Trivia

did you know that ...

The can opener was invented 48 years after cans were introduced.

The first electronic mail, or "email", was sent in 1972 by Ray Tomlinson. It was also his idea to use the @ sign to separate the name of the user from the name of the computer.

The first animal in space was the female Samoyed husky named Laika, launched by the Soviets in 1957.

Great Britain was the first country to issue postage stamps, on May 1, 1840. Hence, UK stamps are the only stamps in the world not to bear the name of the country of origin.

The shortest-ever Best Actor Oscar-winning performance was awarded to Anthony Hopkins in 1992, having appeared for less than 16 minutes of screen time as Dr Hannibal "The Cannibal" Lecter in The Silence of the Lambs.

Tom Hanks is the youngest recipient of the Academy's Lifetime Achievement Award, which he received in 2002 at age 45.

The longest tennis match took place at Wimbledon 2010 when John Isner of the United States beat Nicolas Mahut of France 6-4, 3-6, 6-7 (7), 7-6 (3), 70-68 in a match that lasted 11 hours and 5 minutes, played over 3 days, June 22, 23 and 24.

The very first Olympic race, held in 776 BC, was won by Corubus, a chef.

The chance of being born on Leap Day is about 684 out of a million, or 1 in 1461. Less than 5 million people have their birthday on Leap Day.

The Motorola DynaTAC 8000X was the first cell phone sold in the US; launched on April 11, 1984, it was designed by Rudy Krolopp and weighed 2 pounds.

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Company News

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Dixon announces a new 2011 price list effective April 1, 2011. The new catalog will be mailed to distributors in March and



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Dates in History

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On February 14 around the year 278 A.D., Valentine, a holy priest in Rome in the days of Emperor Claudius II, was executed. Claudius believed that Roman men were unwilling to join the army because of their strong attachment to their wives and families. To get rid of the problem, Claudius banned all marriages and engagements in Rome. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death.

On February 24, the U.S. House of Representatives voted 11 articles of impeachment against President Andrew Johnson, nine of which cited Johnson's removal of Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton, as a violation of the Tenure of Office Act. The House vote made President Johnson the first president to be impeached in U.S. history.

On February 2, the National League of Professional Baseball Clubs, which came to be more commonly known as the National League (NL), was formed. The American League (AL) was established in 1901 and in 1903, the first World Series was held.

On February 6, after a long illness, King George VI of Great Britain and Northern Ireland died in his sleep at the royal estate at Sandringham. Princess Elizabeth, the oldest of the king's two daughters and next in line to succeed him, was in Kenya at the time of her father's death; she was crowned Queen Elizabeth II on June 2, 1953, at age 27.

On February 28, Cambridge University scientists James D. Watson and Frances H.C. Crick announced that they had determined the double-helix structure of DNA, the molecule containing human genes.

On the Lighter Side

A foreman had ten very lazy men working for him. One day he decided to trick them into doing some work for a change.

"I've got a really easy job today for the laziest one among you," he announced. "Will the laziest man please put his hand up." Nine hands went up.

"Why didn't you put your hand up?" he asked the tenth man. "Too much trouble," came the reply.

A manager was interviewing a potential candidate for a position in his company. He wanted to find out something about their personality so he asked, "If you could have a conversation with someone, living or dead, who would it be?" The candidate quickly responded, "The living one."

A doctor and a lawyer met at a party. Their conversation was interrupted repeatedly by guests asking the doctor for medical advice. Finally, the exasperated doctor turned to the lawyer and said, "Tell me, what do you do to stop people from asking you for legal advice when you're out of the office?"

"When they ask, I give them advice", replied the lawyer, "and then I send them a bill in the morning."

The doctor decided to take the lawyer's advice and for the rest of the evening wrote down the names and addresses of everyone who approached him for advice.

The next morning he took out the list, and just then his secretary walked into his office and handed him a bill from the lawyer.

A newspaper reporter was writing a feature story about prison life and was interviewing one of the prisoners. "Do you watch much television here?"

"Only the daytime shows," the inmate said. "At night we're locked in our cells and don't see any television." "That's too bad," the reporter said, "But I do think it is nice that the warden lets you watch it in the daytime." "What do you mean, nice?" the inmate said. "That's part of the punishment!"

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