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The PACKARD PRESS

A collection of thoughts and stories to educate, entertain, and inspire.

Family Stories in Motion

CAPTURING THE MOMENTS THAT SHAPE US

I've always been the guy with the camcorder. Birthdays, weddings, talent shows, Grandpa sharing a family story — it didn't matter. I have always felt the drive to press record and preserve the important moments. The stories that shape us, the moments that make up our family history, and the times we share are all worth saving.

Collecting and saving special memories has become a lot easier lately. The quality of the camera on my phone is amazing, and while an "old fashioned" camcorder still has its place, my phone works perfectly for most situations. I have a mini tripod with a magnetic phone mount, so I can quickly take video footage or snap some photos wherever I am. Additionally, we have technology that can help us do things like transcribe audio, store of old family movies, or even host and record family interviews over large distances.

It is sometimes better to just capture audio, like when the presence of a camera changes the in-person experience, or when I want to capture a conversation or interview. In these situations, I just press record on the voice memo app on my phone and set it down. I've collected lots of stories from older relatives this way. I highly recommend using the AI technology that is available now. After I record an interview with a family member, I use AI to create a clean transcript, and even have it generate a summary. I've also used AI to help me identify inconsistencies or missing details in family stories. I have fed in the transcripts and asked for suggestions for further interviews - like which family member I should interview next, and which questions I should ask.

Capturing these moments is one thing, but preserving and sharing them with the people in your life is another. Going through

old memories and organizing them can be a fun, positive experience. The other day, I was scrolling through the photos on my phone when I stumbled upon a video I had taken of my daughter on her eighth birthday. It was an informal interview where she talked about her day and what it felt like to be whole year older. I watched the short video, and I felt a surge of happiness as I remembered the moment. I ended up "joy scrolling" for a while, and I got to reexperience a bunch of happy memories. It was much better than the incredibly unhealthy doom scrolling alternative.

It's nice to remember the good old days, but we must not forget about the present. As much as I want to document everything, this can be taken to an extreme. I've seen perfect wedding photos ruined because some guest wanted to record the moment on their phone. Sometimes, it's best to be fully present and enjoy the moment without any digital interruptions. While it's wonderful to relive memories later, life is not meant to be experienced through the viewfinder. Preserving memories is incredibly important, but you also have so many new memories to create.

So go, make and document memories! Years from now, our friends and families will be able to watch these moments and reexperience the moment (or learn about these events). Every clip, soundbite, and image is a little gift and reminder that these moments are never truly gone.

-Michael Packard



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Don't Let the Fire Die

Make Winter Bonfires Your New Tradition

Many Americans invite their friends and family for a bonfire throughout the summer and fall. Nothing beats making s'mores, sharing stories, and enjoying the flickering flame under the moonlight. As temperatures drop and winter weather appears on the radar, some cover and ignore their bonfire area until after the cold and rainy seasons. However, you can still create an awe-inspiring bonfire during winter if you put together a plan.

Winter bonfires can quickly become a regular part of your seasonal traditions, and these strategies will help ensure your bonfire is a hit with everyone who attends.

Help people stay warm.

Nobody wants to sit outside in the dark and freezing cold. Encourage everyone attending to dress in warm clothes appropriate for the frigid temperatures, but be prepared to help out if someone

starts to feel chilly. Have extra blankets and coats within reach so you can easily pass them to anyone in need.

Provide toasty treats.

Sometimes, clothes alone are not enough to protect us from winter's chill. During these moments, it can help to eat or drink something that fills your whole body with warmth. Thankfully, you'll have a bonfire to help you toast and warm some delicious treats. S'mores are usually the go-to, but you can also warm up hot dogs, sausages, or even corn on the cob. And don't forget the drinks! Hot chocolate, warm apple cider, or even tea can help everyone stay comfortable and in good spirits.

Add games or fun activities.

Some may grow bored with traditional bonfire activities, which is why you should have an extra activity or game up your sleeve. Depending on the



lighting, you could play a card or board game. If the lighting is too dim, you can incorporate other activities requiring more movement and adventure. Kids and adults alike will have fun playing a game of flashlight tag or participating in a scavenger hunt. Plus, the extra movement will help everyone stay warm!

WHEN TOILETS WERE TABOO

The Rise and Fall of the Hays Code

In old Hollywood, even the simplest things could cause trouble. A silly sound effect, a bathroom door, or a joke at the wrong person's expense might get a film pulled before audiences ever saw it. From the 1930s through the 1960s, studios followed the Hays Code, a list of rules meant to keep movies "clean" after scandals in the 1920s made Hollywood look like a bad influence. What began as an attempt to save the industry from outside censorship quickly turned into decades of odd restrictions.

One of the strangest bans was the raspberry, or "Bronx cheer." The harmless noise, created by placing one's tongue between the lips and blowing, was labeled vulgar and lumped in with forbidden words like "lousy" and "cripes." Even the famous Clark Gable line, "Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn," from "Gone With the Wind" nearly didn't make it past censors.

Religion was another topic of strict censorship. Priests, ministers, and nuns could be stern or gentle but never the butt of a joke or the villain of a story. That's why Bing Crosby's Father O'Malley in "Going My Way" was always portrayed with a mix of effortless charm and reverence that kept him safe from censors.

Childbirth was also considered improper. Labor scenes were banned outright, and even a shadow on the wall was too much. "Gone With the Wind" managed to slip in a softened moment with Olivia de Havilland's character, but only after lengthy arguments with the Code's enforcers.

But bathrooms held the most absurd taboo of all. Toilets and the humor around them simply didn't exist on screen. Then, Alfred Hitchcock released "Psycho" in 1960 and showed a toilet and a flush. Audiences had never seen anything like it, and the Code's hold began to crumble.

By the end of the 1960s, the system had collapsed, and the rating system we still use today replaced it. Looking back, it's hard not to believe censors wasted their energy. What once seemed scandalous now feels tame, and the real surprise is just how many everyday things were once off-limits on screen.



Keep Your Family's Story Alive

Making Memories Last Forever

Our family memories are far more than snapshots or little moments in time. These stories, traditions, and experiences define us, help shape who we are, and connect us across generations. There are unique and meaningful ways to preserve those memories, allowing them to continue sparking joy for you and your loved ones. From recording oral histories to creating digital photo albums, here are some fun activities to immortalize your favorite family moments.

Stories That Speak Volumes

Give your family memories a voice by recording audio so you can listen to these stories for years to come. You can easily record interviews with different members of your family to gather their unique perspectives. Each person may have something entirely different to add about a situation, giving you a detailed and thorough oral history. All you really need is your smartphone or a recording device. You can also save meaningful voicemail messages from your loved ones to listen to later. AI tools can help you create a transcript from the recording so you have it in a text format as well.

Images That Last Forever

Digital photo albums you can share with family in just a couple of clicks are a great way to preserve beloved images safely. They typically have unlimited storage and are easy to organize by category, year, or even individual family members. Once you have uploaded the photos to your phone, turn to the family albums sitting on the bookshelf. Physical photos can get damaged or lost, but it's easy to digitize them. You can also make digital copies of old home movies.

Pieces That Preserve Family

Create a family museum by collecting treasured artifacts or heirlooms tied to special traditions or family celebrations. This could be anything from passing down Grandpa's varsity jacket to restoring a piece of furniture that's been in the home for many generations. These items tell stories and are especially powerful if you can gather some information about why they matter in your family history. Check out your public library, the courthouse, or your local newspaper to see if historical documents exist about your relatives.

Preserving these memories is a way to keep your family's history alive and a gift for future generations.

—Michael Packard

FROM DEFECTIVE TOOLS TO UNSAFE PROPERTIES

A THIRD PARTY COULD BE LIABLE

Sometimes, a workplace injury isn't as simple as a slip, an employer's shortcomings, or a coworker's mistake. Many companies work with contractors, delivery drivers, site property managers, or even the manufacturers of the tools you use on the job. When an accident occurs due to a mishap or negligence on the part of one of these third parties, you still have the right to compensation and support.

Understanding Third-Party Claims

In a third-party claim, the "third party" is anyone who contributed to the accident other than you and the at-fault party. In professional settings, there are many situations where this could occur, such as multi-employer construction sites with contractors. If your work site is on property that your actual employer does not own or control, the property owner or manager may be liable if they fail to maintain safe conditions. When you are in a vehicle accident while performing your job, the person who hits you is a third party. Even product and equipment manufacturers may be liable if product defects caused your injury.

Proving Third-Party Negligence

To win your case, you have to prove that the third party's negligence directly led to you getting hurt. You can only do this if you can prove four essential elements.

- **Duty of Care:** The third party had a legal obligation to act with care to prevent you, an employee, from getting hurt. For example, all drivers must follow the rules of the road.
- **Breach of Duty:** You have to prove they failed to meet that standard of care either because of their actions or by failing to



act at all. If a property manager knew about a damaged roof, but didn't fix it, and you were injured by a piece that fell, they did not meet their duty of care.

- **Causation:** There must be a clear connection between the actions of the third party and the injuries they caused.
- **Damages:** You will also need to provide evidence of the damages you experienced due to this incident, like medical expenses, lost wages, and pain and suffering.

When an injury involves a third party, the situation can get complex fast, but you don't have to navigate it alone. Contact Packard Law Firm today to schedule a case evaluation.

TAKE A BREAK



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| Boots | Garnet | Opposite |
| Candles | Hockey | Resolution |
| Carnation | Insulate | Skating |
| Furnace | Janus | Sweater |



Slow Cooker Birria Tacos

This delicious dish will help make your home the go-to destination for Taco Tuesday!

Ingredients

- 3 dried guajillo chiles
- 2 dried ancho chiles
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 4 garlic cloves
- 1 (14.5-oz) can diced tomatoes
- 3 lbs beef chuck roast
- 2 cups beef broth
- 2 tbsp apple cider vinegar
- 1 tbsp dried oregano
- 2 tsp ground cumin
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 tsp salt
- Pepper, to taste
- Corn tortillas
- Fresh cilantro and diced onion for garnish

Directions

1. Soak dried chiles in hot water for 15 minutes.
2. Process chiles, onion, garlic, and tomatoes in a blender until smooth.
3. Place beef in a slow cooker and pour the chili mixture over it.
4. Add beef broth, vinegar, oregano, cumin, bay leaves, salt, and pepper.
5. Cook on low for 8-10 hours or until the beef is tender.
6. Shred the beef using forks, then mix back into the sauce.
7. Fry tortillas in oil until crispy, then assemble tacos as desired.

Inspired by SimpleWhisk.com