



# THE DAILY CHRONICLE

TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 2021

## On This Date

**1877** – A Montana newspaper, the *Fort Benton Record*, reporting on the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) said, “They fetch their man every time.”



Hollywood later modified this to “They always get their man.” The

RCMP motto is actually “Defending the Law.”

**1939** – *Wuthering Heights*, starring Laurence Olivier, Merle Oberon, and David Niven, was released. The critically-acclaimed film won an Oscar for its dark and brooding cinematography.

**1970** – An oxygen tank aboard Apollo 13 exploded while the craft was 200,000 miles from Earth. Using great skill and ingenuity, the crew safely touched down in the Pacific Ocean four days later.

## Daily Trivia

The abbreviation for *pound* (lb.) comes from the astrological sign Libra, meaning “balance.”

## Humor of the Day

“Children are the most desirable opponents at Scabble as they are both easy to beat and fun to cheat.”

~ Fran Lebowitz

## Happy Birthday!

**Alfred Mosher Butts** (1899–1993) was an American architect who was born in Poughkeepsie, New York. Butts is best known for inventing the game of Scrabble. In the 1930s, he decided to create a winning board game that combined both skill and luck, utilizing a player’s prowess with words as well as the power of chance when pulling letter tiles. Originally titled Lexiko and Criss Cross Words, Scrabble was first trademarked in 1948 and has since sold more than 150 million sets. Butts was also an artist. Some of his drawings are housed in the Metropolitan Museum of Art.





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**Today is Scrabble Day.** The game was invented by architect Alfred Mosher Butts in 1933. Butts built each game individually in his garage, but in 1957, when Macy's placed a large order, he had to sell it to a large manufacturer.

## Set the Record Straight

The Biblical tale of David slaying the giant Goliath is often summoned as a metaphor for any underdog defeating a giant. But some historians now argue that Goliath was not a 20-foot giant. Ancient texts describe Goliath as "four cubits and a span," exactly the same size as the width of the protective gate outside Goliath's hometown of Gath. Some historians contend that he was simply being compared metaphorically to the gateway as a defender of the town. Others, using ancient measurements for cubits and spans, measure Goliath as six feet and nine inches tall.

### Word Scramble

N S O G E P

A soft, porous, absorbent material used for cleaning

ANSWER: SPONGE

## The Games People Play

Joel Boone was a highly decorated World War I medical officer and the personal physician to President Herbert Hoover. As such, he invented



a game for the president to keep him fit, a game he called Hoover Ball.

The game is played by two teams of four on a volleyball-style court of grass or sand. Players must throw a heavy, six-pound medicine ball over an eight-foot-high net. The ball must be caught before it touches the ground and thrown back from the point of the catch. The game is scored similarly to tennis. Hoover invited friends and VIPs to play each morning, calling them his Medicine Ball Cabinet.

## Punny Business

I meant to look for my missing watch, but I could never find the time.