

# Trivia

*did you know that ...*

About one-tenth of the earth's surface is permanently covered with ice.

*In M&M candies, the letters stand for Mars and Murrie, the developers of the candy in 1941.*

The world's smallest mammal is the bumblebee bat of Thailand, weighing less than a penny.

*The first toy product ever advertised on television was Mr. Potato Head®, in 1952.*

The Vatican's Swiss Guard still wears a uniform designed by Michelangelo in the early 16th century.

*Ten inches of snow equals one inch of rain in water content.*

The expression "three dog night" originated with the Eskimos and means a very cold night - so cold that you have to bed down with three dogs to keep warm.

*The world's first speed limit regulation was in England in 1903, it was 20 m.p.h.*

More water flows over Niagara Falls every year than over any other falls on earth.

*'WD-40' stands for Water Displacement perfected on the 40th try.*

<http://www.corsinet.com>

# Ancient Chinese Technology

## Deep Drilling for Natural Gas

The Chinese developed a drilling method by the first century BC which allowed them to drill boreholes up to 4800 feet deep. The deep drilling techniques used for today's supplies of oil and natural gas were developed from these Chinese techniques.

## Belt-Drive

The belt-drive or driving-belt transmits power from one wheel to another, and produces continuous rotary motion. It existed as early as the first century BC in China. The chain-drive, a refinement of the driving-belt, was invented in China in 976 AD.

## Mechanical Clock

The Chinese invented the first mechanical clock in 725 AD. It was built by the Chinese Tantric Buddhist monk and mathematician I-Hsing.

## Rudder

The world's oldest representation of a rudder may be seen in a pottery model of a Chinese ship excavated from a tomb dated to the first century AD. Until Europeans adopted the rudder from the Chinese, Western ships had to make do with steering oars. This meant that long voyages of discovery by Europeans were impossible. The famous voyages of Christopher Columbus, Vasco da Gama, and others of their time were only made possible by the adoption of Chinese nautical technology.

## Wheelbarrow

Wheelbarrows were in use as early as the first century BC in China.

<http://library.thinkquest.org/23062/index.html>

# THE DIXON DRILLER

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✧ JANUARY ✧

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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

## 2007



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# Product Spotlight

## Hammer Unions

A new offering for 2007, hammer unions are a safe and efficient way to quickly connect and disconnect API threaded pipe connections.



Hammer unions are ideal for air, water, oil, and gas applications.

Pressure rating of up to 1,000 PSI NSCWP - 15,000 PSI NSCWP can be accommodated depending on the model number selected.

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# Dates in History

**1794** On January 14th, Dr. Jesse Bennett of Virginia performed the first successful caesarean section.

**1848** On January 24th, gold was discovered at John Sutter's mill in California.

**1901** On January 10th, the first significant oil strike was hit in Texas.

**1925** On January 5th, in Wyoming, Nellie Tayloe Ross is inaugurated as the nation's first woman governor.

**1959** On January 2nd, Russia launched the moon probe, Luna 1, which becomes the first craft from the earth to orbit the sun.

**2002** On January 1st, twelve European countries inaugurate the largest currency change over in history by surrendering their national currencies and adopting the euro.

(<http://www.worldalmanac.com>)

# On the Lighter Side

- Always borrow from a pessimist - he never expects it back anyhow.
- A fellow went into his bank to ask about a problem with his checking account. The teller said, "We've checked your account and found the error to be ours. We're very sorry." The fellow looked at her and asked, "Why is it that when you make a mistake, you're sorry and when I make a mistake it's a service charge?"
- "Wise sayings often fall on barren ground; but a kind word is never thrown away."  
*Arthur Helps*
- One senior citizen to another: "Just think, I turned 84 yesterday -- and I made it without jogging."
- "I never knew a man to give up a bad habit gradually"  
*John Mott*
- "Does your wife miss you much?"  
"No. She throws remarkably straight."
- A good neighbor doubles the value of a house.  
*German Proverb*