



THE DAILY CHRONICLE

THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2023

On This Date

1743 – It was the first London performance of Handel’s *Messiah*, and King George II was in the audience. In the middle of the “Hallelujah” chorus, the king rose to his feet in appreciation of the great piece. Out of respect for the king, the entire audience followed suit, and so began the custom of standing during the singing of the “Hallelujah” chorus.

1752 – Canada’s first newspaper, the *Halifax Gazette*, was sold by John Bushell. Only one copy of the original printing remains and is preserved at Ottawa’s Library and Archives Canada.

1984 – Skating legends Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean won the World Ice Dancing Championship in Ottawa.

Did You Know?

The use of sound in movies led to panic among silent movie stars; many were unable to find work due to their unappealing voices, thick accents, or reluctance to embrace the new technology.

Quote of the Day

“Hollywood is like life: you face it with the sum total of your equipment.”

~ Joan Crawford

Happy Birthday!

Joan Crawford (1904?–1977) was a glamorous American dancer and actress. After finding fame in silent films including *Paris* (1926), Crawford was one of the lucky stars who successfully transitioned



to “talkies,” with her first speaking role in *Untamed* (1929). Her other career-defining roles include her work as *Mildred Pierce* (1945), for which she won the Academy Award, and as Blanche Hudson in *Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?* (1962). Off-screen, Crawford was said to be a harsh parent; her daughter Christina wrote of their rocky relationship in her 1978 book *Mommie Dearest*.