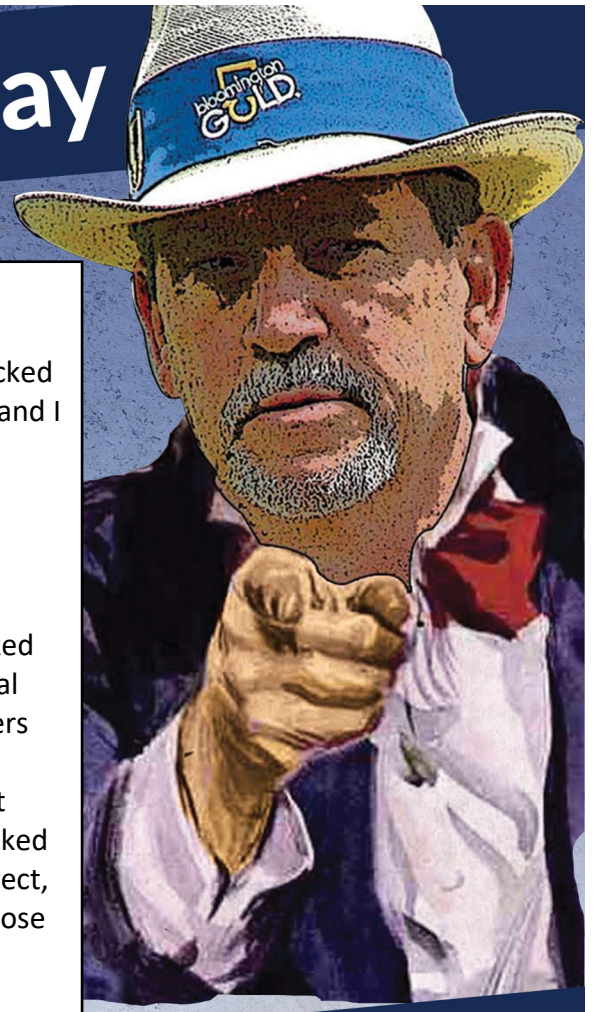


Wise Guy Wednesday



Wise Guy 31: **T'was the week (or so) before Christmas..**

Q: Help me, Wise Guy! It's almost Christmas and I think I really knocked it out of the park this year. I bought my 9-year-old, Lindsay, an iPad and I bought my older son, Henry, tickets for him and me to go to a Knicks game. And, I bought Linda beautiful diamond earrings! Here's my dilemma: I asked for some specific car parts I need and want for the restoration on my '70 LT1. Honestly, I was only hoping to *not* get another out of style tie or a bottle of car wash that is as bad as dish soap! And since I'm restoring my LT1 and still need a few parts, I asked for them. My car is a late production, so it needs the expanded-metal screen air filter. And I need an OEM coil with correct embossed letters and numbers. Now the good news is that I saw several boxes from a Corvette parts supplier arrive this week. The bad news is I know that particular supplier does not have the OEM coil and OEM air filter I asked for; only reproduction ones. I know they are very close to being correct, but I don't want to put on obvious repro parts that will cause me to lose points when I go for judging next year. What do I do? **Owen**

A: OEM Owen: You do know I'm Wise Guy and not Santa, right? I can't fix what came to your house from the big brown truck. But I can give you a couple options. First option; you can buy the OEM parts you need and install them. Odds are your family won't open the hood to see the air filter or remove the shielding to see the coil, and they probably wouldn't know that they weren't the ones they gave you. Then, take the parts to a swap meet next year and get them out of your house. Second option; Be grateful that your family didn't buy you a tie and that they spent the time to get you the parts you asked for and just put them on the '70! If the coil and filter only have minor deviations from OEM ones, you'll only lose a few points. But every time you look at those non-OEMs, you will smile thinking of how much love your family has for you and what a great Christmas you had! See you on the judging field next year!

Happy Holidays to all the Wise Guy Wednesday fans!

Any questions..... contact **Wise Guy** guy@bloomingtongold.com

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