

Column for Sunday, December 18, 2005

RANDOM KINDS OF FACTNESS:

by Erin Barrett & Jack Mingo

This day in history: The Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was formally proclaimed on December 18, 1865, ending slavery.

Erin Barrett and Jack Mingo can be reached at factmongers@mingo-barrett.com

Column for Monday, December 19, 2005

RANDOM KINDS OF FACTNESS:

by Erin Barrett & Jack Mingo

This day in history: Although it would be another couple of weeks until Popular Electronics magazine made the computer kit widely available, the first personal computer—the Altair 8800—was first available on this day, December 19, 1974. Many consider the Altair 8800 to be the first major consumer spark in the personal computer revolution.

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Column for Tuesday, December 20, 2005

RANDOM KINDS OF FACTNESS:

by Erin Barrett & Jack Mingo

This day in history: And so it began ... December 20, 1860, South Carolina set the first spark in what would become the United States' Civil War by being the first state to secede from the Union.

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Column for Wednesday, December 21, 2005

RANDOM KINDS OF FACTNESS:

by Erin Barrett & Jack Mingo

This day in history: On December 21, 1890, women got the right to vote on the Isle of Man. At the time, the papers wrote, “Amongst the alteration of the measures made were the abolition of a property qualification for members, household suffrage in towns... and, most importantly of all, the franchise was extended to women of full age not labouring under legal disqualification.”

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Column for Thursday, December 22, 2005

RANDOM KINDS OF FACTNESS:

by Erin Barrett & Jack Mingo

This day in history: New York City golfers founded the United States Golf Association on December 22, 1894.

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Column for Friday, December 23, 2005

RANDOM KINDS OF FACTNESS:

by Erin Barrett & Jack Mingo

This day in history: Peter Brent Brigham Hospital was the site of the very first successful, living donor kidney transplant, today, December 23, 1954. Twins Richard and Ronald Herrick were the patients. Richard was dying of kidney failure; Ronald had two healthy kidneys. Because they were identical twins, Richard's body accepted the kidney. 'Twas truly the Season of Giving in the Herrick home.

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Column for Saturday, December 24, 2005

RANDOM FACTNESS:

by Erin Barrett & Jack Mingo

This day in history: The words to a song, “Stille Nact,” by Josef Mohr, were taken to Austrian headmaster Franz X. Gruber, on Christmas Eve, 1818 to write a guitar accompaniment for them. The song—our “Silent Night”—was completed that night, in time for the next day’s Christmas Mass.

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