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COMMUNITY NEWS

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WELCOME TO THE FAMILY!



Norma Pace



Burt McCarthy



Michael Nolen

Down the Rabbit Hole in January

January is a significant month for *Alice in Wonderland* enthusiasts. Lewis Carroll, born Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, entered the world on January 27, 1832, and passed away on January 14, 1898. His famous tale, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, began in 1862, during a boat trip where he entertained the Liddell children with an improvised story. Young Alice Liddell, the inspiration behind the heroine, urged Carroll to write it down. After two years of writing, the book was finished in 1864 and published the following year, quickly becoming a literary sensation.

The book introduced the world to memorable characters like the Mad Hatter, whose tea party never ends, and the grinning Cheshire Cat, who can disappear at will. Carroll even invented a new type of poetry, the "nonsense poem," one of the best examples of which is "Jabberwocky," which appears in *Through the Looking-Glass*, the sequel to *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*.

What makes *Alice in Wonderland* so fascinating is its mix of wordplay, logic, and fantasy. Carroll was not just a writer but also a mathematician, which explains the whimsical logic and puzzling riddles that fill the story. His love of paradoxes and mathematical theories shines through in scenes like the Mad Hatter's tea party and the Queen's curious rules for croquet. This blend of intellectual play and imaginative adventure is what makes *Alice* a timeless favorite for readers of all ages.

January is a perfect time to embrace the whimsical world of *Alice in Wonderland*. Lewis Carroll's beloved tale, now over 150 years old, continues to captivate readers of all ages. The story has inspired countless adaptations, including theater productions, ballets, and even video games, cementing its place in pop culture. This January, whether by rereading the book or exploring a new adaptation, it's worth revisiting Wonderland to marvel at the unique genius of Carroll and his enduring creation.

Galloping into Radio History



The call of “Hi-Yo, Silver! Away!” first echoed on Detroit’s WXYZ radio station on January 30, 1933. A mysterious masked cowboy known as the Lone Ranger went on to become one of the most famous and influential western heroes of the 20th century.

WXYZ station owner George Trendle and writer Fran Striker co-developed the idea of *The Lone Ranger*, yet neither of them had any experience with cowboys or the Wild West. To them, this hardly mattered. After seeing the success of the movie *The Mask of Zorro*, they wanted to develop an American version of a masked swashbuckler. Furthermore, they wanted their hero to set an example of good morals and to stand for truth, justice, and freedom. The show was an instant success and eventually drew an audience of 20 million faithful listeners three times a week.

The writers did not worry about historical accuracy. This was perhaps most evident in the character of Tonto, the Lone Ranger’s faithful Native American sidekick, who uttered simple phrases and groans. During early episodes, the Lone Ranger was often stuck talking to his horse, Silver. The writers realized they needed a second character, so they introduced Tonto on February 25, 1933. Like the Lone Ranger, Tonto was also a model of justice and truth, often providing the brains of the duo.

By the 1950s, *The Lone Ranger* had moved to film and television and starred Clayton Moore as the masked hero. The western craze hit full stride, and a string of hit shows followed: *The Roy Rogers Show*, *The Adventures of Wild Bill Hickok*, *Bonanza*, *Gunsmoke*, *Maverick*, and *Rawhide*. Some argue that the western declined with the Red Scare, the Space Race, and the Cold War. Yet others contend that westerns never went out of style. *The Lone Ranger* struck gold in 1933, and westerns have been treasured ever since.

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



Samjhana Bhandari

Rails of Adventure



On January 17, Cable Car Day, cable cars all over the world will garner attention. Cable cars use cables to pull them up or lower them down. San Francisco’s iconic cable cars are moved by a system of cables underneath the

street. The high-flying cable gondolas of Rio de Janeiro carry people to the Christ the Redeemer statue atop Mount Corcovado. The valley of Gulmarg—the Himalayan “meadow of flowers” in India’s Jammu and Kashmir regions—boasts the second-highest cable car ride at 13,500 feet. One of the longest cable car rides is in Switzerland’s Alps. The 19-minute journey from the village of Grindelwald to Männlichen allows visitors to enjoy the rugged Alps without a pair of hiking boots!

December Cheer



Dial Up the Nonsense

While some people believe that Inane Answering Message Day on January 30 is a day to revise any long, annoying, or otherwise inane answering messages, many believe it is the perfect day to put a smile on your caller's face by recording a silly message for their listening pleasure. Below you'll find some wonderfully inane treasures to record on voicemail:

"Hello! You've reached the future. Your call is important, but right now, it's still the past where I am. Leave a message and I'll get back to you when the time's right."

"This is you-know-who. We are you-know-where. Leave your you-know-what you-know-when."

"You've reached [Name], where everything is made up and the points don't matter. Except your message. Your message definitely matters."



A Magical Start to the Year



It turns out that January is a magical month. First, January 16 is Appreciate a Dragon Day. In Eastern cultures, dragons are powerful beings of wisdom, magic, and longevity, and their symbolism is often used by emperors and leaders. European cultures tend to view dragons as fearsome

fire-breathing foes. These winged beasts can fly, and perhaps this is why the word *dragon* comes from a Greek word meaning “I see clearly,” as if dragons can see the entire world from above.

Then January 19 is Brew a Potion Day. Potions are believed to heal, bewitch, or poison others. In olden days, traveling salesmen and charlatans would travel across the land selling snake oil panaceas, promising to heal any and every possible ailment. Even in modern times, we see television infomercials selling products guaranteed to clear our skin, regrow our hair, or clean our upholstery. In lieu of these potions, concoct your own magical mixture or recipe and give it to someone you love on January 19.

If the magic of fantasy is too far-fetched for you this month, you could instead engage in another sort of magic: January 2 is Science Fiction Day. The mysteries of science can sometimes be even more baffling than dragons and potions. After all, who could have foretold rovers roaming Mars? A person falling to Earth in a 24-mile free dive from the edge of space? The ability to hold a computer in the palm of your hand? Of course, all of these achievements are mere science. For them to become science *fiction*, the scientific advancement must present some dreadful and unforeseen challenge.

This January, the biggest challenge may be to allow your imagination to take flight and consider dragons, potions, and scientific calamities. Then February will bring us firmly back to Earth.

January Birthdays

Those born between January 1–19 are Capricorns, the Sea Goat. Capricorn is the most stable and serious sign of the zodiac. Reliable, resourceful, and determined, Capricorns make excellent leaders and managers. Those born between January 20–31 are Aquarius, the Water Bearer. Witty, clever, and honest, Water Bearers desire independence above all and are not afraid to deviate from the crowd to pursue their own interests.

Resident Birthdays

1/24 Norma Pace

1/25 Margaret Latessa

1/31 Carlisle Boykin



Gold Rush Gab

Dagnabbit, it's time for Talk Like a Grizzled Prospector Day on January 24. You've never heard of it, you say? Perhaps you have heard of James Marshall, who, on January 24, 1848, discovered gold that started the California Gold Rush. Almost 100 years later, a farmer named Walter Knott built a western-themed ghost town on his berry farm. Knott's Berry Farm drew a wide audience, thanks to its guarantee that anyone who found gold on the property as part of the “panning for gold” attraction could take it home. Every January 24, Knott's Berry Farm holds its annual Prospector's Day parade. So