



# THE DAILY CHRONICLE

THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 2021

## On This Date

**1909** – The Morse code emergency signal *SOS* was first used in earnest by the British steamship *Slavonia*, which was sinking in the Azores. Thanks to a quick response to the emergency signal, all passengers were rescued.

**1935** – Dr. Robert Smith and William Wilson founded Alcoholics Anonymous.

**1943** – Hungarian Laszlo Biro patented the ballpoint pen, which he had been developing since the 1930s. At the time, he was living in Argentina, where he had gone to escape the Nazis. In many languages, the word for a ballpoint pen is *biro*.

## Hot Stuff



Each two-ounce bottle of Tabasco sauce contains at least 720 drops. The fiery sauce made with tabasco peppers is produced by the McIlhenny Company, which was founded in 1868 at Avery Island, Louisiana, by Edmund McIlhenny.

## Quote of the Day

“You can’t help getting older, but you don’t have to get old.”

~ George Burns

## Happy Birthday!

**George Burns** (1896–1996) was an American comedian, actor, writer, and singer who was born in New York City. The iconic entertainer, whose



career spanned over 90 years, continued working up until his death. He began his career at age seven with the Pee Wee Quartet, a group of young singers who performed around the city. Burns eventually conquered vaudeville, radio, television, and film, winning a Best Supporting Actor Academy Award for 1975’s *The Sunshine Boys*, which was based on the Neil Simon play of the same name. He and wife Gracie Allen frequently performed as the comedy duo Burns and Allen.



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**Today is Iced Tea Day.** Recipes existed as early as 1878, but the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904 popularized the concoction. Richard Blechynden found that his hot tea was not selling well that steamy summer, and ice made all the difference.

## Only Human

Viewers of the Sherlock Holmes BBC series *Sherlock* may be familiar with the detective's unique memory technique known as the "mind palace." Author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle did not invent this concept. The *method of loci* (or *method of places*) originated in ancient Greece with the poet Simonides of Ceos in 500 BC, and was used by the famed Roman orator Cicero. With this method, one visualizes familiar places or routes and "drops" a memory at a certain location. When one wants to remember, they "visit" the location and retrieve the memory.

## Word Scramble

R S O C U T B T

To block or get in the way of

ANSWER: OBSTRUCT

## Think-tionary

*accismus*

A. Pretending not to want something you keenly desire

or

B. A mistake on a map where a location is wrongly identified

ANSWER: A. The first rule of haggling is to project accismus.

## Toys of Yesteryear

When parents teach their children lessons on how to save money, often the first gift they give is a piggy bank. But who came up with the idea of shaping a bank like a pig? One theory explains that in the Middle Ages, coins were stored in *pygg pots*. *Pygg* was an orange-colored clay used in making pots and dishes. Over the years, *pygg* was misinterpreted as *pig*, and so clay banks were shaped like the animal.

