**Famous, But Still Afraid**

**Claim is that baboons are afraid of the dark. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Augustus Caesar was scared of the dark. (L. M. Boyd)**

**Russia's Czar Peter the Great was scared to cross bridges. (L. M. Boyd)**

**It's not that I'm afraid to die, I just don't want to be there when it happens. (Woody Allen)**

**Dionysius (431 B.C. to 367 B.C.), the tyrant of Syracuse, always had his hair and beard trimmed with red-hot coals! He was so fearful of assassination that he never permitted a razor or scissors near his throat. (Ripley's Believe It or Not! - #29, p. 81)**

**Dionysius was very fat. History records this tyrant of Heracles put needles in the back of his chair to keep himself seated upright. He feared that if he relaxed, he'd suffocate. (L. M. Boyd)**

**Walt Disney was afraid of mice. (Kids' Pages)**

**Why ancient Egyptians so disliked red hair I don't know. But historical footnotes suggest they feared red-haired people. And their prejudice spread to the Greeks and Romans. (L. M. Boyd)**

**One person I particularly admired was the great composer Duke Ellington. Onstage and on television, he seemed the very model of the confident, sophisticated man of the world. Then I learned that Ellington still got stage fright. If the highly honored Duke Ellington, who had appeared on the bandstand some 10,000 times over 30 years, had anxiety attacks, who was I to think I could avoid them? (James Lincoln Collier, in Reader's Digest)**

**You know what scared Sigmund Freud? Ferns. Couldn't stand them. Gave him the creeps. (L. M. Boyd)**

**You said cowardice was common among notorious Old West gunfighters. Can you explain this? Many feared physical fights. So they strapped on guns. If they shot enough men to make names for themselves, it was because they shot first. If they shot first, almost invariably it was because they drew first. (L. M. Boyd)**

**"Turn out the lights when you leave the room." Franklin Roosevelt and Lyndon Johnson both made a point of telling that to everybody in the White House. But, why didn't Benjamin Harrison? He presided when electricity was first installed. His family left all the lights burning even after bedtime. They were afraid to touch the switches. (L. M. Boyd)**

**Why was the body of President William Henry Harrison buried in five coffins one inside another? He so willed it, in fear of grave robbers. The body of his son, John Scott Harrison, had been stolen by such thieves. (L. M. Boyd)**

**Before Woody Hayes came to coach football at Ohio State, he had been coaching at the much smaller Denison and Miami universities in Ohio. “The first time I stood in the middle of the OSU stadium with its 86,000 seats staring down at me,” he recalls, “I was shook up. My young son was with me and had hold of my hand. He must have felt my reaction, for he said, ‘But, Daddy, the football field is the same size.’” (Lionel Crocker)**

**J. Edward Hoover, chief of the FBI, was scared by a black cat! He stepped on its tail in a raid on the Roger Touhy gang, and the cat's yowl was Hoover's greatest moment of fear in 30 years as head of the G-men. (Ripley's Believe It or Not!: Book of Chance, p. 319)**

**The late Howard Hughes and numerous others have been depicted as highly fearful of dust. (L. M. Boyd)**

**Howard Hughes owned a light blue 1964 Chrysler with hermetic seals around the gas pedal, brakes and windows -- to keep out germs. (L. M. Boyd)**

**It's a matter of historical record that President Andrew Johnson mightily took his gun into bed with him. Yes, into. (L. M. Boyd)**

**It is the female lion who does more than 90 percent of the hunting while the male is afraid to risk his life, or simply prefers to rest. (Isaac Asimov's Book of Facts, p. 41)**

**Napoleon was morbidly afraid of cats. (E.C. McKenzie, in Tantalizing Facts, p. 108)**

**Heavyweight boxer Ken Norton fears no man in the ring. But he is afraid ... of black cats! (Ripley's Believe It or Not!: Book of Chance, p. 82)**

**A British woman who suffered from agoraphobia for 20 years has finally left her house. Sue Curtis, 40, first began experiencing fear of the outdoors when her two sons were toddlers. Her panic attacks became so acute that they would surface if she tried to leave her home in northern England. But after taking free self-help classes on the Internet, and becoming fascinated by the sights she was seeing on Google Maps, Curtis can now make it down her street and back without fear. "It may not seem very far to walk, but for me this is amazing. And now I don't see a reason why I can't be cured in the future and lead a normal life again." (The Week magazine, April 24, 2009)**

**Louis Pasteur, whose work on wine, vinegar, and beer led to pasteurization, had an obsessive fear of dirt and infection. He refused to shake hands, and he carefully wiped plate and glass before dining. (Isaac Asimov's Book of Facts, p. 147)**

**Louis Pasteur was so obsessive about germs that he refused to shake hands with people. *(Russ Edwards & Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Digest, p. 54)***

**What the average race car driver fears most, according to the pollsters, is riding in a car with somebody else at the wheel. (*L. M. Boyd)***

**J. K. Rowling's fear of losing it all: J. K. Rowling can't get used to being rich, said Geordie Greig in the Daily Mail (U.K.). In the early 1990s, Rowling was a single mother living on welfare in the Scottish city Edinburgh, where she had moved following the breakdown of her marriage to a Portuguese journalist. "I was as poor as it's possible to be in this country," said Rowling, 48. "I remember 20 years ago not eating so my daughter would eat." Then she got an advance for the first Harry Potter book, and things started to turn around. "We stopped renting, and I could buy a house. Next it wasn't just advances, it was royalties coming in. Then you need advice on not blowing it. I was terrified of pressing the wrong button and losing everything and having to look my daughter in the face and say, 'We briefly had a house, and now through a stupid error....'" Even now, as perhaps the world's only author who became a billionaire through her work, she still worries about money. When she met TV host Oprah Winfrey, they compared attitudes. "Oprah said, 'Have you accepted now that you will always be rich?' I said, 'No. I don't know that.' It bears no relation to what is in your bank account, it is purely emotional." (*The Week magazine, November 22, 2013)***

**It has been determined -- and you, too, may find this report satisfying -- that the great white shark is scared of the dark. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**George Bernard Shaw had a phobia about bald heads. Couldn't bear the sight of them. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Sheep naturally flock together out of fear. They have many natural predators, and no way of protecting themselves. Many shepherds keep larger animals, such as mules or llamas, with their flock in order to frighten off coyotes and wolves. *(Tidbits)***

**George Washington was scared to death that he'd be buried alive. Just before he died, he demanded his body be kept above ground for a few days in the event he might come to. (Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Book)**

**A reader named Ruth says she's scared of the water. Her husband bought a new boat, but she refused to go aboard. He named the boat Ruthless. (L. M. Boyd)**

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