

Generations



Did You Know? Trivia for Trivia Buffs

By Peg DeMarco - Special to The News Herald

On January 4th, www.msn.com featured its “Trivia Day: 50 Facts We Bet You Don’t Know,” and I have to admit most of them I didn’t know. So, I took what I thought were the most unusual, interesting, or just plain old fashioned knee-slappers and compiled my own list.

The first one that caught my eye was that a dog’s nose print is like a human fingerprint – no two are alike. So, this makes my little dachshund, Morgan, little beagle, Molly, and two boxers, Gabe and Ali, unique, which, of course, I already knew. Those cold snouts against my cheek have always told me how very special each one was.

This one I particularly loved because Charlie Chaplin was my Dad’s favorite: Charlie Chaplin once participated in a Charlie Chaplin lookalike contest in a San Francisco theater. Imagine Charlie’s surprise when he didn’t win! I wonder what he thought when he saw the winner.

For the English masters of our madcap language, “dreamt” is the only word that ends with the letters “MT.” I have to admit I didn’t know how to spell it at first and wanted to put a “P” somewhere in there but that could be due to my New York accent.

For those wondering how many blood vessels an average human body has, the answer is the equivalent of 60,000 miles, which would stretch the entire earth if you laid them out end to end (not recommended).

While a polar bear’s fur is actually transparent and holds no color, the goldfish, although “gold” as its name implies, has a memory span of only 3 seconds. At 69, I can relate to the goldfish during those times when I’m in the kitchen trying to figure out why I’m there.

Here’s one that left me scratching my head and wondering why someone would think of trying this feat. If an electric current is applied to a pickle, the pickle will glow in the dark. That’s amazing, but I honestly can’t think of any scenario where one would want a glowing pickle in or out of the dark.

Considered by many in his time to be a mad man and a failure, Vincent van Gogh sold only one painting in his lifetime. I found it very sad that he lived his life never knowing that his 850 oils and more than 1,000 watercolor portraits are considered to be among the most valuable in the world.

I’m always fascinated with anything having to do with Winston Churchill, so I enjoyed learning that Churchill was the first person to be made an honorary citizen of the U.S. during his

lifetime. There have been 8 in total, but only Churchill and Mother Teresa were alive to receive the honor.

On the political front, did you know that the 13th President of the U.S., Millard Fillmore, was elected via the Whig Party? After the last mud-slinging election, are some of you secretly thinking, “Bring the Whigs back?”

Since the Academy Awards are coming up in February, and organizers will be trying fervently and hopelessly to try and shorten the tedious three-hour spectacle, I thought you might want to know that the first Oscar ceremony took place in 1929, lasted only 15 minutes, and had only 270 viewers. All the fashion critics lining the red carpet would be out of work if Hollywood stuck with that program and, sadly, we would never know who is wearing who.

Travelers may want to know that Lake Hillier’s water in Australia boasts bubblegum pink in color due to algae or bacteria. Although it’s not the only pink water spot in the world, it’s the only one whose water stays pink when taken out of the lake (pretty, but not sure I’d want to drink it).

Seeming like the proverbial cart before the horse in making life easier, I thought it was interesting that lighters were invented in 1823 by a German chemist –three years before the first matchstick materialized in 1826.

And for all those who love to don pirate costumes on Halloween, I’ll bet you didn’t know that pirates didn’t wear eyepatches as a fashion accessory or to hide a missing eye but rather to see properly below and above decks. Aargh!

Check out the MSN website for the rest of the trivia and enjoy.

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