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I have always considered that the substitution of the internal combustion engine for the horse marked a very gloomy milestone in the progress of mankind.  
**Winston Churchill**

**The Mystic Experience**  
by James Patton

I'm not one to try fads. Sure, I lived in a pyramid for six months trying to cure my baldness, but who hasn't. And, it's true my wife left me when I cashed in my insurance policy and sent the money to a local Bagwan in exchange for my own mantra. Yet, despite these minor lapses, I generally think of myself as a hard-headed skeptic. So, when I stopped off at a rock shop near Sisters, I wasn't looking for a miracle, just a bolo tie.

In the end, I didn't get the tie. What I did get was a genuine, Brazilian quartz crystal on a key chain that came with a booklet explaining "crystal power." I took it as a sign that the proprietor, who looked and sounded uncannily like the barber on the old Andy Griffith Show, accepted Visa. It was a good purchase; I had car keys and Visa lets me pay in easy monthly installments at a rate of interest only slightly higher than Sid the Shark charges. I would use Sid more often but he has some really substantial penalties for late payment.

I put my keys on the chain and drove home. That's when the miracles in my life started. My car, a classic Pacer, seemed to run smoother. I checked scientifically. My mileage was seven-tenths of a mile per gallon better that it had previously been, and the oil appeared cleaner than when I last pulled the dip-stick in ninety-three. Final proof came when I checked my left front tire (the one with the slow leak) and found that it was still at thirty-two p.s.i.!

I didn't come to town on a load of turnips. I put the crystal under my pillow that night and the next day I awoke feeling as refreshed as if I had taken a nap.


My whole life has changed as a result of crystal use. People now look at me with a sense of awe and respect even when just standing in line at the 7-Eleven. It's as if they could see my aura.

Most miraculous of all, I feel hair growing back in the bald spot where I have the crystal glued.

The only negative thing that has happened to me is my second wife leaving when I closed out the kids' college accounts to buy more crystals, but I am as filled with positive energy as my house is with quartz and know that something good will turn up.



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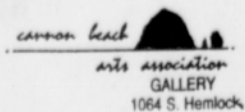


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