**Staying in One Place**

**A grown barnacle never leaves it shell. Doesn’t even stick its head out. (L. M. Boyd)**

**In 1968, Mrs. Emma Smith, a 38-year-old housewife from Nottinghamshire, England, was buried in a coffin for 101 days as a stunt at the Skegness Amusement Park. Her feat is still unmatched--by any living human being, that is. *(Timothy T. Fullerton, in Triviata, p. 94)***

**The first federal census in the United States was taken in 1790, eleven years ahead of the first census in Great Britain. Then there was Turkey’s first census in 1928: every Turk, except for the census takers themselves and the troops guarding them, was confined to his home for the entire day. *(Donner & Eve Paige Spencer, in A Treasury of Trivia, p. 101)***

**China was one of the places where agriculture began. People in the area were already farming about 6,000 years ago. This gave them an advantage over hunters and gatherers, who moved to follow food sources. (Betty Debnam, in Rocky Mountain News)

A starfish devours a clam. The clam then seals shut its shell and marks time for about 14 days in the intestinal tract, until the starfish excretes it. The clam then goes off on its own again, unharmed. (L. M. Boyd)**

**In 1902, when Mount Pelee on the island of Martinique in the West Indies erupted, 38,000 people were asphyxiated by gases and fumes. The only survivor was a criminal in an underground prison. *(Barbara Seuling)***

**After five years of gallivanting around the globe, Charles Darwin settled down at Down House in Downe, England. Other than day trips to London, he hardly left his neighborhood for the remaining 45 years of his life. (Steve Mirsky, in Scientific American)**

**Good week for: Oblivion, after a Russian man, passed out drunk on train tracks, continued sleeping as 140-ton cargo train roared just inches over his prone form. “It was lucky he was so drunk,” said the train’s engineer, Vladimir Slabiy. “If he had woken from the noise, he would have lifted his head and that would have been the end of him.” (The Week magazine, September 16, 2005)**

**The really heroic people are not the ones who travel 10,000 miles by dog sled but those who stay 10,000 days in one place. *(William Gordon)***

**On Earth the surface is changing all the time. The Moon, however, is a dead place with no atmosphere and no weather to erode and change the landscape. So Moon dust and rock have lain in the same positions for millions of years. The youngest Moon rock analyzed was 3.1 billion years old. *(Pam Beasant, in 1000 Facts about Space, p. 35)***

**When Vesuvius blew up in 79 A.D. and laid down its lethal blanket of cinders and gasses, 2,000 citizens of Pompeii ran into their cellars to wait until the whole thing blew over. They were still there when excavators found them, 1,800 years later. *(Bernie Smith, in The Joy of Trivia, p. 260)***

**A rock picked up by astronaut David Scott, pilot of Apollo 15, had been lying at the foot of the lunar Apennine Mountains for 400 million years without moving a millimeter. (Earl Ubell, in The Living World of Nature, p. 30)**

**Right now, with so many crises building up in Germany, Africa, etc., it seems to me what the world needs most is a rocking chair. It needs to sit down and take its headaches in its hands and rock. After a while it might find itself a little calmer, friendlier. When we lost the old rocking chair, we lost a lot. It caused us many hours of pleasant reverie and sage philosophizing. It might be good for a world that needs a lot of peace! (Helen Harrington, Wallaces' Farmer and Iowa Homestead)**

**You complain that you never go anywhere? Well, many small rodents live out their entire existence without ever straying more than 20 feet from the place of their birth. *(Denver P. Tarle, in A Treasury of Trivia, p. 7)***

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