

Trivia

Liza Minelli, daughter of Judy Garland (who played Dorothy in the Wizard of Oz) married Jack Haley, Jr., son of the actor who played the Tin Man.

It is considered improper and impolite to use silverware to eat chicken in Turkey.

There are 62 LEGO bricks for every one of the world's seven billion inhabitants.

The Union army bought horses in bulk, but in the Confederacy, many soldiers had to bring their own steeds for which they were paid 40 cents per day.

Paul Reiser plays the piano in the opening theme song of *Mad About You*.

Nine-banded armadillos have identical quadruplets every time they give birth.

If you could fly across our galaxy from one side to the other at light speed, it would take 100,000 years to make the trip.

Margaret Mitchell's *Gone with the Wind* was almost published as *Pansy*, the inappropriate name of the main character, now known as Scarlet O'Hara.

Earth is the only planet in our solar system that is not named after a god.

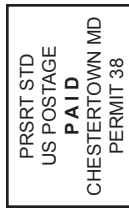
The oldest bird on record was Cocky, a cockatoo, who died in the London Zoo at the age of 82.

On New Year's Eve, people in Cuba and Mexico eat 12 grapes at midnight to ensure 12 happy months ahead.

Morocco was the first country to recognize the United States as a sovereign nation, in 1777.

On February 18, 1979, a snowstorm blanketed southern Algeria; it was the only time it has ever snowed in the Sahara.

(The Book of Unusual Knowledge)



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Dates in History

- 1434** On April 14th, the foundation stone was laid for the Cathedral of St. Peter and St. Paul of Nantes (or Nantes Cathedral), a Roman Catholic church located in Nantes, Pays de la Loire, France. The cathedral, built in the Gothic architectural tradition, took 457 years to finish.
- 1619** The Waag's Theatrum Anatomicum opened in Amsterdam on April 19th as a space dedicated to advanced experimenting, observing and learning. Leading surgeons dissected corpses of criminals to expose the anatomy of the human body and help advance this intriguing, taboo-breaking world of medical science.
- 1782** Friedrich Wilhelm August Fröbel, a German pedagogue who laid the foundation for modern education based on the recognition that children have unique needs and capabilities, created the concept of the "kindergarten" and coined the word April 21st.
- 1802** April 4th is the birthday of American social reformer Dorothea Dix born in Hampden, Maine. She founded a home for girls in Boston while only in her teens and later crusaded for humane conditions in jails and insane asylums. During the Civil War, she was superintendent of women nurses.
- 1860** On April 24th, Confederate General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson was assigned to command Harpers Ferry. With 12,419 Federal troops captured by Jackson, the surrender at Harpers Ferry was the largest surrender of U.S. military personnel until the Battle of Bataan in World War II.
- 1999** On April 23rd, Fernando Tatis of the St. Louis Cardinals became the only MLB player to hit two grand slams in the same inning with both grand slams coming off Los Angeles' Chan Ho Park in the third inning. Tatis had never before hit a grand slam in his career.

(historyplace.com and worldtimeline.info)

On the Lighter Side

Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, but when they lit a fire in the craft, it sank, proving once again that you can't have your kayak and heat it, too.

"Uncle John," said little Emily, "did you hear that a baby that was fed on elephant's milk gained 200 pounds in one week?" "Nonsense! Impossible! Whose baby was it?" "The elephant's."

A certain farmer was locally famous for the fine crops he raised of potatoes and onions, especially in very dry seasons. Asked how he did it, he replied that it was really very easy: He simply planted the two crops in alternate rows. Then, he said, the onions caused the potatoes' eyes to water, and the consequent moisture kept both crops plentifully irrigated.

Bill Jones, the local athletic "champion," was bragging about his physical prowess at the local bar. None of the regulars challenged him, but a visitor piped up, "I'll bet you 20 dollars that I can wheel something in a wheelbarrow for one block and you can't wheel it back." Bill looked the visitor over and decided that whatever the stranger could do, he could do better. "I'll take you on," he said. The visitor, Bill, and a number of the regulars borrowed a wheelbarrow and took it to the corner. The challenger smiled smugly, rubbed his hands, picked up the handles, and turned to Bill. "OK, Bill," he said. "Get in."

My three-year-old daughter stuck out her hand and said, "Look at the fly I killed, Mommy." Since she was eating a juicy pickle at the time, I thrust her contaminated hands under the faucet and washed them with antibacterial soap. After sitting her down to finish her pickle, I asked, with a touch of awe, "How did you kill that fly all by yourself?" Between bites, she said, "I hit it with my pickle."

(rd.com)