Determination & Effort

**Whatever thy hand findeth to do,**

**do it with all thy might.**

***(Ecclesiastes 9:10)***

**Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more**

**than all we ask or imagine . . . to him be glory!**

***(Ephesians 3:20-21)***

**Gray-headed albatrosses, famed for flocking to the South Georgia Islands near Antarctica to mate and raise chicks, routinely circle the globe between breeding seasons in a restless search for fish, British scientists discovered. For a study appearing this week in the journal Science, researchers for the British Antarctic Survey attached electronic locators to 22 birds. The researchers found that more than half of the birds flew completely around the world. One bird circled the globe three times in 18 months. *(Associated Press, as it appeared in Rocky Mountain News, January 14, 2005)***

**Because she wrote for up to 14 hours a day. Little Women author Louisa May Alcott alternated writing with her right and left hand to avoid writer’s cramp. *(Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Book, p. 85)***

**Early anglers who bottom-fished for sturgeon along the Columbia River had to hitch up teams of horses to pull out their catches. (*L. M. Boyd)***

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**Larger birds undertake even more remarkable migrations. The champ seems to be arctic tern. Some breed just 450 miles from the North Pole, and nearly all fly to Antarctica - a distance of 12,500 miles. *(Allan C. Fisher, Jr., in Reader’s Digest)***

**Arctic terns found in North America and the Arctic migrate each year as far as Antarctica and back, a round trip of over 18,000 miles. Theirs is probably the longest migratory flight. (*Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 117)***

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**On arriving in San Francisco on January 7, 1887, Thomas Stevens finished the first around-the-world tour by bicycle, almost three years after departing. Riding a Columbia high wheeler – and taking an occasional steamer when an ocean got in his way – he repelled brigands in Constantinople, instructed the shah in Persia and pedaled by parasols in Japan. *(Alison McLean, in Smithsonian magazine)***

**Isaac Asimov, who published his 200th book in 1979, turned out books at the rate of ten or more each year. *(Craig Varoga & the Associated Press editors, in It’s A Fact, p. 22)*  
Nine-year-old Rawson Stovall of Abilene, Texas, had his heart set on an Atari game machine. So he picked pecans from trees in his family’s back yard, sold them door to door and earned the money. Dick Tarpley, editor of theAbilene Reporter-News, remembers the next step in Rawson’s career: “This little fellow in a suit walked in carrying a briefcase. He said, ‘I want to write a column.’” Rawson presented Tarpley with a stack of sample columns, and letters of recommendations from two teachers and a video-game repairman. Tarpley offered Rawson a spot in the paper. Rawson’s computer reviews have brought him as much $1200 a month. Doubleday has published his book, and TV viewers in over 500 cities see him regularly on “The New Tech Times.” Says Rawson, “It beats shelling pecans.” *(Michael W. Miller, in The Wall Street Journal)*The first round-the-world automobile race began in New York in February 1908 and ended in Paris the following August. *(Rocky Mountain News)*All bears have flat feet. They walk the way you’d walk if you walked on your hands. *(L.M. Boyd)***

**Beethoven is unsurpassed in the painstaking fidelity to his music. Hardly a bar of his was not written and rewritten at least a dozen times. (*Paul Lee Tan, in Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations, p. 997)***

**Bill Belichick, the head coach of the Cleveland Browns, became one of the best strategists in football as defensive coordinator of the Super Bowl champion New York Giants. But back in 1975, Belichick was just another college graduate looking for work. When he heard that Baltimore Colts head coach Ted Marchibroda needed someone to analyze game film, Belichick offered to do the job for nothing. “I worked 16-hour days for bed and board -- and a lot of football,” Belichick recalls. “I didn’t mind. All I wanted was to be a coach, like my dad. His work ethic, was ingrained in me. He taught me not to squander opportunities.” *(Frank Litsky, in New York Times)***

**Marathoner Joan Benoit underwent knee surgery only seventeen days before the U.S. Olympic Trials, but her determination enabled her not only to make the team, but also to he first ever Olympic gold medal in her event. *(Roger Van Oech, in A Kick in the Seat of the Pants)***

**The U.S. Federal Government began printing paper currency in 1861. When they were released in 1862, the bills had to be automatically signed by hand by six people who were hired to work in the attic of the Treasury building to sign, sort, and seal the notes. Charlotte Lowe, in Fact-O-Pedia, p. 166)**

**The ancient murrelet is the bird that spends the least amount of time on land. It lives at sea and only returns to land to lay its eggs. These birds do not even return to land to feed their young, but instead coax their two-day-old chicks to swim five miles out to sea, where they are fed. *(Don Voorhees, in The Perfectly Useless Book of Useless Information, p. 158)***

**Francis Asbury, the first U.S. Methodist Episcopalbishop, covered 270,000 frontier miles between 1771 and 1816, preaching to pioneers in the American West. He preached anywhere he could attract a crowd – at camp meetings, on riverboats, in bordello parlors, and from church pulpits. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 370)***

**Clint Black, the Country Music Association’s Male Vocalist of the Year in 1990, always knew he was a singer even while holding down a job as an iron worker. But he didn’t take his future for granted. He knew his voice would improve only if he pursued every opportunity to ply his strength -- performing in clubs, on porches and at church gatherings. His hard work led to a distinctive style -- and created a following. *(Donald O. Clifton & Paula Nelson, in Reader’s Digest)***

**The most amazing of all is the blackpool warbler, a North American bird no larger than a sparrow, which flies nonstop almost 2,500 miles from its winter home in South America. The journey takes nearly 90 hours. *(Country magazine)***

**A quarter of the people in Boston now live on land that was once under water. They filled it in. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**No one ever played baseball harder than Kansas City Royals star George Brett. Once when a reporter asked the three-time batting champ and future Hall-of-Famer what he wanted to do in his last at-bat before retiring, he gave the following response: “I want to hit a routine grounder to second and run all out to first base, then get thrown out by a half step. I want to leave an example to the young guys that that’s how you play the game: all out.” *(Reader’s Digest)*Bryant rewrote one of his poetic masterpieces 99 times before publication, and it became a classic. *(Paul Lee Tan, Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations, p. 997)***

**Milkweed bugs migrate. Takes two or three generations to complete a trip, yet they always wind up where their ancestors wound up. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Gordon Bushnell always thought there ought to be a straight highway from Duluth to Fargo. About twenty years ago, he got tired of waiting for the state to build it. He decided he better just build it himself. Of course, it takes hundreds of people to build a highway. Everyone knows that -- except Gordon Bushnell. Here is a retired dairy farmer, with nothing but a wheelbarrow, a No. 2 shovel and an ancient John Deere tractor, building a highway all alone. After 20 years of dickering with landowners, obtaining easements, buying the land when he had to -- though he's far from a rich man -- Gordon Bushnell has finished nine miles. He has 191 miles to go. Gordon Bushnell is 78 years old. *("On the Road With Charles Kuralt," in Reader's Digest)***

**Luther Burbank, the plant wizard, at one time personally conducted over 6,000 experiments before finding the solution. *(Paul Lee Tan, in Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations, p. 997)*  
Burke wrote the conclusion of his speech at the trial of Hastings sixteen times, and Butler rewrote his famous Anatomytwenty times. *(Paul Lee Tan)***

**Hagar: “What’s the catch of the day?” Waiter: “Macaroni and cheese.” Hagar: “Macaroni and cheese is not a fish!” Waiter: “Sometimes we have trouble catching the catch of the day!” *(Dik Browne, in Hagar the Horrible comic strip)*Sir Winston Churchill took three years getting through eighth grade because he had trouble learning English. *(Glenn Van Ekeren, in The Speaker’s Sourcebook)***

**Cicero practiced speaking before friends every day for thirty years to perfect his elocution. *(Paul Lee Tan, in Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations, p. 997)***

**The Colorado River has been chewing away to make the Grand Canyon at least twice as long as people have existed. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**How long does it take to make a 30-second commercial with those singing and dancing raisins? About four months. Each plastic figure has to be moved between stop-action shots. That’s 24 times for every second of action. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**During his 14 years as a congressman, Anthony Weiner sponsored 191 bills. Not one of them passed. *(The Washington Post, as it appeared in The Week magazine, July 1-8, 2011)***

**Jacques Cousteau, the French underwater explorer, trained as a naval pilot in France but a near-fatal automobile accident ended his flying career. His doctor wanted to amputate his left arm because it was badly crushed but he refused to approve the operation and began swimming as therapy. Cousteau went on to invent the Aqua-lung. *(Ed Lucaire, in Celebrity Setbacks, p. 178)***

**Although at least half the original weight disappears in the process, cutting more than doubles the price of a diamond, for the labor involved is costly and arduous. The large rough gems have to be studied for days, or occasionally weeks, to determine how their grain runs. A decision is then made whether to saw against the grain or to cleave with it. If the decision is to saw, an entire day may be required for the whirling blade to slice through a single carat. If the decision is to cleave, the expert scratches a nick on the surface with a diamond chip (only diamonds are hard enough to cut diamonds), inserts a steel chisel in the groove, utters a silent prayer, and taps down sharply with a wooden or metal rod. If his calculations have been correct, the crystal will split neatly. If there is an invisible knot or fissure, the stone may shatter--reducing a $10,000 investment to dust. (Ronald Schiller, in Reader's Digest)**

**If you were a typical baby, your diapers were changed 6,608 times before you stopped wearing such. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**How long has it been since anybody compiled a new two-volume dictionary entirely in longhand? That's how Noah Webster did it. (L. M. Boyd)**

**Originality and a feeling of one’s own dignity are achieved only through work and struggle. *(Fyodor Dostoyevsky)***

**On September 18, 1904, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Glidden completed the first crossing of the Canadian Rockies by automobile, arriving exhausted from their 3,536-mile trip. The couple had driven from Boston, Mass., to Vancouver, Canada, in their 24 horsepower Napier. (Moments in Time – The History Channel)**

**A few years ago when Eli Lilly & Company asked the Food and Drug Administration to approve a new drug for arthritis, their application was a bulging 120,000 pages. It took two small trucks to transport the load to Washington. Lilly spent over $15 million on government paperwork, which adds about 50 cents every prescription. *(Joe Griffith, in Speaker’s Library of Business, p. 240)***

**Every three hours an alarm clock signaled the eagles to rotate the eggs to prevent the embryos from sticking to the shells. In the wild, the parents would have gently turned the eggs with their beaks. *(Mark Walters, in Reader’s Digest)***

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**Easy doesn’t do it. *(Al Bernstein, in Chicago Sun -Times)***

**You work hard and you’re finally on Easy Street; then you discover there’s no parking. *(Bits & Pieces)***

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**Everything comes to those who hustle while they wait. *(Thomas A. Edison)***

**Thomas Alva Edison, one of history’s most successful inventors, tried 6,000 different materials in his search for a filament for his light bulb, including a fishline, a blade of grass, a hair from an assistant’s head, before he settled on a charred length of sewing thread. *(Bernie Smith, in The Joy of Trivia, p. 48)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*Certain kinds of European eels lay their eggs in the Sargasso Sea, on the edge of the Gulf of Mexico, thousands of miles from their home rivers. To reach the spawning grounds, they leave the European streams, using any kind of waterway they can find, or even traveling short distances by land when obstacles such as dams force them to do so. When they reach the ocean, they set out on a compass course for their destination 3,000 to 6,000 miles away. The adult eel does not return from the spawning ground but, carried by the Gulf Stream, the newly spawned larvae return to Europe, a journey of about three years’ duration. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 122)***

**The yolk of a bird’s egg is connected to the shell by albumen “ropes.” During incubation, these ropes break, and the mother bird must rotate her eggs to keep the yolks in the center while the chicks are forming. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 119)***

**The Eiffel Tower is repainted by hand every seven years. (*Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Wise Up!, p. 259)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*Of all wild animals, it’s said, the baby elephant is the most difficult to raise. This has to do with feeding every four hours day and night for more than a year. *(L. M. Boyd)*  
How long does a mama elephant nurse her young? Five years. *(L. M. Boyd)***

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**Emus don’t fly, but they do migrate, by walking up to three hundred miles or more in search of rain. *(Don Voorhees, in The Perfectly Useless Book of Useless Information, p. 160)*  
In the early fifteenth century, scholars in China compiled an encyclopedia consisting of 11,095 volumes. *(David Louis, in Fascinating Facts, p. 30)***

**If starting your own business is what you’d like to do, please note that studies at Tulane University suggest the average entrepreneur fails 3.8 times before making it work. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Field crossed the ocean fifty times to lay a cable so men could talk across the oceans. *(Paul Lee Tan, in Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations)***

**Myrtle Fillmore spent many hours at her desk during the first years of her prayer ministry - known today as Silent Unity. Initially, she personally wrote all the letters that were sent to friends who asked for prayer help. *(Unity Progress Newsletter)***

**A flea can jump 30,000 times without stopping. *(Snapple)***

**It takes two hundred thousand frowns to produce one wrinkle. *(Barbara Seuling, in You Can’t Sneeze with Your Eyes Open, p. 21)***

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**To get at every ounce of gold the earth might yield, miners have dug as deep as 2 1/2 miles. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 19)*  
  
In order to gain 400 tons of gold a year, the Rand Group of mines in South Africa has to raise and mill over 60 million tons of ore. That much ore, many times the mass of the Great Pyramid at Gizeh, yields as much gold as would form a nine-foot cube. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 19)*  
Since Homestake first opened in 1876, before South Dakota even gained statehood, mountains of ore have been drilled and blasted from this bedrock repository, then hauled to a processing mill at the surface, where it is crushed to calcium-like consistency. From this unimpressive black dust, some 33 million troy ounces of pure gold have been painstakingly extracted over the years, using a complex mechanical, chemical and electrolytic process. *(Emily & Per Ola D’Aulaire, in Reader’s Digest)***

**U.S. interest in Nicaragua came alive during the California Gold Rush. Most Forty-Niners didn’t go cross-country or around South America, but by ship to the Caribbean coast, by small boat up the San Juan River and across Lake Nicaragua, by coach 12 miles overland, and by ship north. It took 25 days. *(L. M. Boyd)  
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Two-time U. S. Open winner Curtis Strange hits a couple of hundred golf balls a day in addition to his regular physical conditioning. *(Donald O. Clifton & Paula Nelson, in Reader’s Digest)*In the British Museum one can see 75 drafts of Thomas Gray’s ElegyWritten In A Country Churchyard*.* *(Paul Lee Tan, in Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations)***

**Zane Grey always wrote in longhand. *(World Features Syndicate)***

**When Hannibal invaded Italy, in the third century B. C., his military engineers employed fire and vinegar to smash a path through the Alps. The engineers heated immovable rocks with blazing logs, then poured vinegar over the rocks. The rocks split into fragments that could be pushed aside. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 259)***

**Josef Haydn, through much hardship, produced over 800 musical compositions, and at age 66 gave the world the matchless oratoric TheCreation*. (Paul Lee Tan, in Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations)*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*Ernest Hemingway once admitted that he had revised the last page of A Farewell to Arms thirty-nine times. *(Noel Botham, in The Ultimate Book of Useless Information, p. 119)***

**Ernest Hemingway rewrote the ending of A Fairwell To Arms no less than 39 times before he was finally satisfied with it. *(Paul Stirling Hagerman, in It’s A Weird World, p. 110)*  
Hemingway is said to have gone over the manuscript of The Old Man And The Sea 80 times. *(Paul Lee Tan, in Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations)***

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**At a cost of $108 million (or $1.7 billion in today’s dollars), the Hoover Dam was a mammoth construction project. Some 6 million cubic yards of rock were dug up and 3.25 million cubic yards of concrete poured, requiring 10,000 laborers, 112 of whom are thought to have died in the process. *(Stephen Fried, in Parade magazine)***

**If we take care of it, with a little luck the human heart can pump blood over 600 times each day through all our blood vessels -- which are more than 100 thousand miles long by the way - for over 10 years. *(Dynamic Preaching)***

**In order to stay aloft in its seemingly effortless hover, the ruby-throated hummingbird beats its wings approximately 200 times every single second. *(Samantha Weaver, in Tidbits)***

**It took the Canadian physician Sir Frederick Banting about eight months in 1920-21 to develop insulin. He worked with three others. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Astronauts will have to make at least 46 perilous spacewalks, some lasting six to eight hours, to complete assembly of the international space station. *(USA Today, as it appeared in The Week magazine, January 27, 2006)***

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**During the 21-year-plus London run of the Agatha Christie play TheMousetrap, wardrobe mistress Maisie Wilmer-Brown ironed her way through 36 miles of shirts. *(Timothy T. Fullerton, in Triviata)***

**Maisie Wilmar-Brown, the wardrobe mistress for the Agatha Christie play The Mousetrap, ironed more than thirty-six miles of shirts in the years between 1952 and her death in 1973. *(Noel Botham, in The Ultimate Book of Useless Information, p. 7)***

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**A major source of information about Thomas Jefferson is his letters -- he wrote more than 19,000. Copies remain because he used a polygraph, a two-pen letter-copying device he called in 1804 “the finest invention of the present age.” Imagine what this man would have done with a computer and FAX. *(Margaret Carlin, in Rocky Mountain News)*  
  
Thomas Jefferson kept a garden journal from 1766 to 1824 and a farm journal from 1774 to 1826. He noted all crops and many farm activities. Jefferson grew more than 150 varieties of fruit trees and 350 varieties of vegetables at one time. His garden book describes 50 varieties, more than 30 varieties of cabbage and 54 varieties of beans. *(Robert C. Baron)*  
Thomas Jefferson really liked his desk. So much so that he took it with him wherever he went. Even to France. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**When Thomas Jefferson was Minister to France, he tried to convince French naturalist Georges Louis Leclerc de Buffon that such an animal as a moose actually existed in America. He argued in vain. Jefferson finally convinced the Frenchman . . . by having a full-grown moose, antlers and all, shipped from New Hampshire and presented to Buffon with his compliments. *(Bernie Smith, in The Joy of Trivia, p. 164)*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*Mary Bacon was a famous jockey whose back was broken twice, yet she continued to ride in the races. She is most known because even though she had a fractured collarbone she rode three races the same day, then finished the day by giving birth to a child. She said later, “Most people think I’m nuts, but I am just a working mother.” *(Marion Parrish Hall)*One of Hollywood’s favorite comedians got his name because of a fall. Buster Keaton tumbled down the stairs when he was a tot and Houdini saw him. The great magician said “that’s a real buster,” and the name stuck. Keaton made a career of falls in comic bits. When he died x-rays showed he had broken every bone in his body at one time or another. But Keaton never wore a cast and once reported to work with a broken back! *(Ripley’s Believe It or Not!: Book of Chance, p. 14)***

**In the early days, Will Keith Kellogg would actually sign his name to each box of cereal, to guarantee the quality and authenticity of the article. The Kellogg's logo used today was derived from the original signature, "W. K. Kellogg." Charlotte Lowe, in Fact-O-Pedia, p. 140)**

**No one would ever have crossed the ocean if he could have gotten off the ship in a storm. *(Charles F. Kettering)***

**Twenty times an hour is how frequently your blood is filtered through your kidneys. Some cleaning machine. (*L. M. Boyd)***

**Finally, there was Fritz Kreisler. As a young boy, he wanted to play the violin. His parents encouraged his interest by paying for his lessons. Kreisler didn’t progress as he had hoped and finally quit. Fritz Kreisler tried to study medicine and failed, and joined the army and went nowhere. He tried and quit many other pursuits. Desperate for a successful experience, Kreisler went back to his violin instructor. I want to play,” he told her. “Fine,” his instructor responded. “But you must acquire one irreplaceable quality. You must exhibit undefeatable determination.” Fritz Kreisler persevered until his music filled the walls of Carnegie Hall. *(Glenn Van Ekeren, in The Speaker’s Sourcebook, p. 276)***

**Adam Clark labored forty years writing his commentary on the holy scriptures. Milton rose every morning at 4:00 a.m. to write Paradise Lost. The Decline and The Fall of the Roman Empire took Gibbon twenty-six painstaking years to complete. Ernest Hemingway is said to have reviewed The Old Man and the Sea manuscript eighty times before submitting it for publication. It took Noah Webster thirty-six years to compile Webster’s Dictionary. *(Glenn Van Ekeren, in The Speaker’s Sourcebook)***

**Gettysburg Address: The popular notion that Abraham Lincoln wrote his most famous speech on the back of an envelope while en route by train to Gettysburg is false. Lincoln started work on the first draft well before the event. He wrote, rewrote, fussed over it; and the draft he delivered was written on the kind of paper Lincoln regularly used in the White House. *(Tom Burnam, in Reader’s Digest)***

**To provide a modern person with the necessities – and luxuries -- of his or her accustomed life, at least twenty tons of raw materials must be dug from the earth every year. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 327)*  
How far does the average rural mail carrier drive on the job in a day? 55 1/2 miles. *(L. M. Boyd)*  
  
An ambitious plan for an International map of the world on a uniform scale has been perfected, but only part of the plan has been completed. Designed by the German Albrecht Penck, and presented to several meetings of the International Geographical Congress (in 1891, 1909, 1913), the map would consist of about 1,500 sheets, each covering four degrees of latitude and six degrees of longitude in a modified conic projection, on a scale of 1:1,000,000. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 332)*  
   
Michelangelo had to endure seven years on a scaffold to paint the Sistine Chapel. *(Roger Van Oech, in A Kick in the Seat of the Pants)*Milton rose at 4:00 A.M. everyday in order to have enough hours for his Paradise Lost*. (Paul Lee Tan, in Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations)*  
After they leave Pacific Grove, they fly hundreds of miles into Canada, through storms and across mountains and deserts. Monarch butterflies have been known to travel close to 2000 miles, sometimes even across oceans, though they are as fragile as feathers. *(Charles Kuralt, in Reader’s Digest)***

**The mosquito flaps its wings 10 times faster than a hummingbird. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**On May 5, 1914, Erwin “Cannonball” Baker began a cross-continental motorcycle trip on his 1,000cc V-twin Stutz Indian motorcycle. Starting in California, Baker traveled 3,379 miles across the U. S. Due to the poor roads and primitive “cradle-spring” shock absorption of his bike, he rode most of the way standing up. *(Moments in Time – The History Channel)*  
India produces more than one thousand movies a year, much more than the United States. (Don Voorhees, in The Essential Book of Useless Information, p. 22)**

**Mozart produced some 600 symphonies, operas, operettas, concertos, string quartets, sonatas, masses, and other classical pieces. *(Denver P. Tarle, in A Treasure of Trivia, p. 25)***

**If New Orleans is below sea level, how come it’s not flooded out? Credit a 129-mile levee. Also credit pumps that move out 350 million gallons of water a day. *(L. M. Boyd)*  
The Boston Nation, a newspaper published in Ohio during the mid-nineteenth century, had pages 7 1/2 feet long and 3 1/2 feet wide. It required two people to hold the paper in proper reading position. *(David Louis, in Fascinating Facts, p. 38)*  
Am told there’s never been a time since 1200 when repairs weren’t under way on Notre Dame Cathedral. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*The 1992 Summer Olympics featured two tremendously poignant moments. American sprinter Gail Dewers, the clear leader in the 1000-meter hurdles, tripped over the last barrier. She agonizingly pulled herself to her knees and crawled the last five meters, finishing fifth – but finishing. Even more heart-rending was the 400-meter semifinal in which British runner Derek Redmond tore a hamstring and fell to the track. He struggled to his feet and began to hobble, determined to complete the race. His father ran from the stands to help him off the track, but the athlete refused to quit. He leaned on his father, and the two limped to the finish line together, to deafening applause. *(John E. Anderson, in Reader’s Digest)*  
  
When Kristi Yamaguchi fell to the ice in the 1992 Winter Olympics at Albertville, France, spectators groaned. Surely the 20-year-old’s chances for a gold medal in figure-skating had evaporated with that tumble. But Kristi scrambled up, flashed a dazzling smile and spun into her program. When the judges’ scores were announced, she had received near-perfect marks despite the spill. Her spirited recovery gave her the gold medal--a tribute to her determination and courage. *(John E. Anderson, in Reader’s Digest)*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  
If you shuck an oyster in search of a pearl, don’t stop looking just because you find one. Some lone oysters produce many. Some even more than 100 pearls each. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Following one of Paderewski’s performances a fan said to him, “I’d give my life to play like that.” The brilliant pianist replied, “I did.” *(Sybil Stanton, in Reader’s Digest)*  
Construction of the Panama Canal began at both ends of the projected canal and progressed inland through a dense tropical jungle. An artificial lake was formed; locks were constructed; the famed Gaillard Cut, for years the largest ditch in the world, was dug through 660-foot Gold Hill. At the peak of construction, 300 railroad cars -- each carrying 400 tons of dirt -- left the site daily. A total of 10 billion tons of earth were moved for the canal -- a figure greater than the total weight of the Great Pyramid of Cheops! *(Richard B. Manchester, in Incredible Facts)*  
Which fighter - we’re talking boxing, not baseball - was knocked down the most times in heavyweight title bouts? Answer: Two-time champion Floyd Patterson, 56, professes to be proud of what seems to be a dubious record. “I was never counted out, not once,” he said. “I might hold the record for being knocked down, but that also means I hold the record for getting up.” *(Dynamic Preaching)*  
The freshwater pearl mussel, once widely cultivated in Europe, might take 6 years to build up a pearl. *(Reader’s Digest Book of Facts, p. 276)*A king penguin chick takes 60 days to hatch out of its egg. During this time, the male penguin stands on the Antarctic ice, cradling the egg on its feet and keeping it warm under a flap of soft feathers. (The Diagram Group, in Funky, Freaky Facts, p. 52)  
Yousef Karsh has photographed most of the great men and women of contemporary times. His photographic portraits tell their own stories, but each picture has its interesting legend. The wonderful bulldog determination Mr. Karsh was able to capture in his famous portrait of Winston Churchill was the result of the photographer’s action in snatching the Prime Minister’s cigar from his mouth. *(Bits & Pieces)***

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**Lashed by poor reviews, Swiss pianist Jean-Jacques Hauser booked himself into a concert, pasted on a moustache and called himself Anton Tartarov. He was given a standing ovation and then tore off his moustache, revealing he had also composed all the music himself. The audience applauded even more loudly. *(Ripley’s Believe It Or Not: Book of Chance, p. 29)*  
  
The record for non-step piano playing is 44 days, set by Heinz Arntz in 1967. Except for two hours of sleep each day, the 67-year-old Arntz played continually for 1,056 hours. During his stint, which began in Germany, Arntz was carried in a van to a seaport and traveled from Germany to the United States on a steamship, finishing his performance at Roosevelt, Long Island. *(Denver P. Tarle, in A Treasury of Trivia, p. 67)*  
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**Picasso, the Spanish artist who died in 1973, is estimated to have produced over 13,000 paintings, as well as a great many engravings, book illustrations and sculptures, during his long career -- he lived to be 91. This means that he painted an average 3 1/2 pictures every week of his adult life. *(The Usborne Book of Facts and Lists, p. 84)*  
  
Pablo Picasso’s career lasted seventy-eight years, from 1895 until his death in 1973. He made more than 13,000 paintings and over 100,000 prints, engravings, and designs. He also did over 300 sculptures and ceramics. *(Charles Reichblum, in Knowledge in a Nutshell, p. 162)*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  
The IRS was auditing the income tax return of a small pizza-parlor owner. The agent in charge inquired about a deduction for several trips New Jersey to Europe. “Oh yeah,” said the owner, “I should have mentioned -- we deliver.” *(Bits & Pieces)*  
Plato wrote the first sentence of his famous Republic nine different ways before he was satisfied. *(Paul Lee Tan, in Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations)*Jordan Davis loves to write poems.  
He's just 22 and planning a tome.  
He'll write a million poems before he dies,  
He just really wants to. Don't ask him why.  
A million poems! Sure sounds like a chore.  
But he only has to write 998,000 more.  
That's 32 a day until he's 100-years-old.  
Ya gotta admit, his goal's awefully bold. *(1993 Disney Adventures)***

**As a youth, Sidney was raised in poverty on Cat Island in the Bahamas. At sixteen, with less than two years of education and three dollars in his pocket, he moved to New York City in search of a better life. When he arrived, the only place he could find to sleep was a rooftop. His first job was that of dishwasher. Although he knew nothing about acting, Sidney responded to a want ad listed by the American Negro Theater. Because of his limited education, he could not read all the words in the script. The director interrupted his audition, shouting, “Stop wasting my time.” While that rejection would have stopped and even destroyed the ambitions of most people, the young man walked away more determined than ever. Saving money from his meager dishwasher’s salary, Sidney bought a radio. He used it as an educational tool, listening to people’s voices for hours, trying to enunciate as clearly as they did. At the restaurant, he found a waiter to tutor him in reading. Later Sidney returned to the American Negro Theater persuading officials to let him take acting lessons. Privately, he resolved to become not only the best black actor but the best actor. His name is Sidney Poitier, and he is regarded as one of the finest actors of his generation. *(Victor M. Parachin, in Unity magazine)*A mother porpoise burps her baby by tapping its underside repeatedly with her nose. She nurses the little rascal for 1 1/2 years. *(L. M. Boyd)*  
Andy Fry came up with the idea for the notes, called Post-it, while looking for a bookmark that wouldn’t fall out of his hymnal, but could be removed when not needed. In 1974, as a product development specialist for 3M, he worked on the product -- and on corporate kingpins, who weren’t exactly enthusiastic about his notion. It took six years to get the stickers on the market. But Fry could forever post his success: they were an overnight smash. *(Rocky Mountain News)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**It took over 100 ballots to decide how to set up the Presidency and the executive department. Thanks largely to Morris and James Wilson, who vigorously supported the idea of a chief executive elected by the people, the Presidency became the jewel in the Constitutional Convention’s crown of achievement. *(Thomas Fleming, in Reader’s Digest)*  
5 presidents nominated late at conventions: Franklin Pierce - 49th ballot; James Garfield - 36th; Rutherford B. Hayes - 17th; Warren Harding - 10th; and James Polk - on the 9th ballot. *(World Features Syndicate)***

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**A prisoner in a German jail, serving a six-year sentence for robbery, used his teeth to escape. He gnawed away at the wooden bars of his cell until he could squeeze out. Alas, although he chewed his way to freedom, he was caught and put in jail again – this time behind iron bars. *(Barbara Seuling, in You Can’t Sneeze with Your Eyes Open, p. 17)***

**In order for the U.S. and its NATO allies to meet their target of pulling out of Afghanistan by the end of 2014, a standard shipping container carrying military equipment would have to leave the country every seven minutes, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for the next two years. *(ForeignAffairs.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, August 3, 2012)***

**The guy who pushed a peanut with his nose all 22 miles up the road to Pikes Peak was Bill Williams of Hondo, Texas. To win a $500 bet. In 1929. Took him 30 days. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Egyptians lived an average of only thirty-five years, yet constructed pyramids, each of which took at least twenty years. The average Parisian in the Middle Ages lived only forty-five years, yet the city built the great cathedral of Notre Dame, which took 137 years. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 291)***

**Before Queen Elizabeth II goes for any ride of any distance in her Rolls Royce, it is completely cleaned and polished. *(L. M. Boyd)*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*Russia built more than 10,000 miles of railroad between 1896 and 1900, the Trans-Siberian driving steadily eastward regardless of the costs. Thirty-two tunnels were smashed through mountains. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 289)*  
Used to be 2,650 ties per mile of railroad track. Now it’s 3,020 ties per mile. What prompted the change. Faster trains. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Russia built more than ten thousand miles of railroad between 1896 and 1900. *(Noel Botham, in The Book of Useless Information, p. 204)*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  
Most people think natural ability is the most important power a person possesses. It’s not. People who achieve the highest level of success have an unbelievable work ethic -- and the desire to sacrifice. Everybody thinks San Francisco’s Jerry Rice is the best wide receiver out there. He certainly is talented, but I guarantee you he’s not even close to being the most talented. He’s neither the strongest nor the fastest. But he is the most determined. During my three seasons in San Francisco (as offensive coordinator), he used to tell me, “I want to be the best wide receiver ever to play the game.” In my mind, he already was the best. He already held the all-time NFL records for receptions, receiving yards, seasons with at least 100 receiving yards, consecutive games with a touchdown, and on and on. But Jerry’s mindset was that nobody was going to work harder, prepare better or sacrifice more. He convinced himself he was going to outwork every receiver who came into the league relative to conditioning, lifting, studying—everything. It didn’t take me long to understand why every time we got to the fourth quarter of a game, while most of the players were slowing down, Jerry could run as fast as he did on the first play. On the days he trained, Jerry would cap off his physical work with mental work. He would immerse himself in game films of the league’s top 10 wide receivers, studying how they ran their routes and what moves they used to get open. It was amazing to me that he had so many of the all-time records, and he still was working harder than anybody. *(Mike Shanahan with Adam Schefter, in Enterpreneur magazine)***

**Each year, when the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus comes to New York City, the last stage of the journey is made on foot. Spectators gather as a procession of adorned elephants is led through the Lincoln Tunnel -- an event depicted in the film Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind. (*Harry Bright & Jakob Anser, in That’s A Fact, Jack!, p. 54)***

**Something else birders have not figured out is why one female robin in a season might make 10 or 15 nests side by side. *(L. M. Boyd)***

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**I am only an average man, but I work harder at it than the average man. *(Teddy Roosevelt)***

**In 1912, after being shot in the chest, Theodore Roosevelt finished a speech he was delivering before he accepted any medical help. *(Noel Botham, in The Book of Useless Information, p. 5)***

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**Colonel Sanders’ principal asset was his method of frying chicken. Loading up his 1946 Ford with a 50-pound can of seasoning and his beloved pressure cooker, he took to the road. “Let me cook chicken for you and your staff,” he told restaurateurs. “If you like the way it tastes, I’ll tell you my seasoning, teach you how to cook it, and you pay me a four-cent royalty on every chicken you sell.” In his promotional travels, which average 250,000 annually, he wears out eight of those suits a year. *(James Stewart-Gordon, in Reader’s Digest)*Sir Walter Scott put in fifteen hours a day at his desk, rising at four o’clock in the morning. He averaged a book every two months, and turned out the Waverly Novels at one a month. *(Paul Lee Tan, in Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations)*  
If among your acquaintances is an expectant mother who’s tired of waiting, give her a call. To let her know about the female sea lion – she’s pregnant 364 days of the year. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Guo Gangtang and Zhang Wenge searched for their missing son for 24 years after he was abducted. Guo rode 310,000 miles across China by motorcycle to pass out fliers with his son’s photo. He found more than a hundred children who had been kidnapped and trafficked and reunited them with their families, inspiring a 2015 film, but never found his own son. Then, earlier this year, Chinese authorities identified a potential DNA match, and testing confirmed him to be Guo Xinzhen, now 26. His alleged abductors have been arrested. *(The Week magazine, July 30, 2021)***

**A U.S. senator devotes an average of 109 hours a year to speech-making from the floor of his chamber. For a U. S. representative it is two hours. *(L. M. Boyd)*  
Sha-Na-Na almost didn’t make it. Famous lead singer Bowser couldn’t convince an agent to book the group even though he had a doctorate from the Juilliard School of Music. He came back with his hair greased, wearing old sneakers and dressed in full 1950’s regala. A star was born. *(Ripley’s Believe It Or Not!: Book of Chance, p. 28)***

**Some things get done badly because they are genuinely hard to do well, and some get done badly because nobody tried hard enough to do them well. *(Eileen Shanahan)*  
 The silkworm moth, as a caterpillar, spins about 1,000 yards of silk thread for its cocoon -- in less than a day, even though the work requires more than 250,000 movements of its head. *(Larry Masidlover)***

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**A determined soul will do more with a rusty monkey wrench than a loafer will accomplish with all the tools in a machine shop. *(Robert Hughes, art critic)***

**A popular actor-singer had such a tough time breaking into the music business that he helped chance along. David Soul spent two months looking for work in New York before he decided to put a bag over his head, take his picture and sent out tapes of his singing. Agents were curious and Soul ended up making 25 Appearances on The Merv Griffin Show (without the bag) and later filmed the television series Starsky and Hutch. *(Ripley’s Believe It Or Not!: Book of Chance, p. 28)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**Replying more than one hundred times to the same piece of spam email will overwhelm the sender’s system and interfere with their ability to send any more spam. *(Noel Botham, in The Best Book of Useless Information Ever, p. 57)***

**A single squirrel is always on the lookout for food to store for the winter and may scrounge as much as twenty bushels of nuts and roots and seeds and put them in a number of caches scattered around his territory. *(Bernie Smith, in The Joy of Trivia, p. 113)***

**Fall seven times and stand up eight. *(Japanese proverb)***

**Star Wars: For the climactic battle sequence, which includes dogfights in space and missile runs on the Death Star, Lucas gathered all the old war movies he could find and spliced together their aerial-combat footage. “We did that to get an idea of how to set up this scene,” he explains. “It was all very complicated, with the most complicated sound problems, mixing and special effects.” The dashing ten-minute sequence took eight weeks to edit. *(Condensed from Time, in Reader’s Digest)***

**One of the attractions at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876 was the forearm of the Statue of Liberty. The head was exhibited at the Paris Exposition in 1878. In 1885 the whole statue arrived by ship, packed in 210 wooden cases. It took six months to assemble and complete the great figure; the unveiling took place on October 28, 1886. *(Bernie Smith, in The Joy of Trivia, p. 327)***

**Steel's lust for writing: Danielle Steel spends nearly every waking moment writing, said Samantha Leach in Glamour. The romance novelist works about 20 hours a day -- a schedule that has enabled her to churn out 179 books (and sell more than 650 million copies), at a rate of about seven new novels a year. "Dead or alive, rain or shine, I get to my desk and I do my work," says Steel, 71. She writes on an Olympia typewriter at her home offices in Paris and San Francisco, often in a cashmere nightgown and nibbling chocolate bars. Some days she writes through the night: "I don't get to bed until I'm so tired I could sleep on the floor," Steel has been working like this since writing her first book at 19, through two marriages and nine children. The books have made her rich, but she insists that's not what's driving her. "I never had success as a goal. I had this drive to write the stories that came to me, and to conquer them." She also has no plans to stop. Agatha Christie, then in her 70s, once told her: "I want to die face-first in my typewriter." Steel says: "I feel that way. I want to go on forever, just writing." *(The Week magazine, May 31 / June 7, 2019)*In the 1936 Swaything Cup Match in table tennis, Alex Ehrlich of Poland and Paneth Farcas of Rumania volleyed for 2 hours and 12 minutes on the opening serve. *(David Louis, in Fascinating Facts, p. 161)***

**It took 20,000 people 22 years to build the Taj Mahal. (*Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Wise Up!, p. 259)***

**They say the average taxpayer works four months out of every year for the government - which is very disturbing. We’re not even sure people who work for the government work four months out of every year for the government. *(Montana Oil Journal)***

**It took eleven years to polish and grind the 200-inch mirror of the Palomar telescope. And when it was finished and installed, astronomers spent seven years photographing the entire sky as seen in the Northern Hemisphere.*(Bernie Smith, in The Joy of Trivia, p. 168)*  
  
Construction began on the White Star Line’s R.M.S. Titanic in 1909. Three thousand laborers worked for two years to complete what was then the largest man-made moving object in the world. She weighed 66,000 tons and was approximately four city blocks long. *(Audrey Cunningham, in Tidbits)*  
Leo Tolstoy once wrote a story about a successful peasant farmer who was not satisfied with his lot. He wanted more of everything. One day he received a novel offer. For 1,000 rubles, he could buy all the land he could walk around in a day. The only catch in the deal was that he had to be back at his starting point by sundown. Early the next morning he started out walking at a fast pace. By midday he was very tired, but he kept going, covering more and more ground. Well into the afternoon he realized that his greed had taken him far from the starting point. He quickened his pace and as the sun began to sink low in the sky, he began to run, knowing that if he did not make it back by sundown the opportunity to become an even bigger landholder would be lost. As the sun began to sink below the horizon he came within sight of the finish line. Gasping for breath, his heart pounding, he called upon every bit of strength left in his body and staggered across the line just before the sun disappeared. He immediately collapsed, blood streaming from his mouth. In a few minutes he was dead. Afterwards, his servants dug a grave. It was not much over six feet long and three feet wide. The title of Tolstoy’s story was: How Much Land Does a Man Need? *(Bits & Pieces)*  
The Galapagos Islands have no docks. Ecuador permits only 12,000 tourists to go there every year. So that many wade through water or walk on the rocks to get ashore. At $30 each. You know the Galapagos - home of the turtle, origin of Charles Darwin’s Origin of the Species. *(L. M. Boyd)***

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**Enveloped in heavy fog, the men of the steamship Great Eastern spliced the last link in the first permanent transatlantic telegraph cable on July 28, 1866. Running from Ireland to Newfoundland, the 2,500-mile line ferried messages across the big pond at 12 words per minute. Satellite communication got going in 1962. *(Alison McLean, in Smithsonian magazine)***

**During the building of the Central Pacific portion of the transcontinental railway over the Sierras, three locomotives and forty cars were dismantled and hauled over the mountains on sledges and logs, a feat comparable with the crossing of the ice-clad Alps by Hannibal and his armored elephants. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 287)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**During his successful come-from-behind Presidential election campaign in 1948 against the Republican front-runner, Thomas E. Dewey, President Harry S. Truman conducted a thirty-five-day, 31,000-mile “whistlestop” campaign, delivering 356 speeches. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 362)*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  
A typical tuna swims 100 miles in one day. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**By the age of 15, most tuna have swum more than a million miles. (*Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Wise Up!, p. 251)*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  
In 1863, a Missouri farmer drove his flock of 500 turkeys overland the 600 miles to Denver. Only way to market before mechanical refrigeration. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Researchers have reported that a female leatherback turtle swam at least 12,774 miles from the nesting beaches of Indonesia all the way to the Oregon coast and then back out into the Pacific, setting a record for sea turtles. She probably swam back to Indonesia, but her tracking device failed before she got there. What’s so special about Oregon that she’d go that far? Food, of course. Jellyfish. *(Parade magazine, December 28, 2008)***

**Quitting smoking is easy. I’ve done it a thousand times. *(Mark Twain)*Typists hunted and pecked on the earliest typewriters for some 25 years before anybody tried out that gimmick called touch typing. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Velcro, 1950: The name comes from the French for velvet, “velours,” and for hook, “crochet.” Swiss inventor George de Mestral noticed how plant burrs clung to his dog, but it took him fifteen years of research to find a way of creating the same effect. *Hunter Davies’ Book of Lists, p. 105)***

**Virgil spent seven years on his Georgics and twelve on the Aeniad. Nevertheless, he was so displeased with the latter that he tried to rise from his deathbed to throw the manuscripts into the flames. *(Paul Lee Tan, in Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations)*  
Who were the first women in the English-speaking world to win the vote? Polynesian wives of the Bounty mutineers on Pitcairn’s Island. But that women’s rights victory was not immediate. The men set up the Pitcairn government in 1790. Took the women 48 years to get the vote. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Do more than belong, participate. Do more than care, help. Do more than believe, practice. Do more than be fair, be kind. Do more than forgive, forget. Do more than dream, work. *(William Arthur Ward)*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  
Because its eyeball is fixed, the whale must move its huge body to shift its line of sight. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 126)*  
In their migrations north and south, the gray whales go perhaps 75 miles a day. *(L. M. Boyd)*  
Gray whales swim 8,000 miles a year, the longest of any mammal on the earth. It migrates annually along the west coast of North America to its breeding grounds off Mexico. *(Andrew Jones)***

**Gray whales make the longest annual migration of any mammal . . . 12,000 miles round-trip. (*Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Wise Up!, p. 251)***

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**When a man is determined, what can stop him? Cripple him and you have a Sir Walter Scott. Put him in a prison cell and you have a John Bunyan. Bury him in the snows of Valley Forge and you have a George Washington. Have him born in abject poverty and you have a Lincoln. Put him in the grease pit of a locomotive roundhouse and you have a Walter P. Chrysler. Make him second fiddle in an obscure South African orchestra and you have a Toscanini. The hardships of life are sent not by an unkind destiny to crush, but to challenge. *(Sam E, Roberts, in Exhaustion: Causes & Treatment)***

**Speaker at podium: “Our featured speaker is a woman who has done it all – challenging job, a wonderful family. PTA president, a prominent civic leader. Please applaud loudly to wake her up. *(Schwadron, in Prevention magazine)*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  
Typical hammer rate of a woodpecker is 15 per second. *(L. M. Boyd)*  
How many times can a woodpecker peck? Twenty times a second. *(Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Book, p. 9)*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  
If you don’t go out there and put in the work, you don’t go out and put in the effort, one, you’re not going to get the results, but two, and more importantly, you don’t deserve it. *(Tiger Woods)***

**Was a time when the greatest world’s fairs were held in what now is Russia’s Gorki. Merchants by the tens of thousands traveled for months from all over Europe and Asia to congregate there. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The male European house wren will build up to twelve nests to entice a female. *(Don Voorhees, in The Perfectly Useless Book of Useless Information, p. 159)***

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**Time it took to write:**

**1. Einstein’s Theory of Relativity -- 5 weeks  
2. Goodbye, Mr. Chips -- 4 days  
3. Death of a Salesman -- 6 to 9 months  
4. A Funny Thing Happened -- 4 years  
5. The Jungle -- 9 months**

**6. Gypsy -- 4 1/2 months  
7. West Side Story -- 13 months. *(World Features Syndicate)***

**Four years ago nine-year-old Rawson Stovall of Abilene, Texas, had his heart set on an Atari game machine. So he picked pecans from trees in his family’s back yard, sold them door to door and earned the money. Dick Tarpley, editor of theAbilene Reporter-News, remembers the next step in Rawson’s career. “This little fellow in a suit walked in carrying a briefcase. nmHe said, ‘I want to write a column.’” Rawson presented Tarpley with a stack of sample columns, and letters of recommendations from two teachers and a video-game repairman. Tarpley offered Rawson a spot in the paper. Rawson’s computer reviews have brought him as much $1200 a month. Doubleday has published his book, and TV viewers in over 500 cities see him regularly on “The New Tech Times.” Says Rawson, “It beats shelling pecans.” *(Michael W. Miller, in The Wall Street Journal)***

**What kind of typewriter did the American writer Thomas Wolfe use? He didn’t. He wrote in longhand. Wolfe was so uncoordinated, he couldn’t manipulate a typewriter. In fact, he couldn’t even drive a car. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The songwriter doesn't write a song and wait for publication before he writes another. He sings it and writes others. Writers complete articles and books which they submit, and then, regardless of how many rejection slips arrive in the mail, they keep right on writing and submitting their work. They know that every note, every word they write, is priming the pump of creativity, and nudging the Law into action. They don't wait for answers, they simply go on creating opportunities for answers. *(Delia Sellers, in Abundant Living magazine)***

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