



THE DAILY CHRONICLE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2020

On This Date

1823 – The *Troy Sentinel* newspaper published an anonymous poem entitled “A Visit from Saint Nicholas.” The verse is better known today as “’Twas the Night Before Christmas” and is attributed to Clement C. Moore.



1888 – The painter Vincent van Gogh famously cut off his left ear with a razor after getting into an argument with friend and fellow painter Paul Gauguin.



1947 – The first transistor was demonstrated at Bell Labs in New Jersey. Transistors paved the way for the miniaturization of electronics in devices such as computers and phones.

Reindeer Games

Moore’s “A Visit from Saint Nicholas” lists Santa’s reindeer. Two were originally given Dutch names, *Dunder* and *Blixem*, meaning “thunder” and “lightning.”

Quote of the Day

“I put my heart and my soul into my work and have lost my mind in the process.”

~ *Vincent van Gogh, painter*

Happy Birthday!

Nancy Graves (1939–1995) might not be a household name, but she remains one of America’s most renowned artists. Her father worked at a local museum, which inspired in Graves a love of nature, art, and anthropology. Some of her first great works included realistic life-sized sculptures of camels. She also made artistic films of camels in Morocco. Her fascination with the natural world influenced her work in



sculpture, painting, glass blowing, and printmaking. Her colorful sculptures of found objects won high praise in the 1980s.