

Trivia

President Andrew Jackson was once given a 1,400-pound cheese wheel as a gift. He served it at a White House party, and it was gone in two hours.

The last American library catalog cards were printed in 2015 in Dublin, Ohio.

Black olives are green olives that have been left on the tree to ripen longer.

In the 1840s a British sailor could get 12 lashes for filthiness, bad cooking, or stealing a major's wig.

Almost all smartphones have an FM chip built into them. Only about one-third of them work.

At last count there were 13 "Certified Professional" LEGO builders in the world.

Three Swedish balloonists tried to fly to the North Pole in 1887. They did not succeed.

Some of the "asteroids" in *The Empire Strikes Back* were painted potatoes and tennis shoes.

Philco introduced the first wireless "Mystery Remote Control" for radios in 1939.

While exploring North Dakota, Lewis and Clark sent President Jefferson a souvenir: a live prairie dog.

Al Capone's friends called him "Snorky."

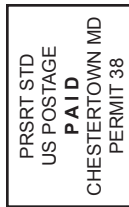
Since 1308, all English monarchs but one (Mary II) have been crowned sitting on the same chair.

The Leaning Tower of Pisa was leaning by the time they started building the third story.

Computers can beat humans at chess but not at crossword puzzles.

The first national (U.S.) minimum wage was 25 cents an hour in 1933. It was declared unconstitutional just two years later.

(Uncle John's Old Faithful Bathroom Reader)



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Dates in History

- 1810** Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, a Catholic priest, launched the Mexican War of Independence with the issuing of his Grito de Dolores, or "Cry of Dolores," in the small town of Dolores, Mexico, on September 16th. The speech called for redistribution of land and racial equality. After 300 years of Spanish rule Mexico declared its independence from Spain.
- 1914** The Russian city known in English as "St. Petersburg" was changed to "Petrograd" on September 1st at the start of World War I because its original name sounded too German. In 1924, after Lenin's death, the name was changed again to Leningrad.
- 1929** On September 3rd, the Dow Jones industrial average closed at 381.17, the peak of a bull market that increased at a phenomenal rate during the 1920s before crashing in October and starting the Great Depression.
- 1956** On September 13th, IBM introduced the world's first production hard disk, the "IBM 305." It stored five megabytes of data, weighed over a ton, and required a forklift to move it. To put this in perspective, a modern USB drive stores two or more gigabytes of data (400-times more) and fits on a keychain.
- 1998** Mark McGwire, the St. Louis Cardinals slugger, beat the most revered record in baseball by hitting his 62nd home run of the season in a game against the Chicago Cubs on September 7th.
- 2001** On September 8th, Venus and Serena Williams met in the final of the U.S. Open, becoming the first sisters to meet in a grand slam event since 1884. Venus beat Serena 6-2, 6-4, but the following year Serena avenged the loss and took home the win 6-4, 6-3.

On the Lighter Side

Who is the greatest chicken-killer in Shakespeare? Macbeth, because he did murder most foul!

"See here, waiter. I've found a button in my salad."
"That's all right, sir, it's part of the dressing."

What do you call people who hate long sentences? Criminals.

If all the seas were dried up, what would Neptune say? I really haven't got a notion.

Why should the number 288 never be mentioned in company? Because it is two gross.

Doesn't it make you dizzy to waltz? Yes, but one must get used to it, you know. It's the way of the whirled.

About the only thing that prevents some men from telling bare-faced lies is a moustache.

I wish to wish the wish you wish to wish, but if you wish the wish the witch wishes, I won't wish the wish you wish to wish.

Why is a badly conducted hotel like a fiddle? Because it is a vile inn.

There's only one melancholy fact about calendars. There's no time when its days are not numbered.

What did the grape do when he got stepped on? It let out a little whine.

The shovel was a ground-breaking invention.