



Thoughts from the Crawlspace

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A Free Monthly Newsletter from Your Friends at...

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November | Volume 1, Issue 11

Thanksgiving through the Years



After the first Thanksgiving was celebrated in 1621, each of the 13 American colonies held an annual harvest festival and day of thanksgiving. There was no set day for the holiday, and it varied among the colonies.

In 1777, George Washington decreed a day of thanksgiving to celebrate the British defeat during the Revolutionary War, and he and subsequent presidents proclaimed Thanksgiving Days periodically over the next 86 years, although not every year and not on any particular date. In the early 1800's, these annual Presidential proclamations came to an end, and it wasn't until 1863 that the holiday resumed.

During the Civil War, President Lincoln declared a national day of Thanksgiving to occur on the last Thursday of November, and it has been observed annually ever since.

U.S. Marine Corps Day is November 10

The Marine Corps was founded in 1775 to serve as infantry aboard naval vessels and was responsible for the security of the ship and its crew. They conducted offensive and defensive combat during boarding actions and defended the ship's officers from mutiny.



America's first amphibious assault landing occurred early in the Revolutionary War, on March 3, 1776 as the Marines gained control of Fort Montague and Fort Nassau, a British ammunition depot and naval port in New Providence, the Bahamas. The role of the Marine Corps has since expanded significantly, including the use of Marines in the seizure of bases and other duties on land to support naval campaigns.

Throughout the late 19th and 20th centuries, Marine detachments served aboard Navy cruisers, battleships and carriers, serving as the ship's landing force, manning the ship's weapons and providing shipboard security. Marines would also develop tactics and techniques of amphibious assault on defended coastlines in time for use in World War II. The Corps' original mission of providing shipboard security finally ended in the 1990's when nuclear weapons were withdrawn from active deployment and the battleships were retired.

We hope you enjoy this month's newsletter. It is a great time to spend with your family!

We are looking forward to serving you in any way we can.

All our best,
Jamie

International Bible Week

Interesting facts about the Bible:

- Total Chapters in the Bible: 1,189 (929 in OT, 260 in NT)
- Longest Chapter: Psalm 119
- Shortest Chapter: Psalm 117
- The exact middle Chapter: Psalm 118 (594 chapters before and after).
- The Center Verse: Psalm 118:8: It is better to trust in the Lord than put confidence in men.
- The Bible was written by 40 men over a period of about 1,600 years, dating from 1500 BC to approx 100 AD. Some scholars estimate that the 66 books of the King James Bible were written by 50 different authors.
- The first translation of the English Bible was begun by John Wycliffe and completed by John Purvey in 1380.
- The Bible is the most shoplifted book in the world.

Lung Cancer Awareness Week

Lung cancer is a disease characterized by un-controlled cell growth in tissues of the lung. If left untreated, this growth can spread beyond the lung in a process called metastasis into nearby tissue and eventually, into other parts of the body.

Most cancers that start in lung, known as primary lung cancers, are carcinomas that derive from epithelial cells. Worldwide, lung cancer is the most common cause of cancer-related death in men and women, and is responsible for 1.3 million deaths annually, as of 2004.

The American Cancer Society estimates that there will be 219,440 new cases of lung cancer annually in the United States, and about 159,390 people die each year from this disease.

Lung cancer is responsible for almost 1/3 of all cancer deaths in the U.S. of people diagnosed with lung cancer, 15% have never smoked.

Have a Question?

Do you have a question about home inspections or home maintenance that you want answered? Let us know and you could win a \$25.00 Gas Card.

We randomly select a winner from the questions you submit!

We love to hear from all of our good friends and clients who enjoy reading our monthly newsletter. If you have a questions about anything related to your home, feel free to give us a call or e-mail us at:

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Your Questions...

Question:

We are planning to sell our house in the spring. Is there anything we should do to help get our house ready to sell?

Answer:

Exterior:

- Clean the driveway and clear all vegetation from the walkway and driveway cracks.
- Keep garbage containers in the rear of the house or garage and keep toys and bicycles from the yard.
- Clean the front and interior doors and frames.
- A few colorful potted flowers can go a long way in dressing up the front!
- Mow the lawn and trim the vegetation. Keep lawn mowed on a regular basis.

Interior:

- Odors. Don't just mask, remove the source until the house sells. Keep the pet areas clean.
- Pleasant aromas will help sell a home quicker. Fresh bread, cookies, etc., are great but may not be practical. Scent devices can help but don't overdo as too much can be worse than the bad odors!
- Clean and dust everything – cobwebs, light fixtures, fans, windowsills, etc., and keep blinds open/raised. Make the home as bright and cheery as possible.
- Replace burned out light bulbs. Not too many people respond well to gloomy or dingy feelings.
- Keep kitchens clean and free of clutter which can make the kitchen seem small. De-clutter refrigerator doors which can contribute to the feeling of clutter.

Sadie Hawkins Day Origins

The first Sadie Hawkins Day took place on November 9, 1938. It is now usually observed the nearest Saturday to November 9th each year. An American folk event, Sadie Hawkins Day is a pseudo-holiday that originated in Al Capp's classic hillbilly comic strip Li'l Abner (1934-1977). The event is still observed in the form of dances at which girls approach (or chase after) boys.



In Li'l Abner, Sadie Hawkins was the daughter of one of Dogpatch's earliest settlers, Hekzebiah Hawkins. The "homeliest gal in all them hills," she grew frantic waiting for suitors to come a-courtin'. When she reached the age of 35, still a spinster, her father was even more frantic -- about Sadie living at home for the rest of her life.

In desperation, he called together all the unmarried men of Dogpatch and declared it Sadie Hawkins Day. Specifically, a foot race was decreed, with Sadie in hot pursuit of the town's eligible bachelors -- and matrimony was the consequence.

"When ah fires my gun, all o' yo' kin start a-runnin! When ah fires again -- after givin' yo' a fair start -- Sadie starts a runnin. Th' one she ketches'll be her husbin." The town spinsters decided that this was such a good idea, they made Sadie Hawkins Day a mandatory yearly event, much to the chagrin of Dogpatch bachelors. If a woman caught a bachelor and dragged him, kicking and screaming, across the finish line before sun down -- he had to marry her.

Beer Bubbles through Human History

Ben Franklin perhaps shocked his puritan neighbors by declaring: *Beer is proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy.* Who can argue with the ever-wise American Ben Franklin?



After all, in the thousands of years before Ben's time, beer served a wider purpose. It was a staple of life in many parts of the world. About 6,000 years ago, the Sumerians discovered the fermentation process by chance. They became the first civilized culture to brew beer, which they called the "divine drink."

The Babylonians brewed eight types of beer made from various types of grains. Their king, Hammurabi, established a daily beer ration. Least important people got two liters per day, the most important got five.

Skip the Romans. They liked wine and thought beer was a barbarian drink. In the Middle Ages, beer was brewed in monasteries. Each monk was allowed up to 5 liters of beer a day, also selling beer in monastery pubs.

In the 1800s, several advances improved the quality of beer. Carl Linde invented refrigeration. Louis Pasteur developed pasteurization in the 1870s, which greatly improved beer. Danish scientist Christian Hansen isolated a single yeast cell that could be reproduced, improving the fermentation. By the 1960s, wooden barrels were replaced by metal barrels. Today's barrels are made of stainless steel or aluminum.

The Assassination of JFK

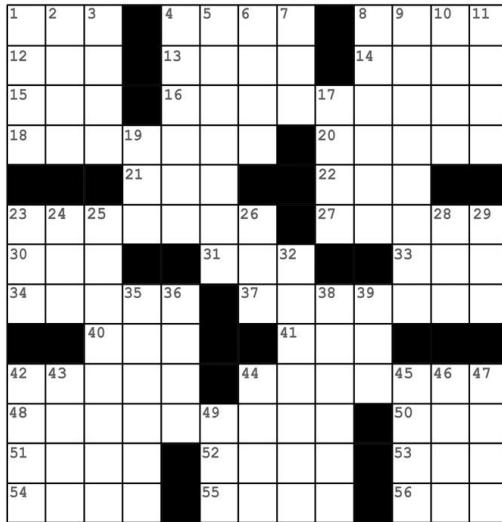
John F. Kennedy, the 35th President of the United States, was assassinated Friday, November 22, 1963 in Dealey Plaza, Dallas Texas, shot fatally while riding with his wife Jacqueline in a Presidential Motorcade. The 10-month investigation of the Warren Commission of 1963-1964 concluded that the President was assassinated by Lee Harvey Oswald, who himself was murdered before he could stand trial.

This conclusion was initially met with support among the American public, but subsequent polls reveal as many as 80% of the American public now hold beliefs contrary to these findings. The assassination is still the subject of widespread debate and has spawned numerous conspiracy theories and alternative scenarios.

Just before 12:30 pm CST, Kennedy's limousine entered Dealey Plaza and slowly approached the Texas School Book Depository. Nellie Connally, then the First Lady of Texas, turned around to Kennedy, who was sitting behind her, and commented, "Mr. President, you can't say Dallas doesn't love you," which President Kennedy acknowledged. When the limousine turned and passed the Depository and continued down Elm Street, shots were fired at Kennedy, a clear majority of witnesses recalled hearing three shots.

ACROSS:

1. Belly
4. British baby carriage
8. Pub brews
12. Fire remains
13. Loony
14. Not common
15. Zodiac lion
16. ___ transmission
18. Nabs
20. Build
21. Pal (Fr.)
22. Pallid
23. Competitor
27. Stairs
30. Have being
31. Poet's eternity
33. That female
34. Canvas covers
37. Bank transaction
40. Actress ___ West
41. Tuna container
42. Flaming
44. Ill-fated ship
48. Napoleon ___
50. Picnic beverage
51. Burden
52. Lima or kidney
53. Male heir
54. She, in Bordeaux
55. Highland Scot
56. Key near Ctrl



DOWN:

1. Festive event
2. Client
3. Norse thunder god
4. Blood component
5. Standard procedure
6. Drama divisions
7. Barnyard sound
8. Biblical mount
9. Tardiness
10. Rock's ___ Clapton
11. Church group
17. Kitty sounds
19. Lobe locale
23. Chow down
24. Gun rights group (abbr.)
25. Airport section
26. Mogul ___ Turner
28. Greek letter
29. Gel
32. Music performance
35. Formal procession
36. Trickle
38. ___ leather
39. ___ roll (2 wds.)
42. Ready, willing and ___
43. Trick
44. Forest plant
45. Space gp.
46. Object of adoration
47. Lincoln's coin
49. NBC's rival

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“ What Our Customers Are Saying

Jamie was great. We feel like he took time to answer our questions and clarify ...we especially appreciated his willingness to come back and look at the garage when our sellers had left it locked. He was personable and we enjoyed working with him. We will definitely have no problem recommending him to friends who might be buying. ~Brooke and Andy

We found Jamie's report to be very informative and thorough. He took a lot of time with us and showed us pictures and explained things about our house as well. We were very happy with his service. ~Eric Combs

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Gold Key Home Inspections, Inc.

What's The Answer?

November Trivia Question:

About how many years ago did the Sumerians discover how to make beer?

- A) 10,000 years ago
- B) 6,000 years ago
- C) 2,400 years ago
- D) 300 years ago
- E) Last year

The first correct answer emailed or phoned into our office will be the proud winner of:

2 Movie Tickets

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