



# Victoria's View

Truthful Insurance Information Delivered with a Smile!

Volume 16 Issue 2

Happy February! I hope your year is off to a good start. Here's your monthly dose of funnies, trivia and useful insurance information. Enjoy!

## ZANY HOLIDAYS!

February is

**"Return Shopping Carts to the Supermarket Month"**

February 11<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> is

**"Random Acts of Kindness Week"**

And February 28<sup>th</sup> is

**"National Tooth Fairy Day"**

## A Diamond in the Dirt

In 1995 Lena Paahlsson of Sweden, was making bread in her kitchen. Before kneading the dough, she took off her diamond wedding ring. When she went to put it back on, it was gone. She thought perhaps her young daughters had picked it up. Eleven years later, when she and her husband remodeled the kitchen, she hoped it would be found. No luck. Lena never replaced the ring but had given up hope of ever finding it. In October 2011 she was in her vegetable garden about to throw stunted carrots into the compost heap when something shiny caught her eye. Her wedding band was encircling a scrawny carrot! The couple speculated that 16 years ago it was scooped up with kitchen scraps and added to the garden as compost. There it remained hidden until a carrot sprouted through the circle, bringing it up to be found and treasured once again!

## TRIVIA TEASER

Whose bow legs inspired a furniture style?  
(See the Answer Area.)

## Be a Better Buyer

A **Rollover** is the transfer of funds from one retirement plan to another without suffering tax consequences. Did you know that if you close out a retirement account, receive the funds personally then re-invest them in a similar account later on, there may be significant tax consequences? That's because qualified retirement plans have tax advantages that no longer apply to funds once they are removed. These are some of the benefits of qualified plans:

- Your contributions are completely free of current taxation
- Gains are credited now but not taxed until withdrawn.
- Over time and in the absence of taxation, compounding interest on contributions and gains allows small regular contributions to grow to a significant retirement nest egg.

Those benefits apply only to money inside a qualified plan. Once withdrawn, (in full or in part) the rules change. Immediately the income tax not previously paid on contributions and gains may become due -- unless you follow specific procedures to roll the funds over to a new qualified account. The procedures can be complicated and the penalty for mistakes may be severe. Your age at the time of withdrawal, how long you held the funds personally and other factors will determine IRS treatment of the transaction. By the way, if you have changed jobs, it may be a smart move to roll over the retirement funds in that old 401k..

It's a good idea to get professional help before making any changes to retirement plans. Call or email to set up a no-obligation review and a personalized strategy for reaching *your* retirement savings goals.

# QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*"You can succeed if others do not believe in you.  
But you cannot succeed  
if you do not believe in yourself."*

Dr. Sidney Newton Bremer

## Kids Comments on Love

**What is the right age to get married?**

*"Twenty-three is the best age because you know  
the person FOREVER by then."* (Camille, 10)

**How do you decide who to marry?**

*"You got to find somebody who likes the same stuff.  
Like, if you like sports, she should like it  
that you like sports, and she should keep the  
chips and dip coming."* (Alan, 10)

**What do most people do on a date?**

*"On the first date, they just tell each other lies,  
and that usually gets them interested enough  
to go for a second date."* (Martin, 10)

**What would you do on a first date  
that was turning sour?**

*"I'd run home and play dead. The next day I would  
call all the newspapers and make sure they wrote  
about me in all the dead columns."* (Craig, 9)

**How can a stranger tell if  
two people are married?**

*"You might have to guess, based on whether they  
seem to be yelling at the same kids."* (Derrick, 8)

**What do you think your mom and dad**

**have in common?**

*"Both don't want any more kids."* (Lori, 8)

**How would you make a marriage work?**

*"Tell your wife that she looks pretty, even if she  
looks like a truck."* (Ricky, 10)

**How would the world be different  
if people didn't get married?**

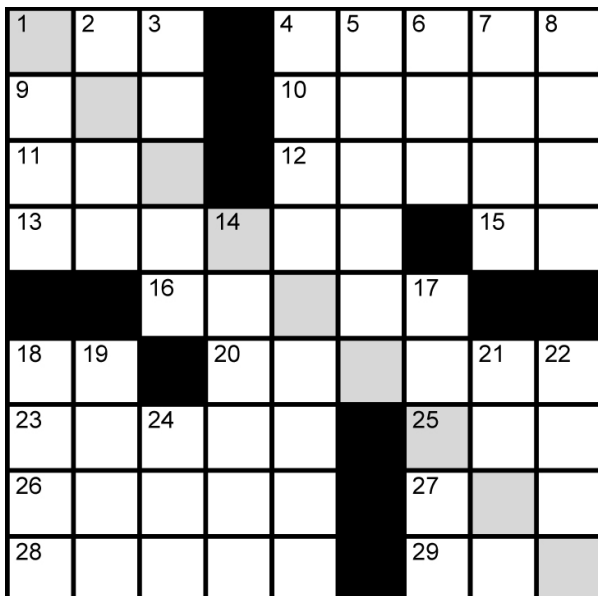
*"There sure would be a lot of kids to explain,  
wouldn't there?"* (Kelvin, 8)

## Very Expensive Typo!

In 1991 Lockheed Martin entered a contract to sell military aircraft. Unfortunately, the clerk who typed it and all the supervisors who read it missed something VERY important. The equation which adjusted the sales price for changes in the inflation rate had the comma misplaced by one decimal point. The customer insisted the contract be honored as written – a \$70 million dollar typo!

## Haggling Hang Up

A tourist in Cairo, Egypt felt exceedingly proud that he'd gotten the guide's \$20 price down to \$10 for a camel ride around the pyramids. Upon returning, he patiently waited for the guide to cue the camel to lower him. Tired of the delay, the tourist asked if the guide would let him down. The guide replied, *"Ten dollars to ride on camel. Ten dollars to get off!"*



### Across

1. "We need to get a cat!"
4. Parasitic virus
9. Fire truck equipment
10. Charged, in a way
11. Criminal charge
12. Garbage
13. Like the Cheshire Cat
15. Gift tag word
16. Fore-and-aft-rigged vessel
18. Atomic number 2
20. Charioteer constellation
23. Molecule parts
25. Always, in verse
26. Bucolic
27. Computer monitor, for short
28. Airheaded
29. Dash lengths

### Down

1. All \_\_\_\_
2. Final, e.g.
3. Military caps
4. Pathetically
5. Movie genre
6. Gasteyer of "Saturday Night Live"
7. Essence
8. Bounce back, in a way
14. Andean animals
17. Fragment
18. Unyielding
19. Needle case
21. Microbe
22. \_\_\_\_ and sciences
24. Food scrap

(See the Answer Area.)

# Which Annuity Payout Is Best for You?

An annuity is an account with a life insurance company for the purpose of accumulating and distributing money. Why is it a life insurance product? Because the payout can be based on a person's life expectancy and insurance companies have been keeping mortality records since the late 1600s.

Annuities are most often purchased to fund retirement income (although there are many other uses.) There are two types of accumulation, lump sum and periodic contributions. And there are two types of distribution, immediate and deferred.

1. Immediate: You deposit a lump sum into an account and begin receiving periodic payments right away. This is called an *immediate annuity* because the payments begin immediately.
2. Deferred: More commonly, the money deposited (as a lump sum or periodic payments) accumulates interest for years. Later the principal and interest will be distributed, usually in periodic installments (perfect for retirement income!) This arrangement is called a *deferred annuity* because the payments are deferred for a number of years.

No matter which type of annuity you select, when it comes time to distribute the funds, you will have several options. The most common are:

Life payout: The insurer will make payments to you for as long as you live. However, with this option there are no survivor benefits. Although the monthly benefit is highest with this option, payments will cease upon your death, whether that comes twenty days, twenty months or twenty years after payments begin.

Period certain payout: The insurer will payout funds for a specified amount of time (5 years, 10 years, 20 years, etc.). If you die, the payments will continue to your survivor for the balance of the years chosen. With this option, you risk outliving your money.

Life payout with period certain: The insurer will pay an income for as long as you live, but if you die before the certain period that you chose (period certain), the income will be paid to a survivor until the end of that period only.

Joint and survivor payout: The insurer will make payments to you during your life. After your death, it will pay a percentage of that amount to a survivor during his or her life span. This option has the lowest monthly benefit amount but potential for the longest payout. It has great advantages for planning a couple's retirement.

Interest only payout: A less common payout choice is to withdraw interest only. That allows you to preserve your principle investment and choose one of the options above at a later date.

Annuity payments can be sent monthly, quarterly or annually.

Did you know that income tax is not owed on a qualified annuity until you start receiving distributions? (Tax laws change so consult an accountant.)

Most annuities are bought as a long-range investment tool. It is generally not a good idea to purchase a deferred annuity unless you are planning to keep it for more than 7 to 10 years. If you withdraw funds or cancel early, there may be surrender charges.

Is an annuity right for you? I cannot recommend any of these accumulation or distribution choices without knowing more about your specific circumstances. It is my goal to advise you on your retirement savings plan so you maximize your savings, minimize your taxation and create the lifestyle you envision for yourself. Annuities are flexible financial instruments but not always the best choice. Call me for a consultation – no risk, no obligation, just honest advice to consider.

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Victoria Eden is a consumer advocate specializing in life insurance, annuities and Medicare Supplements. She is the author of the book ***Confessions of a life Insurance Agent: The Nine Inside Secrets You Must Know to Slash Your Premiums!***

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# RANDOM FACT FILE

- Over 18,000 meals are served daily on an aircraft carrier.
- The first American magazine, published in 1741 was called, "The American Magazine".
- An electric eel briefly gives off almost four times the electricity needed to run your refrigerator.
- Bricks and glass are both made from sand.
- Goldfish were originally green. Long ago the Chinese bread them to be different colors. Gold was the favorite color.
- A "jiffy" is a 1/100th of a second unit of time .
- The U.S. Postal Service handles about 40% of the world's mail.
- *Gone With the Wind* is the only Civil War epic ever filmed without a single battle scene.
- TV sitcom characters rarely say goodbye when they hang up the phone.
- When pizza became popular in the U.S. in the 1930s, the sales of oregano shot up 5,200%
- The most-used expression of any language on earth is "OK".
- There are 336 dimples on a golf ball.

## Bet You Didn't Know

In 1905 the Russian Revolution was started in part by striking Bolshevik printers of St Petersburg. They demanded to be paid the same wage for punctuation marks as for letters.



## Welcomed Praise!

Barry Heinmann said, "I'm really glad I found you! Buying insurance has never been this easy. I appreciate the personal service and explaining what I should have all so I understand. Your rates are good too which is just icing on the cake!"

### The Answer Area

Trivia Teaser: England's Queen Anne

E	C	H	O		A	R	T	S		
A	I	S	T		G	E	R	M		
H	N	A		P	I	E	C	E		
P	I	T	E	R	O	U	S	L	Y	
			L	L	A	M	A	S		
K	E	P	I	S		O	R	T		
E	X	A	M			H	E	T	U	I
E	A	R	S			H	A	R	D	

# Links & Lines

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Independent Insurance Advisor since 1990

Victoria Eden is a consumer advocate specializing in Life Insurance, Annuities and Medicare Supplements as well as the author of *Confessions of a Life Insurance Agent: The 9 Inside Secrets You Must Know to Slash Your Premiums!*



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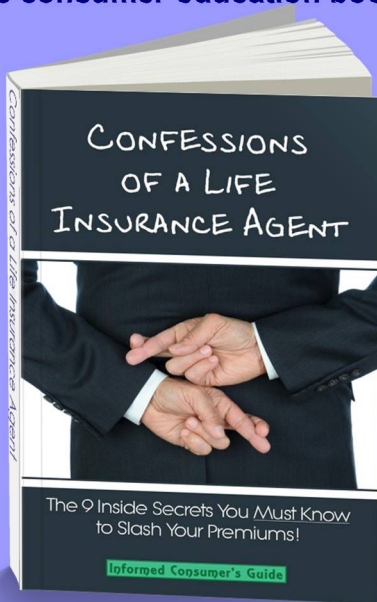


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Here's your next issue of  
**Victoria's View:**  
 Truthful Insurance Information  
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Victoria Eden is the author of this consumer-education book:



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## Referral Rewards!

**Earn a \$25 Referral Bonus!**

Help a friend; help yourself. Who do you know that needs life or health insurance? Send them my way for assistance. When they become my client, I'll send you a check for \$25 to spend however you want!

## Heartfelt Thanks for Referrals!

Patricia Kennedy, Tuan Nguyen  
 and Silvio Rodriguez

### In This Issue . . .

"Which Annuity Payout Is Best for You?"  
 On a Personal Note