

Restored with Gentleness:
Walking Together in Faith

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Father of the
Blood Bank

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'Tis the Season to Hack,
Sniff, and Cough

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I Love You Truly

by Carrie
Jacobs Bond

by Roger L. Wisegarver

Carrie Jacobs Bond, now mostly forgotten, was one of the most successful composers of the twentieth century. She endured tragedy for many years before finally finding success and happiness as America's first major female composer and publicist. Carrie lived faithfully and gratefully, even in the face of seemingly insurmountable obstacles.

Most of her work would be called sentimental today. It dealt with emotional matters, such as family and romantic love, happiness, and sorrow. However, in the late 1800s to early 1900s, its ebb and flow of gentle, soothing phrases was much-welcomed in household parlors and society meetings to counterbalance the, at times, coarse and unrefined nature of vaudeville and early movies.

Jacobs was born on August 11, 1862, in Janesville, Wisconsin. Her parents, Dr. Hannibal and Emma Davis Jacobs, were musically inclined. After her father's early demise, Carrie lived with her mother and her maternal grandfather until she was 18.

As a youngster, she demonstrated musical and writing ability. She could play the piano excellently by ear by age 7—even a rendition of Liszt's "Hungarian Rhapsody Number 2." At age 10, Jacobs started taking piano lessons and often entertained for public socials.

She married E. J. Smith at 18, and they had one son, Frederic Jacobs Smith. Sadly, they divorced after only seven years.

Not long after, Carrie married Dr. Frank Lewis Bond, but tragedy struck again after another seven years. They had relocated to the small mining town of Iron River, Michigan. After a few good years, an economic downturn left them in poverty. Shortly thereafter, Dr. Bond was fatally injured through a bad fall on ice. He was only 32, and it was now up to Carrie to cultivate her lifelong desire to write what she called her little songs.

She moved to Chicago in the darkest days of her life. While living in a \$15-a-month room and struggling to support herself and her son, Bond penned some of her most noted compositions.

She made her New York debut at Steinway Hall on April 5, 1888. She later came to New York State (in 1901) at the invitation of publisher Elbert

Hubbard, who gave her \$25 and expenses to sing at his Roycroft School in East Aurora. Her recital brought her millions in publicity. This led to her publishing about a hundred of her own compositions.

Among them were "I Love You Truly," "Book of Seven Songs," and "Just a-Wearyin' for You," all in 1901. She re-released "I Love You Truly" in 1906, this time with the addition of the previously missing copyright.

In 1910, after fame and prosperity had come, she wrote "The End of a Perfect Day," her best-known song. At least five million copies of sheet music for that song were sold.

Around 1906, Jacobs and the acclaimed tenor Enrico Caruso performed together in London. In 1907, she sang at the White House at President Theodore Roosevelt's request. She did the same in 1922 for Warren G. Harding, and later for Calvin Coolidge.

The Los Angeles Times interviewed Bond in 1907, calling her "a veritable sunshine distributor." She noted that she had overcome tragedy because, "I have learned to laugh, for a smile is a lot

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LIFESTYLES

This Month's Mark & Friends

Restored with Gentleness: Walking Together in Faith

Have you ever felt caught in a mistake? On December 1, 2025, *Great News Radio* aired a powerful sermon from Jason Epperson that serves as a spiritual *pregame speech* for our daily lives. Exploring Galatians 6:1-18, Epperson offers a rallying point for how we should act toward one another as we walk out our faith.

The Art of Gentle Restoration

In Galatians 6:1, Paul writes about those who are “caught” in a transgression. This word implies being deceived or trapped, much like an animal that has taken its eyes off the path. Though the sobering reality is that we all make mistakes, the focus of the church shouldn’t be on the fall, but on the recovery.

The biblical call is to “restore” such a person. Interestingly, *restore* is a medical term—think of it as popping a dislocated shoulder back into place so the body can be whole again. When you encounter someone who has stumbled, ask yourself this:

Do you treat the person as if he or she were new, or as if the person will never be the same again?

Do you restore the person with gentleness, remembering your own need for grace?

Whether you are a parent or a friend, your goal should be to ensure that the person still has a seat at the table, receiving the same love as before. Helping people move forward together is what it means to be the church.

Bearing Burdens and Breaking Pride

The sermon also discusses the command to “bear one another’s burdens” (Galatians 6:2). By sharing our struggles and temptations, we help each other avoid the enemy’s traps. But the greatest barrier to this community effort is often pride.

In this context, pride isn’t just thinking ourselves



Scan the QR Code to listen to the December 1, 2025 Mark & Friends with Jason Epperson

better than others—it is simply thinking too much about ourselves. This self-focus can blind us to the blessings around us and to the needs of others. To break this cycle, try wak-

ing up every day with a simple, outward-focused mission: look for someone to help.

Living Out the Gospel

As we continue through the chapter, we are reminded to be generous. Epperson notes Martin Luther’s observation that, when the enemy cannot suppress the gospel by force, he often tries to hinder it by striking leaders with poverty. By living a life of service and generosity, we ensure that the message of Christ continues to flourish.

To hear the entire sermon, along with many other powerful interviews, sermons, and studies, go to www.greatnewsradio.org. ♦

Hola
你好
Hello
Bonjour

Learning Spanish

We inflect English nouns to show plural, mostly by adding an **S**, but we do nothing to signal whether an adjective is singular or plural, and we don’t change adjectives to distinguish masculine or feminine (except for some Latin and French words). In Spanish, a plural masculine noun is distinguished from a plural feminine noun. The adjective must match the noun.

Adjective-noun Examples

E good house
S casa buena [feminine singular]
E good houses
S casas buenas [feminine plural]
E good man
S hombre bueno [masculine singular]
E good men [masculine plural]
S hombres buenos [masculine plural]

The adjective typically comes *after* the noun it modifies. Putting it before the noun it modifies signals emphasis. We have passive vocabulary (words we understand when we hear them, but don’t typically use in speech) and active vocabulary (words we understand and typically use).



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PEOPLE & PLACES

SEVENTIES FLASHBACK

“Friede’s Folly” Takes Flight

by Randal C. Hill

Eleanor Friede was discouraged. As a senior editor at New York’s prestigious Macmillan publishing house, she seemed to be the only person there who believed in her latest project, a small hardcover book by aviation writer Richard Bach. Its title was *Jonathan Livingston Seagull*, and it consisted of fewer than 9,000 words of text, spread over 43 of its 93 pages, as well as copious (and often blurry) photos of seagulls.

Richard’s work was a simple, allegorical account of one gull’s goal. Jonathan had wanted to achieve perfection in flight, something that others in his flock had labeled impossible, or at least a silly waste of time.

Eleanor’s workplace peers had called Bach’s heartfelt creation “Friede’s Folly.” But Eleanor, undaunted, persisted until her publisher—with scant fanfare and minimal promotion—put *Jonathan Livingston Seagull* on the market in 1970.

Richard Bach, who had been advanced a paltry \$2,000, was as amazed as anyone—including Friede—about what happened next. Fueled primarily by word-of-mouth support, *Jonathan* flew off the bookshelf (pun intended) during the early 1970s.

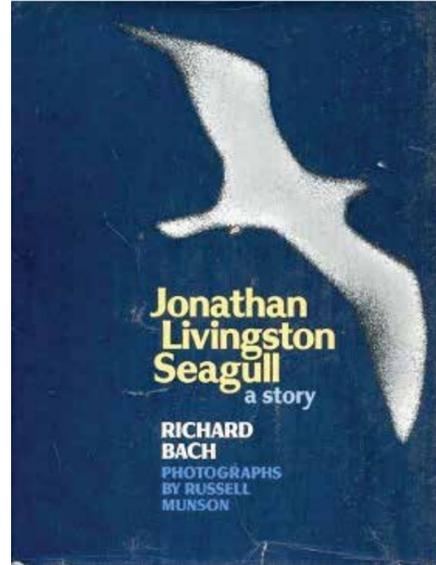
For 38 weeks, it held the number one spot on the New York Times best-seller list. It eventually sold over 3 million hardback copies.

Some literary critics dismissed Bach’s work as lightweight hipsterism, although many book buyers proclaimed Richard’s Christian Science–influenced handiwork either a spiritual or self-help guide, which, doggone it, made people feel good—well, maybe more than just good—when they read it.

The idea of piloting a plane had always intrigued Richard Bach. By age 17, he was polishing small aircraft in exchange for flying lessons. He later became an Air Force captain and, after departing the military, penned three books and numerous articles about aviation. But times were often hard for the writer. Sometimes he delivered phone books or sold jewelry to put food on the table for his rapidly growing family. Once his car was repossessed by his bank.

However, an incident in 1959 in the Belmont Shores area of Long Beach, California, would change his fortunes—and his life.

Strolling alone by a fog-shrouded canal one night, he heard a crystal-clear voice behind him utter three words: “Jonathan Livingston Seagull.”



(Jonathan Livingston had been a great racing pilot in the 1930s.) When Bach turned around, nobody was there. He hurried home and dashed off a 3,000-word tale.

Richard then forgot about it for eight years.

In 1967, he awoke one morning from a dream about seagulls. So strong was the impression it made on him that he hurriedly re-wrote “Jonathan Livingston Seagull,” the story gushing forth in a tsunami of words.

When he had honed the brief book to a misty sort of perfection, Richard rushed it off to several publishers. They all turned thumbs down on the thin manuscript before it landed on Eleanor Friede’s desk.

Some booksellers expressed frustration over just where to shelve the best-seller. Should it be filed under Philosophy? Nature? Religion? Children’s books?

Friede’s sage advice? “Put it next to the cash register.” ♦

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Valentine’s Day

On February 14, Valentine’s Day is celebrated throughout much of the world. It’s a favorite day for sweethearts to express their affection with greetings and gifts.

At the end of the fifth century, Pope Gelasius I forbid the celebration of Lupercalia, a rowdy mid-February celebration of spring and fertility. Some scholars believe Gelasius replaced that pagan celebration with St. Valentine’s Day, but we don’t really know the true origin of the day. It wasn’t celebrated as a day of romance until the fourteenth century.

To complicate matters, there were at least three Christian martyrs named *Valentine*, and no one has any idea which one the day is named for. A priest martyred about 270 A.D. by Emperor Claudius II Gothicus might be the correct one. He supposedly signed a thank-you note to his jailer’s daughter, “from your Valentine.” The daughter had apparently befriended him. Other accounts say he healed her from blindness.

Other candidates are St. Valentine of Terni, a bishop, though he might actually be the aforementioned priest. Supposedly the bishop defied the emperor’s orders, secretly marrying couples to exempt the husbands from the draft.

Formal messages, often called *valentines* were sent in Europe, to friends, as early as the 1500s. By the late 1700s, commercially printed cards were available in Europe. Traditional gifts for sweethearts include candy, balloons, and flowers—especially red roses, symbols of beauty and love. Traditional colors associated with Valentine’s Day are pink and red.

Valentine’s Day is popular in the United States, Britain, Canada, and Australia. It’s also celebrated in Argentina, France, Mexico, and South Korea. In the Philippines, February 14 is the most popular wedding date: there are even mass weddings of hundreds of couples on that day.

Besides romantic greetings, Valentine’s Day extends to sending notes and cards expressing affection and friendship to family and friends. Young schoolchildren often exchange valentines at school on that day. Valentine’s Day gifts in the United States (2025) cost those who bought and gave them \$27.5 billion, up from 2024’s \$25.8 billion. ♦



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Preserving the Full Story of Black History

by Victor Block

In February 1926, Black historian, journalist, and author Carter Godwin Woodson launched the celebration of *Negro History Week*. Fifty years later, President Gerald Ford proclaimed *Black History Month*, asking Americans “to honor the too-often-neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history.”

In 2026, people throughout the United States will commemorate the two-hundred-fiftieth anniversary of our nation’s independence. States, cities, museums, and libraries will host programs to recognize and recall that momentous occasion—and the role of Black history, life, and culture in the nation’s and world’s story.

Specific programs will vary widely, as have the contributions and causes of Africans and people of African descent. These events take on added importance at a time when efforts are underway to ban books and excise certain history from our schools, libraries, and public culture.

Despite differences among this year’s planned history projects, they share a common goal. Some offer enticing surprises. For example, many people are unaware that Brooklyn, New York—which stood firmly with the North’s Union states in the Civil War era—had

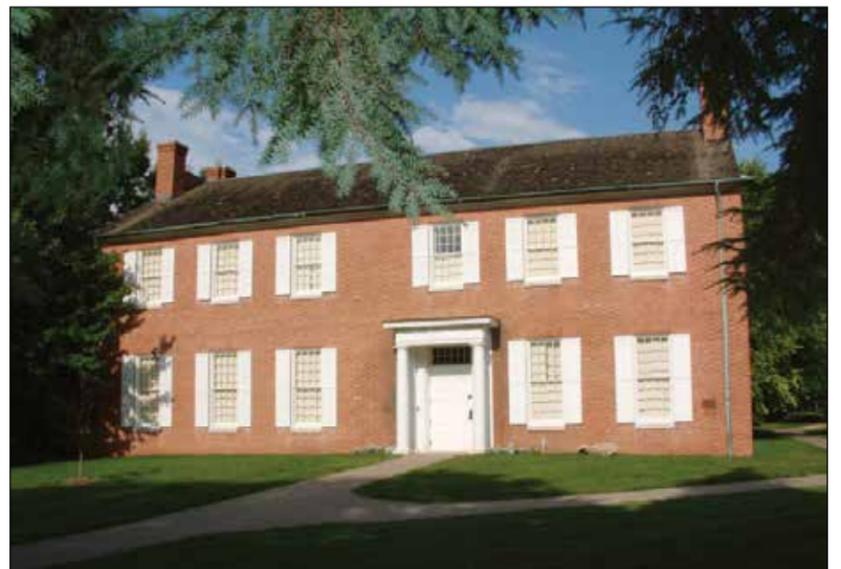
significant ties to slavery. An exhibit in that borough has exposed this painful chapter of their past.

Boston’s Museum of African American History tells the story of men and women who changed the course of America’s history during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The Black Heritage Trail explores the history of the city’s Black community in the 1800s, including the Underground Railroad, the abolition movement, and early civil rights struggles.

Atlanta, Georgia, was home to many civil rights leaders. The city hosts the Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historical Park, which includes several sites related to King’s life and work.

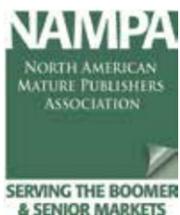
Washington, D.C., hosts a treasure trove of museums that explain the roles Black citizens have played in U.S. history. The centerpiece is the National Museum of African American History and

Please see Black History on page A-16



Regional buildings that were waypoints for escaped slaves traveling to Canada for freedom.

Top: The Erastus Farnham House south of Fremont, Indiana
 Bottom: Beecher Hall at Illinois College in Jacksonville, Illinois



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PEOPLE & PLACES

Father of the Blood Bank

Charles Richard Drew

A seldom mentioned, but remarkably important, African American is Dr. Charles Richard Drew (1904–1950), who worked ceaselessly and successfully to improve the science of blood transfusion, starting during WWI. Starting in 1918, this surgeon and medical researcher used blood plasma from donors who had recovered from the so-called Spanish influenza. Plasma, which comprises about 55% of blood, contains invaluable antibodies to fight off disease. Thanks to Dr. Drew’s research, plasma from flu survivors, administered to new victims of the pandemic, saved many lives.

Dr. Drew also pioneered blood bank and transfusion techniques to separate, process, and store blood plasma. His work saved thousands of lives during World War II. He advanced and improved on Columbia University’s pioneering work by researching emerging methods for blood processing and storage. Perhaps most importantly, Drew established modern blood banking, despite the ignorant, counterproductive racial discrimination in the Red Cross’s early blood donation programs.



Dr. Charles Richard Drew

lions of pints of plasma to allied military personnel. The Red Cross alone donated at least 13.3 million pints to that effort, most of which was converted to plasma using Dr. Drew’s techniques.

Realizing the complete equivalence and equality of blood from different races, Drew advocated against racially segregating blood donation. He even resigned from the Red Cross when they initially excluded all Black individuals from donating blood. Despite Dr. Drew’s outstanding work, the American Red Cross con-

Dr. Charles Richard Drew with the first mobile blood collecting unit, February 1941. courtesy of American Chemical Society (ACS)



tinued to segregate so-called “Negro blood” until 1950. Only in the late 1960s and early 1970s did Southern states, such as Arkansas and Louisiana, overturn similar segregation requirements for donated blood.

Drew’s work with blood plasma made it possible to send blood plasma farther—and store it longer—than ever before. This was a giant step beyond trying to store and transport whole blood. That work alone immensely improved the availability of transfusions. By early 1945, Dr. Drew’s work had resulted in dried plasma, which could be stored almost indefinitely—and sent anywhere in the world.

Drew completely reorganized the first large-scale blood banks in the United States. He also developed the concept of mobile blood collection units, now called *bloodmobiles*. During WWII, he directed the blood plasma programs of both the United States and Britain, supplying mil-

lions of pints of plasma to allied military personnel. The Red Cross alone donated at least 13.3 million pints to that effort, most of which was converted to plasma using Dr. Drew’s techniques.

Dr. Drew trained many Black medical students and surgeons. His pioneering work in this area made it possible for a large number of intelligent young Black men and women to become doctors. We owe him a great debt for that alone.

As author Ralph Ellison wrote, “The black American . . . puts pressure upon the nation to live up to its ideals.” We should be thankful for and to Dr. Drew for all he did to desegregate blood donation, blood plasma collection, and eventually, the entire field of American medicine. ♦

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February’s night sky has some fascinating events for us to view. February 1 features a full (snow) moon. On February 2, the (nearly full) moon will obscure Regulus, the brightest star in Leo, for observers in the eastern United States and parts of Canada.

This month Venus, our nearest planet, will dazzle us at a magnitude of -4.8—bright enough to cast shadows on Earth! It shines alone as a solitary beacon in the western sky, with a bright white light. In the eastern sky, Mars will be at magnitude -1, and *Sirius* and Jupiter at -2. This bright display continues through February.

On February 18, a very thin (2%) crescent Moon will appear close to Mercury in the western sky, shortly after sunset. On February 19, Mercury will be at greatest eastern elongation (its highest position above the western horizon), just after sunset, the perfect time to view it.

A six-planet lineup featuring Mercury, Venus, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune will form an almost straight line, starting on February 28. The brightest planet (easiest to find) will be Jupiter, but Saturn, Venus, and Mercury should also be visible to the naked eye. You can spot Mercury, low on the western horizon, just after sunset. You’ll need binoculars or a telescope to view Uranus (near the *Pleides*) and Neptune (close to Saturn).

February starts the best period to view deep-sky objects, such as the Andromeda Galaxy (near *Cassiopeia*) and the star clusters in *Auriga* and *Gemini*. ♦

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LIFESTYLES



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Vocabulary Strategies

Make a list of the English words whose Spanish counterparts you want to learn. Write the Spanish word next to each English word. After reviewing the new words, fold your paper so the Spanish words are hidden. Write the Spanish words in a new column, next to the English words. Check your work—and correct any mistakes. Fold the paper again—and repeat the process by making a list of the Spanish words and writing the English words. You'll find that easier.

Vocabulary cards are a must. On one side, carefully print the English word. Turn the card over (directly away from you, not sideways) and print the Spanish word on the other side. Simply flipping the card forward and backward in the palm of your hand shows you first the English, then the Spanish. You can buy preprinted vocabulary cards online, but it's easy (and less expensive) to make them in Microsoft Word, using a business card template, which you can download for free.

Avery provides many **free** MS Word templates online. They work seamlessly with MS Word. A great business card template, ideal for making vocabulary cards, is at www.avery.com/templates/5371. The Web site <https://flashcardo.com/spanish-flash-cards/> provides free downloadable cards.



A good vocabulary card strategy is to work through the cards, writing down the target language words, after viewing the English words. Check for correctness each time. Learn the Spanish first (the harder process). Once you can write, and then say, all the Spanish words in your list (start small, with no more than a dozen words), work in the opposite direction, looking at the Spanish and saying or writing the English. If a word gives you trouble (i.e., you just can't remember it), don't put it at the end of the deck, but place it four or five cards back from where you are. Keep doing that until you learn the word well.

Slip a rubber band around your vocabulary cards and carry them in your purse or pocket to use when standing in line or taking a break from work. Add each new batch of words to the cards you already have until there are about 30 of them. Then pull out any cards whose words are still giving you trouble to put in with your new batch of cards. Each week, review all your cards. Picture dictionaries are very helpful for language learning, particularly for small children. If you help a kid learn Spanish, you will be learning, too. There's a very inexpensive picture dictionary at <https://www.amazon.com/McGraw-Hills-Spanish-Dictionary-McGraw-Hill-Education/dp/0071428127>. ♦



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Jeremiah 29:11 ESV

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LIFESTYLES



Let it Snow!

My dad and mom's pastor, Rev. Langhoff, was also a livestock nutritionist. He pastored two little rural churches, which comprised a so-called *preaching circuit*. Of course he wasn't a *circuit rider*, and he didn't have a horse. But he did travel between the churches on Sunday mornings and nights to preach, and he did reach out to my brother, who raised beef cattle, helping him establish a good nutrition plan for his livestock, his nonpreacher job specialization.

Pastor Langhoff's son was in seminary, studying to become a pastor. The son's girlfriend, Pam, just happened to be studying in our nearby town, Carthage, Illinois, to become a dental hygienist. Her future mother-in-law, still a good friend of ours, told my parents the young lady was studying there and suggested that we get together. We didn't have a phone in those days, so my parents left a message with a neighbor. The next time I stopped to see the neighbors, they gave me the message about the college student.

I stopped by the college where Pam was studying. Someone in administration explained where to find her. I was teaching on the same campus (where Carthage College had been, before moving to Wisconsin). I taught at an extension branch

of Carl Sandburg College. When I located Pam, I invited her to come out to our farm and spend the weekend with us. She agreed.

I picked Pam up on Friday afternoon, after her (and my) last class. At our place, she quickly made friends with our kids, learned to milk goats, and even went out with our girls in the morning to gather eggs. Before noon on Saturday, it started to snow. It kept snowing for two days, and then the wind picked up. I walked across the neighbor's field where the snow had mostly blown away and wasn't so deep. There were 15-ft-deep drifts on the township road.



courtesy of Jukebox Nostalgia

A neighbor drove past the following morning on his gigantic four-wheel-drive tractor, hauling big round hay bales to feed his brother's cattle. The dual rear wheels left a wide trail down the road, but that didn't mean we could drive our vehicles through. I had cleared snow out to the road, so our girls led Pam half a mile down the road to our nearest neighbors, where she used their phone to call her mom to assure her that she was OK. She

also called her school. All classes were cancelled for two more days. The ladies then trudged back home in the wheel track.

Monday afternoon passed quickly, with tobogganing, sledding, snow shoveling, and wood box refilling. The girls even managed to turn out several batches of delicious cinnamon rolls! Yum! I cut down a couple of dead hardwood trees, but the chunks of wood I cut off the branches quickly disappeared into the snow. I realized we'd have to wait until some snow disappeared to even find them.

A neighbor stopped by on his front-wheel-assist tractor to tell us that the township road grader was out of order, and that no one would be clearing snow from our township road that day.

Finally, on Tuesday, we heard a bulldozer coming down the road, clearing snow as it came: rescue at last. In the afternoon, I drove Pam back to town, where her college classes were still not meeting. Those would resume the following day.

Deep snow can keep people apart, as it often did in my youth on Christmases when we were meant to travel to my grandparents' for the festivities, or when, as college students, we couldn't make it home for the holidays. But that amazing and deeply drifted snowfall brought Pam and our family together, and we remained friends for many years. ♦

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See Answers on A-15.

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

PMILE
ONAPI
CAROTF
GIOIRN

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Print your answer here: " " " " " "

Do you make chocolate milk here? Can you say, "Hi"?

TO THE COW, HOW HER MILK WOULD END UP BEING USED WAS A ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

BLISS



LIFESTYLES

The Right Tool

by Greg Williams

Psalm 81:10–13

Open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it. But my people would not hearken to my voice; and Israel would none of me. So I gave them up unto their own hearts' lust: and they walked in their own counsels. Oh that my people had hearkened unto me, and Israel had walked in my ways!

We all share a fundamental, driving desire: We want to matter. We yearn for purpose, belonging, and the sense that our lives are meaningful. This meaning isn't arbitrary; it's realized when our design aligns perfectly with its intended function.

This Psalm defines our identity and design in a single, powerful invitation: "I am the Lord your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it." This passage suggests that God alone defines who we are and what we were designed to become.

Let's consider this example of our use of common tools. A hammer is structurally designed to drive nails. A screwdriver is shaped to turn screws. Though you could conceivably use a hammer to pry loose a stubborn screw or use a screwdriver as a hammer, the effort would be clumsy and ineffective. When the wrong tool is used for a task, the job becomes frustrating. The tool is less meaningful because it is not being used for its intended purpose.

Our passage tells us we are fundamentally designed for fellowship with God. We are uniquely created, like a valuable tool, where God is the Master Craftsman. When we neglect the primary function of having a relationship with him, we experience spiritual frustration. This psalm is a lament from God, who cries out to us, "But my people did not listen to my voice; Israel would not submit to me" (v. 11). They chose an imaginary role for themselves over their divine design.

When we pursue our own pleasures and ambitions outside of God's blueprint for us, we are trying to turn a screw with a hammer. We might be functional, but we can never hope to be as effective and fulfilled without him.

If we want to live meaningful lives that truly matter, it all starts with remembering whose we are and embracing God's divine plan for us. Our true purpose isn't found in a frantic chase for self-made fulfillment, but in accepting the simple, powerful invitation from the One who created us: to open our hearts wide to him and live in fellowship with him. Any other foundation is simply ineffective, incomplete, and ultimately unsatisfying. ♦

Copyright © Greg Williams, MD. Greg has done brain surgery, neurological research, and personal counselling. He lives in a northwest Chicago suburb with his university professor wife.



Vagabond: A Memoir by Tim Curry

reviewed by Susan McKinney

Tim Curry is one of my all-time favorite actors. I first saw him in *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. One of my mom's friends was taking a sociology class and had to watch several movies. She asked my mom and dad whether I could attend with her and with some other high school church friends. One of my friends, college-aged, had been to the movie, so he knew the list of props we would need in order to participate. I can't say how many times I saw *Rocky Horror* in college, but I do own the Audience Participation album and the official soundtrack album.

Mr. Curry has written about his life. He started his life as the child of a military man, traveling with his family from post to post. He talks about his years in boarding school and college, as well as that moment when he first stepped on stage.

He has a chapter for each of his film hits: *Hair*, *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, *Amadeus*, *Annie*, *Legend*, *Clue*, *The Muppets*—and for his role as Pennywise in *It* in the 1990s. He also discusses *Spamalot* and his voice acting.

I am one of those people he mentions in his chapter on *Clue*. I wanted to see it so bad when it came out during my junior year of college, but I didn't make it to the movies. I was so excited during my summer between junior year and senior year when the local video rental store had it on the shelf. I checked it out every weekend that summer. I loved it so much that a friend bought me the VHS tape. When DVDs came out, a friend replaced my heavily worn VHS tape with a DVD. He talks about the physical demands the role put him through, as well as the fact that the movie has now gained a cult-like following, like *Rocky Horror*. I still watch it on a semiregular basis.

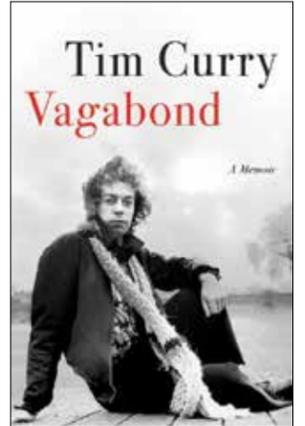
His role as Pennywise in *It*, as Darkness in *Legend*, and as Billy Flynn in *Criminal Minds*, showed how he could really tap into the scary side and portray evil incarnate.

When my son was in college, he brought home his newest Xbox game, *Dragon Age*. I'm watching him play it, and I hear Tim Curry's voice coming out of his video game. His voice acting has an even bigger list of credits than his films.

This book was a stroll down memory lane of movies I've watched over the years—and loved (*Clue*) as well as the ones that gave me nightmares for a very long time (*It*).

Mr. Curry has lived a vagabond's life, traveling around the world entertaining people. This book provides a glimpse of his works and the people he called friends and co-workers. Unlike his ending soliloquy in *Clue*, you will not say "Too late" to his "To make a long story short . . ." ♦

Susan McKinney, librarian at St. Joseph Township-Swearingen Memorial Library, is an avid reader who enjoys mystery, suspense, fantasy, and action novels.



Bob Cyphers Coming to St. Joseph

The St. Joseph Township-Swearingen Memorial Library, 201 N. Third, St. Joseph, IL 61873, is excited to announce that Bob Cyphers, winner of the **2022 Edward R. Murrow Award**, will be at the library to discuss his two books about the I-70 Serial Killer, *Dead End: Inside the Hunt for the I-70 Serial Killer* and *Midwest cold cases, 25 Frozen, 1 Thawed: Murder and Mayhem in the Midwest*. Cyphers will have the books available for purchase at the program. At this special program on Monday, February 23, at 6:00 p.m.

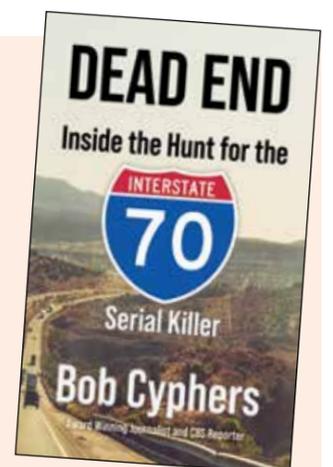
Cyphers hopes that, while traveling around the country, he can discuss the unsolved cases to assist law enforcement personnel and, maybe, one day bring closure to a family.

Here is an extract from his book *Dead End*:

In 1992, a store clerk was found shot to death in broad daylight at the Boot Village in St. Charles, Missouri. Nothing was stolen, and there was no sexual assault. This bizarre and seemingly isolated murder was quickly connected to others in Indianapolis, Wichita, Terre Haute, and Raytown. The media dubbed the suspect "The I-70 Serial Killer." He has never been captured, and the story quickly disappeared from media's attention.

But the cases never went cold for the officers in those cities. In 2021, with advancements in DNA, St. Charles Police Captain Raymond Floyd launched a task force, bringing all jurisdictions together, along with federal agencies,

to take another crack at solving the crimes. The task force selected Bob Cyphers of KMOV-TV to follow them, city by city, in the hunt for the killer. Cyphers and his KMOV crew produced a seven-part award-winning series called *Chasing the I-70 Serial Killer*, which aired in 2023. The work of Cyphers and of journalist Jamie Boggs led to national exposure of the case in *People* magazine and on the Discovery Channel. The show won an Edward R. Murrow Award and was nominated for an Emmy. ♦



LIFESTYLES

'Tis the Season to Hack, Sniff, and Cough

by Lori Borgman

If you've recently had a cold, you know the drill: You drag yourself to the store and prepare to spend the next four days scanning row after row of cold meds. By the time you find the meds appropriate to your symptoms, your cold will be gone.

All the fine-print ingredients and warnings on the boxes, bottles, and origami-folded paper sheets inside the medicine boxes make reading the 70-page IRS booklet on filing a 1040 seem like a party.

To find the right med, you must first identify the problem: cough and mucus, cough only, cough and runny nose, chest congestion, nasal congestion, sore throat, or dry throat.

Then there is the matter of how long you want relief—and how sleepy you're willing to be: fast-acting 8-hour or 12-hour, drowsy or nondrowsy, Nyquil, Dayquil, or Tranquil.

We have a plastic tub full of cough meds in the linen closet, but they're all for infants, toddlers, and children up to age 12. I've aged out. Our cold and cough meds have aged out, too. Most of them are expired and need to be thrown out.

When I was a kid, it was not uncommon to take homemade cough medicine. A parent would mix a little bit of bourbon and some honey in a spoon, and there it was—homemade cough syrup. Technically, an entire generation of kids did shots in elementary school. Of course, times have changed. Today's pediatricians strongly advise against such homemade remedies. (For the record, I stand with today's pediatricians.)

Another home remedy—this one still approved—was to gargle with warm saltwater. To my knowledge, a saltwater gargle has never stopped a sore throat, but the mere mention of the prospect will stop anyone from complaining.

The best home remedy was, and still is, chicken noodle soup. To this day, I firmly believe homemade chicken noodle soup can cure almost anything.

The best cough drops ever made were Luden's throat drops. They were cherry flavored, and they came in a box. I loved them. All kids loved them because they were candy.

The box said they were *medicated*. And they were. With sugar.

Alas, I'm with the times now. My go-to cold and cough meds are over-the-counter products because many come with a "do not use heavy machinery" warning.

I take *heavy machinery* to include the washer, the dryer, the stove, the refrigerator, the microwave, and the vacuum.

I'm feeling better already. ♦

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Blast from the Past!

"I Write the Songs," by Barry Manilow

by Randal C. Hill

Who is the "I" in this well-known oldie?

*I write the songs that make the whole world sing
I write the songs of love and special things
I write the songs that make the young girls cry
I write the songs; I write the songs*

The answer might—no, will—surprise you.

These iconic lyrics are from the recording by Manhattanite Barry Manilow, a hit single he didn't write. Manilow also didn't compose the second 45 of his to rocket to the top of the Billboard Hot 100 chart during the 1970s.

Early in his Arista Records career, the former commercials jingle writer had balked at recording "Brandy," a song by American singer-songwriter Scott English, which had been a success in Britain. After signing with Arista, Manilow had reluctantly recorded English's tune as "Mandy." A wise choice, as it became Barry's first number one single.

Later, Arista's president, music veteran Clive Davis, felt strongly that "I Write the Songs" also had success written all over it—if only Manilow would record the tune. Again, Barry hesitated. He hadn't written the work, and he felt that the lyrics sounded "egotistical." But the rising star wasn't so stubborn that he didn't listen to his business-savvy boss, and Manilow was soon on his way to releasing his second Arista disc to grab the top Billboard spot.

Well, just who *did* compose "I Write the Songs"? Here we need to swing the spotlight to Southern California and the land of the Beach Boys. Born in 1942, Bruce Johnston, the adopted son of the owner of the Rexall Drug chain, grew up in the wealthy West Los Angeles suburb of Bel Air. Always enamored with music, Bruce mastered the keyboard and the bass guitar.

He attended UCLA and later worked with record producer Terry Melcher (Doris Day's son) before joining the Beach Boys in 1965 as a replacement for leader Brian Wilson, the pop-music genius who had trashed his brain with psychedelic drugs.

In the mid-1970s, Bruce temporarily stepped away from the popular band to go solo with an album called *Going Public*. His LP fizzled commercially, but it did contain his original composition of "I Write the Songs." Under Johnston's guidance, that track featured a quiet, lightly orchestrated offering that lacked the near-bombastic dynamics of Manilow's million-selling version. Barry's rendition featured an introduction of a tinkling piano and the gradual build to a dynamic conclusion, with Manilow's rich voice, soaring above a studio orchestra in full-throttle mode.

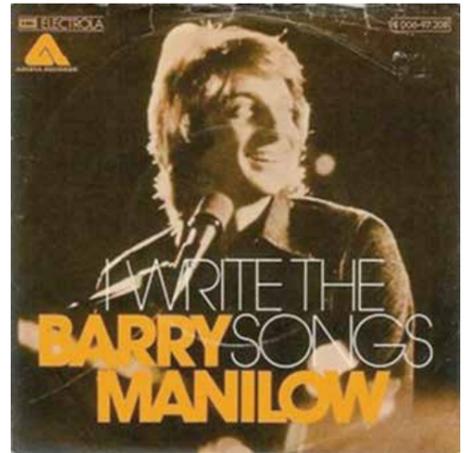
Many people have opined that Bruce's ballad was a tribute to Brian Wilson. Not true, Johnston testifies. He cites the opening lines:

*I've been alive forever
And I wrote the very first song
I put the words and the melodies together
I am music, and I write the songs*

Had this song been about Brian?

Nope. The answer, which is hidden in plain sight, is that Bruce was talking about God. Later, Johnston even referred to his classic as a hymn. ♦

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PEOPLE & PLACES

Theodore Roosevelt National Park

by Leslie A. Woodrum

One of the hidden gems of the National Park system, Theodore Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota, is sometimes overlooked as a destination.

Roosevelt National Park is quite large. It's split into North, South, and Elkhorn Ranch sections. It is about a 60-mile trip between any two park areas. On this trip we were on a mission to points farther west, so we visited only the South section of the park for two days.

The main entrance to the South section is right in the center of Medora, North Dakota. Medora features plenty of lodging, restaurants, old west saloons, and stores to restock supplies. We found the town offered a great place to unwind after a day of photos in the park. Medora is located on Interstate 94, on the far west side of North Dakota.

Roosevelt first visited the area to hunt buffalo in 1883. He would later return as a rancher and to seek a deep connection with the land, which led him to his later promotion of the National Park System and the establishment of numerous National Monuments. Declared a National Memorial Park in 1947, Roosevelt Park did not gain full National Park status until 1978.

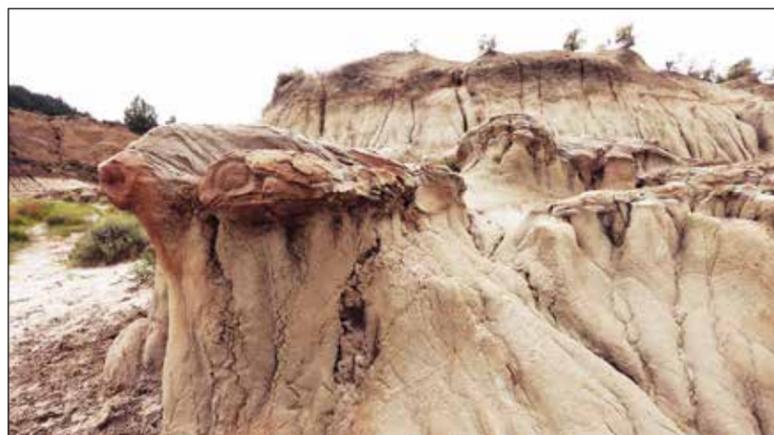
One feature of Roosevelt National Park is its *Badlands*. These geologic features are like the more familiar Badlands of South Dakota, with one exception: The canyons and valleys are covered with more lush vegetation. The formations are quite colorful. The Little Missouri river runs through the park. There is a 36-mile loop road that will provide numerous photo opportunities. We drove the road both directions so we could see the sites from different angles.

Another geological feature are the hoodoos, sandstone formations that look like very large

mushrooms. There are large hoodoos in the North section, but time did not permit us to visit that



Landscape from the Painted Canyon Visitor's Center located on I-94 east of Medora, North Dakota photo by Leslie A. Woodrum



Hoodoo sandstone formations on the south loop road photo by Leslie A. Woodrum

area. The South section had some hoodoos that were five to ten feet high.

From buffalo to wild horses and prairie dogs, wildlife abounds around every corner. I suggest

packing a telephoto zoom lens in the 70–300mm range, so you don't have to get too close to some of the animals. You'll be able to take lots of photos from your car, especially of the bison.

Theodore Roosevelt National Park is a fitting tribute to a president who had a national lands preservation priority. I highly recommend placing this site on your must-see list when vacationing to the western U.S. National Parks.

Do you want to learn more about your digital camera or Photoshop? I offer classes at Danville Area Community College. There is a two-night class titled "Basic Digital Camera Functions" and a four-night "Introduction to Photoshop" class each semester. Contact the DACC Community Education Office at (217) 554-1667 for more information. ♦

Les Woodrum has been a photographer for 50 years, working as an educator, a scientific photographer, a corporate photographer, a commercial photographer, and a photo lab manager. Contact him at lesw@woodrum-media.com.

One of the countless buffalo along the south loop road photo by Leslie A. Woodrum



Wild horses grazing in the badlands photo by Leslie A. Woodrum



MONEY MATTERS

AI in Personal Finance: The Promise and the Limits

by Darrold A. Kennedy

Your smartphone buzzes with an alert: Your budgeting app has spotted an unusual spending pattern and suggests transferring \$50 from your savings account to your checking account. Later that day, a roboadvisor automatically rebalances your investment portfolio. Welcome to the age of artificial intelligence (AI) in personal finance, where technology is reshaping how we manage money.

What AI can do for your wallet. From tracking every latte to forecasting next month's bills, AI-powered tools are making financial management more accessible than ever. Some apps categorize transactions automatically, whereas other platforms offer conversational financial advice through text messages. These tools can monitor your credit score, suggest budget adjustments, and even negotiate lower bills on services such as cable and Internet.

The investing landscape has transformed as well. Robo-advisors use algorithms to build diversified portfolios, automatically rebalance holdings, and apply strategies to minimize tax bills. Educational tools powered by AI can explain complex concepts through interactive games and simple question-and-answer formats, making financial literacy more accessible.

Where AI falls short. Here's what the algorithms can't do: understand what truly matters to you.

AI doesn't know whether you value sustainable investing over maximum returns. It can't weigh the emotional complexity of saving for a child's

education versus retiring early. When sudden illness strikes, or a job change upends your plans, AI lacks the context and empathy to guide you through those human moments.

Technology can crunch numbers brilliantly, but it can't offer wisdom. It can't replace human judgment, experience, or ethical reasoning. Robo-advisors' predetermined algorithms might not suit investors with complex financial needs, such as estate planning or comprehensive tax planning.

The human touch still matters. This is where human financial advisors remain indispensable. They provide what technology can't:

Long-term perspective: Help you maintain focus when markets become volatile and emotions run high

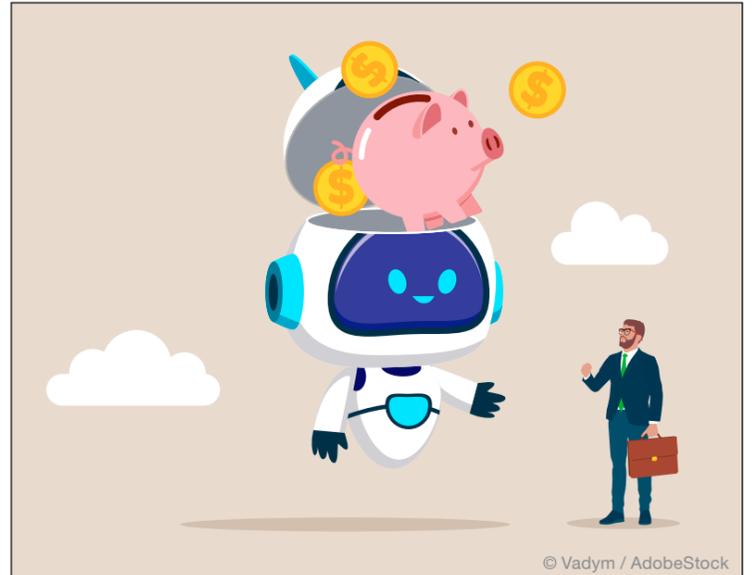
Goal coordination: Balance competing priorities, help partners merge their financial visions, and remind you of goals you've tucked away and didn't know still mattered

Accountability: Keep you on track with your financial strategy through life's inevitable changes

Emotional support: Offer reassurance and wisdom during major financial decisions

Research validates it: Those who regularly work with a financial advisor and have a financial strategy are more likely to feel optimistic about their financial future than those who manage finances on their own, according to 2025 research from Edward Jones and Morning Consult.

Find the right balance. The future likely lies



in a hybrid approach, combining data-driven AI insights with the human wisdom of a financial advisor who understands your values, priorities, and life's inevitable curveballs. Think of AI as a powerful calculator and your financial advisor as the mathematician who knows which equations to use.

As these technologies evolve, the key is treating AI as a tool, not a guide.

Stay curious about what technology can do for your finances. Stay critical of its limitations. And remember, only you can define what matters most in your financial life. ♦

This Edward Jones article was provided to your local Edward Jones Branch financial advisor, Darrold A. Kennedy, AAMS: Edward Jones, 1912 Round Barn Road, Suite E, Champaign, IL 61821; phone (217) 398-6562; toll-free number (800) 203-5679; fax (888) 819-2146.

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PEOPLE & PLACES

Inviting Indianapolis

by Debra L. Karplus

Looking for an enticing road trip? Think Indianapolis. You'll find ample things to do, indoors and out, no matter your age. With interstate highways 65, 465, 70, 74, and 69, as well as lesser-traveled roads, all running through Indianapolis, getting to Indiana's most populated (and capital) city is relatively simple, wherever you live. It's also the seat of Marion County, and home to several colleges and universities, such as IU (Indianapolis University, www.uindy.edu) and others. Culture and entertainment, the arts, sports, and shopping are plentiful in and around Indianapolis, as are many notable sites.

Historically, Indianapolis was a great railroad town. Note that Amtrak's Cardinal Route (www.amtrak.com) has a daily stop at their Indianapolis Depot, and the bus goes in and out of Indianapolis also. For those who are travelling farther, consider the Indianapolis International Airport (IND, www.ind.com). Remember to set your watch to Eastern Time.

There is plenty of lodging, hotels, motels, and Airbnbs—and great amenities and dining choices are plentiful, with a range of prices to suit your needs. For example, check out the well-known downtown Shapiro's Deli, with its very long history in the Indianapolis area, for traditional deli cuisine that you might not find in your hometown. It's tasty and very affordable, in a setting with enticing ambiance. Arrive early to avoid a crowd.

Downtown, there's the Capitol Building,



Monument Circle in downtown Indianapolis honors Indiana veterans © SeanPavonePhoto / AdobeStock

Indiana Historical Museum, Indiana State Museum, and, for fiction lovers, the Kurt Vonnegut Museum, for indoor enjoyment. Spend a day, and bring the young ones to the Indianapolis Zoo or the Children's Museum of Indianapolis. Get information about admission and hours before your arrival.

Bicyclists will smile when they learn how bicycle-friendly Indianapolis is. Throw your bike in the car, and check out the Monon Rail Trail.

The Indianapolis Motor Speedway is another major attraction. Expect fun, but also crowds, if you visit in May. Check their calendar for year-round events.

If you have only one day to experience Indianapolis, spend it at Newfields, a Mecca for nature and the arts. If you have a membership at your local museum, bet they have a reciprocal arrangement

with Newfields, and your admission is free. Outdoor nature is best visited in good weather, whatever the season, but the art museum can be enjoyed any time. It's a *must-see!*

Shopping, you ask? The Bottleworks District is worth stopping for. An old Coca Cola Bottling Plant, the center has been wonderfully transformed into shops, entertainment, and food venues. Add Bottleworks to your itinerary. Fans of Trader Joe's will be delighted to hear that Indianapolis has not one, but two Trader Joe's stores. Come hungry, and bring your grocery list for some of the many novelty foods at good prices. If you like IKEA furniture, head just north of Indianapolis to Fishers or Carmel. You probably should arrive in a vehicle larger than a compact car!

Before you leave the Hoosier state, take in dinner theater at the Beef and Boards. There are also matinees for those who prefer daytime shows.

Stay for a week, a weekend, or even just a day. You'll find lots to do in Indianapolis. ♦

Champaign freelance writer and retired occupational therapist Debra Karplus contributes frequently to these pages: debrakarplus.blogspot.com.

The Indianapolis Speedway hosts many events, including the Indy 500

© jetcityimage / Adobe Stock



Laughing Matters

Q: Where do hamburgers take their sweethearts to dance on Valentine's Day?
A: The Meat Ball.

I'll love my cat fur-ever.

Newly wed daughter to mom: "Are tectonic plates dishwasher safe? The professor mentioned them today in geology class." Mom to daughter: "I'm not sure, but they sound really good for a continental breakfast."

Once the two calendars fell in love, they had lots of dates.

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LIFESTYLES

Tea Trivia



Question. How many varieties of tea are harvested from the same tea bush?

Answer. Six varieties of tea can be harvested from the same bush or tree: white tea (白茶 báichá), green tea (绿茶 lǜ chá), yellow tea (黄茶 huángchá), oolong tea (乌龙茶 wū lóng chá), black tea (红茶 hóng chá), and pu-erh tea (普洱茶 pǔ'ěr chá, often from the Pu-er region of China). The variety produced depends on when in the plant's life cycle the leaves are harvested—and how the leaves are processed.

In the United States, the color associated with the variety of tea is typically based on the color of the dried leaves. In China, the color is that of the water, after the tea has steeped in it.

White tea is harvested earliest and least commonly, then typically air-dried. Leaves are not heated during drying. It should be prepared with water below the boiling point.

Green tea leaves are heated right after picking to prevent oxidation, often in a wok or oven. It should also be prepared with water below the boiling point.

Oolong tea leaves are left to wither. They are typically rolled gently to prompt oxidation. The reaction of essential oils to the air darkens the leaf and produces distinctive fragrances. When the teamaker deems the leaves to be sufficiently dried naturally, they

are heated quickly in a process called *panning*. The panned leaf is then rolled into its final shape.

Black tea leaves are also left to wither, with leaves spread out. The leaves soon lose much of their weight and stiffness. Rolling exposes the essential oils to the air and encourages oxidation. When oxidation is deemed complete, the leaf is heated to stop the process. Many Chinese pour out the first tea made from the leaves, and drink the second tea made from the used leaves.

Pu-erh tea is typically made from very large tea leaves (at times from a special regional variety of tea plant). Leaves are made into a base tea (*mao cha*), which is fermented. The fermented tea is compressed. A (1973) special technique accelerates aging. This process, *wo dui*, raises the moisture in the leaves and raises the temperature in the processing room. Such teas are called *shu*, and comprise a group of cooked, brown teas.

So, what is *chai tea*? Chai tea is a kind of practical joke played on Americans. *Chai*, or *cha*, is the word for *tea* in many languages. Thus we pay extra to drink *tea tea*. ♦

thoughts to ponder

by Tim Barber

Could you really hear a baby laugh—or see that little smile—and not laugh or smile yourself? Picture it. My guess is that if you are breathing, a smile just came to your face. Was there a laugh along with it?

Babies can be so quick to laugh and smile. Change that diaper and provide some nourishment—and here come the smiles and laughs. When did we begin to let go of that innocence and worry-free life? How long since smiling and laughter were typical for us?

It's estimated that children laugh 300 times each day, though for an adult, that would be closer to 10 times. Really? Is life that serious? Or do we let the cares of life crush the laughter? Even the *funnies* fail to bring much laughter on most days. However, laughter does come easily enough while we are at play, like kids. Typical advice to a discouraged person is to “lighten up” or “learn to play more.” And how about that question, “What do you do for fun?” Though we are much more complicated than that, there is some truth in those things.

Do the babies and children have it right? “A joyful heart is good medicine,” says Proverbs 17:22. We don't ignore our responsibilities, but we certainly don't want to let go of a joyful heart in the process. Humility and innocence are key to smiling and laughing.

Ask a child why they like to laugh so much. Watch a video of babies laughing. Learn about the joy of innocence all over again each day. ♦

Copyright © Tim Barber. Tim is a retired pastor in the Champaign-Urbana area: tbarber@illinois.edu.

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Why you need dental insurance in retirement.

Many Americans are fortunate to have dental coverage for their entire working life, through employer-provided benefits. When those benefits end with retirement, paying dental bills out-of-pocket can come as a shock, leading people to put off or even go without care.

Simply put – without dental insurance, there may be an important gap in your healthcare coverage.

When you're comparing plans ...

- ▶ Look for coverage that helps pay for major services. Some plans may limit the number of procedures – or pay for preventive care only.
- ▶ Look for coverage with no deductibles. Some plans may require you to pay hundreds out of pocket before benefits are paid.
- ▶ Shop for coverage with no annual maximum on cash benefits. Some plans have annual maximums of \$1,000.

Medicare doesn't pay for dental care.¹

That's right. As good as Medicare is, it was never meant to cover everything. That means if you want protection, you need to purchase individual insurance.

Early detection can prevent small problems from becoming expensive ones.

The best way to prevent large dental bills is preventive care. The American Dental Association recommends checkups twice a year.

Previous dental work can wear out.

Even if you've had quality dental work in the past, you shouldn't take your dental health for granted. In fact, your odds of having a dental problem only go up as you age.²

Treatment is expensive — especially the services people over 50 often need.

Consider these national average costs of treatment ... \$222 for a checkup ... \$190 for a filling ... \$1,213 for a crown.³ Unexpected bills like this can be a real burden, especially if you're on a fixed income.

1 "Medicare & You." Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2024. 2 "Aging changes in teeth and gums", medlineplus.gov, 4/17/2022. 3 American Dental Association, Health Policy Institute, 2020 Survey of Dental Fees, Copyright 2020, American Dental Association.

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PEOPLE & PLACES



WORDSMITH'S WORKSHOP by Rob Siedenburg

Kenspeckle

A fascinating word, used widely in Scotland and Northern England, is *kenspeckle*. The word sounds a bit odd to my American ear; my Scottish words were learned either from my Grandmother Ida (born a Douglas), or from Scottish friends I've known through the years.

Kenspeckle's origins lie in Old Slavic: *to ken* is to know (*kennen* is German for to know, as in to know a person), and Latin has the word *specere*, to look. Both Old Slavic and Latin took their roots for this word from Indoeuropean. Norwegian still uses the word *kjennespak*, which means quick to recognize something.

Kenspeckle is a synonym of *conspicuous*.

Other near synonyms are noticeable, commanding (as, a commanding presence), prominent (as a feature might be said to be), dramatic (so as to draw attention), marked (as a marked difference between the two species), easily recognized, remarkable, pronounced, and striking. If you knew my frugal and taciturn Scottish ancestors, you might suspect they'd be glad to scotch all those synonyms for *kenspeckle*. In fact, you might say they *were* kenspeckle for their taciturnity and frugality.

Here's an apocryphal tale told about the first of my Scottish ancestors to venture to the United States: The family had, besides Mom and Dad, seven sons. The eldest went off to the United States, worked hard, saved his money, and returned to Scotland after seven years. His family greeted him on the platform as he got off the train.

To his surprise, his dad and brothers were kenspeckle for their long beards, though he remembered their always having been cleanshaven. "Och! Is that the style in Scotland now, lads?" he asked in astonishment.

"Don't ye remember, brother?" replied his youngest sibling. "Ye took the family razor!" ♦

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Doodlebug Kismet

by Phyllis Godwin

The *Doodlebug* train consisted of one engine, including passenger car, on the Chicago and Eastern Illinois (C&EI) railroad. Back in the day, one ran from southern Illinois to Chicago through my hometown of Shelbyville from 1955 to 1962. According to information from the C&EI Web site, the "Doodlebug" as we called it, was a Budd RDC-1, single, self-motorized rail car, intended only for passenger use. Before I could drive, or be trusted to drive alone, my mom put me on that one-car train to send me to my oldest brother's house in Danville, Illinois. I would later move to his house in Danville as soon as I graduated from high school. In fact, it was the day after baccalaureate, and I was happy to get out of town.



Photo courtesy of John Jones.

Previous trips to Danville on the Doodlebug were on breaks from school, usually at Christmas time. In late 1959, or early 1960, there was an occasion when I was on the way to Danville during a heavy winter snowstorm. The Doodlebug got stuck in the snow near Allerton, Illinois. There was a long delay, as local volunteers hand-dug the snowdrift to get the Doodlebug on its way.

Many years later, I moved to Urbana, had a job at the University of Illinois, and was married. As I was retelling the story of the stuck Doodlebug to my young husband, who was from Allerton, he laughed out loud and said, "I was one of those diggers!" Indeed, in that winter snowstorm of 1959-60, he was a strapping 14-year-old, and he did help dig out the rail car.

Allerton is a small village on the then C&EI line, just southwest of Danville, Illinois. In fact, half of the village is in Champaign County and half in Vermilion County. My husband's father, Merle Godwin, was the station agent there for many years. The photo included was given to David Godwin by John Jones of Villa Grove. We can't be sure that it depicts the incident I'm writing about, but it is the same rail car on the same rail line, in the same period. The Doodlebug had to be dug out more than once.

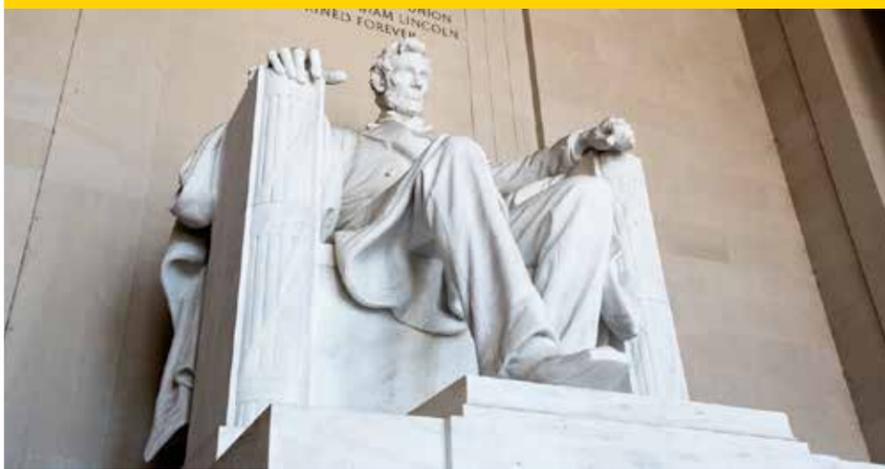
Only three years after the snowdrift incident, we were to meet in Champaign, Illinois, on a blind date facilitated by my roommate. That was 63 years ago, and we still reminisce about the Doodlebug and the snowdrift. We think it was kismet! ♦

Freelance writer Phyllis Godwin lives in Urbana, Illinois, with her husband David. A retired administrative assistant and University of Illinois-Springfield graduate, Phyllis she loves cooking, creating stained glass art, and taking road trips with David. She can be reached at pgodwin43@gmail.com.



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Puzzle Answers

E	B	B		R	E	A	P	S		P	L	A	I	T	
L	A	O		A	P	B	I	O		R	A	N	D	O	
M	S	N		F	A	C	T	C	H	E	C	K	E	R	
S	H	E	L	F		S	H	I	E	D		L	A	Y	
				T	I	L	T			A	R	I	S	E	S
W	R	I	T	E	R	S	B	L	O	C	K				
O	A	R		S	O	U	R			T	E	A	M	S	
E	K	E	D		T	E	A	M	O		E	T	O	N	
S	E	D	E	R		W	O	M	B		M	A	A		
				F	A	M	I	L	I	A	R	R	I	N	G
				M	A	Y	B	E	S		N	A	A	N	
B	A	T		B	E	A	U	T		I	M	S	E	T	
C	H	A	R	I	T	Y	B	A	L	L		I	D	O	
C	A	R	A	T		N	E	P	A	L		D	I	P	
S	L	I	P	S		O	R	A	T	E		E	T	S	

Crossword puzzle on A-6

Jumble on A-8

Jumbles: IMPEL PIANO FACTOR ORIGIN

Answers: To the cow, how her milk would end up being used as a — "MOO" POINT

Sudoku on A-8

4	7	3	6	8	9	2	1	5
1	8	5	3	4	2	7	6	9
6	9	2	7	1	5	4	3	8
5	3	6	8	9	7	1	4	2
7	2	4	1	5	3	9	8	6
9	1	8	2	6	4	3	5	7
3	4	9	5	2	8	6	7	1
8	6	7	9	3	1	5	2	4
2	5	1	4	7	6	8	9	3

Scrabble Grams on A-6

SCRABBLE GRAMS SOLUTION													
D ₂	U ₁	G ₂	O ₁	U ₁	T ₁		RACK 1 =	<u>8</u>					
U ₁	N ₁	I ₁	C ₃	O ₁	R ₁	N ₁	RACK 2 =	<u>59</u>					
C ₃	A ₁	R ₁	A ₁	V ₄	A ₁	N ₁	RACK 3 =	<u>65</u>					
S ₁	O ₁	P ₃	H ₄	I ₁	S ₁	T ₁	RACK 4 =	<u>86</u>					
PAR SCORE 145-155							TOTAL					218	

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