**Thanksgiving - Trivia**

**The first recorded American thanksgiving took place in Virginia, and it wasn't a feast. The spring of 1610 at Jamestown ended a winter that came to be called “the starving time.” The original contingent of 409 colonists had been reduced to 60 survivors. They prayed for help, with no way of knowing if or when any might come. When help did arrive, in the form of a ship filled with food and supplies from England, they held a prayer service to give thanks. (Reader's Digest: Strange Stories, Amazing Facts, p. 198)**

**According to The Bagels’ Bagel Book: “In 1683 in Vienna, Austria, a local Jewish baker wanted to thank the King of Poland for protecting his countrymen from Turkish invaders. He made a special hard roll in the shape of a riding stirrup – Beugel in Austrian – commemorating the king’s favorite pastime, and giving the bagel its distinctive shape.” *(Uncle John’s Best Bathroom Reader, P. 27)***

**Canada celebrates Thanksgiving in October. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Thanksgiving dinner is getting more expensive. A turkey dinner for 10 with all of the fixings will cost 13 percent more this year than in 2010, according to an annual supermarket survey. To blame: rising commodities prices. (Time.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, November 25, 2011)**

**President Abraham Lincoln established Thanksgiving as an official national holiday, but the real “father” of Thanksgiving was a woman newspaper editor. Sarah Josepha Buell Hale, born in 1788, spent 26 years writing an endless stream of letters and newspaper editorials in her relentless campaign for the holiday, says historian John Frantz. While she served as editor of Godey’s Lady’s Book – the most widely read ladies’ magazine in the U.S. at the time, with a circulation of 150,000 – Mrs. Hale wrote a number of editorials urging that Thanksgiving be made a national holiday, said Frantz. In an unrelenting letter campaign, she also wrote numerous prominent citizens, governors and U.S. Presidents. By 1859, 30 of the 33 states were observing Thanksgiving on the last Thursday in November -- many because of her efforts. In September 1863, Lincoln finally proclaimed that a national day of Thanksgiving would be observed and celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November, bringing Mrs. Hale’s decades-long campaign to a successful end, said Dr. Frantz*. (Bob Temmey, in National Enquirer)***

**Football and Thanksgiving teamed up in 1934 when Detroit Lions owner George Richards proposed the holiday game to attract more fans. It worked, and the Lions have played every Thanksgiving Day since, except during World War II. (American Profile magazine)**

**To thank actor Harrison Ford for narrating a documentary, the London Museum of Natural History named a spider after him called Calponia Harrisonfordi. *(Noel Botham, in The Ultimate Book of Useless Information, p. 140)***

**The first Thanksgiving lasted three days.** ***(Don Voorhees, in The Super Book of Useless Information, p. 243)***

**THE ALL-AMERICAN TURKEY DAY holiday was always on the last Thursday of November – thanks to an 1863 proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln – until 1939 when President Franklin D. Roosevelt moved Thanksgiving to the second to last week of the month. His intent was to lengthen the shopping season and boost sales in the midst of the Great Depression. The idea – a kind of low-key Federal Stimulus Plan – was not well received because it ticked off traditionalists (some states continued the last Thursday tradition) and football fans (rivalry games set years in advance on the customary holiday date had to be cancelled) not to mention calendar makers with suddenly unusable inventory. Responding to the public outcry, Roosevelt in 1941 signed a law declaring the fourth Thursday of November as national Thanksgiving Day. (The Saturday Evening Post)**

**Did you know Thanksgiving really originated about 3400 years ago? In the autumn – after the harvest – God planned the people should keep a solemn feast unto the Lord. (Deuteronomy 16:13-15) David expressed his gratitude in Psalm 103, “Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.” *(Rev. Lurabelle Gustafson)***

**The Pilgrims ate popcorn during the first Thanksgiving dinner. *(Noel Botham, in The Ultimate Book of Useless Information, p. 190)***

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