

Notable Quotable

"I'm the straw that stirs the drink."

~ Reggie Jackson, "Mr. October" and baseball Hall-of-Famer



May Horoscopes and Birthdays

In astrology, those born from May 1–20 are Bulls of Taurus. While Taureans enjoy the comforts of luxury, they are unafraid of hard work and dedicate themselves to the tasks at hand. Those born from May 21–31 are Twins of Gemini. With a feeling that something or someone is always missing, Twins forever seek new friends and opportunities. They are curious, intelligent, and sociable communicators and negotiators.

Bing Crosby – May 3, 1903
 Nellie Bly – May 5, 1864
 Toni Tennille – May 8, 1940
 Salvador Dalí – May 11, 1904
 Henry Fonda – May 16, 1905
 Reggie Jackson – May 18, 1946
 Bob Dylan – May 24, 1941
 Sally Ride – May 26, 1951
 Bob Hope – May 29, 1903
Whispering Oak Place Birthdays
 Renee K – May 1st
 David C – May 5th
 Marvyl K – May 16th
 John W. – May 25th
 Gerald H – May 26th
 Minnie R – May 29th

Garden of Weedin' *cont. from pg. 1*

Dandelions are often the first weed we learn to recognize. The plant's leaves, flowers, and roots are not just edible; the root is also considered medicinal. Furthermore, dandelion roots loosen hard-packed soil while accumulating essential nutrients like potassium, phosphorus, and magnesium. White clover acts in a similar fashion, showing up wherever soil lacks nitrogen, a molecule necessary for plant growth. White clover transfers

nitrogen from the air to the soil. The flowers of clover also attract pollinators and other insects beneficial to the garden. The broadleaf plantain weed, once called the white man's foot by Native Americans because it seemed to grow wherever European colonists stepped, also accumulates nutrients in the soil. While many weeds do benefit the garden, they must be managed and cared for, just like any other garden flower.

The Long and Short of It

May 28 is Bermuda Day, a celebration to encourage civic and cultural pride in Bermudian ways of life. Bermuda Day marks the unofficial beginning of summer and is celebrated with parades featuring decorated floats, a half-marathon, and plenty of music and dancing.

Bermuda Day also marks the start of Bermuda shorts season. Is there anything more symbolic of Bermuda than Bermuda shorts? They are the official national dress for men, worn three inches above the knee with knee socks,

tasseled loafers, a jacket, and tie. They are worn as business attire, evening wear, and are even part of Bermuda's police uniform. The shorts originated with the British Royal Navy. Soldiers working desk jobs in the tropics were issued lightweight shorts and knee socks. Civilians in Bermuda first started copying the military style in the 1920s. Unfortunately for businessmen beyond Bermuda, the shorts never caught on as business attire. But for casual occasions, like celebrating Bermuda Day on May 28, Bermuda shorts are a must.

Whispering Oak Place

May 2021

Celebrating May

Meditation Month

Physical Fitness & Sports Month

Teacher Day
May 4

Cinco de Mayo
May 5

Mother's Day (U.S.)
May 9

International Nurses Day
May 12

Ride a Unicycle Day
May 16

NASCAR Day
May 21

Victoria Day (Canada)
May 24

Memorial Day (U.S.)
May 31

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Garden of Weedin'

Weeds. The bane of every carefully manicured lawn and garden. Once weeds take hold, their removal may require hours of backbreaking, frustrating, and never-ending work. Yet some gardeners actually encourage weeds to grow amongst their prize flowers and shrubs. After all, what is considered a weed and what is considered a desirable plant all depends on your point of view. During May, Gifts from the Garden Month, consider the benefits that some weeds bestow upon your garden.

Weeds have been defined as "plants growing in the wrong place." Ralph Waldo Emerson famously stated that a weed is a "plant whose virtues have not yet

been discovered." Others take a harsher tone, worrying that weeds are competitive superplants that outcompete and overwhelm the flowers or shrubs we prefer because they grow so vigorously. The truth seems to lie somewhere in the middle. Yes, weeds are aggressive. But it also turns out that some savvy gardeners have uncovered their Emersonian virtues.

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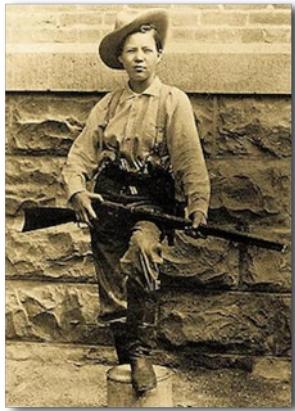


Honoring Mother Ocean

Good sons and daughters will remember that May 9 is Mother's Day, a day to shower mom with love and appreciation. But will we also remember that May 10 is Mother Ocean Day? Just as our mothers gave us life and nurtured us, so too do our oceans sustain life on planet Earth. Oceans produce half of all the world's oxygen and absorb massive

amounts of carbon dioxide. Covering 70% of Earth's surface, our oceans are also responsible for regulating climate and weather patterns. Preserving the health of our oceans is our first line of defense against a rapidly warming planet. On this day, perhaps you can visit the beach for a local cleanup or watch a documentary about undersea life.

The Hart of the West



Pearl was inspired by another female icon of the American West, Annie Oakley.

Billy the Kid. Jesse James. Wyatt Earp. America's Wild West has plenty of memorable names, but few of those names belong to women. History has largely forgotten the name Pearl Hart, even though she staged the last stagecoach robbery of the Wild West, on May 30, 1899.

Pearl Taylor was born in Ontario, Canada, to a respectable family that provided her with a good education, but not good enough to keep her from falling in love with a gambler named Frederick Hart. The couple's drinking, gambling, and joblessness drew them to the Chicago World's Fair in 1893 in search of work. Instead, Hart found Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show and fell in love with the cowboy lifestyle.

Hart next ended up in the mining town of Globe, Arizona, where she met another drifter, named Joe Boot. Hart and Boot were both broke, so they decided to

rob the Globe-to-Florence stagecoach. Armed with a .38 revolver and dressed like a man, she made off with \$431, but was soon captured.

After her capture, Hart regaled reporters with a dramatic retelling of her exploits. Fans begged for autographs, and she signed them as the "Bandit Queen." Hart escaped from jail in Yuma and was found in New Mexico. When she became pregnant in the Yuma jail a year later, Hart was released with a pardon from the Arizona governor, who hoped to avoid a scandal. The rest of Hart's life is a mystery. Some say she may have joined the vaudeville circuit. Others say she settled down with a rancher and lived out her days as a law-abiding citizen. Either way, Hart's wild life story has earned her a place in the fabled history of America's West.

The Old Ballgame

On May 2, 1908, songwriters Albert von Tilzer and Jack Norworth copyrighted their song "Take Me Out to the Ball Game," unaware that it would become America's "second national anthem." The song's chorus is sung by millions, yet few know the rest of the lyrics or their feminist inspiration: the celebrity vaudevillian and suffragette Trixie Friganza.

Norworth was dating Friganza when he wrote the lyrics. While riding the New York City

subway, he saw a sign that read "Baseball Today—Polo Grounds." Inspiration so overwhelmed Norworth that he scribbled the lyrics on the back of an envelope that is now on display at the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York. The star of Norworth's tune is a woman named Katie Casey, a baseball superfan who "Saw all the games." She even "told the umpire he was wrong." The outspoken female fan in the song was undoubtedly modeled after his progressive girlfriend.



Friganza used her charisma, fortune, and celebrity to inspire women to fight for the right to vote.

Fee Parking



The first person to receive a parking meter fine was Reverend C.H. North of Oklahoma City.

Inventor Carl Magee filed the patent for the world's first parking meter, which he called the Park-o-Meter, on May 13, 1935. With automobile ownership reaching all-time highs, many urban areas were suddenly battling a new scourge—the lack of parking! When the first meters were installed in downtown Oklahoma City, drivers were not

too keen on their installation. Some outraged citizens found them un-American and likened the nickel-an-hour fee to an unlawful tax. Businesses, however, loved the meters, as they encouraged the turnover of motorists, which meant a steady stream of new customers. By 1940, more than 140,000 parking meters lined American streets.

Not the End of the World

In May of 1910, much of the world was in a panic. Halley's Comet—the celestial nomad that passes Earth every 76 years or so—was right on schedule to make its appearance. But its 1910 pass was forecasted to be especially close, so close that Earth would pass right through the comet's tail. Comets have long been considered harbingers of the end of the world, and 1910 was no different despite advancements in scientific thought and reason.

Much of the blame for the doomsday predictions has fallen on the French astronomer Camille Flammarion. When he spotted the comet in September of 1909, he published his observations thus: "The comet's tail is composed of deadly cyanogen and other gases, including hydrogen. If the earth should pass through his tail, either the hydrogen will ignite, blasting earth asunder in a gigantic explosion, or the comet gases will sweep aside our own

atmosphere, reacting with the nitrogen to form the familiar laughing gas, nitrous oxide, and suffocating all animal life in a ghastly parody of death."

Flammarion was not alone in his dire predictions. Other astronomers worried that the comet "would cause the Pacific to change basins with the Atlantic," causing the world to tumble over onto itself.

Of course, when Halley's Comet did make its closest approach to Earth between May 14 and 22, none of these fantastic catastrophes manifested. Instead, telescope sales skyrocketed, and Earthlings enjoyed spectacular views of the famous comet. One misfortune that did occur was the uncanny death of Mark Twain. Born under the appearance of Halley's Comet in 1835, he predicted his own death with the reappearance of the comet in 1910. Sadly, on April 21 of that year, his morbid prognostication came true.



Halley's Comet is scheduled to return to Earth in the year 2061.