

de Stolfe *Journal* ●●●●●●●●

Leap Day 2020 | Special

February
Février

Febrero
Februar

29

April

Comments by RG



Producer, RG de Stolfe

Happy Leap Day 2020!

Every four years, February has an extra day to give the month 29 days instead of the usual 28. February is also the only month that has exactly four weeks of seven days, whereas all of the other months have several days more than the four weeks. Also, Leap Day occurs the same years as the presidential elections in the United States.

Since starting this reboot of the Journal in July 2012, I have only had one other Leap Day I could include in the Journal until this year. That was the February 2016 issue.

So what's the deal about this extra day added to February? The very simplified reason for this extra day has to do with the rotation of the earth around the sun. While we are generally taught that the earth rotates around the sun in 365 days, it actually takes 365.256 days, or rounded $365\frac{1}{4}$ days, discounting the extra .006 part. Four years then of $\frac{1}{4}$ totals one extra day (literally 1.024 days, or 1 day and about 34.5 minutes). This extra days keeps the earth's rotation in check, again discounting the extra .006

of a day. Theoretically over time, the four seasons could shift slightly to where the seasonal weather would not line up with the respective seasons. (Of course, if you live in 2020, the weather just does whatever it wants with no real regard to seasons anyway, depending on where you live!)

If you were born on a leap day, you would technically be one quarter the age of other people born the same year by year count, but usually you would just celebrate your birthday on the 28th and be the actual age you are.

Historically, some cultures would allow single women to propose to single men on Leap Day and the man would be fined if he said no. Although in today's world, that traditional concept of the man asking a woman for her hand in marriage is often cast aside as archaic or outdated, among other traditional norms.

This special issue is very short, but made to recognize this unusual day.

Enjoy!

RG

leap day

Leap Day 2020

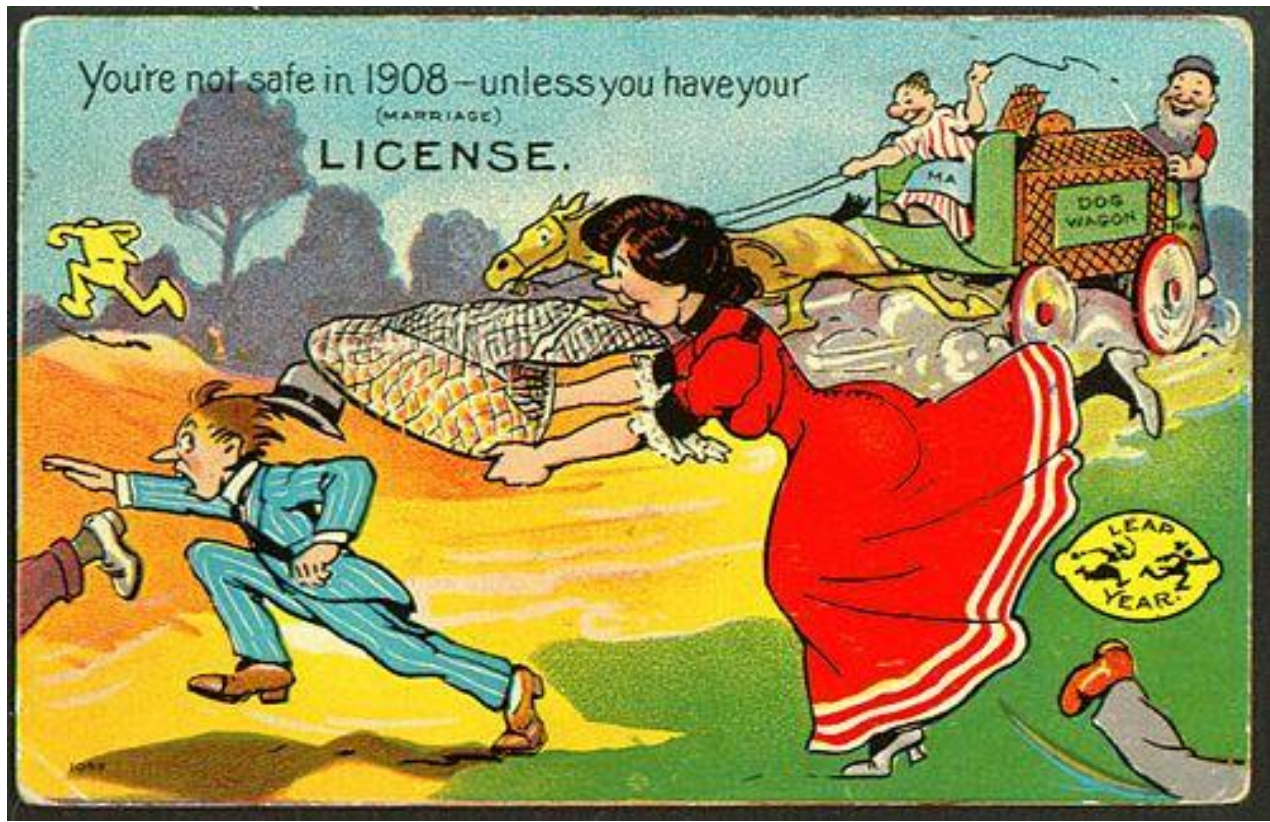
As I stated in the *Comments by RG* section, some cultures historically would allow single women to propose to single men on Leap Day. In addition, the man would be fined if he said no. With no doubt, this would have led to some very humorous or awkward situations! About one hundred years ago, this very point was humorized in the form of postcards. Take a look!

[Note: If you Google search for leap year postcards, you will find many!]



Postcard by Donald McGill, early 1900s.

Leap Day 2020



Postcard dating to 1908



Postcard dating to 1908

Leap Day 2020



Leap Day postcard, 1908 (This one is a little more than creepy!)



Leap Day postcard, 1908

Leap Day 2020

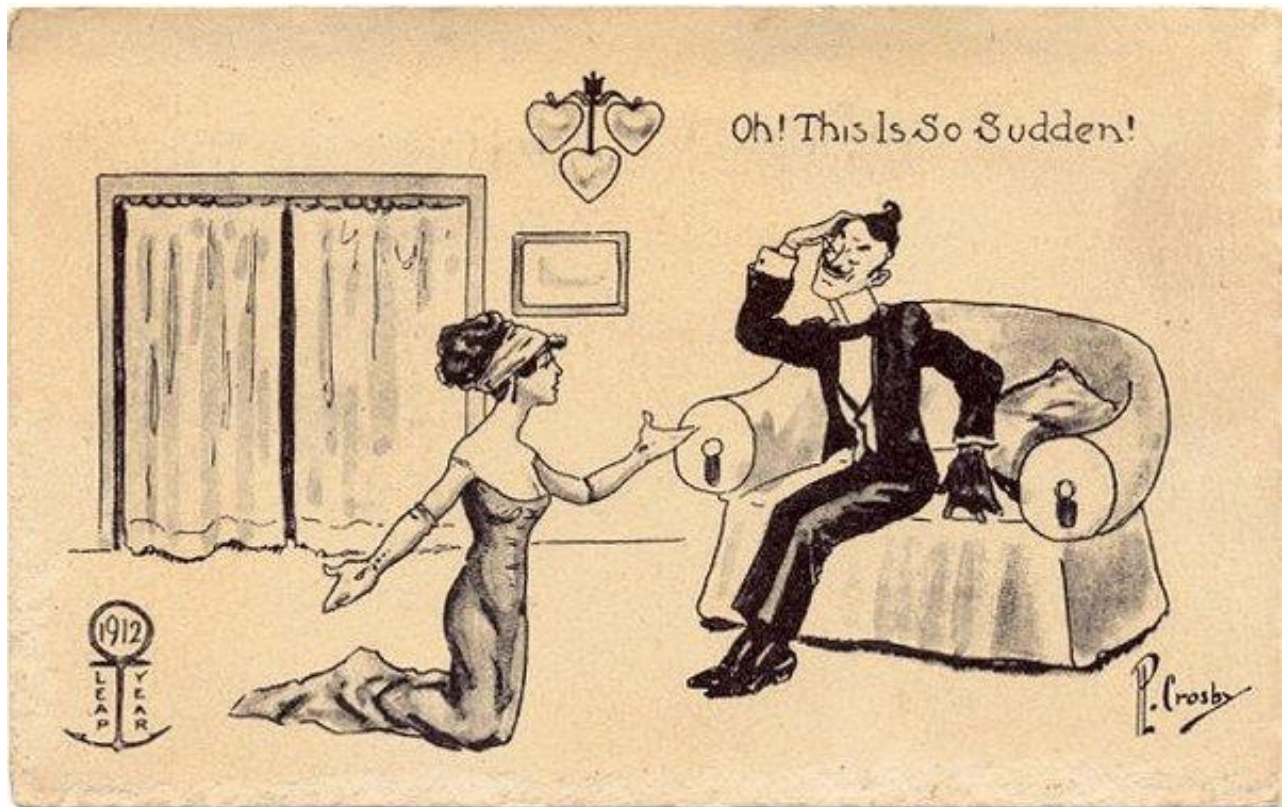


Stock photo available on royalty free sites, dates to 1908



Postcard dating to 1908

Leap Day 2020



1912 postcard by PL [Percy Lee] Crosby



Postcard by Fred Spurgin, circa 1916?

Welcome To The 20s

Ford

TOURING CAR
\$290

Touring	- \$290
Runabout	- 260
Coupe	- 520
Tudor Sedan	580
Fordor Sedan	660

Closed cars in color.
Demountable rims
and starter extra on
open cars.
All prices f. o. b. Detroit

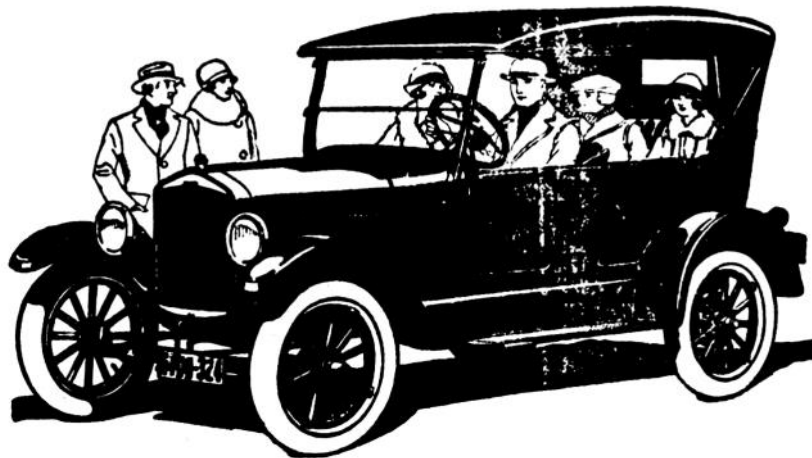
Every ounce of material used in building Ford cars must measure up to Ford standards of quality—reinforced by Ford standards of workmanship and inspection.

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Cats According to Mark Twain

Mark Twain (Samuel Clemens) liked his cats. He had a few! He is also known to make quotes about cats himself and in his writings.

“A home without a cat—and a well-fed, well-petted, and properly revered cat—may be a perfect home, perhaps, but how can it prove title?”
- *Pudd'nhead Wilson*

“A cat is more intelligent than people believe, and can be taught any crime.”
- Notebook, 1895

“Of all God's creatures, there is only one that cannot be made the slave of the lash. That one is the cat. If man could be crossed with the cat it would improve man, but it would deteriorate the cat.”
- Notebook, 1894

“I simply can't resist a cat, particularly a purring one. They are the cleanest, cunningest, and most intelligent things I know, outside of the girl you love, of course.”
- quoted in *Abroad with Mark Twain and Eugene Field*, Fisher

“One of them likes to be crammed into a corner-pocket of the billiard table—which he fits as snugly as does a finger in a glove and then he watches the game (and obstructs it) by the hour, and spoils many a shot by putting out his paw and changing the direction of a passing ball.”
- Letter to Mable Larkin Patterson, 2 October 1908

“He would call (the cats) to ‘come up’ on the chair, and they would all jump up on the seat. He would tell them to ‘go to sleep,’ and instantly the group were all fast asleep, remaining so until he called ‘Wide awake!’ when in a twinkling up would go their ears and wide open their eyes.”
- Anonymous article titled *The Funniest Writer on Earth. Some Anecdotes about Mark Twain*, *The Rambler*, Dec. 24, 1898.

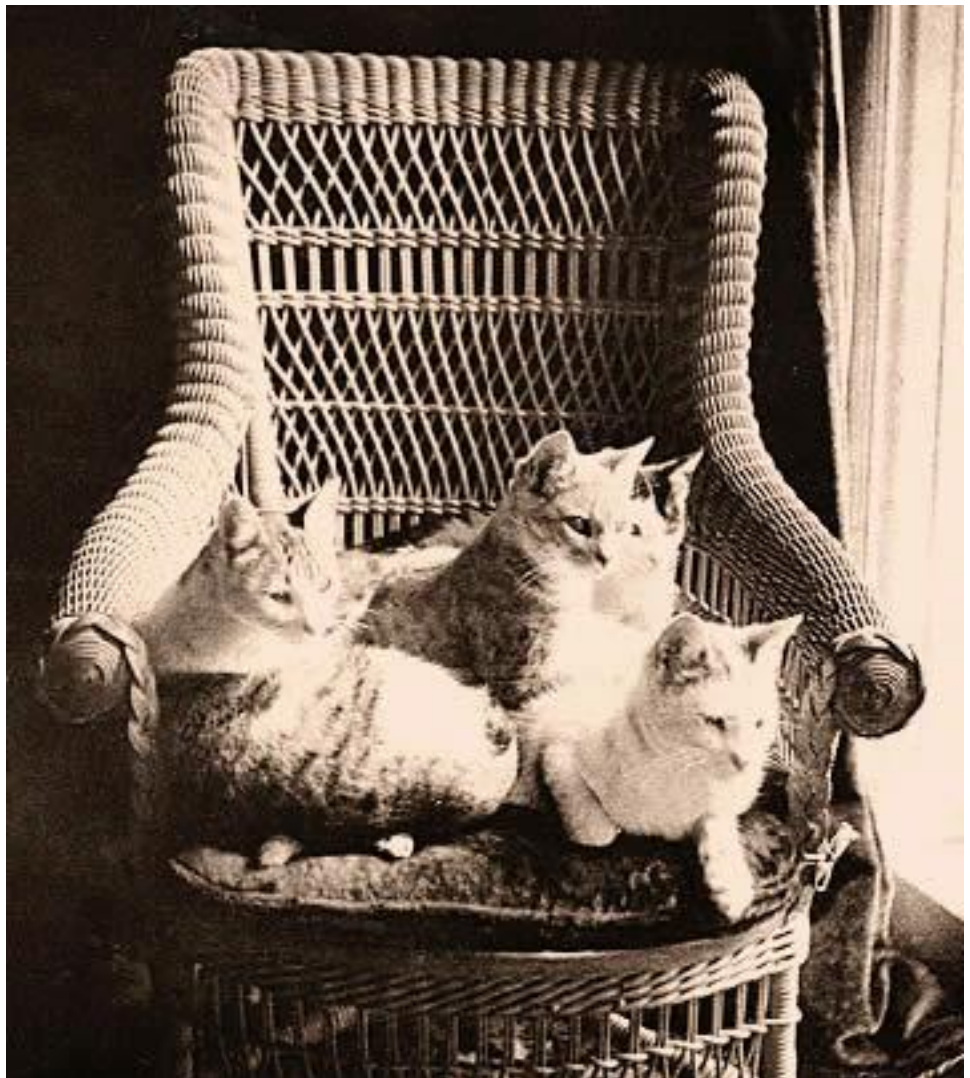
Source:

www.twainquotes.com/Cats.html

Mark Twain's cats “Wide Awake”
Photo taken by Elmira,
New York photographer
Elisha M. Van Aken, 1887

Photo is from the Dave Thomson
collection.

[From what I see, Mr. Twain would
never get to sit in this chair!]



Final Thought

de Stolfe
Journal.....

Spring is almost here!



The de Stolfe Journal is a publication made by Robert-George de Stolfe. The first issue was published in March 1986 as the de Stolfe Journal and published irregularly until 1998 (17 issues total). The *Candid* variety of the Journal started in July 2012, with a production of over 60 regular and special issues, with now the *Candid* dropped from the name. Archives of all issues—including the original ones (1980s-1990s)—are available on the website: www.tophandgraphics.com/rg/journals

Publisher/Owner/Editor

Robert-George de Stolfe

Graphics/Layout*

Robert-George de Stolfe

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