



Shed Torque

The Official Newsletter of the Mount Beauty & District Men's Shed

Issue 9 – December 2024

Feel productive, contribute to the community and have fun doing it!



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Here we go again with another message from the blank mind of your *Editor* and his invaluable proofreader, *Paul L'Hullier*.

A new Shed initiative ...

Open ALL Hours

The Shed will be **Opening ALL Hours** from early December 2024

The committee has decided to open the Shed more often to get more usage out of the facility.

We have a great resource—the Shed and recreation room, equipment, machinery, and tools—but it needs to be *used more effectively* so members can access it at other times.

The two regular operating days only suit some members. We will be '**Open ALL Hours**' to cater for those who would like to attend at their convenience.

As well as the current two days per week (Tuesday and Wednesday, 9:30 am to 3:30 pm), the Shed will be open to members from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm **seven days per week** (including Tuesday and Wednesday).

A **Policy** has been developed that all members **MUST** read (so they know the rules). Click [\[HERE\]](#) to view it.

In summary:

1. Hours are 8:00 am to 8:00 pm, seven days a week.
2. For **safety and insurance** reasons, two people must be present, one of whom must be a member. The non-member can be a woman.
3. The main door will be locked **with a code**. Later, members will be emailed the code for their use only.
4. The door will have a **video camera** above it, so whoever enters will be recorded. The committee can access the recordings.
5. Members wishing to use **specialised tools and equipment** must be assessed by one of our Workshop Panel members and checked off in our system. This assessment must be conducted on a Tuesday or Wednesday when Panel members are in the Shed. Protective gear must be used as appropriate.
6. Members (and the second person) using the Shed *outside of regular days and hours* must **sign** the sign-in book and record the project they are working on next to their name.
7. On leaving, ensure that the lights, heater, air conditioning, and urn are off, and all doors are locked.

The working group for this project included Paul L'Huillier (Convenor), Peter Donnan, Ian Howley, and Phil Armitage. We thank Mal Darwent and Warwick Mitchell for installing the lock and Gerardo Altman, local audio/video consultant, for installing the video cameras.



Code Lock Installation: From Left, Warwick Mitchell & Mal Darwent



Peter Donnan - first recording.



Gerardo Altman

First, some "Dates for the Diary"

- **7th December:** Community Picnic – from 10 am to 1 pm – near the Fire Station
(The Men's Shed will be on the BBQ ... again).
- **11th December '24:** Shed **closes** for Christmas.
- **9th January '25:** Shed is **open** again.

At this month's BBQ, shed members brought their favourite casseroles for tasting. However, I just remembered that I needed to bring my camera. It didn't matter, though, as you couldn't take pictures of all the different 'flavours' available. They were excellent. **Note:** *There will be no BBQ or committee meeting in December.*

Health Assessment Program

Ten members recently participated in an interesting Health Assessment programme at the shed, and everyone learned something from the conversations. At least I realised I was still living—maybe on the edge, but hanging in there.

The following is a **copy of the letter received from Priceline Pharmacy.**

Thank you for giving Priceline Pharmacy Albury the opportunity to conduct the recent health initiative at the Men's sheds in the greater Albury and Wodonga area.

The health checks conducted involved a brief health assessment and either a diabetes risk assessment (DRA) or an Obstructive Sleep Apnoea (OSA) screening form, depending on each member's health status. The DRA is a valuable tool as it helps identify the individuals' general level of risk and guide conversations about reducing future risk. It also allows positive feedback to show that everyone usually does at least one or two things we could consider healthy and to motivate them to continue focusing on their health.

Having not been to any Men's Shed before it was a fantastic opportunity to see the sheds and meet the people who organise and participate in them. It was evident that the sheds provide a safe space for people to meet, share experiences, learn new skills, and give back to the community. Talking to foundation members and alike, the sense of pride in building a community at their shed was palpable.

As a health care professional, I was conscious of the saying that "*You need to meet people where you find them*", and on my travels I found people in many different stages of their life and in their health. I want to thank all the members who put their hand up to participate and hope they gained some valuable insights, whatever they might be. Everyone who participated was polite, engaged, and genuine. Which is not always easy to do when being screened or assessed.

For those members who were not able to attend, I encourage you to have these conversations with your GP or local pharmacy, as there is always something to learn. For those who were not yet ready to have these conversations, I hope that with continued participation in the sheds and positive health messages from peers, they



**Michael Bauer (Electronics Engineer)-
working on repairing the wood lathe.**

will one day be ready to take some positive steps towards being healthier.

For any follow-up queries, or if they wish to direct members to the services Priceline Pharmacy Albury and Sleep Clinic Albury/Wodonga can be contacted on:

Priceline Pharmacy Albury

541-543 Dean St, Albury

Ph: 02 60242727

E: script@awardpharmacies.com

E: admin@sleepclinics.net.au

Kind Regards

Nicholas Buete

Mobile: 0413271072



An enjoyable morning was held at the shed, entertaining fellow “shedders” from **St Leonards Men’s Shed** near Geelong, who were having a holiday visiting Sheds in our beautiful North East countryside, proving that it doesn’t matter where you come from, you will always find a Mate in any Men’s Shed.

Here, **Ted**, a non-paid-up member, inspects the safety requirements of our shed before committing to becoming a fully active member.

Meanwhile, he'll keep a good eye (black or white) on his owner, *Don Terry*.



Adult Digital Licenses are available.

Teenagers can prove age on their phones

Matt Johnston

Teenagers can use their phones to prove their age at bars or while on the road from this week after digital licences were cleared for use by learner drivers and P-platers.

From Tuesday, teens and inexperienced drivers will be able to download their licences and store them on a state government app.

Adults have been able to

carry digital licences since May. More than 1.2 million people have opted for the technology after assurances it would be secure and private.

Physical licences will still be issued to motorists in Victoria, given the digital version is optional, but the government says feedback on the change has been “overwhelmingly positive” largely due to the convenience.

It said the licences also pro-

vided security due to a timed QR code that could be scanned by businesses or authorities to verify authenticity, and to show if a licence had been cancelled or suspended.

Road Safety Minister Melissa Horne said the change would make showing ID easier.

“Approximately 800,000 L and P platers will be able to access their licence on their phone just in time for summer, making it easier for them to go

about their lives whether that’s driving around, going to a gig or collecting a parcel,” she said.

Digital licences can be added to the Service Victoria app or myVicRoads app on smartphones.

Government Services Minister Gabrielle Williams said the option was safe and secure.

They can be updated in real-time if there are changes to licence conditions or personal details like home addresses.



Decisions! — Plenty of advice on what the door code should be, even Ted the dog has an opinion.

Tawonga Caravan Park Project

Several Shed members were involved, including *Peter Panozzo, Don Terry, Larry Gardam, and Mario Francioli*, who donated the logs.

It started off like this,



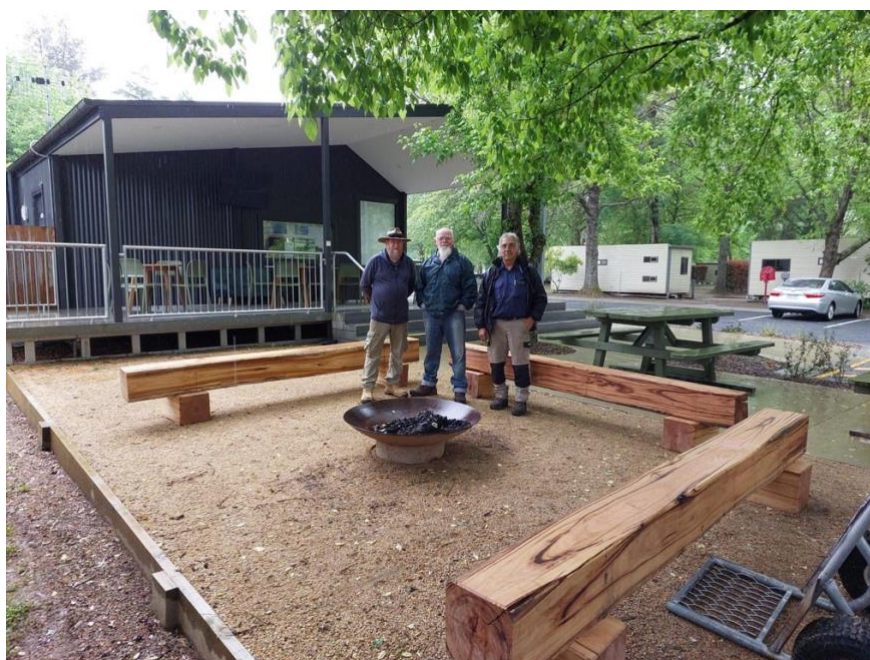
which then went through this,



and transported like this.



Many thanks for the time and effort of these stalwart shed members and all who contributed to this beautiful facility.



From left: Don Terry, Larry Gardam & Peter Panozzo

Peter sourced the logs, transported and cut them with his portable mill, oiled them and got the other boys to help transport and position them.



Sign cut with the CNC Router for the Caravan seating.

This little snippet came to me via *Bruce Brereton & Paul L'Hullier*, and I immediately thought of our ex-linesman, *Les Bevan*.

What is an SEC Lineman?

Between the enthusiasm of youth and the disillusionment of retirement, there is an unusual creature called a Lineman.

They come in assorted heights, girths, shapes, sizes and degrees of sobriety. They can be found anywhere — in tents, trucks, up poles, down manholes and in debt.

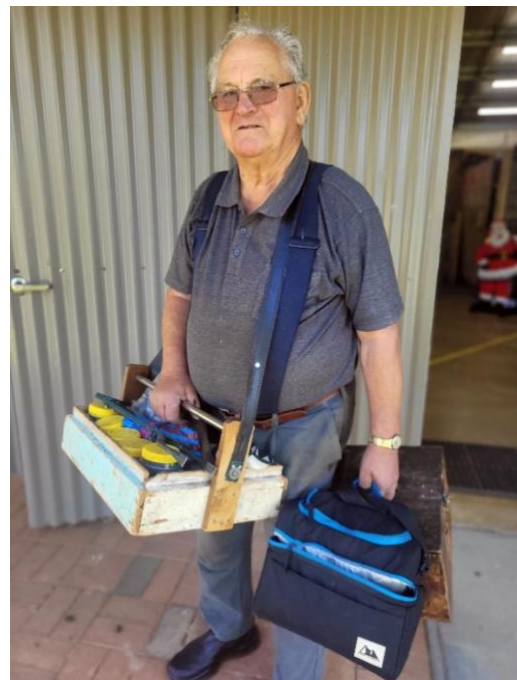
Bookies love them, technicians tolerate them, publicans rely on them, and Workers' Compensation protects them.

A Lineman is an optimist with a tip for the 2.30, a superman in a 3-ton truck, an astronaut at the top of a pole and a cave explorer in a cable well. He has the cunning of a very old fox, the generosity of a spendthrift, the imagination of a Banjo Patterson, the thirst of the Sahara, and the Scarlet Pimpernel's elusiveness. He likes overtime—beer, talking, public holidays (and houses), and an understanding of Line Forman.

He hates cadgers, boss technicians, paperwork, and bill collectors. No other man can cram into a toolbox six rabbit traps, a fishing rod, a transistor radio, six cans of beer, a copy of the Sporting Globe, and sometimes some tools.

He gets more fun than anyone out of races, smoking and putting one over. No one else could exist on his salary yet remain so cheerful. A Lineman is a magical creature, seldom appreciated but indispensable in times of trouble. You can lock him out of the exclusive club, but you can't keep him out of your circle friends.

He's a talkative, troublesome, argumentative, time-wasting bundle of fun, but when the storm breaks, the lines are down, and the cable flooded, he can reassure you with seven magic words. "We'll soon have them working again, boss."



of

Les is at his best and ready for a day on the line.

Client & Shed Projects

Another shed project from the hands of *Don Terry and Larry Gardam*. A client gave the boys a **Bee Hive Kit** to assemble, just like putting together a piece of IKEA furniture. So much fun!



They didn't tell me what the joke was.



Not to be outdone in the craft department, our illustrious President **Dick Puttyfoot** completed a project for a customer, even though some initial problems involving wood glue, fingers, some square shapes, and machinery set him back a bit.

However, Dick, the final result was a beautiful hand-crafted chess board that he should be more than proud of.

Now, we have **Paul L'Hullier**, who has practised for weeks and overcome all his frustrations with Microsoft Windows OS (as opposed to Apple OS) and the CNC Machine in mass production of OBE (**Over Bloody Eighty**) signs for the Honor Wall in the Recreation Room.

However, he may need help to keep up with the demand because it seems our membership as a whole is reaching that unenviable milestone.

Editor – *I don't care anymore. My next sign will be made of stone.*



It looks like the CNC machine is getting a good workout now. Quite a few projects are in the pipeline, including one completed for the **Rotary Park**.



Other

1. **Kindling Production:** *Peter Mundy* initiated the storage of 50 bags of kindling, which will be sold in winter 2025. *John Driver* assisted him. Production has ceased for 2024.
2. **Dust Extractor System:** *Mal Darwent* has connected the system to the CNC Router, relocated the green table saw, and reconnected it to the system.
3. **Wood Lathe:** *Michael Bauer* is fixing the electronics on the wood lathe, which has been out of operation for some months.

4. **Christmas Santas and Elves:** The Shed has now distributed 15 of these for display by local businesses. They have them for six weeks and pay a hire charge to the Shed, which distributes the funds to a local community organisation.
5. **Red Gum Tables:** *Glen Barton* and his offsider *Sam* are producing tables and bench tops.
6. **Planter Boxes:** *Warwick Mitchell* is beavering away on this project.
7. **Refurbishing seats:** *Dick Puttyfoot* has been cleaning the surface of two ancient bench seats for a client.
8. **Metal Stands for NH Centre Project:** *Les Bevan* is producing several of these. **From left:** *Reg Hollonds, Duncan Robertson, Les Bevan and Peter Mundy.*



Peter Donnan (and Santa)— *The Shed has distributed 15 Santas/Elvies for local businesses to display. The Shed charges a fee. The funds collected are given to a community organisation.*

Shed contribution to Community BBQ

We can't keep our BBQ Kings inoperative because of inclement weather and the abandonment of the Community Picnic. They just shifted the gear into the town centre, and with the help of some good-looking **Tawonga Red Cross ladies**, they sold a load of defrosted snags and rissoles and earned a dollar along the way.



Our 3D Printer is Alive and Well.

Following is some info that *Phil Armitage* sent regarding the 3D Printer.

There was some concern that the 3D printer Henry and Pip won at the Murray Bridge Men's Shed Conference might not have worked properly. The person who tested it may have put the SD card into the printer upside down.

Anyway, long story short, the printer is working and has made its first thing, a scraper that you use to detach the printed object from the machine bed after it has been printed. There were all sorts of silly questions going around at morning tea yesterday about how you will remove the scraper from the bed when you don't have a scraper to remove it. The answer is a carving knife.

The basic idea behind a 3D printer is that you can fairly easily print a thing that suits a particular need. For example, you might need a set of wheels for a toy car you are making for your grandchild, or even some furniture for a dolls house.

You could use a 3D drawing app to draw the item on your computer and then send it to the printer, but that relies on your 3D drawing software and the skills to use it.

However, 3D printers have been around for quite some time now, and you can bet your last dollar that someone has already drawn the object you want and saved it on one of the many sharing sites. There are millions of 3D-drawn objects out there in cyberspace.

You could do a Google search, find a drawing you like, and print it out. If you are interested in dabbling, you can start by looking at [Thingiverse](#).

There's one other simple step in the printing process that I haven't mentioned. When you find the object you want to print, you have to hand the drawing to a piece of software that slices the drawing into printable layers and then creates a **g-code file** instructing the printer how to print the object.

The 3D printer is in the office, and there will shortly be a laptop beside it with some slicing



software installed. All you need to do is bring your drawing on a USB stick, load it into the slicing software, **save the g-code** file to the printer's SD card and tell the printer to print the file.

It sounds easy, doesn't it? It is!! A set of more detailed instructions will soon be hanging on the wall beside the printer.

So come and have a go with it!!

Shed Project – Bug Hotel

Mal Darwent approached me one morning because he knew I messed about making diverse objects for sale on the Shed Trolley.

He said, "Why don't we make some insect hotels?"

So, I thought, "Well, Mal is normally pretty straightforward, but maybe he took extra pills this morning, So I'll humour him for a while."

I said, "Of course, we'll make a few. There are plenty of insects around here that might need an AirB&B for a while."

I Googled insect hotels and came up with this little snippet.

Ever wondered where all those bugs go in the winter or when it rains? They don't pack their bags and take a flight to Noosa like some lucky retirees do when the temperature drops below 21 degrees. They seek out a nook or cranny to take five when they need a break, lay some eggs, or find shelter. Given that we have destroyed many of their natural habitats, an insect hotel can be just what they need.

Mal found a picture of some Bug Hotels and we picked this one as a sample.

We then started a list of components and sizes, determined to use as much recycled material as possible.

We found suitable timber, but we thought we might have to travel to China to obtain bamboo shoots and pinch some from the Pandas there. Pandas and bamboo are not really prolific in Mount Beauty. Then, we could return via Canada to collect some Douglas Fir Cones.

However, second thoughts were that the committee would knock back our expenses and wonder if we were still sane, so we'd have to compromise on some of the materials.



Mal came in the next day.

"We have our bamboo," he said. There's a fence full of it next to the bus depot, and not a Panda in sight. "

Within minutes there's Mal and I heads down, bums up, piling a thicket of bamboo into the back of the 'Cruiser', ready for processing into lots of tiny tubes. As for the pinecones we will have to make do with what we can find behind the local golf course.

Gone were all our thoughts of luxury overseas travel, as we barely left the confines of the Men's Shed.

We did make four bug hotels, so if you know any insects that need a block of flats, you know what to do.

Don't mess with seniors!

The Lawyer & the Senior

A lawyer and a senior citizen are sitting next to each other on a long flight. The lawyer is thinking that seniors are so dumb that he could put one over on them easily. So, the lawyer asks if the senior would like to play a fun game. The senior is tired and just wants to take a nap, so he politely declines and tries to catch a few winks. The lawyer persists, saying that the game is a lot of fun... "I ask you a question, and if you don't know the answer, you pay me only \$5.00. Then you ask me one, and if I don't know the answer, I will pay you \$500.00," he says. This catches the senior's attention and, to keep the lawyer quiet, he agrees to play the game.

The lawyer asks the first question. "What's the distance from the Earth to the Moon?" The senior doesn't say a word, but reaches into his pocket, pulls out a five-dollar bill, and hands it to the lawyer. Now, it's the senior's turn. He asks the lawyer, "What goes up a hill with three legs, and comes down with four?" The lawyer uses his laptop to search all references he could find on the Net. He sends E-mails to all the smart friends he knows; all to no avail. After an hour of searching, he finally gives up. He wakes the senior and hands him \$500.00.

The senior pockets the \$500.00 and goes back to sleep. The lawyer, not knowing the answer, is now going nuts. He wakes the senior up and asks, "Well, so what goes up a hill with three legs and comes down with four?" The senior reaches into his pocket, hands the lawyer \$5.00, and returns to sleep.

Don't mess with old people.

Old people & the police

George, an elderly man from Meridian, Mississippi, was going up to bed when his wife told him that he'd left the light on in the garden shed, which she could see from the bedroom window. George opened the back door to go turn off the light but saw that there were people in the shed stealing things.

He phoned the police, who asked: "Is someone in your house?"

He said "No," but some people are breaking into my garden shed and stealing from me.

Then the police dispatcher said, "All patrols are busy. You should lock your doors, and an officer will come when one becomes available."

George said, "OK."

He hung up the phone and counted to 30.
Then he phoned the police again.

"Hello, I just called you a few seconds ago because people were stealing things from my shed. Well, you don't have to worry about them now because I just shot them."
and he hung up.

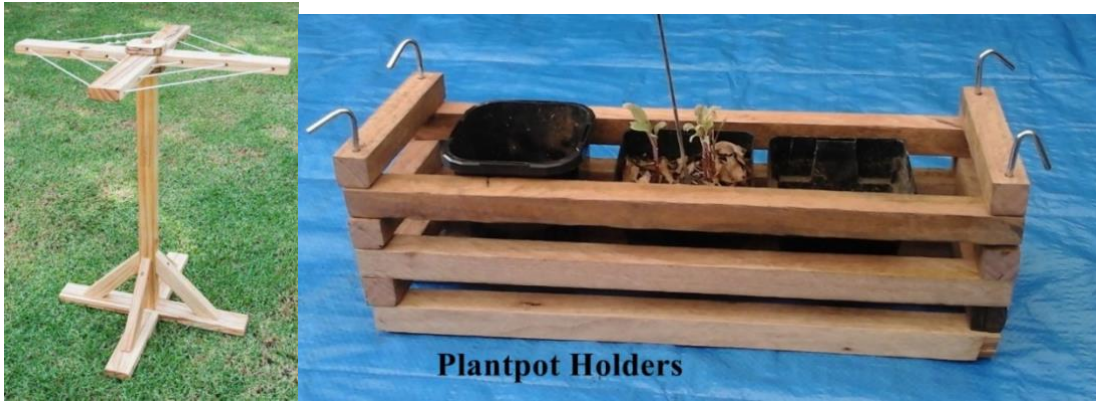
Within five minutes, six Police Cars, a SWAT Team, a Helicopter, two Fire Trucks, a Paramedic, and an Ambulance showed up at the Georges residence and caught the burglars red-handed.

One of the Policemen said to George, "I thought you said that you'd shot them!"
George said, "I thought you said there was nobody available!"

Don't mess with old people.

A few things from our wheelbarrow **All less than \$50 each**





Come and look never know what you'll find on our Barrow.

Last Words

This will be the last **"Shed Torque"** for this year, so I would like to thank the members who contributed to and commented on some of the editions' content.

Knowing that some help is available in the background makes composing the articles easier. Please keep sending in information snippets, comments, or jokes.

Thank you.

At this time, I suggest that our thoughts and sympathies be directed to friends and members who are suffering illnesses or recovering from procedures that limit their involvement in normal shed activities. We wish them a speedy recovery and a return to everyday life as soon as possible, specifically *Henry Ziemnicki and Rod Hyde*, currently in rehab. All the best.

Mount Beauty **Shed Torque** goes out to about 135 people and businesses, not just to members, and reaches many different places.

I "forwarded" a copy to family members and friends who have seen it and requested that I keep them informed. They told me they enjoyed reading it and did not realise what was going on. (*They also know I'm alive and kicking.*)

With Christmas around the corner, I realised that the shed has many, many friends.

So, Poetry Corner, this time, features a Poem that I send out every year. It's always relevant and always true.

Our Christmas Card

*We have a list of folk we know, all written in a book,
And every year at Xmas time, we open it and look,
For each name stands for someone, whose path touched ours, and then,
Left such a touch of friendship, that we want that touch again.*

*And though it may seem trite of us, to make this solemn claim,
We really feel there's part of us, in each remembered name,
So never think our Christmas Cards are just a mere routine,
With names upon a little list and forgotten in between.*

*So when we send this Christmas card, it is addressed to you,
It's because you're on our list of folk, that we're indebted to,
For every year that Christmas comes, we realise anew,
The biggest gift that life can give...is, knowing folk like you.*

To ALL our readers:
Best wishes from the Mount Beauty Men's Shed.

Some Jokes to finish...

The Magician

A magician worked on a cruise ship. The audience differed each week, so the magician repeatedly did the same tricks. There was only one problem: the captain's parrot saw the shows each week and began to understand how the magician did every trick. Once he understood, he started shouting in the middle of the show, "Look, it's not the same hat!" or, "Look, he's hiding the flowers under the table!" or "Hey, why are all the cards the ace of spades?"

The magician was furious but couldn't do anything. It was, after all, the captain's parrot. Then, one stormy night on the Pacific, the ship unfortunately sank, drowning almost all who were on board.

The magician luckily found himself on a piece of wood floating in the middle of the sea, as fate would have it ... with the parrot.

They stared at each other with hatred but did not utter a word.

This went on for a day... and then 2 days ... and then 3 days.

Finally, on the 4th day, the parrot could not hold back any longer and said, "OK, I give up. Where's the ship?"

The Cop & the Old Women

One fine day, a cop actually had to pull over a car on the interstate for driving way under the speed limit. He went up to the window and saw that the driver was a... very old woman. He told her, though, "You know you're only going 19 kilometres per hour on a freeway?"

The woman said, "Well, yes, the speed limit right there says to only go at 19." And she pointed to a sign ahead on the side of the road.

The officer looked at the sign and saw that it said "I-19", the freeway's name.

"Oh," he said. "That's not the speed limit, that's just the name of the road."

The woman apologised and realised her mistake. Before the officer left, though, he looked over and saw another elderly woman in the passenger seat with wide eyes and a scared expression, staring at the road ahead. He noticed that two other women were sitting in the back seat in a similar manner.

"Are they all okay?" he asked, gesturing to the others.

"Oh, yes," the driver answered. "They must just still be a little shook up."

"From what?" the cop questioned.

"Well," the driver continued. "We just got off of I-95... "

The Bank Robber

A bank robber pulled out a gun, pointed it at the teller and said, "Give me all the money or you're geography!"

The puzzled teller replied, "Did you mean to say 'or you're history?'"

The robber said, "Don't change the subject!"

Our Supporters. Thank You!

