

Trivia

did you know that ...

Christians in India celebrate Christmas with midnight mass and gift-giving like the rest of the world, but with the absence of fir trees or pine trees to decorate, they usually make do with banana trees and mango trees instead.

Just how turkey is a must on Christmas in the US, for the Japanese it's the Colonel's Chicken. Since the beginning of their marketing campaign four decades ago, KFC has been associated with Christmas in the minds of the Japanese for generations, a tradition passed on from parent to child in spite of its commercialized beginnings.

In Venezuela, before young children go to bed on Christmas Eve, they tie one end of a string to their big toe, leaving the other end outside their bedroom window. The fun part of the Christmas celebration is on the day of the "Early Morning Mass". Streets were closed off to cars until 8 a.m. for people to roller-skate to the service, and they customarily proceed to tug on any of the strings they see hanging.

Christmas is huge in the Philippines since 80% of the population are Christians. Celebrations last all the way to January. Children will leave their brightly polished shoes and freshly washed socks on the window sills for the Three Kings to leave gifts in when they pass through their houses at night. The "Feast of the Three Kings" marks the end of the Christmas celebrations.

Where do you send your letters to Santa? The North Pole? Santa's workshop? Actually Santa has his own postal code, HOH OH0 (with zeros instead of the letter 'o') and it's in Canada where postal codes are alphanumeric. Letters – the kind that bypass parents – used to end up undelivered because there was no centralized address for Kris Kringle. But for the past 30 years, Canada Post volunteers (in the thousands) have been helping Santa reply to a million letters (every year!) from children around the world in different languages, including Braille.

[\(http://www.hongkiat.com/blog/\)](http://www.hongkiat.com/blog/)

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Dixon Valve & Coupling Company
800 High Street, Chestertown, MD 21620

Phone: 410-778-2000 ♦ 877-963-4966
Fax: 800-283-4966 ♦ dixonvalve.com

Product Spotlight

New Dixon Price List

The new 2016 price list, DPL116, will be effective January 1, 2016. We anticipate our newly expanded product offerings will result in increased sales for you. Look for new products in the following product categories:

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Visit dixonvalve.com to order or download your copy of the 2016 Dixon Price List.

Dates in History

1775 On December 3rd, Lieutenant John Paul Jones hoisted the first seagoing American flag aboard the flagship of the newly-formed Continental Navy, the Alfred. The banner he proudly flew bore thirteen stripes and the British Union Jack in place of the familiar stars. It was called the Grand Union flag.

1843 A Christmas tradition was born on December 19th. Tiny Tim and Bob Cratchit came to life when Charles Dickens published his delightful tale of miser Ebenezer Scrooge's Christmas epiphany entitled, A Christmas Carol. Believe it or not, the story was partially based on personal experience. Dickens didn't encounter the Spirit of Christmas Past, but he did see the poverty, work houses, and child labor. But what was Dickens' primary motivation in writing this classic Christmas work? His wife was pregnant, and he needed money. Like many of history's immortals, Dickens clearly thrived under pressure.

1911 On December 14th, the Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen became the first human being as far as we know to reach the South Pole. It was the ultimate gesture in getting to the bottom of things.

1978 On December 1st, President Jimmy Carter placed more than 56 million acres of Alaska's federal lands into the national park system.

On the Lighter Side

Puns

When a marathon runner has ill-fitting shoes, he suffers the agony of defeat.

What do you call a train loaded with toffee? A chew chew train

A boiled egg in the morning is hard to beat

*Why did the golfer bring two pair of pants to the game?
In case he got a hole in one*

A hungry lion was roaming through the jungle looking for something to eat. He came across two men. One was sitting under a tree and reading a book; the other was typing away on his typewriter. The lion quickly pounced on the man reading the book and devoured him. Even the king of the jungle knows that readers digest and writer's cramp.

This guy goes into a restaurant for a Christmas breakfast while in his home town for the holidays. After looking over the menu he says, "I'll just have the Eggs Benedict." His order comes a while later and it's served on a big, shiny hubcap. He asks the waiter, "What's with the hubcap?" The waiter sings, "There's no plate like chrome for the hollandaise!"

A group of chess enthusiasts checked into a hotel and were standing in the lobby discussing their recent tournament victories. After about an hour, the manager came out of the office and asked them to disperse. "But why?," they asked, as they moved off. "Because," he said, "I can't stand chess nuts boasting in an open foyer."