



June 2026

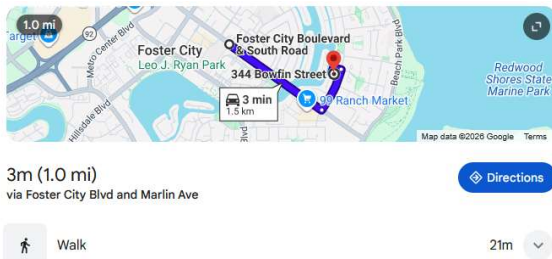
## Darn It!

### *A Father's Day Misadventure*

by Jerry Lerman (344)

I hope every Dad on the block found a fun way to enjoy this past June 21st. I thought I would be having a good one, too. Eve and I had "cheated" a bit by celebrating a day early, visiting our son, his wife, and grandkids on Saturday. I expected Sunday would be a great day for peace and quiet ... and watching a Giants baseball game on TV.

Weekends are also useful for charging my Prius Prime, an electric plug-in hybrid. I combine that with satisfying my need for frequent exercise walks by driving to the PJCC, plugging into an outlet, and walking home via FCB and Marlin, a mile jaunt taking about 20 minutes.



Later, a return trip to pick up the car, which will be only partially charged (it's a very slow outlet), will complete my goal of at least a half hour of vigorous walking.

Unfortunately on this particular Sunday, after completing the walk back home, when I reached for my housekeys in my cargo pants' pocket, I found nothing. Instead, what I thought was merely a small tear had grown to a size large enough to permit my keys to fall through. I rang the doorbell and told Eve of the possible disaster when she let me in.

I had no option but to retrace my steps – nearly a mile – and pray that I'd find my keys on the

*continued on page 3*

## Aaron's Question Column



*A picture of a rock formation taken by the Lermans*

**Question:** Eve and I visited Albuquerque recently and took a driving trip to Pagosa Springs, Colorado. The land formations along the way definitely got our attention, looking in some ways as if they were carved by man. Can you tell us about how formations such as these came to be?

-Jerry

**Aaron's Answer (A'sA):** When travelers like yourselves drive north from Albuquerque toward Pagosa Springs, the abrupt appearance of stark, geometric landforms usually piques the interest of anybody passing by. Along corridors like US Highway 84, the landscape transitions into sheer cliff faces and perfectly flat-topped hills that look almost man-made, or engineered. These features are not artificial, rather they are the result of specific sediment deposition and erosion patterns operating across the Colorado Plateau over the last 250 million years.

To understand how these structures formed, it helps to look at the regional stratigraphy. During the Mesozoic era, this area fluctuated between dry desert dunes, massive river floodplains, and shallow inland seas.

*continued on page 3*

**Solution to Last Month's Quiz**

**WHAT'S IN A NAME?**

- 1 THOMAS WOLFE (E author of *Look Homeward Angel*)
- 2 CATHERINE HOWARD (H 5<sup>th</sup> wife of Henry VIII)
- 3 SWARTHMORE (I College in Penns.)
- 4 HAWTHORNE (G author of *The Scarlet Letter*)
- 5 CHATSWORTH (C City in So. California)
- 6 EDITH WHARTON (J author of *Ethan Frome*)
- 7 WASHINGTON (A – state in Western US)
- 8 KATHRYN BIGELOW (L director of *The Hurt Locker*)
- 9 WILLA CATHER (F author of *My Ántonia*)
- 10 WALTHAM (K Suburb of Boston)
- 11 WALTER MATTHAU (B – costar of *Grumpy Old Men*)
- 12 POWHATAN (D Algonquian leader)

*To whom was this famous question addressed?*

S H A K E S P E A R E A N  
 5 2 9 8 1 7 12 4 10 3 8 11 6  
 C H A R A C T E R  
 5 6 2 11 12 9 11 6 2  
 R O M E O  
 8 1 10 3 4

**This Month's Quiz**

**A SemiQUIncentennial QUIZ**

While our country is turning 250 years old in just a few days, and that feels like a long time, I found that when you break

that timespan into 25 year chunks – and many of us have lived that many years already – it amounts to only 10 such periods. With that perspective, it hasn't been all that many "lifetimes" since the Declaration of Independence was signed. *In this household, the two of us have lived fully 30% of those 250 years!*

Below are eleven historical events that have occurred at 25 year intervals since that notable year, 1776. Can you match them up to their appropriate years?

- A 100th anniversary of the establishment of U.S. Route 66
- B Alexander Graham Bell patented the telephone
- C Apple Computer founded by Jobs, Wozniak, and Wayne
- D Declaration of Independence Signed
- E New York is 1st state to require automobile license plates
- F September 11th terrorist attack on the U.S.
- G Start of the first Barbary War
- H The 22nd Amendment to the U.S. Constitution ratified
- I NBC founded by RCA, GE, and Westinghouse
- J The New York Times founded by Raymond and Jones
- K Thomas Jefferson and John Adams both died July 4th

**Match the events to these years:**

- 1776
- 1801
- 1826
- 1851
- 1876
- 1901
- 1926
- 1951
- 1976
- 2001
- 2026

### *Aaron's Answers continued from pg. 1*

These environments deposited alternating layers of material: coarse sand, fine mud, and volcanic ash. Over millions of years, the weight of overlying sediments compressed these materials into distinct rock types, primarily durable sandstone and weaker shale or mudstone. The prominent red and yellow bands visible in some cliffs today are direct indicators of these ancient environments, where varying levels of oxygen reacted with iron minerals in the sediment during deposition, while others are grey and dust-covered, resulting in muted colors.

However, all those processes did was deposit rock and sand and form layers. The reason these landforms are so prominent is because of the Laramide orogeny. Somewhere between 40 to 80 million years ago, tectonic forces during the Laramide orogeny uplifted the entire region by thousands of feet. This event was also the primary cause of the formation of the Rocky Mountains, Colorado Plateau and many other rock formations, including the structures you saw. Crucially, the rock layers remained relatively flat during this lift rather than tilting or folding. This exposure initiated a process known as differential weathering. Because sandstone is highly resistant to physical breakdown while underlying shale is soft, water and wind erode the lower layers first. When the supporting shale washes away, the heavy sandstone above fractures along vertical joints and collapses in clean blocks, leaving behind a vertical cliff face.

This mechanical undercutting explains the shape of the regional mesas and buttes. The flat top of a mesa is formed by a highly resistant sandstone layer, known as a caprock, which protects the softer rock directly beneath it from vertical rainfall. Over time, erosion shrinks these mesas into

smaller, isolated columns called buttes. Over long periods of time, the mesas will inevitably shrink further and further until they completely collapse back into the earth, back into the piles of rocks that were originally compressed, millions of years ago.

### *Darn It ... continued from pg. 1*

ground somewhere. I walked with my eyes focused on every slab of sidewalk cement and every bit of turf growing alongside. Block after block I went, finding nothing. Upon reaching the pedestrian overpass of the bridge on Foster City Boulevard, I began to fear the possibility of my having dropped the keys on that narrow pathway, from which they might have fallen into the lagoon! There were no keys to be found there, but as I descended from there to the dog park area, that fear of Davy Jones' locker housing my keys continued to grow.



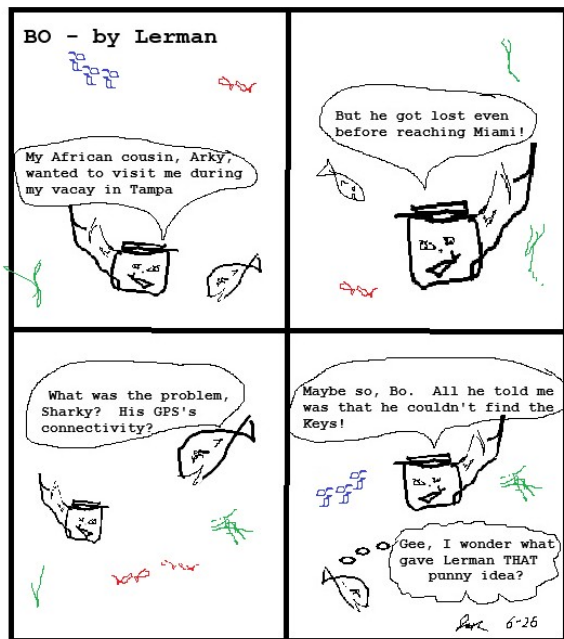
**The torn pocket**

As I drew ever closer to the spot I'd parked my car, my worries continued to grow. I saw nothing at my feet, nor on the horizon ahead. Finally, however, a wonderful Father's Day present ...



**My keys !!**

Shortly afterward, Eve repaired the hole in that pocket of mine (hence the title of this article) – and I promised never again to be so careless with my keys!



**SAVE THE DATE**

**Bowfin Street**

**Pizza/Potluck Party**

When: Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup>

Noon – 2 PM (approximately)

Where: 344 Bowfin Street – Backyard

Look for further information in coming issues!

**Target Date for YOUR Contributions to the next BI:**

**July 23, 2026**

**Please reach us** with your articles, news, photos, CHILDREN'S ARTWORK or questions for Aaron at

344 Bowfin, (650 572-9153) or email us at our email [EDITOR@BOWFININQUIRER.COM](mailto:EDITOR@BOWFININQUIRER.COM) **or by**

**adding a NOTE on our website:**

**[BOWFININQUIRER.COM](http://BOWFININQUIRER.COM)**

**We've learned that one of our Bowfin neighbors quite recently was awarded the coveted karate Black Belt! We plan to publish further details in the near future.**

