

11,000 Leap Day Babies Join the Birthday-Scarce

Washington — Some 11,000 babies were born in the United States Monday, Feb. 29 — the rarest day on the 1960 calendar.

The estimated crop of Leap Year Day babies — based on census estimates — joined 118,000 other Americans whose birthday comes only once every four years.

Many may consider this a minor tragedy. Several famous people have been born on Feb. 29, including Ann Lee, founder of the Shaker sect, and the Italian opera composer, Gioacchino Rossini. At 72, Rossini celebrated what he termed his 18th birthday and facetiously announced that he planned to turn over a new leaf and abandon the frivolities of youth.

Rossini, Gilbert Miscalculated

Actually Rossini was a year younger by the calendar than he thought, because 1800 was not a leap year. W. S. Gilbert made a similar miscalculation in the "Pirates of Penzance," whose plot concerns a pirate's apprentice born on Leap Day.

The rule is that every year represented by a number divisible by 4 is a leap year, except those divisible by 100 but not 400. Thus 2000 will be a leap year, but 1300 and 1900 were not.

The calendar oddities arose because the earth does not go around the sun in an exact number of days. The ancient Egyptians calculated that it took about 365 1/4 days — a figure remarkably close to the modern estimate of 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes, and 45.1 seconds.

Julius Caesar, in promulgating the Julian calendar in 45 B. C., assigned 365 days to normal years, with an extra day added to every fourth year.

Julius quite naturally added the odd day to February, which then was the last month of the year. The old Roman year began in March, which explains how September (seventh month), October (eighth month), November (ninth month), and December (tenth month) got their names.

At first Julius' calendar worked well enough. But by the 16th century, the calendar year had gained so much on the solar year that spring was coming in early March instead of on the March 21 equinox. Pope Gregory XIII (1502-1585) dropped 10 days from the year, decreeing that henceforth leap years should be omitted in all century years not divisible by 400.

Reforms Proposed

Even with this refinement, a drift of more than a week may occur by A. D. 10,000. A Presbyterian minister-astronomer suggested in 1956 that leap year be suspended until the year 2000 to allow the calendar to correct itself. To the relief of tradition's husband seeking women, the proposal was not adopted.

The forecast for this year's leap year babies was veered by the Census Bureau to the current daily average — 11,000. For their future birthdays, infants arriving on the 29th will have a traditional recourse: they can adopt Feb. 28 or March 1 as

their birthday in years without leap days.

This custom has some legal sanction.

An Act of Parliament passed during the reign of Henry VIII provided that persons born February 29 were entitled to regard February 28 as their birthday anniversary in years other than leap years.

Sharon Panska of Murdock 'Capped'

Lincoln General School of Nursing held its capping ceremony Feb. 28 at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Lincoln.

Sharon Panska, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Eldon Panska of Murdock, was among 36 student nurses receiving her cap.

Following the capping ceremony, a reception was held for the student nurses and their relatives and friends in the church parlors.

Sharon was graduated from Murdock High School in 1959.

Fabian Stars In "Hound Dog Man" at the Cass

"Hound-Dog Man," Jerry Wald's CinemaScope, De Luxe production for Twentieth Century-Fox, which introduces to the screen the 16-year-old rock 'n roll singing sensation Fabian, will have its local premiere on Sat., Mon. Tues., March 6, 7 and 8 at the Cass Theatre. The dramatic story of the backwoods adapted from Fred Gipson's novel of the same name; also stars Stuart Whitman in the title role, Carol Lynley, overnight star of "Blue Denim," another rock 'n roller, 13-year-old Dottie "Pink Shoelaces" Stevens, and Arthur O'Connell.

In addition to being the vehicle for Fabian's acting debut, "Hound-Dog Man" director Don Siegel's first picture for Fox, also gives the Fabulous one a chance to sing five rock 'n roll songs, especially scored for him.

Journal Want Ads Pay



EAST LANSING, Mich. — Warren G. Kneer, son of Mrs. E. A. Kneer, 910 Avenue "D", Plattsmouth, Neb., one of 15 new members of the Michigan State University chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, national history honorary society, chats with faculty advisor Dr. Harry J. Brown, associate professor of history at M.S.U., in the history department office. Membership in Phi Alpha Theta is based on scholarship and recommendation of faculty members. An all-university average of 3.0 is required of junior and senior candidates with a 3.2 average in the field of history.

News From Greenwood

Mrs. Frank Hurlbut, Phone 2685

Fred Palmquist underwent surgery at the Bryan Memorial hospital Friday morning.

Mrs. George Rouse received word from Santa Maria, Calif. that her brother George Piffold had suffered a heart attack and is confined to the hospital. He is now improving.

Mrs. Mary Fulmer is a patient at the Lincoln General hospital.

A-3c Jack Buckingham is home on a 10 day leave from the Shepard Air Force Base in Texas and is being transferred to Vandenberg Air Force Base in Calif. Jack is son of Mr. and Mrs. D. E. Buckingham.

Norman Buck son of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Buck was united in marriage to Betty JoAnn Drew of Lincoln Saturday morning February 27. The wedding was held at the Sacred Heart church in Lincoln.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Gustafson were visitors at the Harvey Schrader home in Lincoln Saturday.

Weekend guests of Mr. and Mrs. Delmar Condon was Mrs. Mondon's mother, Mrs. John Plantenberg of Emerson.

Sunday afternoon visitors at the Ross Casey home were Mr. and Mrs. George Casey and family of Lincoln.

Mrs. Kenneth Perkins of Farmington, New Mexico visited with her mother, Mrs. Nell Anderson at the home of Mrs. Norma McNairlin a few days.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Gustafson visited with his parents Mr. and Mrs. Hardy Gustafson by long distance telephone from their home at Niceville, Fla. They report the temperature in the 70's at Niceville.

Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Everett Cope were Mr. and Mrs. George Neiderhaus and family and Marilyn Loos of Lincoln and Mrs. Louise Anderson. Orville Hiles of Lincoln was a caller at the Cope home.

Mrs. Clara Pershing and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Pershing and family spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Roger and family.

Sunday guests at the Dr. N. D. Talcott home were Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Talcott of Lincoln.

Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Haertel and family spent Sunday evening with Mr. and Mrs. Roy Love.

Friday supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. D. E. Buckingham were Mr. and Mrs. Robert Buckingham and son of Lincoln.

Mr. and Mrs. George Rouse were Sunday supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Piffold of Weeping Water.

Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Bell and Lloyd were Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Duane Laistroh and family of Lincoln.

Thursday callers on Mrs. Turley Wall were Mrs. Wm. Buck.

Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Welton were Mr. and Mrs. George Welton of Colon Sunday evening visitors with Mr. and Mrs. Welton were Mr. and Mrs. Harold Piffold.

Sunday dinner guests at the E. L. McDonald home were Mr. and Mrs. Merrill Hoenshell of Lincoln.

Mr. and Mrs. Ted Stratton and family were Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Zierott of Murdock.

Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Hill of Lincoln spent Sunday evening with Mr. and Mrs. Pete Hill.

Gamma Chapter Has Meeting

The Gamma Chapter of the Alpha Delta Kappa, teachers honorary sorority held its regular February meeting at the home of Mrs. Catherine Sandin. President Ione Gleason presided.

The regular business meeting consisted of payment of membership dues and National publicity. A social hour followed the business meeting. The teachers acted as models using special items of clothing.

A silent auction followed.

Margaret Kroese and Catherine Sandin served lunch.

Next meeting will be held at Lucille Wiles's with the State president as a guest. All members are urged to attend this meeting March 12.

and family were Sunday afternoon visitors with Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wall and family.

Mr. and Mrs. John Lovell and son spent Sunday at Central City visiting relatives.

Mrs. Leonard Jewell spent Friday with Mrs. Rex Sherman and Mrs. Grace Sherman of Ashland.

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Jewell and son spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Frank Maxey of Fremont and spent Monday evening with Mr. and Mrs. Emery Sherman and Marilyn of Ashland.

Representative Chet Holifield (D-Cal.) chairman of a House subcommittee studying civil defense: "An effective civil defense would make the risks inherent in disarmament more accept-

Rotary Sees Films

The Rotary Club Tuesday noon saw color movie films of Mexico, Canada and the Pacific Northwest, shown by Art Hill who took the films on vacation trips.

L. A. Caldwell acted as program chairman for Dr. P. T. Heineman who wasn't able to attend.

High school Rotarians at the meeting were Junior Larry Toothaker and senior Charles Stoehr.

4-H QT's Meet

The 4-H QT's held their second meeting at the home of Sandra Hamilton, Feb. 26. Four members were present. The lesson was on salads and the project material was distributed. They also adopted their year plan.

The hostess served lunch which consisted of two different salads and sandwiches prepared by Sandra Hamilton — reporter, Carol Dasher.

Representative Wint Smith (R-Kan.) speaking against the lowering of tariffs: "The American farmer is already beset with so many problems that further exposing him to the cut-throat competition of foreign production would be unconscionable."

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