

ELECTRIC FANS AND AIR CONDITIONING HAVE LARGELY REPLACED HAND-HELD FANS

Choot



Rev. Sylvester Graham

THE REVEREND SYLVESTER GRAHAM OF CONNECTICUT, A HEALTH FOOD ADVOCATE, DEVELOPED THE FIRST PACKAGED READY-TO-EAT BREAKFAST CEREAL BACK IN THE 1830'S

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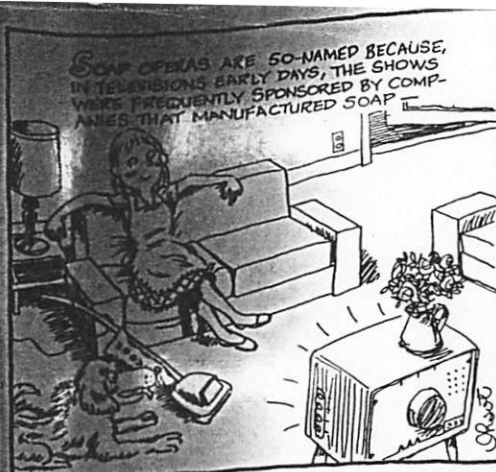
THE TERM "SOUTHPAW" HAS ITS ORIGIN IN THE GAME OF BASEBALL

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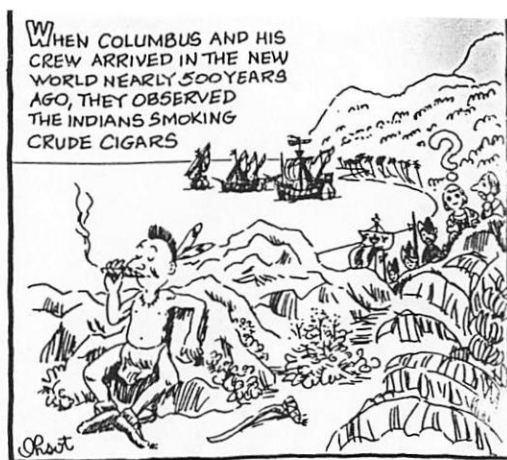
江崎優子編注

北星堂



SOAP OPERAS ARE SO-NAMED BECAUSE, IN TELEVISIONS EARLY DAYS, THE SHOWS WERE FREQUENTLY SPONSORED BY COMPANIES THAT MANUFACTURED SOAP

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WHEN COLUMBUS AND HIS CREW ARRIVED IN THE NEW WORLD NEARLY 500 YEARS AGO, THEY OBSERVED THE INDIANS SMOKING CRUDE CIGARS

Choot

WHY? HOW? WHO?



A GENTLEMAN REMOVES HIS HAT BY LIFTING IT BY ITS CROWN

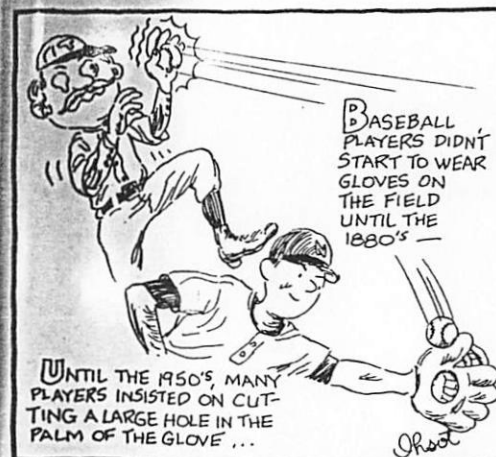
HE TIPS HIS HAT BY GENTLY TOUCHING ITS BRIM

Choot



ALTHOUGH THE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION HAS BEEN POPULAR OVER SEVERAL CENTURIES, IT IS BY NO MEANS A UNIVERSAL CUSTOM

Choot



BASEBALL PLAYERS DIDN'T START TO WEAR GLOVES ON THE FIELD UNTIL THE 1880'S

UNTIL THE 1950'S, MANY PLAYERS INSISTED ON CUTTING A LARGE HOLE IN THE PALM OF THE GLOVE...

Choot



THE CUSTOM OF TOASTING IS THOUGHT TO HAVE ORIGINATED OVER 1000 YEARS AGO

Choot

THE HOKUSEIDO PRESS

The Bald Eagle



Why is the bald eagle America's national bird?

The bald eagle, which is found only in North America, is the national bird of the United States because it represents courage, freedom and strength. In 1782, it became the official emblem of the United States by an act of the second Continental Congress. The Great Seal of the United States depicts a bald eagle, wings spread, displaying the arrows of war and an olive branch of peace. The use of the bald eagle as a national symbol by the United States is one of countless times in history in which an eagle has been used as a heraldic, military, national or religious symbol.

The bald eagle, which has also been called the "American" and "United States" eagle, ranges from Alaska, as far south as Florida and California. The bird measures

nearly three feet in length, from beak to tail, and has a wingspan that may exceed seven feet. Its plumage is dark brown, with white on the tail, and white feathers on the neck and head that account for the bird's popular, but inaccurate, name "bald."

The bald eagle builds its nest in the top of a tall tree. A mating pair may use the same nest for several years. The birds are not good hunters or fishers and their food supply relies heavily on fish that are washed up and on fresh fish they steal from other birds. Hunters have killed thousands of bald eagles, resulting in federal laws to protect the birds from possible extinction.

古来よりわしの雄大かつ崇高な姿は人類を魅了した。本文にあるように勇氣、自由、力がわしの象徴である。1782年6月20日に当時の植民地議会が、白頭わしを合衆国の国璽(官印)として採用し、9月16日、イギリスとの捕虜交換の交渉の権限をワシントン將軍に与える書類に初めて用いられた。国家的行事には欠かせないが、印象的などころでは大統領が演説する台の前面に、また卑近などころでは、1ドル札や25セント硬貨などに見られる。

bald eagle 「白頭わし」 Continental Congress 「(独立戦争時代の)植民地議会」 Great Seal of the United States 「アメリカ合衆国の国璽」 olive branch 平和の象徴とされている。 heraldic 「伝令官の、紋章の」 as far south as... 「南では...まで」 plumage [plʊːmɪdʒ] 「(鳥の)羽毛」 account for... 「...を明らかにする」 relies on... 「...をあてにする」 protect...from (=against) ~ 「~から(～しないように) ...を保護する」 extinction 「死滅」

Buttons



Why does men's clothing button differently from women's?

Centuries ago, all clothing was made with the buttons on the left side. During the Middle Ages, men's clothing began to be made with the buttons on the right to enable men to draw their swords more easily. The new arrangement made it possible for a man to quickly unbutton his garment with his left hand and remove his weapon with his right hand. Although the reason for the difference is no longer a practical one, the practice of putting men's buttons on the right side and women's on the left is still followed traditionally. ¹⁰

Today, the buttons on men's coatsleeves are only for decoration, but it is believed that they originated for practical purposes. It is thought that the buttons were

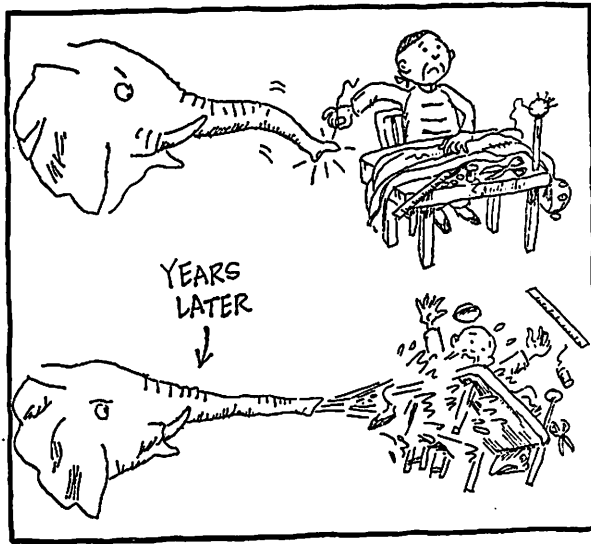
first used during the days when coatsleeves were longer and looser than they are today. The buttons were used to keep the sleeves out of the way, enabling a man to work more freely with his hands. Another theory, based on legend, says that Prussia's Frederick the Great had buttons put on the sleeves of his soldiers' uniforms to keep them from wiping their faces on the sleeves.

There is a common superstition about buttons that promises bad luck to anyone who fastens a garment by putting the buttons into the wrong buttonholes. Taking the piece of clothing off entirely and rebuttoning it correctly is said to remove the jinx.

有史前の最古のボタンは動物の骨であった。ついで、4,000年前にギリシャ人が金の丸い塊をボタンとして用いたそうである。1200年代にボタンは実用品として愛用されるようになったが、それ以前に貴重な装飾品および象徴(emblem)としての歴史があった。現在では象牙や金属、皮、亀の甲、貝殻などいろんな素材から作られ、手彫り、エナメル加工、七宝焼のものもあり、切手と並んで収集品目になっているのも無理のない話である。

clothing 衣類の総称。 Middle Ages 「中世」 西洋史で5世紀後半からイタリヤ・ルネサンス期(14世紀ごろ)までをいう。 enable...to ~ 「...が~できるようにする」 garment=clothing no longer... 「もはや...でない」 practice=habit traditionally 「伝統的に」 originated=began keep...out of the way 「...が邪魔にならないようにする」 theory 「説、意見」 based on legend 「伝説に基づくものだが」 Frederick the Great (1744-97) ロシアの皇帝 (1786-1797) keep...from ~ 「...が~しないようにする」 superstition 「迷信」 remove=get rid of

Elephants



Why do we say “an elephant never forgets”?

It is generally believed that the elephant is an intelligent animal and one with a reasonably good memory, but the claim that the animal “never forgets” is probably an exaggeration based on fable and superstition. Although a well-trained circus elephant is able to remember a number of commands and routines, some zoo elephants frequently seem to be unable to recognize their own keepers!

The myth about the elephant's infallible memory has been kept alive by a widely known tale from decades ago about a particular circus parade. According to the story, as the procession was passing through town, a playful elephant swung its trunk out toward a tailor who was sewing alongside the parade route. The

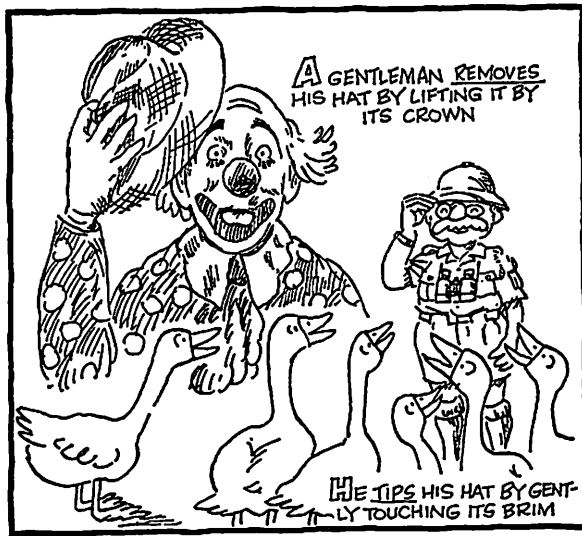
tailor responded by pricking the trunk with his needle. When the parade returned years later, the same elephant, remembering the painful reception the tailor gave it years ago, filled its trunk with muddy water and deposited it all over him.

The keenness of the elephant's memory also has been linked with the animal's taste for tobacco. Some claim that elephants dislike chewing tobacco and will grudgingly remember anyone who fed them some, while others claim the animals like the taste and appreciably remember the person who fed tobacco to them. The fact is that many elephants like the taste of chewing tobacco, but it is doubtful that an elephant's taste—or distaste—for tobacco can be used to justify its reputation for having a remarkable memory.

象と人類との付き合いは長く、約25,000年前の象牙の古器物がヨーロッパで見つかっている。人間とのかかわりは、戦争、狩り、交通手段、労役や見せ物などと多岐にわたる。また日本語でもすっかり定着した「ジャンボ」という言葉は、サーカスの人気巨象の名前に由来する。Jumbo はパリの植物園、ロンドンの動物園を経て、1882年にアメリカの Barnum and Bailey Circus に買いとられ、人気者となるが、3年後に交通事故死した。

reasonably 「ほどほどに」 claim 「主張」 fable 「寓話」 教訓を含んだ短かい話。(Aesop's Fables 「イソップ寓話集」) a number of = some routine 「きまりきった仕事」 myth 「神話」 infallible 「誤りのない」 has been kept alive 「忘れられずにきた」 according to... 「...によると」

Etiquette



Why does a man tip his hat?

It is considered proper etiquette for a man, in certain situations, to tip or remove his hat as a sign of respect. He tips his hat by gently touching the brim; he removes it by lifting the hat by its crown.

A man tips his hat when greeting a friend, or when he greets or is greeted by a passing woman. If he stops to speak to a woman, he is expected to remove his hat and hold it in his left hand. A tip of the hat should also accompany such politeness as "thank you," "pardon me" and "permit me."

In the elevator of a residential building, a man should remove his hat when a woman enters. However, etiquette does not demand that he do so in the elevator of an office building, department store or other public

place. This is because the elevator of a residential building is considered like a "room" in someone's house. Of course, a man other than a member of the military should always remove his hat when saluting the flag and when the national anthem is being played.

The custom of tipping one's hat goes back to the Middle Ages, when knights in armor removed their helmets to show their trust in the person they were greeting. Today, hats are not worn as frequently as they were a generation or two ago and hat etiquette is often forgotten, ignored or not learned in the first place.

史上最初のエチケット集は、4,500年前の古代エジプトまでさかのぼる。今日のエチケットに近いものは1700年代のフランスの宮廷で生まれた。ルイ14世は儀式の本を奮き、宮廷人は各々宮殿に着くとそれを渡された。その中には念の入った礼儀、作法が奮いてあったという。アメリカでは、ジョージ・ワシントンが "Rules of Civility and Decent Behavior in Company and Conversation" を著わしているが、その中には「人の前で口をすすいではいけない」とか「人の前でのみやしらみを殺してはいけない」などがある。

to tip... 「...を傾ける」 brim 「ふち」 crown = the highest part of anything
この場合は帽子の山。 a passing woman 「通りすがりの女性」 accompany
= go with residential building 「住宅」 demand that he (should) do so
「彼がそうすることを当然だとする」 other than... 「...以外の」 the national
anthem 「国歌」 アメリカの国歌 (The Star-Spangled Banner) は1814年に作
られた。 knights in armor 「よろいを着た(中世の)騎士」 in the first place
「第一に」

Handshakes



Why do people shake hands?

Today, in many parts of the world, it is customary for people to shake hands upon meeting as a gesture of good will. Originally, however, the practice of shaking hands had a more practical purpose.

Shaking hands originated in medieval times. In those days, when a man came upon a stranger, he would often automatically reach for his dagger with his right hand, in case he had to use the weapon to defend himself. Sometimes, both parties found themselves circling around each other, weapons in hand, until it was mutually agreed that the weapons could be laid aside. Then, the two parties extended their right hands to show they held no weapons, and clasped them. This was the beginning of the handshake.

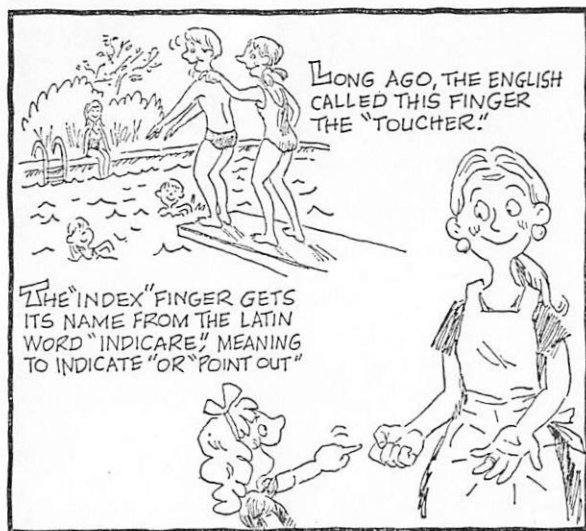
The custom of shaking hands is not a universal one. In the Orient, people have, for centuries, clasped their own hands in front of them upon meeting to show that they held no weapons. In France, a custom developed in which people who met would kiss each other on both cheeks. The natives of some South Seas islands greet by rubbing noses.

The handshake also is used to seal a business deal. It is thought that the clasped hands form a cross that blesses the deal and indicates the honorable intentions of the parties involved.

その昔、見知らぬ人間に出会うと大体次の四つの対処の仕方があった。
(1) 向きをかえて逃げる、(2) 頑張って戦う、(3) お互いになるべく遠ざかって進む、(4) 仲良くなる。握手は(4)のための唯一の方法だったようである。武器を下に置くだけでは足りず、念には念を入れて武器を持つ手を握り合うことでやっと安心したわけだ。一見礼儀に見えるものが、実は自己保存の手段だったのである。

customary=usual good will「善意」 In those days「当時は」 came upon=met would reach for...「...を取ろうと手を伸ばすのだった」 would は過去の習慣。 dagger「短刀」 in case he had to use the weapon「武器を使わねばならない場合があるので」 parties=persons be laid aside=be put on side clasped them「握手した」 upon meeting=when meeting natives「土着の人」 to seal a business deal「ビジネスの取引きを確実なものにするために」 the parties involved「関係者」

The Index Finger



Why is one of our fingers called the “index” finger?

The first, or “index” finger gets its name from the Latin word “indicare,” meaning, “to indicate” or “to point out.” When we point, we do so with the index finger. Long ago, the English called this finger the “toucher.”

A true hand, such as man’s, has an opposable thumb, that is, a thumb that can be positioned opposite the four fingers. This ability makes it possible for man to grasp objects, and was an important aid in the progress of man from the earliest times. The thumb gets its name from a German word that means “swollen.” There are opposing views on whether the thumb should be considered a finger. However, many believe it is equally correct to refer to the hand’s “five fingers” as it is to refer to its

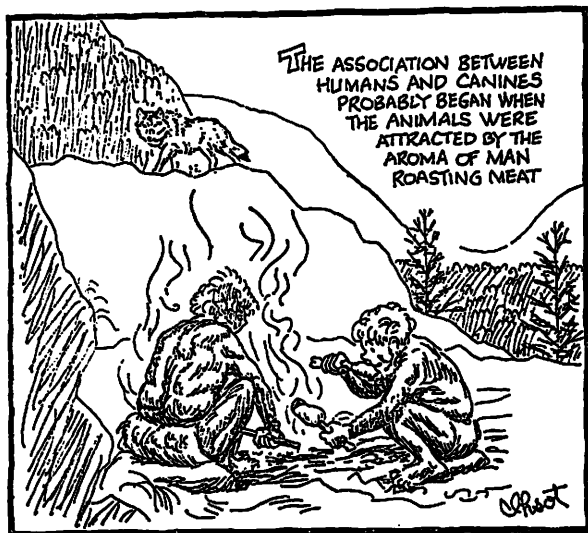
“four fingers and thumb.” Interestingly, some American Indian languages use a phrase meaning “the fingers of the hand” to represent the number “4.”

The second, third and fourth fingers are known respectively as “middle,” “ring” and “little.” The middle finger was long ago known as the “longman” because it was the longest. The ring finger is so-named because it is the one on which a wedding ring is traditionally worn. It was once known as the “medical” finger because doctors used it to make certain tests. The fourth finger is known familiarly as the “pinkie,” from a Dutch word that means “small finger.”

日本では手の指はすべて“指”と呼び同列に扱うが、英語では thumb (親指) をのぞいたものを指と呼ぶのが普通である。従って、the first finger は the index finger (人差し指) である。なお medical finger (文字通り日本語の薬指) と呼ばれたのは古代ギリシャ、ローマの解剖学者が、静脈や神経が心臓から薬指に直結していると信じたことによる。当時の医師は薬剤の調合にこの指を使い、有毒な成分があれば心臓を伝わって分るものと誤解した。

the index finger forefinger, trigger finger ともよぶ。 **an opposable thumb** 「向い合わせの親指」 **that is** 「つまり」 **This ability makes it possible for man to grasp objects** 「この能力により人間が物をつかむことが可能になる」 it は to 以下のこと。 **from the earliest times** 「昔から」 **swollen** <swell 「ふくれた、はれた」 **opposing views** 「対立する意見」 **to refer to** =to speak of **respectively** 「それぞれ」 **Dutch** 「オランダ(人・語の)」

'Man's Best Friend'



THE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN HUMANS AND CANINES PROBABLY BEGAN WHEN THE ANIMALS WERE ATTRACTED BY THE AROMA OF MAN ROASTING MEAT

Why is a dog called "man's best friend"?

A dog is often called "man's best friend" because of the loyalty and affection the animal displays for its master, and because of the many ways in which dogs have served man throughout history.

The dog was probably the first animal to be domesticated by man. It is not known when the association between humans and canines began, but it is thought to have been at least 10,000 years ago. The two probably "met" when the animals were attracted by the aroma of man roasting meat. Man's appreciation for the dog probably came when he realized the animal's value as a hunter.

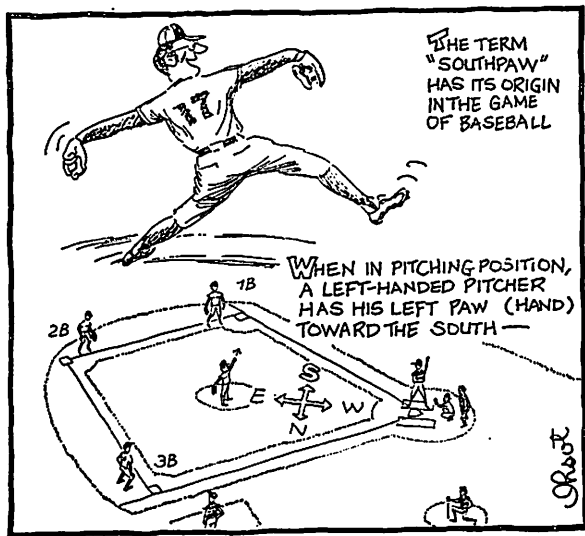
In spite of the fact that dogs have lived with man for thousands of years, the animals still frequently demon-

strate some of the habits of their wild ancestors. For example, dogs frequently chase moving objects or other animals. Some dogs safeguard their bones by burying them, and howl for their mates at night, both of which are throwbacks to their wild ancestors. A dog owner may be puzzled by his pet's habit of walking around in circles before going to sleep. This habit is probably carried over from the animal's ancestors, which walked in circles to flatten tall grass to make a bed.

In the centuries that dog has been domesticated, "man's best friend" has served its master in numerous ways, including as hunter, shepherd, guard, draft animal and guide for the blind.

日本に「忠犬ハチ公」がいるように世界史上有名な犬も多い。1800年頃、セント・バーナード犬のバリーはスイスのセント・バーナード峠で雪中から40人もの人命を救助した。イギリスのエドワード7世にはテリアでシーザーというペットがいたが、1910年の王の葬儀の時には、並みいる王族連の先頭を切って行進したそうだ。新しいところでは1957年11月3日スプートニク2号に乗って史上初の宇宙旅行をしたソ連のライカがいる。

the loyalty and affection 「忠義と愛情」 be domesticated=be tamed 「飼いやられる」 association 「交際」 canines [kéinainz]=dogs aroma 「芳香」 In spite of... 「...にもかかわらず」 demonstrate=show ancestors 「祖先」 safeguard=protect howl 「嗥ぼえる」 throwbacks 「先祖返り」 carried over from... 「...から持ち越された」 flatten=make flat shepherd 「羊飼」 draft 「引くこと」



Why is a left-handed person called a "southpaw"?

The term "southpaw" dates from 1885 and has its origin in the game of baseball. Most baseball diamonds are laid out so that the batter faces east and isn't blinded by the sun as it sets in the west. Therefore, when in pitching position, a left-handed pitcher has his left "paw" (hand) toward the south. Although "southpaw" originally referred to a left-handed pitcher, it is now often applied to any left-handed person.

Good southpaw pitchers are highly coveted by baseball teams because left-handed batters are usually far less successful against left-handed pitchers than they are against right-handed pitchers. Additionally, southpaw pitchers are less common because left-handers make up only about 10 percent of the general population. In

baseball, left-handers have an advantage as first basemen because it is easier for them to throw a fielded ball to second or third base. At other infield positions, however, a left-handed thrower is at a serious disadvantage because of his need to pivot to throw a fielded ball to his left.

Among the best-known southpaws in baseball history are "Lefty" Gomez, "Lefty" Grove, Sandy Koufax and Warren Spahn, all of whom are members of Baseball's Hall of Fame. Babe Ruth, who became famous as a great hitter, began his baseball career as a very successful southpaw pitcher.

アメリカ人教師ホレイス・ウィルソンによって日本に野球が上陸したのが1873年。サウスポーを初め野球英語はほとんどそのまま日本語として定着している。アブラハム・リンカーンも大の野球好きで、1860年のこと、ゲーム中にメッセージが届いたが、ゲームが終るまで邪魔をしないでほしいと使いの者に伝えた。このメッセージ、あとで分ったところによると、大統領候補に指名されたという大ニュースだったのだそうだ。

dates from 1885 「1885年からのものである」 are laid out 「設計してある」 so that... 「...するように」 isn't blinded by the sun 「太陽で目がくらまない」 referred to... 「...を差した」 are highly coveted by... 「...が非常にほしがっている」 far less successful than... 「...よりもはるかに成功率が少ない」 Additionally 「その上」 make up... 「...を構成する」 a fielded ball 「受け止めたボール」 infield 「内野(の)」 at a serious disadvantage 「非常に不利な立場で」 pivot 「向きを変える」 "Lefty" (米俗) 「左ききの人」 Baseball's Hall of Fame 「野球の殿堂」 ニューヨークにある。1939年の設立。

Throwing Rice



Why do we throw rice at weddings?

At many weddings, the guests throw rice at the bride and groom as a wish for children and good fortune. Rice was once a symbol of fertility, happiness and long life. The tradition is rooted in ancient customs around the world. Some primitive people believed that jealous evil spirits attended weddings, hoping to injure the bridegroom. Rice was thrown to the spirits as a food to distract them. The ancient Romans threw sweets and nuts at the bride, and this later changed to confetti-throwing.

The Saxons scattered a carpet of wheat and barley grains in the church for the bride to walk upon. These grains, like rice, symbolized prosperity and fruitfulness. The Orientals threw rice to bestow fertility upon the couple. In general, all grains and foodstuffs thrown at

weddings were intended to bring good health and happiness to the newlyweds.

The custom of giving wedding rings also may date back to the ancient Romans. The roundness of the ring probably represents eternity, and the presentation of the wedding rings symbolizes that a man and woman are united forever.

Another wedding tradition has the bride tossing her bouquet to the unmarried female guests; the one to catch the bouquet is supposedly the next to marry.

結婚式=子孫繁栄の人間の願いが、面白い風習を生んできた。本文のように穀物を投げる他に、古靴を投げるというもあるが、それは昔、靴の中にその人間の魂が宿るという信仰があったからである。新婚旅行に出発する新郎新婦に古靴を投げたり、乗物にむすびつけたりすることで、より一層の幸運を祈ったのである。

the bride and groom 「新郎・新婦」 fertility 「繁殖力、多産」 is rooted in... 「...に根ざしている」 around the world 「世界中」 primitive people 「原始人」 evil spirits 「悪魔」 distract 「そらす」 confetti 「円形のいろがみ」 wheat and barley 「小麦や大麦」 prosperity 「繁栄」 fruitfulness 「豊饒(豊か)」 bestow... 「...を与える」 foodstuffs 「食料品」 newlyweds 「新婚夫婦」 roundness 「丸さ」 eternity 「不滅」 tossing her bouquet [bu:kéi] 「花束を投げる」 supposedly 「おそらく」

Toasts



Why do people clink their glasses together when making a toast?

The idea of touching drinking glasses when toasting is based on the old superstition that the clinking sound prevents evil spirits from speaking against the good wishes expressed in the toast. Earlier, the custom had been for each of the toasters to sample the drink from the glasses of each, to ensure that no one was being poisoned. Eventually, this practice was replaced by the traditional clinking of glasses and spoken good wishes.

The custom of toasting is thought to have originated over 1,000 years ago, when Denmark conquered part of the British Isles. The British, it is said, were not permitted to drink until their conquerors had raised their own glasses. The word "toast" dates back to 16th-century

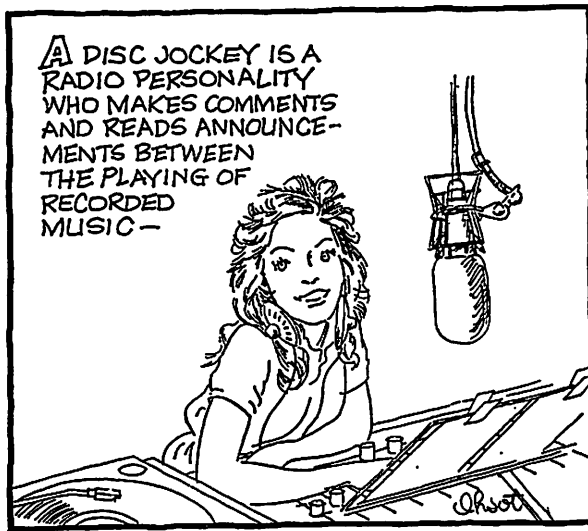
England, where a piece of toasted bread was added to drinks. It is believed that the toast was placed in the glass to improve the taste of the drink by absorbing the sediment at the bottom. Among the more famous expressions used in toasts are the Swedish "skål" and German "prosit," both of which mean "to your health."

At formal occasions, a toastmaster is sometimes asked, to make a short speech each time those in attendance toast a guest. In 18th-century England, the "toastmaster's glass" was used by the toastmaster on such occasions. The glass looked like an ordinary glass, but it had a much smaller capacity, the purpose of which was to help the toastmaster remain sober and able to perform his toasting duties throughout the evening.

日本語の「乾杯」にぴったりの英語は「Bottoms up!」である。トーストにはまた、パンのトーストの他に評判の美人（例えば、the toast of the town）の意味もある。美しい女性のために祝杯をあげていたなごりである。トーストの代わりに、もし今日我々がマーティニーに入れるようにオリーブを入れていたら、「オリーブ」といって乾杯していたと想像すると面白い。

clink their glasses 「コップをかちりと合わせる」 is based on... 「...に基づいている」 superstition 「迷信」 prevent...from ~ 「...が～しないようにする」 good wishes 「好意」 toasters 「乾杯する人」 sample... 「...を試飲する」 to ensure that... 「...を確実にするために」 Eventually 「結局」 was replaced by... 「...に取って代わられた」 the British Isles 「イギリス諸島」 conquerors 「征服者」 sediment 「沈殿物」 toastmaster 「司会者」 those in attendance 「出席者」 capacity 「容量」 sober 「酒に酔っていない」

Disc Jockeys



What exactly does a disc jockey do?

A disc jockey is a radio personality who makes comments and reads announcements between the playing of recorded music. He is called a “disc jockey” because he jockeys (operates or maneuvers) discs (phonograph records). A disc jockey is also called a “DJ,” “deejay” and “Jock.”

A radio station hires its disc jockeys for their announcing style and appeal, hoping they will attract a large audience. Often, a disc jockey is chosen for his strong personality and ability to ad lib, that is, make spontaneous and unrehearsed remarks. Between records, a disc jockey’s duties may include reading commercials and public service announcements, doing promotional “spots” for the station, and bringing listeners up to date

on the time, weather, traffic conditions and sports scores. A disc jockey also may comment about the records he is playing and provide his audience with additional information about the songs and artists. Sometimes, the disc jockey provides the station’s music programmer with information about which specific records arouse listener reaction.

A radio station employs about a half dozen disc jockeys, who work in various broadcast time periods, or “shifts.” Two of the more important shifts are those that occur during the weekday rush hours, the “morning drive” and the “afternoon drive.” During these periods, listeners preparing to travel between home and work are especially interested in being kept abreast of the time, weather and traffic conditions.

ディスク・ジョッキーという言葉がアメリカで使われ始めたのが、1940年初頭、辞書に現われたのが、1947年初頭。ジョッキーはいわずと知れた競馬騎手のことである。ディスク・ジョッキーは従ってディスク（レコード）を乗りまわしている人物のこと。この他、ジョッキーは bus jockey (bus driver), typist jockey (typist), jet jockey (jet pilot) のように使われる。

makes comments 「解説する」 maneuvers 「巧みに操縦する」 audience 「聴衆」 ad lib 「即興的にしゃべる」 spontaneous 「自然な、のびのびした」 unrehearsed remarks 「下げいこしていない話」 duties 「職務」 public service 「公共事業」 promotional “spots” 「中間の短い宣伝スポット」 up to date 「最新の」 provide...with ~ 「...に~を与える」 arouse listener reaction 「聴取者の反応を呼びおこす」 “shifts” 「交替」 being kept abreast of... 「...に遅れないようにすること」

The 'Flying Dutchman'



What is the "Flying Dutchman"?

In a popular legend, the "Flying Dutchman" is a ghost ship that is doomed to sail forever without coming into port. Its fate is the captain's punishment for a crime he committed. Sailors who "sight" the ship fear it as a bad omen.

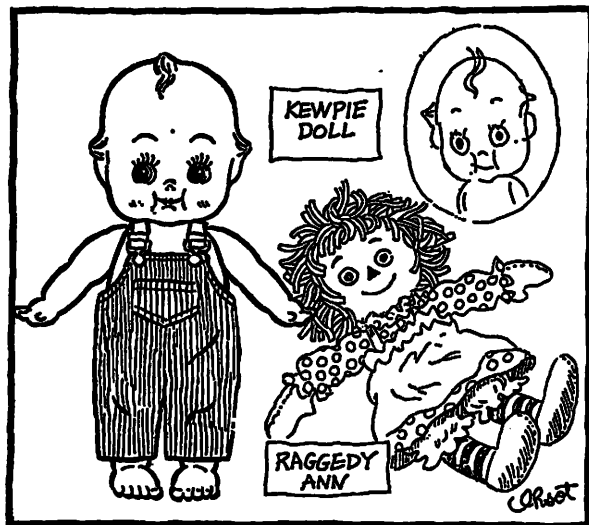
In a well-known version of the legend, the "Flying Dutchman" sails aimlessly in the vicinity of Africa's Cape of Good Hope. The captain vows that he will successfully navigate around the cape in spite of a storm, but he is doomed instead to take the ship around in circles for eternity. In another version, the ship wanders the North Sea without benefit of helm or steersman, while the captain and the devil compete in a game of dice for possession of the captain's soul.

The legend served as the basis for an opera, "Der Fliegende Hollander," by German composer Richard Wagner. In Wagner's story, a ship's captain is cursed and can be redeemed only by the true love of a woman. The captain is permitted to go ashore to seek his redemption only once every seven years. On one such quest, he meets Senta, the daughter of a Norwegian sea captain. Senta wishes to save the doomed captain. A misunderstanding develops among Senta, the captain, and Erik, a hunter who is wooing Senta. The captain sets sail at once and Senta throws herself into the sea. The ship sinks immediately, as Senta and the captain perish together.

世の中には当人が死んでしまったのに周囲がなかなか死なせない英雄がいるものであるが、これは罰として死なせてもらえない幽霊船の船長 Vanderdecken の物語である。よく似た伝説に "The Wandering Jew" (さ迷えるユダヤ人) がある。ワーグナーのオペラ初演は 1843 年 1 月 2 日 (ドレスデン)。

the Flying Dutchman 「幽霊船, 幽霊船の船長」 is doomed to... 「...する運命である」 omen 「前兆」 aimlessly 「あてどなく」 in the vicinity of... 「...の付近に」 Cape of Good Hope 「喜望峰」 navigate 「航海する」 in circles 「円形に」 version 「版, 説明」 without benefit of helm or steersman 「舵手にかじも取らせないで」 can be redeemed 「救われることができる」 redemption 「救い」 once every seven years 「七年に一回」 On one such quest 「そうしてさがしているうちに」 Norwegian [noərwi:dʒən] 「ノルウェー人の」 is wooing [wú:ɪŋ]... 「...に言い寄っている」 sets sail 「出帆する」

Kewpie Dolls



What can you tell me about the Kewpie doll?

“Kewpie” (pronounced KYOO pee) is a trade name for a small, chubby, elfin doll that has been one of the most popular and commercially successful of all dolls. The Kewpie has a rosy face and a distinctive topknot, or tuft of hair atop its head.

The Kewpie doll was designed by Rose O’Neill, an author and illustrator working in New York’s Greenwich Village. Her first illustration of the doll, patterned after her baby brother, was made in 1909. A few years later, Kewpiedolls, named for the baby talk version of “Cupid,” went into production. Millions of dolls were manufactured in various materials, including plastic and ceramic. The commercial success of the Kewpie doll is said to have made its designer over \$1 million.

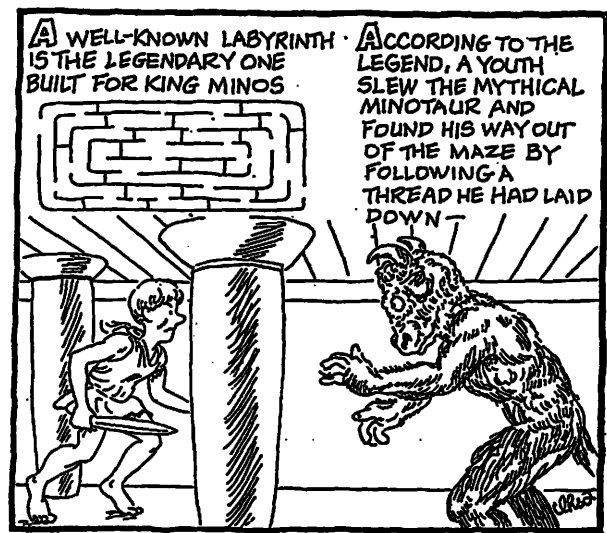
Not long after Kewpie dolls were introduced, the still-popular “Raggedy Ann” doll appeared. This rag doll, with its red hair, button eyes and red-and-white-striped legs, was first made by cartoonist John Gruelle as a gift for his ailing daughter. Later, a boy version, “Raggedy Andy,” appeared, as did stories authored by Gruelle about the adventures of the two dolls.

The grown-up, high-fashion “Barbie” doll, introduced in 1959, revolutionized the doll industry as it represented a departure from the traditional baby doll. Sales of the phenomenally successful “Barbie” dolls have reportedly exceeded half a billion dollars.

キューピー人形は文字通り一時期アメリカを制覇したようである。当時を知る人によると、どこの家に行っても必ず目につくところに一つはあったという。1980年代の人気人形はキャベツ人形 (Cabbage Patch Kids) である。キャベツ畑 (Cabbage Patch) は親が子供に「どこから生れたの」と聞かれた時、「キャベツ畑で拾ってきたんだよ」と答えることでよく知られている。

chubby 「まるぼちゃの」 elfin 「小妖精のような」 distinctive 「独特の」 topknot 「まげ」 tuft of hair 「髪のかぶさ」 atop 「頂上に」 patterned after 「かたちどった」 “Cupid” 「キューピッド」 (ローマ神話) Millions of 「何百万もの」 ceramic 「陶器の」 red-and-white striped legs 「赤と白のしま模様」 ailing 「病気の」 authored 「書かれた」 high-fashion 「高級ファッション」の服を着ている」 revolutionized... 「...に革命的变化を起こした」 a departure from... 「...からの逸脱」 phenomenally 「著しく、非常に」 reportedly 「伝えられるところでは」 exceeded... 「...を越えた」

Labyrinths



What is a labyrinth?

A labyrinth is a complicated and tricky passageway that is difficult to follow and easy to get lost in. Often, a labyrinth is called a maze. Labyrinths may have been used originally to discourage trespassers.

A well-known labyrinth is the legendary one built on the island of Crete for King Minos. It was designed as a prison from which the mythical monster known as the Minotaur could not escape. Each year, according to the legend, Minos sacrificed seven young men and seven young women to the Minotaur. One of the youths slew the monster and found his way out of the maze by following a thread he had laid down on his way in. Archaeologists have unearthed a labyrinth in the Palace of Knossos on Crete that may have been the basis for

the legend.

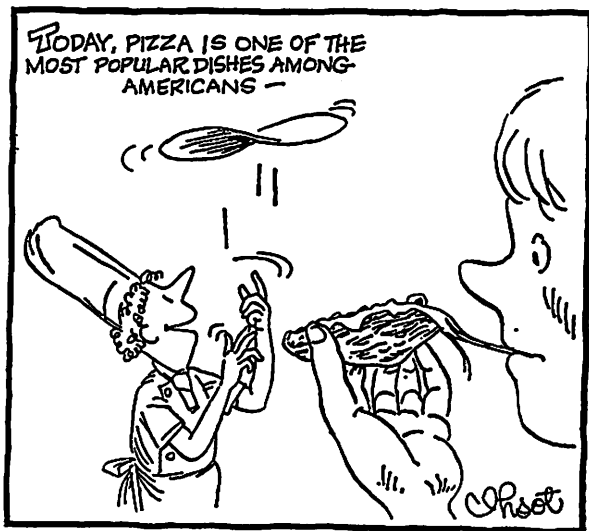
Perhaps the most magnificent labyrinth was one in ancient Egypt that is said to have been even more magnificent than the pyramids. This labyrinth, traces of which have been discovered, contained thousands of compartments in which bodies of royalty were preserved and sacred treasures stored. It is thought that the Egyptian labyrinth may have been modeled after the one on Crete.

Forms of labyrinths can be found today as puzzles, amusements in parks, and in toys and games. Laboratory scientists place animals in mazes and observe their behavior.

ギザのピラミッドとスフィンクスの他に古代エジプト人には世に誇るべき大迷宮があったのである。「史学の父」ヘロドトスによると「とても言葉では言い尽くせない……ギリシャ中の建物を全部合わせても、かかった費用と人手を考えるとこの迷宮には及ばない」ということになる。

labyrinth [ləˈbɪrɪnθ] 「迷宮, 迷路」 tricky 「巧みな」 passageway 「通路」 trespassers 「侵入者」 legendary 「伝説の」 Crete [kri:t] 「クレタ島」 Minos [maɪnəs] 「ミノス」 (ギリシャ神話) mythical monster 「神話の怪物」 Minotaur [mɪnəˈtɔːr] 「ミノタウロス」 人身牛頭の怪物。 sacrificed 「生けにえにした」 slew <slay 「殺害した」 found his way out of the maze 「迷路から抜け出ることができた」 on his way in 「はいる途中に」 Archaeologists [ˌɑːkɪˈɒlədʒɪsts] 「考古学者」 unearthed... 「...を発掘した」 Palace of Knossos [ˌpæliːs əv knɒsəs] 「クノッソス宮殿」 (ミノス文明の中心地) royalty 「王族」 sacred 「神に捧げた」 modeled after... 「...をモデルにして作られた」

Pizza



with tomatoes, basil and mozzarella cheese for the queen. He chose these ingredients for the topping because their colors represented the red, green and white of the Italian flag.

- 5 Pizza came to America with the wave of Italian immigrants around the turn of the century. The first pizza shop in America opened in New York in 1905. The popularity of pizzerias spread, especially in the northeast, where many Italians settled. The dish became popular
10 on a nationwide basis right after World War II due, in part, to the demand created by returning U.S. servicemen who had eaten pizza in Italy. Today, pizza is one of the most popular dishes among Americans.

What is the origin of pizza?

The earliest form of pizza dates back to the Stone Age, when the Etruscans of northern Italy ate a crude, flat bread that they flavored with a variety of toppings after baking it. Hundreds of years later, the Greeks brought the dish one step closer to the pizza we know when they began to bake the bread with the topping already in place.

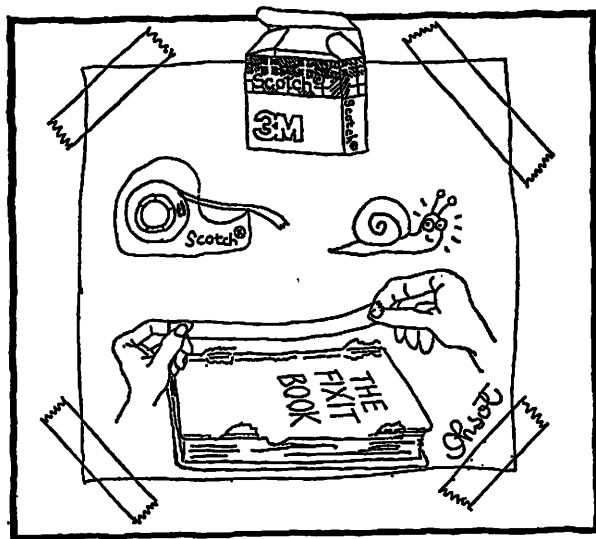
In the 18th century, the Neapolitans of Italy introduced the tomato as a pizza topping. Until that time, tomatoes were thought to have been poisonous. Not long after the Neapolitans discovered that tomatoes were safe to eat and delicious, they became a standard ingredient in pizza recipes.

The familiar cheese pizza did not appear until about 100 years ago. One Raffaele Esposito made a pizza topped

日本に米がゆがあるように、古代エトルリアにはオートミールがゆがあった。エトルリア人達はこれを石の上で焼き、油や食用植物で味つけて、スープや肉を上にもって食べていた。これがピザのはじまり。ピザはイタリア語でパイのこと、従ってピザ・パイというとパイ・パイといっていることになる。

the Stone Age 「石器時代」 the Etruscans [itrʌskənz] 「エトルリア人」 crude 「そまつな」 flavored 「味をつけた」 toppings 「上にのせるもの」 the Neapolitans [ni:əpdlɒtnz] 「ナポリ人」 poisonous 「有毒の」 ingredient 「材料」 recipe [résipi] 「(料理の) 作り方」 One Raffaele Esposito 「ラファエロ・エスポジトという人」 basil [bæzil] 「めぼうきの類」 (香料) mozzarella [mɒtsərəliə] 白色のイタリアのチーズ名。 the turn of the century 「世紀の変わり目」 pizzerias [pltsəri:ə] 「ピザのお店」 due, in part, to... 「いくぶんかは...のために」 servicemen 「軍人」

Cellophane Tape



Who invented cellophane tape?

Cellophane tape was invented in 1929 by Richard Drew, a laboratory assistant working for the Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Co.

In 1925, Drew had invented an adhesive-backed masking tape that automakers used to produce two-tone cars. Four years later, a firm that manufactured insulation for refrigerator cars called on Drew's company to produce a tape for sealing the wrappings of the insulation. Because of the moisture present in refrigerators, the new tape had to be waterproof.

Two years earlier, two American chemists devised waterproof cellophane. Drew applied a number of adhesives to the new material attempting to find one that could be successfully used to make tape. Many

attempts were made to eliminate the curling, splitting, and yellowish tint of the experimental tapes. Finally, in 1930, Drew used a strong, transparent adhesive that produced a new, successful tape.

At first, Drew's company was not eager to market the tape because of the bleak economic atmosphere of the Depression. Within a few years, however, the tape was marketed publicly under the trade name of Scotch Brand Cellophane Tape. Today, cellophane tape, under several brand names, is found in practically every home, school and office.

日本語のセロテープに相当する英語は Scotch Tape (スコッチ・テープ) である。一社のブランド名がそのまま商品名になった例。発明者のリチャード・ドリューは、自分は「あてにしないものを偶然に見い出す能力」(serendipity) があってだけで、「この発明は多くの人の研究の成果である」と謙遜している。

laboratory assistant 「実験室の助手」 adhesive-backed 「うらにのりのついた」 firm 「商会、会社」 insulation 「絶縁材」 for sealing the wrappings 「包みを固く閉じるために」 present 「ある」 waterproof 「耐水の」 applied ...to ~ 「...に~を使ってみた」 a number of=several attempting to... 「...しようとして」 attempts 「試み」 eliminate=get rid of splitting 「裂けること」 tint 「色合い」 transparent 「透明な」 market the tape 「テープを市場に出す」 bleak 「きびしい」 the Depression the Great Depression のこと。1929年10月~1930年代の「大恐慌」

Checkers

CHECKERS AND CHECKERBOARDS THAT DATE BACK 3,500 YEARS HAVE BEEN FOUND IN EGYPTIAN TOMBS AND SOME HISTORIANS BELIEVE THEM TO BE THE EARLIEST EVIDENCE OF THE GAME



Who invented the game of checkers?

The origin of checkers is not known. Objects suggesting checkers and checkerboards that date back 3,500 years have been found in Egyptian tombs, and some historians believe them to be the earliest evidence of the game. Others are skeptical, however, because no description has been found to indicate how the Egyptian game was played or if it was anything like modern checkers.

The first book to describe the rules of checkers appeared in Spain in 1547. Scientific, or strategic checkers was first discussed by English mathematician William Payne. In 1756, Payne published "Introduction to the Game of Draughts," "draughts" being the British term for "checkers." Payne's book featured a dedication by Samuel Johnson, the famed British literary scholar

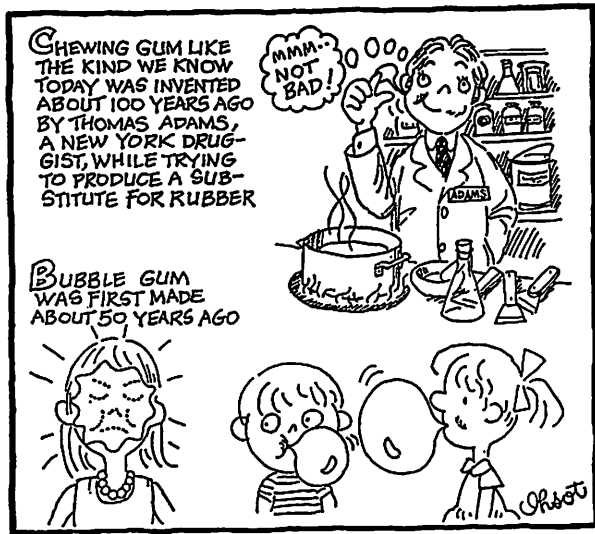
who is said to have been fond of the game. In 1800, Joshua Sturges used Payne's theories as the basis for his "Guide to the Game of Draughts." Sturges' work appeared in several editions and served as the basis for dozens of later works on the subject. The 1800s saw the publication of innumerable books, pamphlets and articles on the game.

Several varieties of checkers, many with national origins, have evolved, including "Spanish draughts," in which a king may move any open distance diagonally, and "Polish draughts," played with 20 pieces on a board of 100 squares. In a German version, pieces are permitted to move forward or backward.

おそらくチェッカーは世界最古のゲームであろう。大変なチェッカー好きだったエドガー・アラン・ポーの次の言葉にその長い生命の秘密がよくうかがえる。「チェッカーはとても簡単なゲームで、子供にだって遊べる。だがまた、非常にむずかしいので、誰もマスターした者がいない。」

checkers (単数扱い)「チェッカー」 tombs [tu:mz]「墓」 historians「歴史家」 skeptical [sképtikəl]「懐疑的な」 description「記述」 indicate「示す」 anything like...「...に近いもの」 strategic [strəti:dʒik]「戦略的な」 draughts [dra:ft/dræft] (英)「チェッカー」 featured「特色にした」 dedication「献辞」 Samuel Johnson イギリスの文人・辞書編集家「ドクター・ジョンソン」と呼ばれる。 famed「名高い」 editions「版」 innumerable「数え切れない」 articles「記事」 evolved「発達した」 diagonally「斜めに」

Chewing Gum



Who invented chewing gum?

Chewing gum like the kind we know today was invented about 100 years ago by Thomas Adams, a New York druggist. Adams invented chewing gum by accident—he set out originally to find a substitute for rubber.

Actually, man enjoyed a form of chewing gum centuries before Adams' discovery. Ancient Greeks made a chewing gum from the sap of the mastic tree. The Maya Indians of Mexico chewed chicle, a gum obtained from the tropical sapodilla tree, over 1,000 years ago. Spruce sap and paraffin were among the other substances people chewed before Adams' gum was introduced.

About 1870, Adams obtained a piece of chicle, with which he hoped to produce a substitute for rubber. His experiments failed, mainly because he could not get

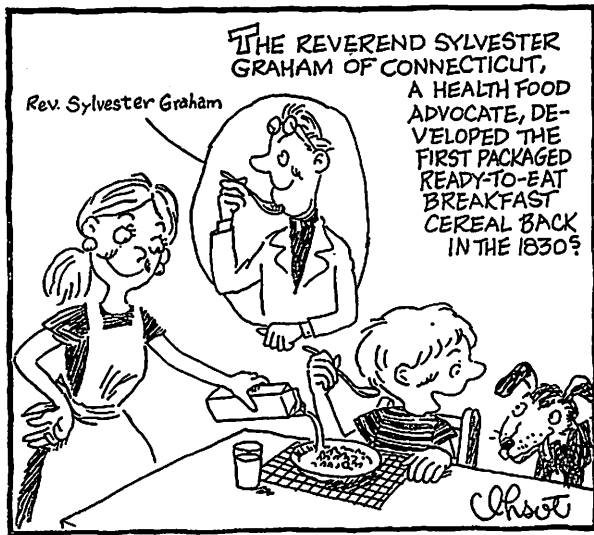
the chicle to harden. One day, Adams boiled the chicle and chewed it. He enjoyed the sensation and believed others would, too, so he tried to sell the idea of chewing gum to manufacturers. None was interested in his discovery, so Adams decided to manufacture the gum himself.

In time, the public became "stuck" on the idea of chewing gum. Companies other than Adams' began to manufacture it, and chewing gum in various flavors appeared. Bubble gum, which is especially popular with young people, was first made about 50 years ago. Today, the United States, Canada and England are among the leading producers of chewing gum.

チューインガムの製造は簡単で、まずガムベースをチクルと乳状液を混ぜて作るのであるが、ガムを挽いた上で蒸気圧でとかすという手間をかける。人気のある香料はスペアミント、ペパーミント、果物のエキス類。チューインガムが機械類にくっくと始末におえなくなったりするが、gumには動詞もあって“gum up the works”といえは「(うまく行っていた)仕事を台なしにする」の意味。

druggist 「薬剤師」 by accident 「偶然に」 set out 「始めた」 substitute 「代用品」 sap 「樹液」 mastic tree 「マスチックの木」 chicle 「チクル」 (ゴム質乳状液) gum 「樹脂」 tropical 「熱帯(地方)の」 sapodilla [səpədɪlə] tree 「あかてつ木、チューインガムの木」 Spruce sap 「えぞまつの樹液」 substances 「物」 experiments 「実験」 harden 「固まる」 sensation (ばく然たる) 「感じ」 In time 「そのうちに」 “stuck” <stick (くっついて) 「動かなくなって、固執して」 bubble gum 「風船ガム」 leading 「主要な」

Cold Breakfast Cereal



Who invented cold breakfast cereal?

The first packaged, ready-to-eat cold breakfast cereal was developed in the 1830s by the Rev. Sylvester Graham of Connecticut. Graham, a health food advocate who believed in abstention from red meat, salt, spices and white bread, believed that coarse, unprocessed cereal was an aid to digestion as well as a spiritual aid. Graham's cereal developed into a product labeled "Granula," which led to the introduction of other, similar products.

However, the breakfast cereal industry as we know it did not begin to take shape until the 1890s. Since the mid-19th century, Battle Creek, Mich., had been a center for various health food movements. One of them awarded a medical scholarship to John Kellogg, a young student and health food advocate. Kellogg later became the head

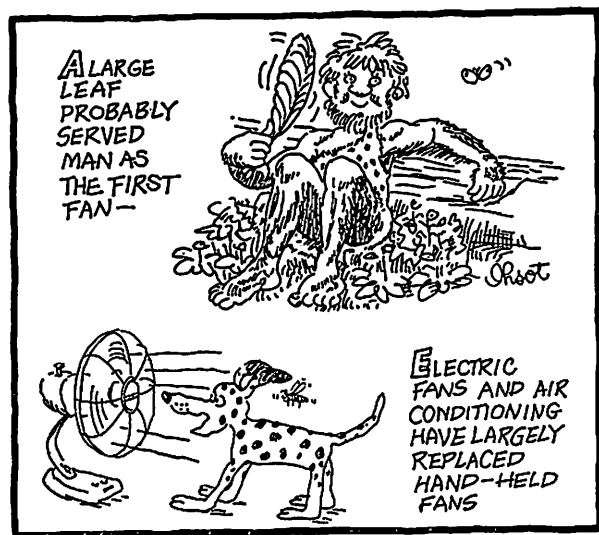
of a health food institute and prescribed various cereals in large doses for his patients. His first cereal, marketed under the name "Granose," was an immediate success. In the years that followed, Kellogg developed a number of other products, the best-known of which is probably corn flakes.

One of Kellogg's patients, salesman C.W. Post, offered to help Kellogg market a coffee substitute. When his offer was rejected, Post began to manufacture a similar product of his own, which he called "Postum." Post's "Grape-Nuts," introduced in 1898, contained neither grapes nor nuts, but it helped establish Post as a leader in the industry.

アメリカ人の圧倒的多数が、朝食に何らかの種類のシリアル（コーンフレークの類）を食べている。統計にすると、アメリカ人家庭の80%にシリアルがあり、子供人口の2/3、大人の1/3が食べているようである。ミルク（と人により砂糖）をかけて食べるので、これが国内のミルク消費の約15%に当たるという。シリアルとミルクの組合せは低価の上、栄養価が高い。

cereal 「穀物」（小麦、米、とうもろこし、大麦、ライ麦、からす麦の6種）
 ready-to-eat 「すぐに食べられる」 1830s 「1830年代」 Rev. Reverend のこと、聖職者に対する尊称 「...師」 advocate 「主唱者」 abstention 「慎むこと、回避」 as well as... 「...はもちろん、と同様に」 led to... 「...となった、につながった」 take shape 「具体化する」 medical scholarship 「医学の奨学金」 institute 「協会」 prescribed 「を処方した」 in large doses 「大量に」 was an immediate success 「即座に成功した」 In the years that followed 「その後何年かの中に」 establish 「是認させる」

Fans



Who invented the fan?

Fans held in the hand and moved back and forth for cooling purposes have been used since earliest times. A large leaf probably served man as the first fan. The people of ancient Assyria and Egypt used fans made of feathers or palm leaves, some of which had handles of ivory or wood. Fans were used not only for cooling, but to protect the face from the sun and heat, and to whisk away flies.

The folding fan first appeared in Japan about 13 centuries ago. Historians speculate that its inventor may have gotten the idea from watching a bat fold its wings. In the Orient, fans were brightly decorated with ivory, gold and shells, or featured illustrations depicting popular events and personalities. The production of fans

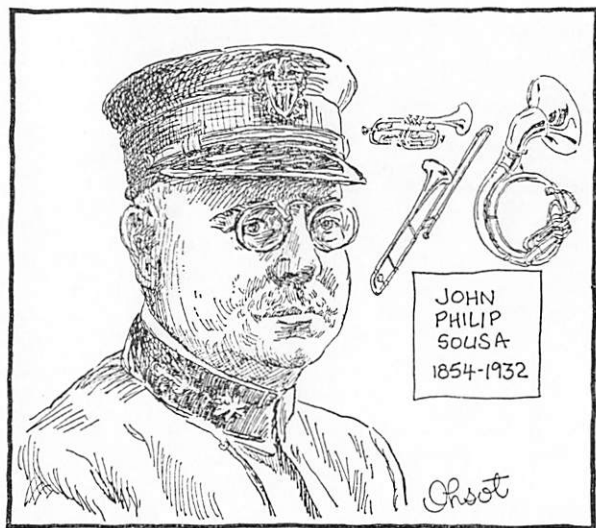
continued on a large scale after the 18th century, but their quality did not compare favorably with that of earlier fans.

The first electric fan was invented in 1886 by Schuyler Wheeler. It was simply a propeller attached to an electric motor. Electric fans and air conditioning have largely replaced hand-held fans for cooling. At one time, collecting and displaying hand-held fans was a popular activity, but interest in the pastime has somewhat waned.

今日ではすっかりアクセサリ的な存在になってしまった扇だが、古代エジプトでは上流階級のシンボルだった。一部の金持や貴族達が召使いをやとって、パピルスの葉で風を送らせていたのである。その名残が今日でも宗教行事などに見られる。

fans 「扇、うちわ」 ラテン語 vannus (箕) が語源。もともと底の浅いざるか木製シャベルのことで、もみがらをおおぎ分ける道具のこと。back and forth 「前後に」 Assyria [ə'si:riə] 「アッシリア」 (西部アジアの古代帝国) palm 「しゅろ」 whisk away flies 「はえを追い払う」 speculate 「推測する」 inventor 「考案者」 may have gotten the idea 「思いついたのかもしれない」 featured 「を特色とした」 depicting 「描くこと」 on a large scale 「大規模に」 did not compare favorably with... 「...と比べると遜色があった」 replaced 「に取って代わった」 displaying 「見せびらかすこと」 waned 「衰えた」

John Philip Sousa



Who was John Philip Sousa?

John Philip Sousa (1854–1932) was an American bandmaster and composer who became world-famous as “The March King.” Although best-remembered for his stirring, melodic marches, Sousa also wrote songs, waltzes, symphonies and orchestral suites.

A native of Washington, D.C., Sousa began studying music at an early age. At 14, he became an apprentice in the U.S. Marine Band. Throughout his teens, he played professionally in theater and dance orchestras. During the 1880s, Sousa served as leader of the Marine Band and made it one of the world’s best bands. He left the Marine Corps in 1892 to head his own group, the Sousa Band. Equally proficient in both military and symphonic works, the Sousa Band toured successfully

throughout the world for many years.

Sousa composed about 140 military marches, which were highly acclaimed for their style and vitality. Among the best-known are “The Stars and Stripes Forever,” “Semper Fidelis” and “The Washington Post.” Sousa was one of the first Americans to compose operettas, for which he provided both music and lyrics. In addition to his musical accomplishments, Sousa wrote a number of novels and an autobiography.

独立記念日(7月4日)の頃、アメリカに居合わせた人なら誰でも打ち上がる花火と共に高らかに鳴り渡るスーザの「星条旗よ永遠なれ」を覚えていることだろう。当時のスーザの人気は時のイギリス王エドワード七世がビクトリア勲章を授けたことでもわかる。人気という点では、世界中でスーザに匹敵する作曲家はいなかったという。

Sousa [sú:zə] (1854–1933) bandmaster 「楽長」 stirring 「壮快な」 melodic 「調子の美しい」 orchestral suites 「オーケストラの組曲」 A native of... 「...生まれの人」 apprentice 「見習」 throughout his teens 「十代の間じゅう」 professionally 「職業として」 Marine Corps [mə:ɪn kɔ:] 「海兵隊」 head 「を指揮する」 proficient 「たん能な」 were highly acclaimed 「非常にかっさいを受けた」 vitality 「活気」 Among the best-known and... 「もっともよく知られているものの中には...がある」 “The Stars and Stripes Forever” 『星条旗よ永遠なれ』 “Semper Fidelis” [sempə faɪdilis] 『忠誠』 ラテン語で「常に忠実に」の意。(米国海兵隊のモットー) lyrics 「歌詞」 accomplishments 「業績」 autobiography 「自叙伝」

Bowling



How old is the game of bowling?

The first evidence of a game similar to bowling dates back 7,000 years ago. The tomb of an Egyptian child was found to contain several pins and a small stone ball. It is believed that in the Egyptian version of the game, the ball had to be rolled safely through a series of stone arches before it reached the pins. A game played by ancient Polynesians involved rolling a small ball at discs stationed 60 feet away, the exact distance from the foul line to the head pin in modern bowling.

During the Middle Ages, a form of bowling was played in Germany as part of a religious ceremony. A player rolled a stone at a wood club; if he knocked the club down, he was considered absolved of sin. In England, bowling became so popular that it was outlawed for fear

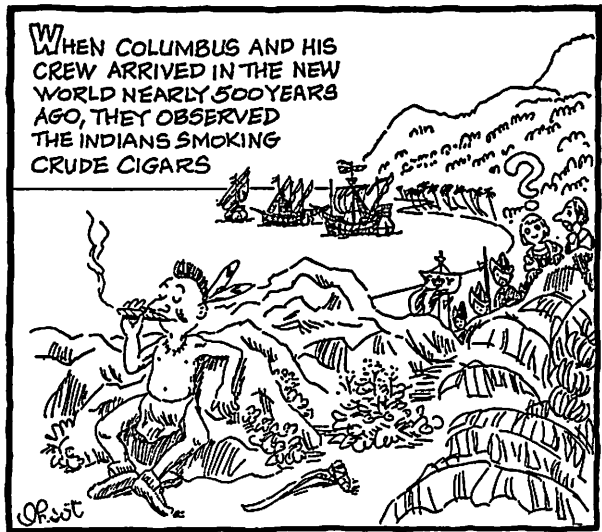
that it was interfering with the country's preparedness for war.

Bowling came to the New World 400 years ago with the Dutch colonists. Settlers in New York—which was then New Amsterdam—bowled in a section of lower Manhattan that is still known as Bowling Green. The Dutch game, which used nine pins, became extremely popular in the New World. Betting on the game became so widespread that laws were passed forbidding “bowling at nine pins.” Bowlers got around the law by adding a 10th pin, thus creating the 10-pin game played today.

その昔ボーリングはイギリスでも新大陸アメリカでも人気のある賭けスポーツとなり、一時禁止の憂き目を見た記録にある。今日では世界中であらゆる階層から愛されるファミリースポーツである。ゲーム史上革命的な事件は1952年の自動ピンセッター（ピンを並べる機械）の導入であろう。

evidence 「形跡」 similar to... 「...と同様の」 the Egyptian version 「エジプト型」 a series of 「一連の」 Polynesians [pəˈlɪniːʒiənz] 「ポリネシア人」 involved 「必要とした」 stationed 「置かれた」 was considered absolved of sin 「罪を許されたとみなされた」 was outlawed 「不法とされた」 for fear that it was interfering with... 「...の妨げとなっているのではないかと恐れて」 preparedness for war 「戦闘準備」 Dutch colonists 「オランダの移住者」 Betting on... 「...に賭けること」 widespread 「広く行きわたった」 forbidding 「を禁じる」 get around the law 「法の目をのがれる」

Cigars



How did the word “cigar” come about?

“Cigar” comes from the Spanish word “cigarro,” which probably comes from “sik’ar,” the Mayan Indian word for smoking. The Mayans derived “sik’ar” from “sik,” their name for tobacco.

When Columbus and his crew arrived in the New World nearly 500 years ago, they observed the Indians smoking crude cigars in the form of long bundles of twisted tobacco leaves wrapped in a dried leaf. Mayan art indicated that the natives of Central America smoked cigars as long ago as the 10th century. Spanish explorers in the New World introduced the cigar into Spain and Portugal, from where it spread to other countries of Europe and to Asia. The “cigarette,” a French word for “small cigar,” is said to have been originated by street

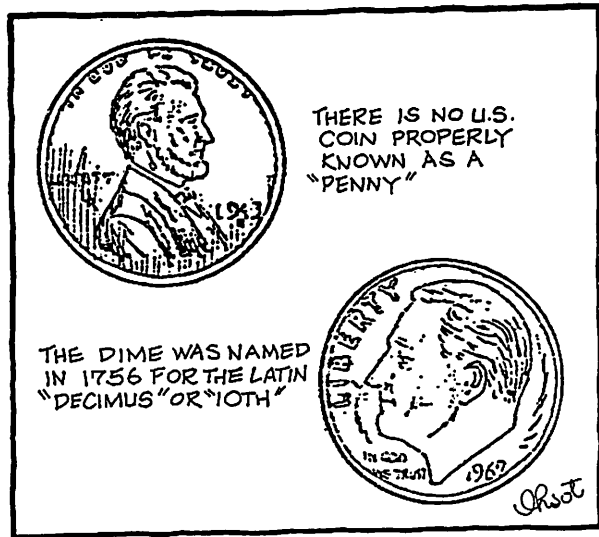
beggars in Spain who picked up discarded cigar butts, ground up the tobacco, and wrapped it in paper.

In the United States, cigars were probably first made in Connecticut, soon after the colony was settled in the 1630s. Cigar factories spread throughout the Northeast. A strong cigar made by a company in Conestoga, became known as a “Conestoga,” or “stogie.” Eventually “stogie” came to mean any cigar, especially a strong, inexpensive one. The second half of the 19th century saw the cigar at the peak of its popularity. By the 1920s, cigarette sales had caught up with those of cigars and soon outdistanced them.

古代マヤ人はうすいしゅろの葉かとうもろこしの皮にたばこの葉を包んで吸っていた。アズテック人はあしの葉を使っただけ。マヤ文化にはたばこのけむりを太陽と羅針盤の四点に向かって吹きつける習慣があった。ラテンアメリカのジャングルには今でも祖先同様にたばこをとうもろこしの皮に包んで吸っている人たちがいる。

The Mayans 「マヤ人」 derived 「引き出した」 crew 「船員たち」 crude cigars 「粗製の葉巻き」 twisted tobacco leaves 「巻いたたばこの葉」 indicated 「指摘した」 as long ago as the 10th century 「十世紀の昔に」 explorers 「探検家たち」 discarded cigar butts 「すててあった葉巻きの吸いさし」 ground up the tobacco 「たばこをひいて粉にした」 stogie [stóugi] 「細長い粗製の安葉巻」 at the peak of... 「...の絶頂にある」 had caught up with ... 「...に追いついていた」 outdistanced... 「...をはるかに追い抜いた」

Coin Names



How did U.S. coins get their names?

Although the penny has the smallest value of any U.S. coin, it has the longest and most interesting story. You may be surprised to learn that there is no U.S. coin properly known as a "penny." The coin is officially known by the U.S. government and the mint as a "cent," a name "coined," so to speak, in 1782, when the U.S. monetary system was being devised.

The name of the cent was taken from the Latin word for "100," a logical choice since there are 100 cents to a dollar. Patriotic colonists did not want to call the coin a "penny," a name the English had been using for centuries and had brought with them to the New World. Nevertheless, the name "penny" remained in the language and by the 1830s, it had become, as it still is, the

more widely used name for the coin.

The nickel, or 5-cent piece, is so-called because it is made from an alloy that contains nickel. The first U.S. nickel appeared in the 1850s and was valued at only 5 cent. It was followed by a 3-cent nickel and finally, in 1875, by a 5-cent nickel.

The dime, or 10-cent piece, was named in 1756 for the Latin "decimus," or "10th." The names "quarter" and "half" both go back to the 1700s and are simply 10 shortened versions of "quarter-dollar" and "half-dollar."

コインは他に類を見ない程の歴史資料でもある。例えばドルの由来は、十六世紀初め、銀貨がボヘミア地方の Joachimsthal (Joachim の谷) で鑄造され、Joachimsthaler と呼ばれたことによる。語尾の thaler が dollar になったのである。またペニーは、8世紀のイギリス(当時メルシア)の Penda 王に関係がある。コインに自分の名前をつけたわけだ。コイン自体は、ラテン語 coneum に由来するが、これはくさびの意味。コインを鑄造する鋳型の型からきている。

properly 「正確に、本式に」 officially 「公式に」 mint 「造幣局」 coined 「造り出された」 so to speak 「つまり、言わば」 the monetary system 「貨幣制度」 logical choice 「論理にかなった選択」 Patriotic colonists 「愛国心のある植民地開拓者たち」 Nevertheless 「それにもかかわらず」 nickel 「ニッケル」(5セント白銅貨) alloy 「合金」 dime 「ダイム」(10セント銀貨) 10th 「10分の1」

Charles Lindbergh



How did Charles Lindbergh become famous?

On May 21, 1927, American aviator Charles Lindbergh became world-famous as the first person to fly solo, non-stop, across the Atlantic Ocean. Before Lindbergh, others had flown across the ocean, but they did not do so alone, nor without stopping.

Throughout the early 1920s, a number of pilots had tried to fly nonstop from New York to France in attempts to win a \$25,000 prize offered by a New York hotel owner. None had succeeded, and several had suffered injury or lost their lives attempting the flight. Lindbergh, who had several years' flying experience as a stunt pilot and Army flier, decided to try for the prize.

Lindbergh designed a special plane, which was built with the financial help of several St. Louis businessmen.

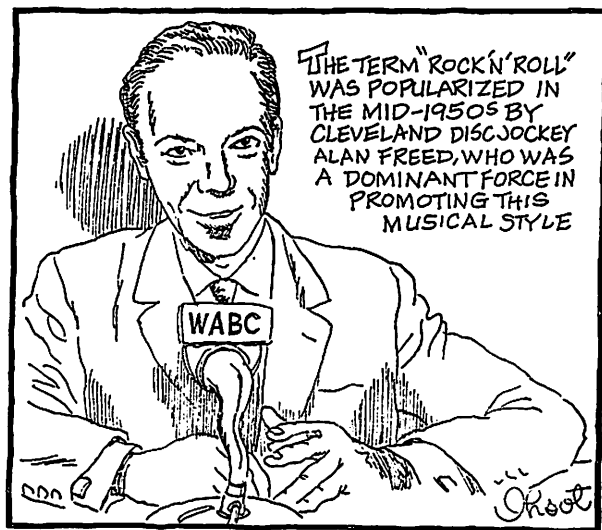
He tested the aircraft, named "Spirit of St. Louis," in a flight from California to New York, setting a transcontinental speed record. Nine days later, on May 20, 1927, Lindbergh took off from Roosevelt Field in suburban New York. Thirty-three and one-half hours later, he landed the "Spirit of St. Louis" in Paris, completing the historic 3,600-mile flight.

"The Lone Eagle," as Lindbergh came to be known, became an instant hero around the world and had many honors bestowed upon him. Among Lindbergh's awards were the Medal of Honor and the Distinguished Flying Cross. For many years, Lindbergh was one of the best-loved and most idolized of all Americans.

チャールズ・リンドバーグというと、勿論史上初めて大西洋単独無着陸横断飛行に成功した人物として名高いが、同時にまた、“リンドバーグ誘拐事件”の被害者としても世間によく知られている。1932年3月1日、20か月になる息子のリンドバーグ二世が誘拐され、十週間後に死体で発見される事件がおきた。この事件がきっかけとなって、“リンドバーグ法”という、誘拐を連邦犯とする法律が成立したとある。

aviator「飛行家」 nor...「また...でない」 Throughout...「...の間」 in attempts to...「...しようとして」 suffered injury「負傷した」 attempting the flight「飛行を試みて」 stunt pilot「曲芸操縦士」 flier (flyer)「飛行家」 designed「を設計した」 financial help「金銭上の援助」 transcontinental「大陸横断の」 took off「離陸した」 “The Lone Eagle”「ローン・イーグル」(単独のわし) had many honors bestowed upon him「多くの荣誉が彼に与えられた」 Medal of Honor「名誉勲章」 Distinguished Flying Cross「空戦殊勲十字章」 idolized「アイドル化された」

Rock 'n' Roll



THE TERM "ROCK N' ROLL" WAS POPULARIZED IN THE MID-1950S BY CLEVELAND DISC JOCKEY ALAN FREED, WHO WAS A DOMINANT FORCE IN PROMOTING THIS MUSICAL STYLE

How did rock 'n' roll get its name?

The term "rock 'n' roll" was popularized in the mid-1950s by Cleveland disc jockey Alan Freed, who was a dominant force in promoting this musical style. The name probably was encouraged in part by the fact that many rock 'n' roll songs have the word "rock" in their titles or lyrics.

Rock 'n' roll came into prominence about 1955. It evolved from rhythm 'n' blues, a musical form that had been performed, for the most part, by black artists. When this musical style was adopted by white musicians and singers, and exposed to a broader audience, it became known as "rock 'n' roll." Teen-agers, the audience at which rock 'n' roll was aimed, responded to the new music with tremendous favor. Within a few years,

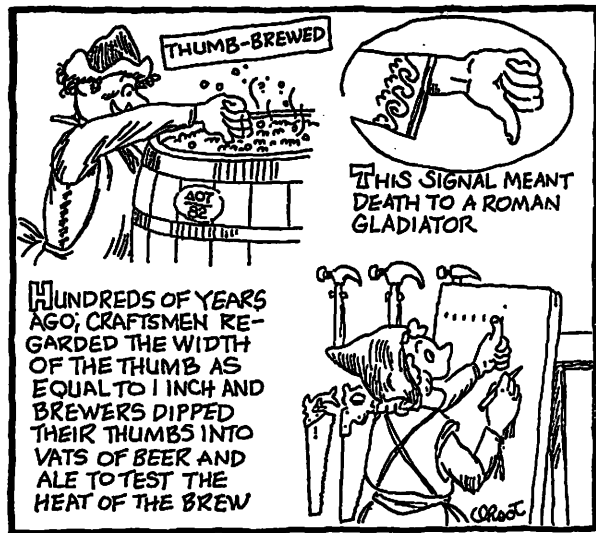
rock 'n' roll became the most commercially successful modern musical style.

The first rock 'n' roll record to become a best-seller was "Crazy, Man, Crazy," by Bill Haley and His Comets. Rock 'n' roll had "arrived" when another Haley song, "Rock Around the Clock," became a No. 1 hit and was featured in the popular film, "The Blackboard Jungle." Besides Haley, pioneer artists in the field of rock 'n' roll include Elvis Presley, Chuck Berry and Buddy Holly and the Crickets.

ロックンロールの母体となったりズム・アンド・ブルースは、1940年終り頃から黒人の間では人気があったが、白人には抵抗があった。そこへ、1955年、白人のビリー・ヘイリーが「ロック・アラウンド・クロック」のヒットを飛ばして、一挙にロックンロールへの突破口を開いたようである。ロックンロールの名前の由来は、カントリー・ブルースによくでてくる "Rock me, roll me, all night long" というきわどい歌詞によるとというのが真実らしい。

was popularized 「大衆化された」 dominant force 「支配的な説得力を持った人物」 in promoting... 「...を促進する上で」 in part 「いくぶん」 came into prominence 「目だつようになった」 evolved from... 「...から発達した」 for the most part 「たいがい」 was adopted by... 「...によって取り入れられた」 exposed to... 「...にふれた, さらされた」 the audience at which rock 'n' roll was aimed 「ロックンロールが受けるものとねらわれていた聴衆」 responded to... 「...に反応を示した, こたえた」 with tremendous favor 「途方もない好感をもって」 was featured in... 「...で目立つように使われた」

'Rule of Thumb'



How did the term "rule of thumb" originate?

"Rule of thumb"—the practice of measuring or determining something by applying experience rather than scientific knowledge—is based on the centuries-old notion that considers the thumb an accurate unit of measurement.

Hundreds of years ago, craftsmen such as carpenters and tailors regarded the width of the thumb as equal to 1 inch and used it to measure their work. In addition, brewers dipped their thumbs into vats of beer and ale to test the heat of the brew and thus regulate the fermentation. The product was known as "thumb-brewed." These early applications of the "rule of thumb" in place of more scientific and accurate instruments led to the present-day phrase.

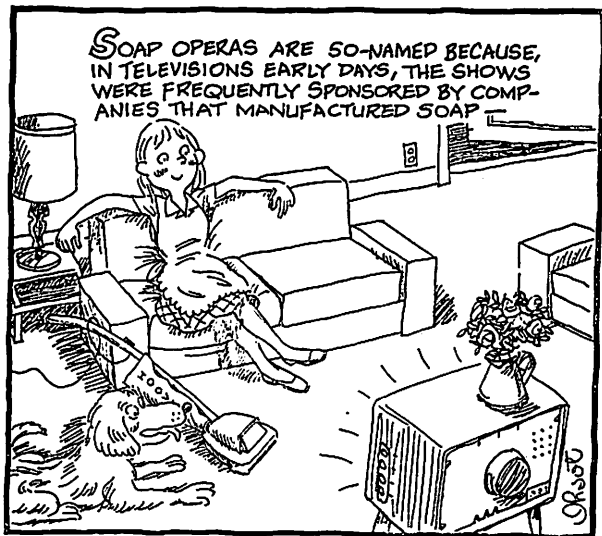
The expression as it is used today dates back at least three centuries. A manuscript on fencing, written in 1692, contains the line, "What he doth, he doth by rule of thumb, and not by art." Additionally there is a Scottish proverb that claims there is "no rule so good as rule of thumb."

Throughout history, the thumb has been the subject of many expressions and superstitions. One of the best-known is the practice of signaling "thumbs up" to indicate approval and "thumbs down" to indicate rejection. This practice apparently originated in ancient Rome as a means by which spectators voted on whether a gladiator was to be spared or slain.

足の長さ起因した長さの単位フィート (foot, 12 インチ, 約 30 cm) を連想させるが、親指で計る方は大ざっぱなやり方として残っている。足も指も実に便利な計算道具にちがなかった。ビールの醸造に使われた説はイギリスのヨークシャー州が発祥の地。

"Rule of thumb" 「親指で計ること」 経験法。 practice 「習慣」 centuries-old notion 「何世紀も前からの考え」 unit 「単位」 brewers 「ビールの醸造者達」 vats of beer and ale 「ビールの大おけ」 regulate the fermentation 「発酵を調整する」 thumb-brewed 「親指醸造」 in place of... 「...の代わりに」 led to the present-day phrase 「現代の言い回しとなった」 doth=does Additionally 「加えて」 Scottish 「スコットランドの」 claims 「確言する」 signaling "thumbs up" 「親指を立てて合図する」 rejection 「拒絶」 originated in... 「...に始まった」 a means 「手段」 spectators 「見物人」 voted on... 「...について投票した」 whether a gladiator was to be spared or slain 「剣闘士を助命すべきか殺すべきか」

Soap Operas



How did the soap opera get its name?

The very popular TV serials known as “soap operas” are so-named because, in television’s early days, the shows were frequently sponsored by companies that manufactured soap. Even though the many soap operas on television today are sponsored by a variety of firms other than soap companies, the term “soap opera” has endured.

The typical soap opera appears five times a week in daily installments of an hour or half hour. It employs a large cast of stock characters who act in situations that may take months to resolve. The settings for such a drama is often a fictional small town. The unfolding of the story relies more on dialogue than on action, and scenes often take place in a living room, restaurant or sick room, where action is less likely to interfere with

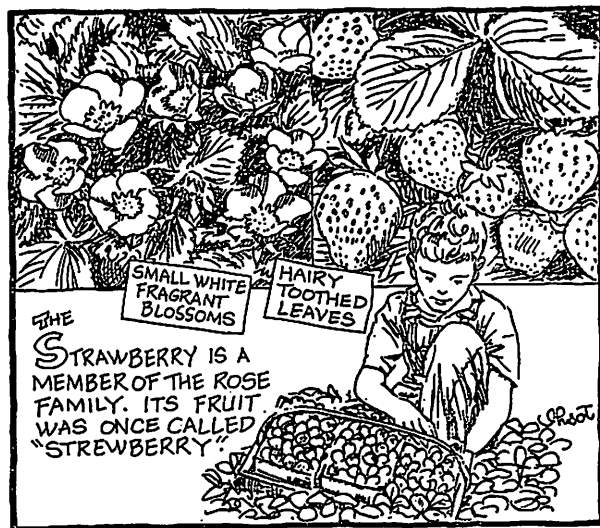
conversation. Rarely does the everyday reality of housework, school or business come into play.

The soap opera has its origins in the 1930s, when radio offered a number of serialized dramas in daily chapters. In the late 1940s, soap operas began to move to television, and after only a few years, became daytime television’s dominant form of program. Soap operas have always relied on their characters’ misfortunes—such as marital, financial and health problems—for their plots. In the past decade, however, the subject matter dealt with on these programs has become increasingly serious and controversial.

辞書で“ソープ・オペラ”を調べると“甘いセンチメンタルな連続劇”といった定義にぶつかるのが普通である。確かに当初は昼メロ風のラジオ番組だったようであるが、今や7千万人も視聴者をもつ怪物番組に成長。従って、内容もあらゆる階層向けのものが組み込まれ、充実したものとなった。テレビ局の予算も30年前の20倍という。

TV serials「テレビのシリーズもの」 firms「会社」 term「言葉」 has endured「消えないで続いている」 in daily installments of an hour or half hour「毎日1時間が30分に分けて」 employs=uses a large cast of stock characters「多数の番組専属の配役」 in situations「立場におかれて」 unfolding「展開」 relies more on dialogue than on action「アクションよりも対話の方に頼っている」 action is less likely to interfere with conversation「アクションが会話の妨げにはなりにくい」 reality「実際の状態」 in daily chapters「日毎にそう話を変えて」 dominant form of program「有力な番組形態」 have relied on...their plots「その筋書きを登場人物の逆境にたよってきた」 marital「結婚の、夫婦の」 decade [dékeid] = ten years subject matter「題材」 controversial「論争の種となる」

Strawberries



How did the strawberry get its name?

There are many theories to explain how the word "strawberry" originated, but none has gained universal acceptance. The explanation that seems to carry the most support is based on the fact that the fruit was once called "strewberry," probably because the fruits are 5 strewed (scattered) among their leaves, or because the plant itself spreads out along the ground.

The strawberry plant is a member of the rose family. It grows close to the ground on short, woody stems. The plant has hairy, toothed leaves. Its small white flowers 10 grow in clusters and have a pleasant fragrance. The fruit, which is somewhat cone-shaped, is greenish-white, but becomes deep red when it ripens. It is among the first fruits to appear in the garden. The plants reproduce

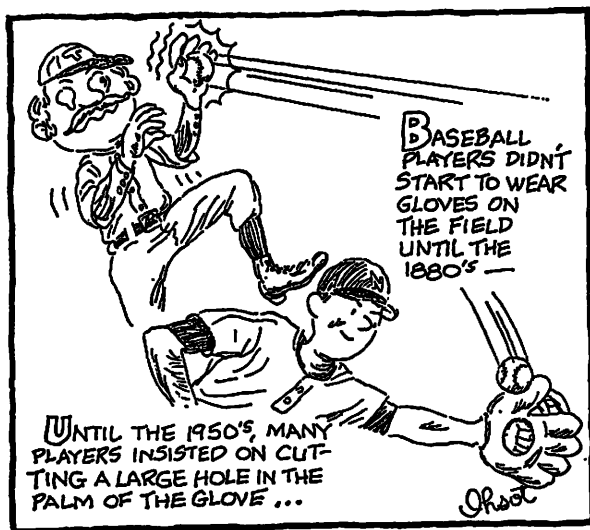
by sending out runners, which are slender, stringlike growths that grow along the ground and send roots out into the soil. These roots produce new plants that bear fruit and may be replanted to start new strawberry 5 plantations.

Strawberry plants are native to the temperate zones of the Northern Hemisphere. Wild strawberries have been enjoyed since ancient times, but the fruit was not widely cultivated until fairly recent times. Strawberries are 10 grown in every U.S. state and province of Canada.

いちごは野いちご時代が長かった果物で、本格的に栽培されるようになったのはここ百年位のことである。アメリカ・インディアンの民話に次のようないちごの面目躍如の話がある。「怒って家を出て行った妻がいて、偉大な罎が妻の行く手にベリーを植え、引き留めて夫に追いつかせようとするが、全部無視されてしまう。ところが、新しいベリーのいちごを発明して植えたところ、妻は立ち止まってつんだので、めでたく夫と和解した。」

originated「生じた」 none has gained universal acceptance「いずれも全般的に受け入れられていない」 carry the most support「最も支持を勝ち得ている」 is based on...「...に基づいている」 strewed「ちらばっている」 spreads out「広がる」 close to...「...に接近して」 woody「木に似た」 hairy「毛のある」 toothed「のこぎり歯状の」 grow in clusters「群生する」 fragrance「芳香、香り」 cone-shaped「円錐形の」 ripens「熟す」 reproduce「繁殖する」 runners「つる」 slender, stringlike growths「ほっそりとひものように伸びたもの」 bear fruit「実がなる」 plantations「栽培場」 native to...「...が原産地である」 the temperate zones of the Northern Hemisphere「北半球の温帯」 province of Canada「カナダの州」

Baseball Gloves



a large hole in the palm of the glove in order to get a better grip on the ball.

Today, the glove is large and the ball is not caught in the palm of the hand but trapped in the glove's webbing, between the thumb and forefinger. The glove has become more of a net for the ball rather than just a protective covering.

Did baseball players always wear baseball gloves?

The first game resembling baseball as we know it was played in Hoboken, N.J., on June 19, 1846. But baseball players didn't start to wear gloves on the field until the 1880s. At first, the gloves were only a thin piece of leather that fit over the palm of the hand with five holes cut out for the fingers to go through. By the 1890s, the gloves began to look like the ones we have today, only much smaller.

The gloves remained pretty much the same from 1900 to the mid-1950s. The ball was caught in the pocket of the glove covering the palm of the hand, and it was held with the fingers. The purpose of the glove was to protect the palm of the hand and the fingers from injury, although until the 1950s many players insisted on cutting

周知のように野球のグローブは野手と一塁手のグローブ、キャッチャーのミットに分かれる。野手のグローブと一塁手のグローブはいずれも皮製で、長さ12インチ、幅（親指のつけねから）8インチを超えてはならないという規定がある。一塁手のグローブは三つ指、キャッチャーのミットはふたまたで、特に制限はないが大体円形で厚く詰め物がしてあり、まん中にへこみがある。

resembling baseball as we know it 「我々の知っている野球に似ている」
 N.J. 「ニュージャージー州」 (New Jersey) a thin piece of leather 「一枚のうすいなめし皮」 fit over... 「...にびったりかぶさる」 for the fingers to go through 「指が通り抜けるように」 remained pretty much the same 「ほとんど同じ状態のままであった」 protect...from injury 「...を傷つけないように保護する」 trapped=caught webbing 「ウェビング」 (水かきの膜状のもの) of a net for the ball 「ボールをとらえる網のようなもの」 protective covering 「保護のためのカバー」

Birthdays



When did the custom of celebrating birthdays begin?

Celebrating the anniversary of one's birth dates back to ancient times, when calendars, based on man's understanding of the heavens, were first devised. Although the birthday celebration has been popular in many cultures over several centuries, it is by no means a universal custom.

The Pharaohs of ancient Egypt were among the first to celebrate birthdays, marking the occasions with lavish feasts. Ancient Romans staged events such as chariot races, circuses and parades as part of their birthday celebrations. In many parts of the ancient world, the birthday of a common citizen, especially a child or woman, was not considered worthy of a celebration, and birthday

festivities were usually held to honor only gods and members of royalty.

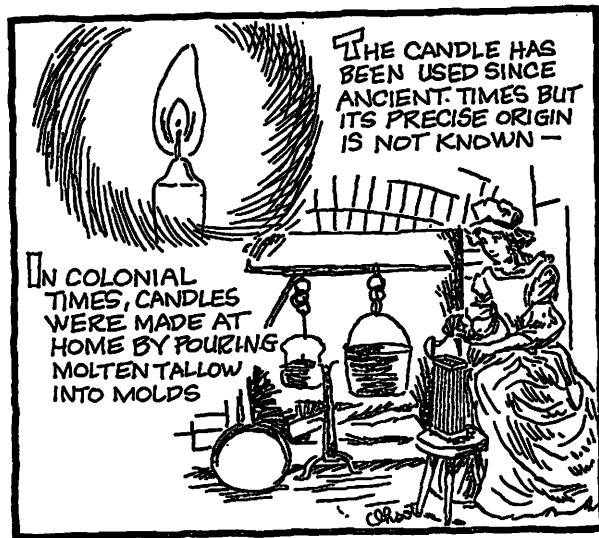
The birthday cake appeared in Greek mythology, when the goddess of the moon celebrated her birthday with crescent-shaped cakes topped with candles. The tradition of having a birthday party with gifts and a cake topped with candles probably originated in Germany. Wishing someone a "happy birthday" began as a means of chasing evil spirits, which were thought to be especially attracted to birthday celebrations.

Today, it is a popular custom in the Western world to celebrate a birthday—especially that of a child—with a party, gifts and birthday cards.

英語で誕生日のお祝いのあいさつは "Many happy returns of the day." (幾久しく長寿を祈る) である。生命は誕生日ごとに生まれ変わり、実際に誕生日を繰り返すものと信じられていた名残である。ローソクをケーキの上に年の数だけ立てる風習は中世ドイツに始まったようで、当時はその子供が目覚めた瞬間にローソクに火をともし、ケーキが食べられるまでつけられていたという。

anniversary 「記念日」 by no means... 「けっして...ではない」 Pharaohs [fə'raʊz] ファラオ (古代エジプト国王の称号) marking the occasions with lavish feasts 「そして気前のよい祝宴で祭典を目だつものとした」 staged events 「行事を実施した」 chariot races 「戦車競走」 worthy of... 「...するに足る、にふさわしい」 festivities 「祝いの催しごと」 honor 「たたえる」 members of royalty 「王族たち」 crescent-shaped 「三日月形をした」 topped with candles 「上にローソクを立てた」 as a means of chasing evil spirits 「悪魔を追い立てる手段として」

Candles



When was the candle invented?

The candle has been used since ancient times, but its precise origin is not known. Evidence has been unearthed that shows that candles were used at least 5,000 years ago in such places as Crete, Egypt and Mesopotamia.

Early candles were crude devices made by wrapping fatty substances inside vegetable matter. The “rushlight” was an early candle made by soaking the core of a rush plant with molten fat. Later, candles were made by dipping a fiber wick into molten animal fat, or “tallow” and allowing it to cool and harden before dipping it again. The procedure was repeated several times until the desired thickness of the candle was obtained. More recently, candles have been made by pouring molten

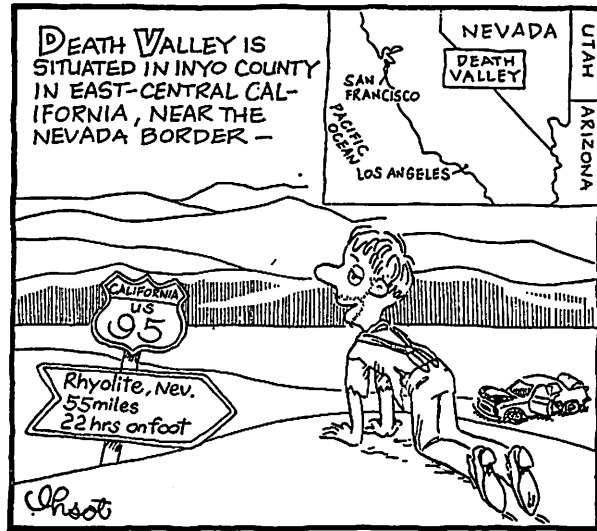
wax into molds that contain wicks.

About 200 years ago, a waxy substance known as “spermaceti” was introduced into candlemaking. The substance, which is obtained from sperm whales, was used to make improved candles that did not give off an unpleasant odor, and remained rigid and upright in hot weather. Since the mid-19th century, most candles have been made from paraffin, a wax obtained from petroleum, to which stearic acid is added to provide rigidity and better illumination. Surprisingly, the advent of electric lighting in the late 1800s did not seriously affect the sale or production of candles.

照明が電気時代になって久しいが、ローソクの神秘的な炎は消えるどころか、様々な形と美しい色彩で欧米人の生活の中に積極的に取り入れられている。ローソクを使った面白い英語表現を一つ。“burn the candle at both ends” (精力などを浪費する)。また天井からつるす装飾電灯のシャンデリアは仏語で、もともと“ローソクを支える物”という意味。

Evidence has been unearthed 「証拠が発掘されている」 Mesopotamia [mèsəpəteímjə] 「メソポタミア」 crude devices 「あらっぽい仕組みのもの」 fatty substances 「脂肪質のもの」 vegetable matter 「植物質のもの」 “rushlight” 「燈心草ろうそく」 core of a rushplant 「燈心草の芯」 molten fat 「溶解した脂肪」 dipping a fiber wick 「繊維質の燈心を浸すこと」 “tallow” 「豚脂」 allowing it to cool and harden 「それが冷えて堅くなるままにしておくこと」 procedure 「手順」 the desired thickness 「好みの太さ」 molds 「型」 “spermaceti” [spə:məsəti] 「鯨ろう」 sperm whales 「まっころう鯨」 give off 「を放つ」 petroleum [pitróliəm] 「石油」 stearic acid 「ステアリン酸」 advent 「到来」 seriously affect 「に重大な影響を及ぼす」

Death Valley



Where is Death Valley?

Death Valley is situated in Inyo County in east-central California, near the Nevada border. The dry, hot, desolate region was named in 1849 by a party of travelers who crossed it on their way to the California gold fields.

The valley is a deep depression that measures about 140 miles in length and whose width varies between five and 15 miles. Most of the region lies below sea level and one spot in particular, near Badwater, is 282 feet below sea level, the lowest elevation in the Western Hemisphere.

The air in Death Valley is extremely dry, and the average annual rainfall is only a few inches. During the summer, it is not uncommon for temperatures to exceed 120 degrees. The highest temperature ever recorded in

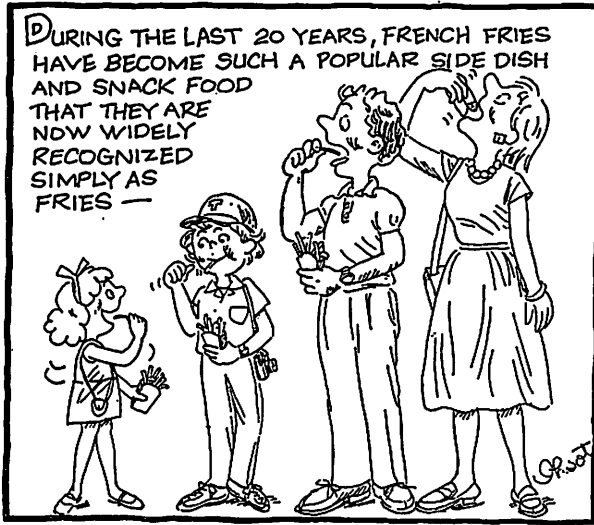
the United States—134 degrees—was measured at Death Valley in July 1913. During the winter, however, the Death Valley region boasts what many consider to be a “perfect” climate. Its winter climate and natural scenic beauty make Death Valley a popular resort spot.

Death Valley was formed when a huge block sank into the earth after sections of the earth’s crust shifted. After the glacial period, a large lake filled Death Valley, but the air became dry and the lake eventually disappeared. In 1873, deposits of borax, a mineral used to make cleanser, were discovered in the valley. The borax was hauled out by the famous “20-mule teams.” Eventually, borax-mining was abandoned in the region.

死の谷を含む一帯 2,981 平方マイル (7,917 平方キロ) は死の谷天然記念物となっている (1933 年指定)。冬期に、十分な雨量と適温があると、くすんだ砂漠の峡谷にひまわり、けし、さくらそう、れんげそう、ほおずき等の鮮やかな花のシンフォニーを繰り広げる。

Death Valley 「死の谷」 County 「郡」 (州の次に位する行政区画) gold fields 「金産地」 depression 「くぼ地」 measures... 「(長さ・幅などが) ...ある」 whose width varies between five and 15 miles 「その幅は 5 から 15 マイルの間の変化がある」 the lowest elevation in the Western Hemisphere 「西半球で最も低い高地」 120 degrees 「華氏 120 度」 (摂氏で約 49 度) boasts 「誇っている」 popular resort spot 「よく人の行く所」 sections of the earth's crust shifted 「地殻の断片が位置を変えた」 the glacial period 「氷河期」 deposits of borax 「硼砂の鉱床」 cleanser [klénzər] 「クレンザー」 was handled out 「運び出された」 “20 mule teams” 「20 頭のらばチーム」

French Fries



Did french fried potatoes originate in France?

The precise origin of french fried potatoes is unclear. The dish may have originated in France, but it is also believed that the word “french” in its name actually refers to the practice of preparing vegetables and meats by “frenching” them, that is, cutting them into thin, lengthwise strips before cooking.

Thomas Jefferson is known to have served french fried potatoes in his home after learning about them while serving as ambassador to France. Some historians believe that the dish actually originated in Belgium and was introduced into neighboring northern France, where it became popular. Still others believe that french fries originated in England, where thick slices of fried potatoes, which the British call “chips,” are a popular

food, especially when served with fish.

In any event, french fries did not become a common food in the United States until the turn of the century. They were known as “french fries” until late in the 1920s, when they became commonly known as “french fries.” During the last 20 years, french fries have become such a popular side dish and snack food that they are now widely recognized as simply “fries.”

French fried potatoes are credited with having led to the invention of potato chips (not to be confused with the British “chips”). According to the story, an irate chef invented paper-thin potato chips for a customer who kept returning his french fried potatoes to the kitchen with the complaint that they were “too thick.”

野菜や肉を料理する時、材料を下準備として french (細長く切る) するところから “french fries” が生れたという説はかなり信ぴょう性がある。例えばラム・チョップの場合、骨近くに切り込みを入れ、細長い骨を扱いやすくする時に “frenched” という。その他さやえんどうや牛肉を細く切る必要がある時にも “french” を使う。

refers to... 「...のことを言っている」 “frenching” 「を細長く切ること」
thin, lengthwise strips 「細い、縦に長い切れ」 served 「(食卓に)出した」
while serving as ambassador to France 「フランス大使として勤めている間に」
Belgium [beldʒəm] 「ベルギー」 neighboring northern France 「隣接したフランス北部」
In any event 「とにかく、いずれにしても」 the turn of the century 「世紀の変わり目」
During the last 20 years 「最近の20年の間に」
side dish 「添え料理、サイドディッシュ」 snack food 「軽い食事の食物」
are credited with... 「...だと信じられている」 not to be confused with... 「...と混同しないこと」
irate [airét] 「おこった」 chef [ʃef] 「コック長」