



Car Buzz

October 2011

A Free Monthly Newsletter From Your Friends At Leonardi Automotive

Worth The Paper It's Printed On? A History Of The Banknote

Governments print it, misers hoard it under their mattresses, rich people light their cigars with it, but where does the idea of paper money come from, anyway?

China, actually. The banknote apparently originated during the Tang Dynasty (7th century), to replace bulky copper coins carried by merchants. The coins were minted with rectangular holes in their center so they could be strung together on cords, but wealthy merchants found that lugging their coins around was difficult.

A system was born in which merchants left their coins with a trusted agent in exchange for a note stating exactly how much money was being held. The merchant could return the note at any time to redeem his or her coins, and in time paper money called "jiaozi" evolved.

In Europe, banknotes first came into use in the 14th century. The term "banknote" derives from *nota di banco*. The holder of a note could redeem it for an amount of silver or gold held on deposit with a bank.

In the New World, the Massachusetts Bay Colony was the first of the American colonies to circulate its own banknotes in the early 1690s, but all 13 colonies were issuing their own notes by the early 1700s.

The First Bank of the United States, chartered by Congress in 1789 shortly after the signing of the Constitution, was authorized to issue banknotes, but the U.S. federal government didn't start printing its own paper money until 1862.



A Humorous Look At Life

Thoughts and observations that might be true (or should be):

- * Do not argue with an idiot. He will drag you down to his level and beat you with experience.
- * The last thing I want to do is hurt you. But it's still on my list.
- * If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.
- * I asked God for a bike, but it turns out God doesn't work that way. So I stole a bike and asked God for forgiveness.
- * We never really grow up. We only learn how to act in public.
- * A bus station is where a bus stops. A train station is where a train stops. On my desk, I have a workstation . . .
- * I thought I wanted a career. Turns out I just wanted paychecks.
- * Whenever I fill out an application, in the part that says, "In case of emergency, notify . . ." I put "DOCTOR."
- * You do not need a parachute to skydive. You do need a parachute to skydive twice.
- * I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not so sure.
- * You're never too old to learn something stupid.
- * I always take life with a grain of salt. Then a slice of lemon and a shot of tequila.
- * When tempted to fight fire with fire, remember that the fire department usually uses water.



Do You Have A Question About Car Maintenance That You Want Answered?

We love to hear from all of our good friends and clients who enjoy reading our monthly newsletter. If you have a question about anything related to your vehicle, feel free to give us a call at **415-897-1503**, email us at leonardiautomotive@yahoo.com or visit us at leonardiauto.com

October Events

- October 8th Yom Kippur
- October 10th Columbus Day
- October 13th Navy Birthday
- October 31st Halloween
- October 1-31st National Breast Cancer Awareness Month



All Month Long: Trick Or Treat Halloween Special Only



- Oil Change & Filter
- 48 Point Inspection
- Lubricate Chassis



Most Cars & Light Trucks
Expires 10/31/11
Must Present Coupon



\$30.95

Cannot Be Combined With Other Offers

A \$59.95 Value

What To Do After Giving Blood

Recovering from donating blood is a simple procedure. Immediately after you donate, you will be given a small snack and a beverage and asked to spend 15 minutes or so relaxing. The American Red Cross advises drinking four 8-ounce glasses of non-alcoholic liquids over the course of the following 24 hours and eating your regular meals. Keep the bandage on for five hours and avoid strenuous exercise or heavy lifting for the rest of the day. After 24 hours, your body will replace the fluid it has lost.

Columbus Day: The True Story

Everyone knows that Columbus commanded three ships when he first voyaged to the New World: The *Niña*, the *Pinta*, and the *Santa María*. Right?

Actually, according to a 1987 article in the *Los Angeles Times*, those weren't the actual names of the ships that the intrepid explorer sailed on. They were nicknames. The *Santa María's* real name was *La Galicia*. The *Niña* was really the *Santa Clara*. The *Pinta's* true name is unknown. The ships were built and supplied by a Spanish town called Palos as a punishment for offending the crown.

And you probably know that Columbus didn't actually "prove" the world was round. By the 15th century, virtually all educated Europeans especially seagoing navigators knew the world wasn't flat, though some uneducated folks probably still expected him to fall off the edge.



'Let's Do Lunch' Less Common These Days

When was the last time you took a whole hour for lunch and actually left your desk? A survey from CareerBuilder reports that workers these days take an average lunch break of 20 to 40 minutes, and 18 percent of employees stay in their cubicle, office, or workspace to eat.

What should they do instead to feel fresh and productive the rest of the day? Try these activities:

- ➔ Take a walk outside
- ➔ Talk to a friend
- ➔ Take a quick nap
- ➔ Do some stretching exercises
- ➔ Play a quick, mentally challenging game



The Sky's The Limit For Solar Power

As sure as the sun rises every day, solar power appears to be growing in popularity. A survey by Applied Materials, a semiconductor manufacturer, found that 27 percent of Americans say they'd consider installing solar panels on their homes. Why? Well, 65 percent say that government incentives reducing their initial cost would drive their decision, and 54 percent felt that solar panels would increase their home value.



Costs for solar panels have fallen from around \$4 per watt in 2008 to just \$1 per watt today. Still, solar power accounts for less than 1 percent of U.S. energy production.

Make Sure To Wash Those Fruits & Veggies

What could be better for your health than fresh fruits and vegetables? But even the ripest apple or the leafiest lettuce can carry dirt and nasty bacteria that need to be thoroughly washed off before it's safe to eat. Follow these tips for making sure your produce is untainted:

- ✓ **Start with a clean slate.** Wipe down your kitchen counter, scrub your knives and cutting boards, and wash your hands before cleaning your food.
- ✓ **Water is best.** Don't use soap or detergents to wash your produce; they can seep into the items and potentially make people sick. Use cool water and wash for 30 to 60 seconds in most cases. Some nutritionists say that a mixture of three parts water and one part white vinegar or lemon juice is even more effective, as long as you thoroughly rinse the produce when you're done.
- ✓ **Wash peeled food, too.** Dirt and microbes can hide in the crevices of such fruits and orange and bananas, so even though you don't eat the skin, washing it prevents the spread of harmful material from the peel to the fruit through contact with your fingers.
- ✓ **Don't wash and store.** Wait until you're ready to eat the item in question. If you wash it and then stick it in the refrigerator, it will retain moisture and spoil faster.
- ✓ **Use a brush.** For firmer fruits and vegetables such as apples and potatoes, a stiff vegetable brush can do a good job of removing dirt and particles you don't want to eat.



Leonardi's Customer Referral Program

Give this portion of the newsletter to a friend or family member who is not already a customer. Both parties will get a complimentary lube, oil and filter service when the new customer returns this card to Leonardi's for their service. After the new customer's service is performed, your account will show your free service is due when you come in!

Referred by: _____

Driving After Dark

The American Optometric Association urges drivers to take special precautions to compensate for their reduced visual acuity at dusk and nighttime:



- Reduce speeds at night.
- Consider stronger prescription lenses to see at night.
- Use headlights not only at night but at dawn and dusk.
- Keep windshields and windows clean, and make sure headlights and wipers are in good working order.
- Have regular, thorough eye exams.

Facebook Users... Friendly & Trusting

Are you an average social networker?

If so, you have about 229 Facebook friends, according to a recent Pew study, Social Networking Sites and Our Lives.

Just who are these "friends?" The average list includes:

- High school friends: 22 percent
- Extended family: 12 percent
- Co-workers: 10 percent
- College friends: 9 percent
- Immediate family: 8 percent
- Voluntary groups: 7 percent
- Neighbors: 2 percent



And chances are you trust these people, and people in general. The study found that "a Facebook user who uses the site multiple times per day is 43 percent more likely than other Internet users and more than three times as likely as non-Internet users to feel that most people can be trusted."



On The Origins Of The Jack O' lantern



Have you ever wondered how the practice of turning pumpkins into scary jack o' lanterns was born? The origin is quite fascinating.

O' lantern sounds Irish, and it is. The flickering, carved pumpkin faces that animate the American Halloween derive from an old Irish custom of creating rustic lanterns from vegetables. The Irish child's typical Halloween flashlight was a hollowed-out turnip or potato with a candle inside, and when the Irish landed in America in the nineteenth century, they were quick to spot the possibilities in the pumpkin.

Our Love For Smartphones

You love your smartphone, but do you sleep with it? According to a survey of 3,700 "mobile workers" conducted by mobile service provider iPass, 61 percent sleep with their smartphones, and 38 percent wake up in the middle of the night to check email.



Thirty-one percent turn to their smartphones immediately upon waking up in the morning, and 30 percent check their messages every six to 12 minutes even when they're not officially on the clock. Not surprising, 29 percent in the survey said mobile technology was causing friction in their relationships.

Popcorn Balls

Ingredients

- 3/4 cup light corn syrup
- 1/4 cup margarine
- 2 teaspoons cold water
- 2 5/8 cups confectioners' sugar
- 1 cup marshmallows
- 5 quarts plain popped popcorn



Directions

1. In a saucepan over medium heat, combine the corn syrup, margarine, cold water, confectioners' sugar and marshmallows. Heat and stir until the mixture comes to a boil. Carefully combine the hot mixture with the popcorn, coating each kernel.
2. Grease hands with vegetable shortening and quickly shape the coated popcorn into balls before it cools. Wrap with cellophane or plastic wrap and store at room temperature.

Nutritional Information

Amount Per Serving Calories: 191 | Total Fat: 7g | Cholesterol: 0mg

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From Your Friends At

October



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What's Inside?

- A Humorous Look At Life -
- Make Sure You Wash Those Fruits & Veggies -
- Our Love For Smartphones -
- October Events -
- Money Saving Offers -
- & Much More!



What's The Answer?



Is It Worth The Paper It's Printed On?

*What Percent Of Employees Stay At Their Cubical,
Office Or Workspace To Eat Lunch?*

How Much Does It Cost To Produce Solar Power?

*Did Columbus Really Sail On Ships Named The Nina, The Pinta
& Santa Maria?*

*The Answers To These And Many
More Questions Are Inside*

