

DID YOU KNOW...?

Was Pluto actually photographed several times before it was “discovered”?

By Jack Bagley didyouknowcolumn@gmail.com

Happy New Year 2024!

Everybody does a riff on New Year’s Resolutions, so I won’t. I’ll just wish you a 2024 that is the best year ever in your life, and hope that the same comes true for me as well.

No wish for happiness could be complete, however, without the liberal application of trivia to the scene. So, without further ado (and what the heck is ado, anyway?), here’s the first trivia column of 2024, all shined up and ready for you.

Fireworks and silly noisemakers are optional, of course. Did you know ...

... the table fork was introduced in England in 1601? Prior to that, people ate with knives, spoons, or just their fingers. When Queen Elizabeth I (1533-1603) used a fork for the first time, the clergy was furious. They believed that it was an insult to God to not touch one’s food with one’s own fingers. (It’s an insult to yourself to burn your fingers on your food, though.)

... Canada has a million-dollar coin? In 2007, the Royal Canadian Mint produced the first legal tender coin with a value of a million dollars. I doubt you’ll find many being carried around, though; the coin weighs 220 pounds. It’s made of almost pure gold bullion and the Mint created only five of them. (You’d need an awfully big pocket.)

... more than 75% of all the nations on Earth are located north of the Equator? (Oddly enough, that’s where most of the land is located, too!)

... the paper milk carton was invented after an accident? John van Wormer (1856-1942) dropped a bottle of milk one morning and the bottle shattered, milk spilling everywhere. Annoyed, van Wormer began working on a way to prevent that from happening again, and in 1915 he received a patent for the “paper bottle,” or what we know today as the paper or cardboard milk carton. Van Wormer also created the machinery to form, fill and seal the paper milk cartons. (Why isn’t this guy a hero? Huh?)

... the creator of the Ford automobile had a notorious fan? While at the helm of the company, Henry Ford (1863-1947) received a letter from bank robber Clyde Barrow (1909-1934). In the letter, Barrow thanked Ford for the reliability and performance of the company’s V-8 autos. (All the better to get away with, my dear.)

... the proudest achievement of Leonardo da Vinci was probably not what you think it was? The great artist and scientist (1452-1519), while justifiably proud of his notable achievements in those areas, was said to have been proudest of the fact that he could bend iron with his bare hands. (Was da Vinci a native of the planet Krypton?)

... the dwarf planet Pluto was photographed several times before its discovery? Pluto, which was re-classified from planet to dwarf planet in 2006, was discovered in 1930 by astronomer Clyde Tombaugh (1906-1997) at the Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Arizona. But before Dr. Tombaugh’s discovery, at least sixteen different photos of the planet were taken by astronomers at the same observatory, without them realizing what they were photographing. The first one was taken in 1909. Additional trivia note: Of all the people who’ve discovered planets, Dr. Tombaugh is the only one who’s been to the world he discovered, in a way. Some of his ashes were aboard the New Horizons spacecraft which flew past Pluto in 2015, sending back the first photographs of the dwarf planet. The plans for a spacecraft to visit Pluto began in 1992, when a scientist at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory asked Dr. Tombaugh for permission to visit “his” planet. (Another unique experience!)

... presidents are not immortalized on all U.S. money? Looking at paper bills, for instance, we discover that the \$10 bill bears the photo of Alexander Hamilton (1755-1804), first Secretary of the Treasury, and the \$100 bill has the portrait of Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790), first Postmaster General. Of the discontinued bills, the only non-president was Salmon P. Chase (1808-1873), a Chief Justice of the United States, who was depicted on the \$10,000 bill. All other bills have presidential portraits on them. (And not enough of them are in my wallet.)

... one of the greatest operas in history opened to very bad reviews? When Madame Butterfly was first performed on February 17, 1904, the audience in Milan, Italy really got into jeering it – boos, catcalls, animal sounds, you name it. Composer Giacomo Puccini (1858-1924) quickly revised the work, and when the revamped opera was performed in Brescia, Italy, it was acclaimed as a great work. (He should have renamed the original as Madame Caterpillar. It would’ve worked.)

... some astronauts really did have the “right stuff”? Take, for instance, astronaut Gordon Cooper (1927-2004). During the countdown to the launch of his Mercury space flight Faith 7 in May of 1963, Cooper was so relaxed that he fell asleep in the capsule awaiting liftoff. Cooper flew twice into space – his Mercury flight and as command pilot of Gemini 5 in 1965. (I’ve heard of “cool as a cucumber” but that’s ridiculous.)

Now ... you know!

The Harvest of the Human Race

“The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom (Christians); but the tares are the children of the wicked one (lost); the enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. The Son of man (Jesus) shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend (offend Him), and them which do iniquity; and shall cast them into a furnace of fire (Hell): there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth (grit and grinding of teeth). Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear” (Matthew 13: 38-43 KJV)

The earth is a field with a crop of souls that are one day harvested. As Solomon said, there is “a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted” (Ecc. 3: 2).

As with Israel when God put them in the Promised Land He planted them as a noble vine but they turned to idols and became degenerate (Jer. 2: 21), even so God created man a noble creature but he fell into sin and became degenerate.

God sent His Son Jesus to redeem fallen man and regenerate them through the new birth. Those that believe the good news of salvation and by faith receive Jesus Christ as their Savior become the children of God (Gal. 3: 26) and are harvested out of this world at the Rapture, of which Christ was the “firstfruits” (1 Cor. 15: 20, 23).

The lost, the children of the devil are drawn out and harvested at the last. They are seen as degenerate and ignoble grapes crushed in the winepress of God’s wrath during the

Cagle Grams

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Battle of Armageddon at Christ Second coming (Rev. 19: 11-21) at the end of the Tribulation (Joel 3: 3, 4; Rev. 14: 18-20).

The world is a field full of people who are as plants; they’re either wheat or tares, either of the Woman’s Seed which is Christ and the children of God or of the Dragon’s seed and the children of the devil. The children of God will be gathered into the house of God their Father and the lost will be gathered and cast into the Lake of Fire.

As the farmer looks forward to the time of harvest so does the Christian look forward to being gathered together with other believers and taken to Heaven. God is also looking forward to the harvest but is waiting for the “precious fruit of the earth.” “Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandmen waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth (The redeemed), and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain” (James 5: 7).

Just as a field is bare after harvest and sometimes burned over so will the world be after the harvest of the human race (2 Peter 3: 10-12; Rev. 21: 1).

After the harvest of the human race every soul must then reap what they have sown.

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Lanier County News

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