

Sunflower Seeds



This month's featured articles:

Sunflower Chapter needs new testing coordinator.

Monthly News Brief by Rich Alcott.

Once again, more jokes from Mike Dickson.

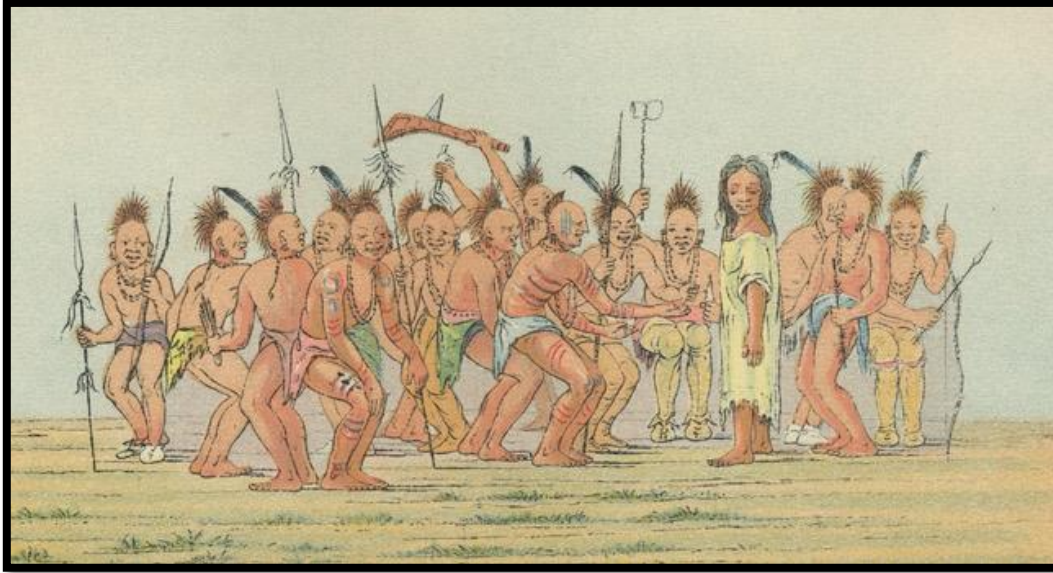
A tale of washer woes.

The Seeds may be going to a quarterly format.

MARCH 2018

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Dance of the Berdashe. Drawn by George Caitlin during his travels with Native Tribes during the 1830's.

March 2018 Events:

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Angelo's Italian Restaurant: 5231 E. Central - 12:45 pm
4 Geraldine Flaharty	5	6	7	8	9	10 Stated Meeting Guest Speaker - 2:00pm
11	12	13 Tara Goodwin	14	15	16 Jeffrey Akin	17 St. Patrick's Day Food for Thought - 11:00am
18	19	20	21	22 Saralyn Smith Bo Anderson	23 Mark Ward	24 Banter and Books Barnes & Noble's - 7:00pm
25	26 Harold Gaines Allison Penner	27	28 Sarah Ross	29	30 Good Friday	31 Blue Moon Meeting Art Museum Lounge - 12:45pm

Guest Speakers Information

Last Month's Speaker:



Kiana Knolland of the ACLU

We had an interesting time at the meeting, and there was much spirited discussion. The need for ACLU volunteers was brought up, along with some information on the current goals and state initiatives going on with their organization. Two major areas that they are addressing are: Problems with low, low-income voter turn-outs, and the insidious civil forfeiture proceedings that continue to plague the citizens of this country. An article explaining the workings of civil forfeiture in Kansas was uploaded as a supplement to the February Seeds by the editor.

This Month's Speaker:

Our own Dr. David Walter Hodgson, retired history professor, will talk about important civil engineering achievements that were accomplished in the Western United States during the time period concurrent with the "civil war". He will focus on the one general who was not actively involved in combat.

*Editors comment: Any red-blooded Southerner would call it the "War of Northern Aggression". ☺

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Well, it's about time

The way we do Time is dumb. Does it make sense to have a new day start in the middle of the night? Strictly speaking, the morning's half gone by the time morning starts.

The annual calendar is just wrong, too. If I had my druthers, we'd celebrate New Year in March. That's when the things start moving again after a long Winter sleep, with sprouts sprouting and buds budding all over the place.

Speaking of new things sprouting, we have a few new leadership teams here in the Heartland Region. Central Iowa Mensans elected **Kristi Kozuki** to succeed **Michelle Herring** as LocSec; High Mountain Mensans chose **Gary Preslan** to succeed **Edith Johnston**; and in Wyoming Mountain Mensa, **Bess Carnahan** is taking over for **Fred Coles**. Many thanks to the outgoing officers for their years of service and to the new leaders for stepping up. And a gasp of appreciation for you current LocSecs who are Marching into an additional term of office.

Which brings me, naturally, to the April start of American Mensa's fiscal and membership years. Just the other day my Local Group's Treasurer was grouching to me about the inconvenience of having Mensa's fiscal year three months out of sync with the civil year. No problem summarizing a civil year, but you have to play spreadsheet tricks to get the fiscal year into one set of figures.

That membership year thing – your Mensahood may be in jeopardy. Mensa memberships expire at the end of March. Check the mailing label on your *Bulletin* or newsletter, or logon to us.mensa.org and navigate to *MyMensa*→*MyProfile*. Unless you're a Life Member or have a multi-year membership that spans 2018, it's time to re-up or you'll miss out on stuff. Online's the easiest way, but I'm sure the National Office will accept a check.

One reason to keep that membership going – CultureQuest®. It's a nation-wide 250-questions-in-90-minutes team trivia contest, top teams get \$\$ and the rest of the proceeds go to the MERF Scholarship fund. (Details are at us.mensa.org→*Play*→*CultureQuest*→*ContestRules*.) If the thought of that excites you, ask your LocSec "Where do I sign up for CQ?" But you have to be a paid-up 2018 member by March 31 to play.

~~ Rich

Testing Coordinator Desperately needed! Our thanks to Dan Gollub for a job well done and hope him the best of luck in his future adventures. We do however need someone to replace him and carry on testing and recruitment. One caveat, a College degree is required.

Sunflower Seeds may become a quarterly instead of monthly publication. Unless there is input to the contrary, the next Seeds in March will be for April and May as well. In other words, the Seeds will only be published 4 times a year as opposed to on a monthly basis. This is meant to be a cost cutting measure, which hopefully will not have any negative repercussions. Your opinion matters!

As told by our very own Mike Dickson.

FUNNY & WEIRD (WTF)

#6971 In 1982 the mayor of Key West Florida announced the town's secession from the USA, immediately declared war against the Union, surrendered after one minute, & applied for one billion dollars in foreign aid.

#4314 In 1140, when an opposition castle was captured by King Conrad III. the women of the castle were granted free departure & allowed to take what they could carry on their backs. Quick thinkers, they carried out the men. The King kept his word & let the men live.

#5690 In. 1861, slave Robert Smalls stole a Confederate ship & took it to the Union. He was given command of a Union ship, became a general, then purchased his owner's house & let the sick wife of his owner live there till she died. He became literate & served 5 years in Congress.

#6659 In 1850, Dimitri Mendeleev walked almost a 1000 miles to Moscow to apply to the University of Moscow. Not accepted, he walked to St Petersburg where he was accepted. And with that education he developed the Periodic Table of the Elements.

#4625 Mithridates VI was so paranoid of being poisoned that he took small doses throughout his life to build up immunity. Finally captured by the Romans, he tried to kill himself by poison, but failed because he was immune.

#3583 In 19r5, a B-25 bomber pilot crashed into the Empire State Building's elevator shaft, snapping the elevator cable. By the time the plane carriage reached bottom, 1000 ft. of cable had piled up beneath it, acting like a spring, which allowed him to escape injured but alive.

#687 Tom Hanks became the first actor in history who never served to be inducted (as an honorary member) in the US Army Ranger Hall of Fame. It was for his commitment to honoring war heroes as a national spokesman for the WWII Memorial Campaign

#8349 The inventor of Coca Cola was a Confederate soldier wounded in battle who had surgery & became addicted to morphine. He tried to make a cure for the addiction, but instead came up with Coke.

#1373 Eating chocolate before studying &/or taking tests increases your chances of understanding info & passing with a high grade.

#2166 There is a lake in the country of Palau where jellyfish developed without stingers. After the lake connection with the sea closed, they were isolated from natural predators. These golden jellyfish are harmless to humans & you can swim with them.

#3501 The German government refuses to recognize Scientology as a religion. The organization has officially been labelled as an "abusive business masquerading as a religion".

FUN FACT: Kids voting in the next election are the same ones eating Tide Pods now.

I've got a Pet Peeve. I've got to keep reminding myself that most people have at least one. And it is really not that big that I've got to get rid of it. What it is can be described as the phrase "I've got". If you look at the phrase there are three words there. They are "I", "have" and "got". Now if you say them one at a time you get I have got. Well if you have it you've got it. So why do I say I've got"? Is it because that is an accepted thing or because that is the way I learned it or is it my north USA way of talking? Whatever it is I know I've got a pet peeve, now if I could just stop using it.

~~ Dexter Schnebly

Washing Machine Woes.

The old wash machine got to working rather poorly. I looked at it with the idea that I would fix it but then I decided I'm too old and tired of doing that myself, so I called the Sear's home repair service. (It is a Sear's machine.) They wanted the model number and serial number that are just inside the top door. I gave them that and he said it was purchased in September of 1993 (I think that is it).

He then began this sales pitch to buy maintenance insurance for only \$49.99 per year and it would cover parts if any repair were needed. There would be an \$80.00 charge for somebody to come look at it and tell me what if anything was needed. That fee would be taken off if they then fixed it. The guy was one of those pushy types. But I agreed with him in that parts are expensive, and it might pay for itself. I called it \$50.00 and he kept saying \$49.99 like there was a big difference! I bought the insurance and then he scheduled a service call to look at the machine.

The service guy showed up on time and went straight to work. I watched so I'd know how to take the machine apart if needed. He said the machine was in bad shape, which I already knew. A seal wore out that had caused a leak of transmission fluid onto the floor under the machine and ruined the motor as well. Also the drive shaft needed replacing and a few other things. He looked up the stuff on his computer and said it would be \$708.00 to fix it! He added you could buy a new one for less. He then called the insurance company and using his phone showed them the parts and problems in real time. He even showed them the model and serial numbers and they made a "frame grab" picture of it. They agreed it needed the parts as stated by the service guy. They said they would allow \$500.00 towards the purchase of a new machine. (Seems the insurance had a limit of \$500.00 on each call, that had been skipped over in the sales pitch.)

We went to Sear's to see what we might get. We ended up buying a new machine listed at \$750.00 on sale for less. After all the sale price and taxes and delivery charges we paid about \$150.00 to have a new machine delivered, installed and the old one taken away.

We were told that the new machines used a third as much water for a "load", also the motor would take less power thus saving the environment. We were warned that if you did bedding you could only do one at a time. But I could not get out of him if "one" meant one sheet or one set. Still do not know! They did say that the drum spins at such a fast rate that clothes are almost dry when they come out.

What he did not say was how big is a "load" of clothes? There is this really BIG drum to put the clothes into, but you do not fill it like the old machines. If a short person were to try to reach the clothes after a wash I'm not sure they could reach that far! They also did not say that a load takes a minimum of 55 minutes and goes up for some stuff.

It appears that a "load" is about one fourth of what an old load would be. I figure the environment is not being saved but used more. The clothes do dry faster. So maybe there is some environmental savings.

Two Days to a Week

Back in my working for living days I was told that there were seven days to a week. That seven-day week only had a two-day break to get home life things done. Those two days were rather packed at times.

Now that I have been retired for a few years I have come to realize that I was wrong all that time! That is I now know that there are really only two days in a week. Those two days are Saturday and Sunday. There are six Saturdays and one Sunday in a week.

One could argue that there are really three days to a week since one of the Saturday's has all sorts of people getting in the way when doing something. But if that were the case what would you call that busy day?

~~ Dexter Schnebly