

DID YOU KNOW...?

What was the first “spin-off” series in broadcasting history?

By Jack Bagley didyouknowcolumn@gmail.com

Time. Amazing how it moves in only one direction, isn't it?

If you could go back in time, to any one event in your life, which one would you choose?

I was asked that question not long ago, and it put me to thinking (and yes, I did get a headache from it). After much cogitating, I realized that I couldn't pick just one event to revisit. If I'm going to revisit, let's see 'em all.

One thing I'd never go back and change is my beginning this silly column, since I've learned that it means as much to you as it does to me. So let's cut out the foolishness and get to why you're here ... the trivia!

Enjoy, friends.

Did you know ...

... the first long-lasting lipstick was created in the 1940s? Devised by chemist Hazel Bishop (1906-1998), the lipstick was the first “no-smear” formula that was designed to last for hours after application. Bishop used her success with that invention to form her own cosmetics company. Additional trivia note: Bishop was the first woman to appear alone in a photograph on the cover of Business Week magazine, in 1951.

... diet soda floats in water, but regular soda doesn't? The reason is the sugar in the drink. Sugar makes regular soda more dense than diet soda. (It also makes those who drink it more dense.)

... the state of Maine has an official treat? Since the 1920s, Maine has been the home of the Whoopie Pie – two cakelike cookies with frosting in the middle. It was declared the official state treat in 2011. (Whoopie!!!)

... the oldest tavern in the United States still in operation is in Rhode Island? The White Horse Tavern in the city of Newport opened in 1673 and has been open ever since. (Sometimes you want to go where everybody knows your name, after all.)

... one cannot see the Sun or the stars from the surface of Venus? The thick atmosphere of the planet has so many cloud levels, a person standing on the surface would never actually see the Sun, stars, or anything else except an orange haze. (Of course, if you're standing on Venus - under all that atmospheric pressure and in all that heat - where the Sun is would be the least of your concerns.)

... the first true broadcasting “spin-off” series occurred in radio? From 1935 to 1959, one of the most popular programs on radio was Fibber McGee and Molly, starring the husband and wife team of Jim (1896-1988) and Marian Jordan (1898-1961). One of the characters on that show was a blowhard named Throckmorton P. Gildersleeve, played by Harold Peary (1908-1985). In 1941, Peary's character was given his own series titled The Great Gildersleeve, making his show the first actual spin-off from an existing series. The Great Gildersleeve lasted until 1958, and both it and Fibber were made into short-lived television programs as well. Additional trivia note: Peary was talked into moving his series from NBC to CBS in 1950, but the sponsor, Kraft Foods, refused to allow the move – though the actor had already signed a contract. Peary was thus unable to continue legally in the role, so the part of Gildersleeve was recast with actor Willard Waterman (1914-1995), whose voice bore an uncanny resemblance to that of Peary. The two men were good friends, and as a mark of respect, Waterman refused to do the iconic just-this-side-of-nasty laugh of Peary's Gildersleeve character on his version of the show.

... only one college in the New England colonies remained open throughout the U.S. Revolutionary War? Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire, was the only one to keep its doors open during the war, which lasted from April 15, 1775 until September 3, 1783. (Offering degrees in revolution, I don't doubt.)

... Darth Vader wasn't always supposed to be the father of Luke Skywalker? Fans of the Star Wars series of movies were shocked when in episode 5, The Empire Strikes Back, it was revealed that the Dark Lord of the Sith was the father of the hero of the series. But in the early drafts of the movie, Vader wasn't Luke's daddy at all. In fact, an un-named elder Skywalker was supposed to show up as a “Force ghost” while Luke was training with a Jedi named Minch, who eventually became Yoda. (Holy dramatic turn, Batman!)

... an element on the periodic table is named after the capital of Denmark? The silvery metal hafnium (Hf), element 72, was named for the city in which it was discovered: Copenhagen, Denmark. Its discovery in 1923 was achieved by scientists Dirk Coster (1889-1950) and George de Hevesy (1885-1966). Its existence was predicted by Dmitri Mendeleev (1834-1907) as he was formulating the periodic table of elements. It was the next-to-last stable element to be discovered. Why is it called hafnium, you wonder? In Latin, Copenhagen is called Hafnia.

... the athlete who earned the most money in history lived in ancient Rome? Gaius Appuleius Diocles (104 AD-146 AD) was a charioteer in the days of the Roman Empire. He is cited as the highest-paid athlete of all time, having amassed in his career earnings that, in today's money, would be around \$15 billion, according to some sources. (And his agent would get ten percent of it.)

Now ... you know!



Thank you sponsors for your ad in this section. If your church would like to be added to this page free of charge, or you would like to sponsor the page with an ad please contact the Lanier County News Office at 229-482-8230.

Register your church in The Lanier County News On-line Church Directory by going to laniercountynewsonline.com, clicking “church directory” then “add my church” and completing form.

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**
Off of Hwy 168-Lakeland
229-300-0043
- **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**
326 S Hwy 221 - Lakeland
229-482-2280
- **St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church**
2530 Garner Road • Ray City
229-455-5554
- **St. Lewis Baptist Church**
Route 1, Hwy 135
Lakeland, GA • 229-482-2188
- **Stockton Baptist Church**
262 Church Rd.
Stockton, GA • 229-241-1119
- **Unity United Methodist Church**
224 Unity Church Road
Lakeland, GA • 229-482-3103

To sponsor this page with an ad please call The Lanier County News 229-482-8230

MESSAGE TO LOCAL CHURCHES: If you would like to be included in this listing made possible by these ad sponsors, or if a local minister would like to submit a column, please contact the Lanier County News at 229-482-8230 today!

GET NOTICED

Place your business ad on the Lanier County News Church Directory Page - Call 482-8230

Visit our website and subscribe to our digital version of Lanier County News. Additional news and photos of local residents and events available at... laniercountynewsonline.com