

DID YOU KNOW...?

Did a famous comedian really hate dogs and children?

By Jack Bagley

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Have you broken your New Year's resolutions yet? I have. I do it all the time.

Makes me wonder why we spend time making the silly things if we're just going to break them.

It kind of reminds me of some of the laws that have been passed which are not enforced today. What's the point of making laws if they're going to be ignored?

Fortunately, trivia can't be ignored. It's there and you know it's there, so you pay attention to it. And I get to keep a pretty cushy job, too, so there's another upside.

I'll now do my cushy job and share this week's load of trivial nonsense with you. Enjoy!

Did you know ...

... no federal law exists banning you from owning a flamethrower? In fact, only two states have any kind of restrictions on them – California, which requires a permit; and Maryland, which does have a legal ban on owning flamethrowers. Flamethrowers are not regarded as weapons under the National Firearms Act, passed in 1934. Additional trivia note: The mayor of Warren, Michigan tried to institute a ban on flamethrowers in that city in 2015, but because no actual complaints had ever been made about them, the city council took no action on the effort. (Pretty hot topic, wouldn't you say?)

... a famous writer invented an article of clothing? Mark Twain (born Samuel Clemens, 1835-1910) loved to tinker, and one of the things he came up with in his tinkering was an elastic clasp that was supposed to help articles of clothing fit more snugly. It only caught on in one garment, though ... the brassiere. Twain's clasp design holds the back strap of a bra closed. (I have a line here, but it would close the show.)

... a huge percentage of the American people do not trust their government? Case in point: a Gallup poll showed that 71% of people in the United States do not think the government is telling the truth about UFOs. (And just what is that truth? Hmmm?)

... an actor's performance was judged so bad he was cut from the final print of a film – and nobody told him? In the 1936 science fiction film Things to Come, Ernest Thesiger (1879-1961) was signed to play the role of Theotocopulos, a mad scientist. After filming was completed, however, the producers felt Thesiger's performance was not good enough, so they re-shot all of his scenes with actor Sir Cedric Hardwicke (1893-1964). Nobody bothered to tell Thesiger, however, and he attended the premiere of the film with several friends, only to discover to his embarrassment that he wasn't in the final cut of the film. His face did appear in one scene: a quick shot of Theotocopulos' hologram addressing a crowd. It's the only shot of Thesiger that remained in the movie. (Not telling him he'd been replaced was a real jerk move, if you ask me.)

... a comedian who supposedly hated children and dogs actually did neither? W.C. Fields (1880-1946) was well known for the saying, "Any man who hates dogs and babies can't be all bad." But the truth was far different. Fields owned pet dogs from time to time and doted on them, but children he loved. He enjoyed entertaining the children of his own. Fields especially loved his grandchildren, it is said. Additional trivia note: The quote about "dogs and babies" is often said to have been uttered by Fields, but he did not say it. Rather, it was said about him by humorist Leo Rosten (1908-1997) and it was erroneously attributed to the comedian himself in Bartlett's Familiar Quotations. (Godfrey Daniels, mother of pearl!)

... Niagara Falls does not exist? Well, it does, but there is not one specific waterfall with that name. Niagara Falls is made up of three waterfalls along the Niagara River – Horseshoe Falls, American Falls and Bridal Veil Falls. The three combined make up the popular honeymoon destination of Niagara Falls. (Slowly I turned ... step by step ... inch. by inch ... look it up, kids.)

... no consensus exists as to the color of a tennis ball? Some say they're green, others say they're yellow. A Twitter poll of 30,000 users posed the question, and the responses were 52% green, 42% yellow. (The remaining six percent said chartreuse, which is silly.)

... apples aren't the most popular gift for teachers any more? A national survey of teachers found that 80% of them in grades kindergarten through eight receive chocolate from students as gifts. (An apple a day may keep the doctor away, but chocolate brings the dentist in closer.)

... public displays of affection can have lasting consequences? Take, for instance, the medieval Italian custom of a man kissing a woman in public. If caught, he had to marry her, whether he wanted to or not. (Another reason to be glad we're not in medieval Italy.)

... Hydrox™ cookies are actually older than Oreo™ cookies? Many people believe that Hydrox, made by Leaf Brands, was meant to be a lower-priced knockoff of the vastly more popular Oreos, made by Nabisco. But Hydrox cookies were first put on sale in 1908, while Oreos did not appear until 1912. As it turns out, Oreos were supposed to be knockoffs of Hydrox. (They both dunk well in milk, so there's that.)

Now ... you know!



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Lanier County News

Visit a church of your choice every Sunday with your family.

• **Camon Temple First Born Church Of The Living God, Inc.**
Pastor: Madine Camon, Th.M.
72 Davis Avenue-Lakeland
Tues. & Thurs. 6 PM
1st & 3rd Sundays. 11 AM

• **Camp Creek Missionary Baptist**
Intersection Hwy 122 & Hwy 168
Clinch County

• **Evan's Temple Holiness Church**
46 Davis Ave. - Lakeland
229-482-8049

• **Everlasting House of Prayer Deliverance Center in Temple of Love**
806 E Davis Ave. - Lakeland
229-482-9550

• **First Baptist Church**
15 Main Street - Lakeland
229-482-3401
Sunday School 9:45 AM
Sunday Morning Service . . 11:00 AM
Sunday Night Service . . . 6:00 PM
Wed. Night 7:00 PM

• **Gateway of Heaven**
803 E Peeler Ave. - Lakeland
229-482-1156

• **Greater Bethel A.M.E**
139 S. Oak St.- Lakeland
229-482-9414

• **Guthrie Baptist Church**
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• **Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses**
67 S Oak Street - Lakeland
229-482-2020

• **Knight Memorial Baptist Church**
On Teeterville Hwy - Lakeland
229-482-2687

• **Lakeland Church of Christ**
622 E. Main Street-Lakeland
229-482-2692

• **Lakeland United Methodist Church**
80 West Main St. - Lakeland
229-482-3574

• **Lovejoy Community Church**
23 Lovejoy Rd - Lakeland
229-482-2169
Sunday School 10:00 AM
Sunday Morning Service . 11:00 AM
Sunday Night Service . . . 6:00 PM
Wed. Night Bible Study . . . 7:00 PM
(Children's Programs available at all service times. Teens program during Sunday School and Night service & Wed. night service.)

• **New Bryant Missionary Baptist**
Pastor: Jasper B. Daniels
79 S. Mill Street - Lakeland
229-482-2784

• **New Life Church**
104 W Thigpen Ave
Lakeland, GA

• **New Life Church of God of Stockton**
516 W. Highway 84
Stockton, GA 31649
Pastor: Dwaine Crummey
(229) 242-7001
Sunday Morning - 10:30 a.m.
Children's Church - 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Night - 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday Night - 7 p.m.

• **New Life Ministries**
104 W Thigpen Ave
Lakeland, GA

• **New Hopewell Missionary Baptist**
124 W Main St. • Lakeland
229-482-3237

• **Oak Grove Freewill Baptist Church**
Oak Grove Church Lane
Lakeland, GA • 912-422-4212

• **Oak Street Church of Christ**
Pastor: Bro. Joseph Ingram
Sunday School 9:45 AM
Sunday Morning Service . 11:00 AM
Tuesday Bible Study 6:30 PM

• **Pearly Gates Apostolic Church**
1326 South Mill Street
Lakeland, GA 31635
Bishop and Pastor Odie Cook

229-305-8550
Sunday School- 10 a.m.
Sunday Morning Service- 11 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study- 6:30 p.m.

• **Ray City Church of God**
515 Main St - Ray City
229-455-5689

• **Refuge Temple Seventh Day Adventist**
605 E Washington Ave.
Lakeland, GA
229-482-9550
229-563-5934

• **Shiloh #2 Baptist Church**
70 Davis Street - Lakeland
229-292-5953

• **Southside Baptist Church**
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229-482-2280

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229-455-5554

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