



THE DAILY CHRONICLE

MONDAY, MARCH 15, 2021

On This Date

Beware, the Ides of March!



Today is the Ides of March, notorious as the date that Julius Caesar, dictator of the Roman Republic, was assassinated in 44 BC. This marked the beginning of a civil war that resulted in Augustus becoming the first Roman emperor.

Also on This Date

1892 – The escalator was patented by Jesse W. Reno. Reno later teamed up with Elisha Otis, of elevator fame.

Follow the Diamonds

Marjorie Merriweather Post's 35-carat diamond earrings were donated to the Smithsonian in 1964. Marie Antoinette was their original owner. After her death, they were gifted to Empress Eugenie of France, who sold them to Duchess Tatiana of Russia. They ended up with jeweler Pierre Cartier, who reset them for Mrs. Post.

Quote of the Day

“I’ve been doing this kind of thing since I was 18, and it rolls right off my back.”

~ *Marjorie Merriweather Post*

Happy Birthday!

Marjorie Merriweather Post (1887–1973) inherited Postum Cereal Company (later General Foods) at



age 27. The company thrived under her leadership, and the astute businesswoman grew the family fortune exponentially.

Post was the first female board member of a major American corporation, as well as a generous philanthropist. Her donations funded the Kennedy Center and many medical clinics during World War I, and she willed one of her mansions to the Smithsonian Museum. Post is also known for building Mar-a-Lago, which was purchased in 1985 by U.S. President Donald Trump.



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Today is the Ides of March. Long before the Ides of March became infamous due to the assassination of Julius Caesar, it was a religious holiday. The *ides*, or middle, of each month were days devoted to the god Jupiter.

Wild Kingdom

For years, scientists have been puzzled about why pandas stain their fur brown with fresh horse manure. The lovable black and white bears are very thorough. After rolling in the manure,



they use their paws to scrub it into every patch of fur to make sure they haven't missed a spot.

After more than a decade of research, scientists finally discovered that pandas only perform this strange practice when temperatures are freezing. It turns out that certain chemicals in the manure numb the bears to the cold. Since pandas do not hibernate, this is the next best strategy to help them survive the winter.

Punny Business

My portrait was just sent to jail,
but I swear it was framed!

Root of the Matter

Get on swimmingly

If two people *get on swimmingly*, then they enjoy an easy friendship free of difficulty or disagreement. The term *swimmingly* was used in the 1620s to mean “with steady, smooth progress” or “in an easy, gliding manner,” and even “to bear with conspicuous success.” All definitions were related to the imagery of gliding gracefully through the water. One early usage of the term was in 1622 in a stage play where one character asked, “Can such a rascal as thou art, hope for honor?” The rascal replied, “Yes...and bear it swimmingly.”

Word Scramble

H I L D T E G

Great pleasure and enjoyment

ANSWER: DELIGHT