



**Adopt a
Turkey
Month**

**Resident
Council**
November 6th

Cliché Day
November 3

**Veterans Day
Lunch in Act.**
November 11

**Funny Fall
Fashion show**
November 19

**Special
Residents
Thanksgiving
celebration**
November 24

Newsletter Title

November 2020
ISSUE # 22

A Bridge to the Past

Historic bridges are links to our past. They are exemplary of an era's architecture, engineering, art, and technology. They also tell the story of a region. Who built the bridge? Who used the bridge? What communities did it connect? During November, Historic Bridge Awareness Month, take the time to seek out a local historic bridge and learn its history.

The oldest bridge in America is a humble stone arch crossing of Penny pack Creek in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Built in 1697, men from the surrounding communities were expected to contribute to its construction either through labor or with money. It was originally built to carry America's first highway, the King's Road, from Philadelphia to

New York. It was just 18 feet wide when it was built, large enough to accommodate two teams of horses. It is said that in April of 1775, a rider from Boston sped across the bridge into Philadelphia, delivering news of the start of the American Revolution.

cont. on pg. 4



Rights on "The Rock"

In 1963, the infamous prison Alcatraz, known as "The Rock," closed its doors. Soon after, local Native American groups began lobbying for the island to become a cultural center and school. When a fire destroyed San Francisco's American Indian Center in October of

1969, a group of 89 activists, calling themselves "Indians of All Tribes," occupied Alcatraz island during the morning hours of November 20, 1969, hoping at last to fulfill their dream. The occupation lasted 19 months, with numbers on Alcatraz growing to 600.

Slowly, though, the political will of occupiers waned, and many of its leaders departed. The activists may have given up Alcatraz, but they had propelled their rights movement forward and forever transformed Alcatraz into a symbol of Native American pride.

November Birthdays

In astrology, those born from November 1–21 are Scorpio's scorpions. Scorpions are passionate and intense and value truth, loyalty, and justice. Those born between November 22–30 is the Archers of Sagittarius. The Archer's open mind, optimism, curiosity, and enthusiasm make them the travelers of the zodiac.

11~4 Jean Ohmsen

Marion White

11~27 Tommy Watkins

11~30 Barbara Payne

Bridge to the Past cont. from pg. 1

Historic bridges range from the humble to the magnificent. On November 21, 1964, the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge opened, a massive two-span suspension bridge connecting Brooklyn to Staten Island over the "Narrows," the mile-wide entrance to New York Harbor. When it was built, it was the longest bridge in the world. New York's master planner Robert Moses, engineer Othmar Ammann, and the thousands of workers who risked their lives to construct such a marvel created more than a bridge; it is New York's grandest entrance and an enduring work of art. Its two monumental 70-story steel towers support four massive cables, which contain enough steel wire to stretch halfway to the moon. These bridges—artifacts of art, engineering, and history—are two reminders that it is better to build bridges than to burn them.



The Writing Life

Writers believe that stories live inside all of us, waiting for the moment to come alive when pen is finally put to paper. November is both Novel Writing Month and Memoir Writing Month, providing inspiration for writers to develop a fantastical fiction or share personal histories.

Storytelling is an essential part of human nature and society. We use stories to establish social mores, preserve history, teach life lessons, explain the inexplicable, and entertain. The act of writing transposes oral stories into lasting works of art. This is a powerful act, one that defies even death, for written stories may last for centuries

Nature Shows the Way

It's hard to believe in this digital age of GPS systems and hand-held cellular phone mapping that explorers once knew how to navigate without a compass. On November 6, Marooned Without a Compass Day, you, too, could learn how to find your way. At night under clear skies, it is easy enough to find your direction. Simply look to Polaris, the north

and even millennia after their creators are forgotten.

November 1 is Author's Day, a perfect day for self-reflection. Is there a story inside you that you've been meaning to share? The writing process begins with a thought. The next step is to jot those thoughts down as notes. Only after you've amassed a wild jumble of ideas can you begin to organize them into the cohesive form of a memoir or novel. The human brain loves patterns. Organizing your thoughts into a beginning, middle, and end—creating a pattern—will help you create order out of ambiguity and could feel incredibly rewarding even if your book is never published.

star. During the day, when the stars are hidden, find your way by planting a stick in the ground. Mark the end of its shadow with a rock. Wait 30 minutes and mark the new end of the shadow with another rock. The first rock is west. The second rock is east. Bisect the two to find north and south. You've just made your own compass!

Turbo-Charged Toboggan

On November 22, 1927, after years of experimentation, Carl Eliason patented his motor toboggan. Eliason was an avid outdoorsman, but he suffered a foot disability that prevented him from snowshoeing. So, in 1924, the 24-year-old Eliason decided to attach a pair of skis to the front of a toboggan outfitted with an outboard motor that powered a steel track. His motor toboggan became the world's first primitive snowmobile. After receiving the patent, Eliason went on to build 50 of the machines, each one an individual work of art. Some of the original Eliason motor toboggans are on display in his hometown of Sayner, Wisconsin.



Notable Quotable

"One day I will find the right words, and they will be simple."

~ Jack Kerouac, author



A Wedding Fit for a Queen

On November 20, 1947, Princess Elizabeth married Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten, a former Greek and Danish prince. Two thousand guests were invited to the ceremony at Westminster Abbey. Not only did thousands of well-wishing Britons line the streets of London and swarm in front of Buckingham Palace, but 200 million people tuned in to the BBC's radio broadcast.

Princess Elizabeth's wedding dress was designed by Sir Norman Hartnell, designer to a long line of British royalty. His design was inspired by Botticelli's painting *Primavera*, an homage to spring and rebirth. It was made with ivory silk, fashioned with crystals and 10,000 seed pearls, and had a 15-foot silk tulle full court train. Because Britain was still subject to the rationing restrictions of World War II,

Princess Elizabeth had to use rationing coupons to pay for her dress. Hundreds of Britons sent their personal coupons to the princess in a show of support.

In an era of austerity, some balked at the spectacle of such a lavish affair, but most Britons reveled in the royals and their extravagant wedding. It would be decades before another wedding of such national import.



Notable Quotable

"Good memories are our second chance at happiness."

~ Queen Elizabeth II

21st-Century Weddings

What two British royals were married in high profile weddings this century?

ANSWER: Both sons of Prince Charles and Lady Diana. Prince William married Kate Middleton at Westminster Abbey on April 29, 2011. Prince Harry married Meghan Markle at St. George's Chapel on May 19, 2018.

Remembering Old Clem

November 23 is a special holiday for metalworkers and blacksmiths. It is St. Clement's Day, or Old Clem's Night, honoring Pope Clement I, the patron saint of metalworkers and blacksmiths. The

holiday has died out in all but a few places. The festivities began at sundown with the firing of the anvil. Gunpowder was packed into a small hole in the anvil so when it was struck by a hammer, it exploded

with sparks. Then the smith, dressed in a wig, cloak, and mask as "Old Clem," led a procession through the streets, visiting tavern after tavern, soliciting ale and donations to pay for the holiday dinner.

