

FLEET FOCUS

A newsletter from Lee County Fleet Management

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THE STORY BEHIND THE PICTURE

Back in the 15th century, in a tiny village near Nuremberg, lived a family with 18 children. In order to keep food on the table, the father, a goldsmith by profession, worked almost 18 hours a day at his trade and any other paying chore he could find in the neighborhood. Despite their seemingly hopeless condition, two of the children had a dream. They both wanted to pursue their talent for art, but they knew that their father would never be financially able to send either of them to Nuremberg to study at the Academy. After many long discussions at night in their crowded bed, the two boys finally worked out a pact. They would toss a coin. The loser would go down into the nearby mines and, with his earnings, support his brother while he attended the academy. Then, when that brother who won the toss completed his studies in four years, he would support the other brother at the academy, either with sales of his artwork or, if necessary, also by laboring in the mines. They tossed a coin on a Sunday morning after church. Albrecht Durer won the toss and went off to Nuremberg. Albert went down into the dangerous mines and for the next 4 years, financed his brother, whose work at the academy was almost an immediate sensation. Albrecht's etchings, his woodcuts, and his oils were far better than those of most of his professors, and by the time he graduated, he was beginning to earn considerable fees for his commissioned works.

When the young artist returned to his village, the Durer family held a festive dinner on their lawn to celebrate Albrecht's triumphant homecoming. After a long and memorable meal, punctuated with music and laughter, Albrecht rose from his honored position at the head of the table to drink a toast to his beloved brother for the years of sacrifice that had enabled Albrecht to fulfill his ambition. His closing words were, "And now, Albert, blessed brother of mine, now it is your turn. Now you can go to Nuremberg to pursue your dream, and I will take care of you." All heads turned in eager expectation to the far end of the table where Albert sat, tears streaming down his pale face, shaking his lowered head from side to side while he sobbed and repeated, over and over, "No ...no ...no ...no." Finally, Albert rose and wiped the tears from his cheeks. He glanced down the long table at the faces he loved, and then, holding his hands close to his right cheek, he said softly, "No, brother. I cannot go to Nuremberg. It is too late for me. Look ... look what four years in the mines have done to my hands! The bones in every finger have been smashed at least once. Lately I have been suffering from arthritis so badly in my right hand that I cannot even hold a glass to return your toast, much less make delicate lines on parchment or canvas with a pen or a brush. No, brother ... for me it is too late." One day, to pay homage to Albert for all that he had sacrificed, Albrecht Durer painstakingly drew his brother's abused hands with palms together and thin fingers stretched skyward. He called his powerful drawing simply "Hands," but the entire world almost immediately opened their hearts to his great masterpiece and renamed his tribute of love "The Praying Hands."

More than 450 years have passed. Hundreds of Albrecht Durer's masterful portraits, pen and silver-point sketches, watercolors, charcoals, woodcuts, and copper engravings hang in every great museum in the world, but the odds are great that you, like most people, are familiar with only one of Albrecht Durer's works. The next time you see a copy of that touching creation, take a second look. Let it be your reminder that no one – no one – ever makes it alone!

(excerpt from a book by John Maxwell)

**DO I REALLY NEED TO
KNOW THIS?**

**** Beaver teeth are so sharp that they were once used as knife blades.**

**** An albatross can sleep while it flies. It dozes while cruising at 25 mph.**

** The last thing to happen is the ultimate. The next-to-last is the penultimate. The second-to-last is the antepenultimate.

** The study of word origins is called etymology. The study of insects is called entomology.

** A small European plum named a "sloe" is used to flavor the liqueur called "sloe gin."

** The Vatican's Swiss Guard still wear a uniform designed by Michelangelo in the early 16th century.

** Wild Bill Hickock was killed playing poker, holding two pairs - aces and eights, which has become known as the 'Dead Man's Hand.'

** The McDonald's at Toronto's SkyDome is the only one to sell hot dogs.

** The average speed of Heinz ketchup leaving the bottle is 25 miles per year. ** In space a person cannot cry because there is no gravity to make the tears flow.

** The Eisenhower interstate system requires that one mile in every five must be straight. The straight sections are useable as airstrips in times of war or other emergencies.

** There are more plastic lawn flamingos in the U.S. than real ones.

** The speed record on the moon is 10.56 mph set in a lunar rover.

** Elephants are fond of beer and other alcohol.

** The hippopotamus is the heaviest of all land animals weighing as much as 8,000 lbs. and is a close relative of the pig.

** The kinkajou, a nocturnal fruit-eating mammal of South America, has a tail twice as long as its body. Every night, it wraps itself in its tail and uses it as a pillow. The kinkajou is related to the racoon.

** David Sutch, a.k.a. "Screaming Lord Sutch", as leader of the Monster Raving Loony Party, was Britain's longest serving party leader until he hung himself in June 1999.

** When a polar bear cub is born it can not see or hear for about a month.

** Greyhounds have the best eyesight of any breed of dog.

** Each April 23, Turkey celebrates Cocuk Bayrami, or Children's Day. Turkish leader Mustafa Kemal Ataturk declared the holiday in 1920 as Turkey was becoming an independent nation to illustrate that children were the future of the new nation.

** Though baby birds are born with the ability to sing, they must learn the songs of their species. An isolated baby bird will learn simple songs, but not the complex songs of its species. A bird must hear in order to learn.



LEE FLEET WINS

NATIONAL AWARD

Lee County Fleet Management won the runner-up spot in the Association of Equipment Professionals' annual Fleet Masters award. The award was presented at their annual conference in Orlando. Bill Prussman, Brad Wright and Marilyn Rawlings were on hand to receive the award.



NEW TIRE VENDOR

If you have a tire problem while in south Lee County, you can contact Fleet's new tire vendor, Boulevard Tires on Alico Road west of I-75. You must have a County ID, your County vehicle number and authorization / release number from Fleet (Boulevard Tire will call Fleet for that).



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO U

Nuray Carter	4/05
Colin Powell	4/05
Bob Surratt	4/09
Carlos Cruz	4/09
Leonardo daVinci	4/15
Barbra Streisand	4/24
Dale Earnhardt	4/29

LAST MONTH'S TRIVIA

Whose real name is Paul David Hewson?

- Paul McCartney
- David Bowie
- Bono
- Thomas Edison

The correct answer is "C" Bono. **Paul David Hewson**, born May 10, 1960 in Glasnevin, Dublin, Ireland, is the main vocalist of the Irish rock band U2. Jonathan Joseph from DOT Operations was this month's randomly selected prize winner. Way to go Jonathan. Thanks to everyone who played our trivia game.



TAX TIDBITS

** The US federal income tax was first enacted in 1862 to support the Union's Civil War effort. It was eliminated in 1872, revived in 1894 then declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court the following year. In 1913, the 16th Amendment to the Constitution made the income tax a permanent fixture in the US tax system.

** The first 1040 form was 4 pages long including instructions. Today, the instructions alone are 92 pages.

** During World War I, the highest rate of income tax was 77 percent. Taxes were used to help finance the war.

CAR WASHING INFO...

If people are writing messages in the dirt on your County vehicle rather than using your Outlook email account, you may need to visit one of the Soapy Suds car washes

located in Lee County. Primary locations are on Palm Beach Blvd. in Tice, on Winkler Avenue across from Bill Branch Chevrolet, and on South Cleveland near Beall's. Tokens are available at a reduced rate from Jill at Fleet. The request for tokens is available on the Fleet web site. Thursday appointments for car washing and detailing are also available by calling Karen at 338-3239.



BASEBALL TRIVIA

** Anyone who has ever been to a baseball game has undoubtedly heard the familiar lyrics, "Take me out to the ball game, take me out with the crowd..." This classic tune was created in 1908 when entertainer Jack Norworth scribbled some lyrics on scrap paper during a train ride to Manhattan, NY. Norworth later gave the lyrics to Albert Von Tilzer who composed the music, and the song went on to be published by the NY Music Company. "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" was a hit before the year was over! It took Norworth a total of 15 minutes to write a song that has been sung during the 7th inning stretch at nearly every baseball game in the US.

** The inventor of baseball is also credited with firing the first Union shot of Civil war.

** The baseball tradition of spring training came about in 1885 when the Chicago White Stockings went to Hot Springs, AR to prepare for the new season.

** In July 1934, Babe Ruth paid a fan \$20 for the return of the baseball he hit for his 700th career home run.

** In an effort to sell more licensed apparel, minor-league baseball teams were changing their names so often that the sport's governing body now limits franchises to team name changes every three years. ** The first perfect nine inning baseball game was pitched by John Lee Richmond on June 12, 1880.

** Baseball ended one of its oldest traditions in 1997 when inter-league play began for the first time. This means that teams from the American league can play National league teams during the regular season. The first inter league game was played on June 12, 1997.

** The first radio broadcast of a major league baseball game was in 1921 on station KDKA in Pittsburgh.

FAMOUS APRIL FOOL'S DAY PRANKS

** In 1957, a BBC television show announced

that thanks to a mild winter and the virtual elimination of the spaghetti weevil, Swiss farmers were enjoying a bumper spaghetti crop. Footage of Swiss farmers pulling strands of spaghetti from trees prompted a barrage of calls from people wanting to know how to grow their own spaghetti at home.

** Noted British astronomer Patrick Moore announced on the radio in 1976 that at 9:47 am, a once-in-a-lifetime astronomical event, in which Pluto would pass behind Jupiter, would cause a gravitational alignment that would reduce the Earth's gravity. Moore told listeners that if they jumped in the air at the exact moment of the planetary alignment, they would experience a floating sensation. Hundreds of people called in to report feeling the sensation.

** In 1996, American fast-food chain Taco Bell announced that it had bought Philadelphia's Liberty Bell from the federal government and was renaming it the Taco Liberty Bell. Hundreds of people called Taco Bell before the company revealed the hoax. Then-White House press secretary Mike McCurry was asked about the sale and said the Lincoln Memorial in Washington had also been sold and was to be renamed the Ford

Lincoln Mercury Memorial after the automotive giant.



RAWLINGS LISTED IN TOP FLEET MANAGERS

Automotive Fleet Magazine's March /April 2009 issue listed Lee County Fleet Manager, Marilyn Rawlings, in its list of the top 31 Fleet Managers in the country. Rawlings' credentials and accomplishments will be reviewed by a panel of industry leaders. The field will be narrowed to three finalists, and the winner will be announced at the opening day of the NAFA Fleet Management Institute in New Orleans Louisiana. Rawlings was one of two females nominated for the award. California topped the list with the greatest number of nominees (7), while Arizona had three (3). Colorado, Texas, Virginia, Colorado and Florida had two (2). Way to go Marilyn! We're proud of you no matter what!

Spring Fever is a real physical condition which commonly occurs when a sudden warm spell follows a long cold period. When the temperature rises, the body has to get rid of heat; thus there's a dilation or expansion of the blood vessels so that blood can be carried to the body surface where heat can be lost quickly. Some people experience an energetic feeling when this change happens due to the body's reaction to the great amount of internal work going on.

QUOTABLE QUOTES:

An eye for an eye only ends up making the whole world blind.

- Mohandas K. Gandhi

To achieve results I desire, it is not even necessary that I enjoy the process. It is only important that I *continue* the process with my eyes on the outcome. An athlete does not enjoy the pain of training; an athlete enjoys the results of having trained. A young falcon is pushed from the nest, afraid and tumbling from the cliff. The pain of learning to fly cannot be an enjoyable experience, but the anguish of learning to fly is quickly forgotten as the falcon soars to the heavens."

- Andy Andrews
"The Traveler's Gift"



SPRING FEVER