 little doors opens, and voila! There is the spare donut!

Actually, the salesman had to look on the internet to figure it out. It required pulling something open, sliding open a couple of compartments, and finally revealing the nut that holds the spare in place, right next to the driver's seat in the front! Loosen and remove the nut so that the spare drops down, and you're all set! Hahahahahahaha.....! I can just see me on a dark, rainy evening in that mess "down below" somewhere, struggling with that spare donut!

What discouraged Jan, Debbie, and me the most was that the evening we went, it was dark, the sales room was dimly lit, and there were only two guys there. It was a cold feeling, and to top it off, we left fairly promptly, but the two guys left even more promptly since it was after closing, locking the gate behind them. We were locked in!! Minutes before, I had just asked for the business card of the boss with his cell number on it, and he had to come back to free us. (Thank You, God, for that tiny miracle.)

Somehow, the song from the sixties about Charlie being stuck on the Boston MTA came to mind – Did they ever return? No, they never returned, and their fate is still unlearned, poor old ladies. They are stuck forever at the Avis Car Lot. They are gals who never returned. OK, only us old geezers will remember that ancient song.

You'd-a thunk that this would have killed that bee in my bonnet, but then, you'd-a thunk wrong. I kept looking and found a trade-in value on the little Fit that seemed like it could cover a good share of a nice car, so Debbie and I went to Valley Hi Honda. Big mistake. Well, sort of. Maybe not. My guilt feelings are shouting so loud that I can't hear what God has to say about all this.

Of course, the Honda guy assumed a new car, not a "pre-owned" vehicle, and since I had mentioned my preference for the HR-V or CR-V, two smaller Hondas that are larger than the Fit, he immediately took us to the one new 2024 HR-V they had available. It sat there in its bright red-ness, looking utterly beautiful, beckoning to us to "come see how wonderful I am."



Sigh! Yes, it was impressive, full of features that Honda had just reengineered into it in 2023. But isn't there a used HR-V on the lot? Well, yes, there was one, a 2020 black one, I think, so we looked at it, tried to start it, and the battery was dead. We looked at a couple of other used vehicles, but the price differences weren't enough to justify getting a used car instead of that red, red, red HR-V.

I suppose you can guess what car came home with us. It took all afternoon, but with



some concessions they made on the price, we made a pretty good deal, I think.

What I still don't know is what God thinks of it! What I do know is that I'm pretty good at convoluted ways to justify my covetous desires for whatever, "whatever" being that RED RED RED HR-V Honda.

As of this writing, day 5 of the vacation, I've spent the time here at this desk at home working on, well, work, thankfully making progress on some knotty problems, but not vegging in my chair yet. Maybe tomorrow, after I get home from Orange where I see the hearing doctor.

Even though my desire for the RED car dawned out just about anything else once we saw it, I do hope to use it for God's purposes. Certainly the RED car will stand out on the freeways better than the little gray lady bug that was the Fit, so it's safer. (One of my justifications.)

Anyway, thank You, Father for the car and most of all, for Your calling!!

Linda Gimmel

With Lembrights' Honda and the HR-V spending so much time together, one of these days, we'll find that they both turned pink!



Lucerne Valley Residents:

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION



December 2, 2023
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Behind Lucerne Valley Fire Station
33269 Old Woman Springs Rd.
(Enter through gate on Ladera Rd.)

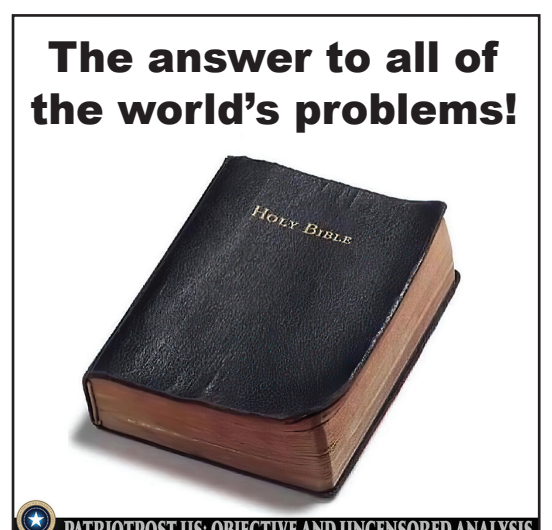
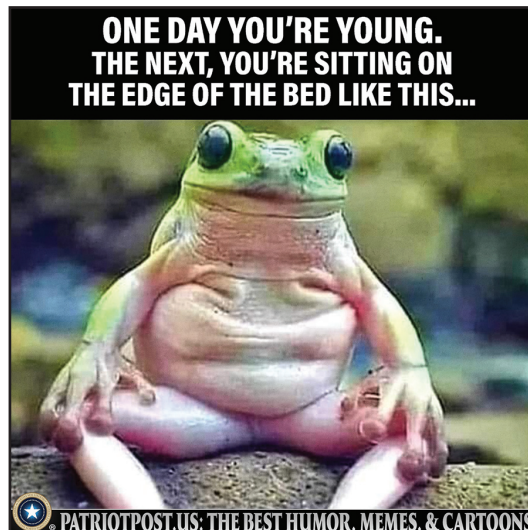
CAN ONLY TAKE:

- Antifreeze
- Batteries
- Fluorescents
- Medical Needles
- Latex and Oil based paint
- All Electronic Wastes (E-Waste)
- Oil and Filters (max. 5 gallon containers)



**NO TRASH
NOTHING ELSE**

On The Lighter Side of Serious Stuff . . . from the Web



Lucerne Valley Christmas tree Lighting

December 2, 6 p.m.
FREE EVENT

Come join us for our Annual Lighting of the Tree on Strawberry Hill!

- MUSIC • HOT DRINKS •
- VENDORS • SNACKS •

31420 State Highway 18,
Lucerne Valley